

Financial Aid FAQs

1. How do I apply for financial aid?

Fill out the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.gov> AND fill out the Bastyr University Financial Aid Application each year by March 1st. Watch your email in case the Financial Aid Office requests any additional information.

2. Should I apply for financial aid even if I think I am not eligible?

YES! Unless you apply, you cannot know whether or not you are eligible. Even someone with a large income can be eligible for financial aid.

3. Am I eligible for Federal Student Aid?

- a. You must be a U.S. citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen to be eligible for Federal Student Aid
- b. You must have a high-school diploma or equivalent
- c. You must be enrolled at least half-time
- d. You must be admitted to a degree-seeking program
- e. If you are male, you must be registered for Selective Service
- f. You must not have defaulted on any student loans
- g. You must not owe repayment on any federal grant

4. How do I estimate tuition increases in order to plan my finances over a certain number of years?

Tuition increases are approved by the Board every year in the spring. Although the actual percentage of increases is difficult to predict, we suggest an increase of 5% for planning purposes.

5. I received my award letter, and it says I have “unmet need.” Is that the amount I need to pay?

No. Award letters and billing have separate functions. Award letters are estimates of expected need and awards; you must look at your billing statement in order to determine what you need to pay. See question 5 for more information on accessing your billing ledger.

6. Is my financial aid enough to cover my tuition/fees – or – How much will my living expense refund be?

You can compare the aid expected each quarter with your estimated tuition charges to determine whether or not your financial aid will cover your costs, and how much you can expect as a refund (if any). Bastyr’s website shows the estimated cost of each program, as well as the cost per credit. Your financial aid award letter will show the net amount of financial aid you can expect each quarter. If your aid exceeds your tuition charges, your balance will be covered and any remaining credit will be given to you for books/supplies/living expenses. Keep in mind, the more credits you take, the lower your living expense refund will be. Students with a balance owing after financial aid has applied toward tuition/fees are expected to pay by 5:00 pm the first day of each term online, or in the Student Accounts Office.

7. I received my award letter, and I do not have enough funds. Can I request more financial aid?

We always try to maximize the amount of aid we award you, however, we are always willing to look at your individual circumstances to see if there is any way we can find more money for you. Please make an

appointment with your Financial Aid Advisor. We take in person appointments, phone appointments, and Skype appointments.

8. It is two weeks before the quarter begins and I am not seeing my financial aid posted to my student billing ledger. Did I do something wrong?

Financial aid does not disburse to Bastyr until several days before each quarter begins. Once disbursement occurs, the funds will be credited to your student billing ledger and you will be able to see the resulting balance on MyBU under My Billing. If this is your first time borrowing at Bastyr, be sure you have completed a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling for any Direct Loan you are expecting, as this can delay your loans if not completed. You can also check your status on MyBU under My Stuff > My Financial Aid

9. I need money to purchase my books before the quarter begins. Can I get my money early?

No. We cannot disburse living expense refunds to students before the quarter begins. Most students purchase their books out-of-pocket and reimburse themselves once they receive their refund.

10. What do I need to pay? How do I find my billing information on MyBU?

Once logged in to MyBU, go to the "My Stuff" tab and click on "My Billing." Choose the term in question from the drop-down menu at the top of the page. Your billing ledger will appear. Under the "Balance" column, there are numbers both in and out of parentheses. Those in parentheses reflect credits to your account, while those out of parentheses reflect money due to the school. Keep in mind that this ledger doesn't reflect financial aid awards until they have been disbursed, so also check the "My Financial Aid" tab in the "My Stuff" section to see what your awards will look like for the term in question. If you are an incoming student you will need to wait until you have full access to MyBU for this step.

11. When will I receive my living expense refund?

Financial aid refunds are sent out via direct deposit during the first week of each quarter. You should ensure you have direct deposit set up with the Student Accounts Office before your first quarter begins. Once you set up direct deposit, it remains active until you graduate (unless you choose to rescind it). Direct deposit is mandatory, and if you do not set up direct deposit with Student Accounts, a paper check will be sent to you, and you may be charged a fee. Please check with the Student Accounts Office about this policy.

If you request funds in the middle of a quarter, we estimate you will have your funds two weeks after you make the request.

12. Why is my financial aid award not the same as my friend's?

- a. Financial aid awards are based on individual circumstances, and your friends' circumstances may be very different from yours, even though you may think they are the same
- b. Due to privacy laws, we are unable to discuss details of anyone's financial aid with you other than your own

13. What do I need to do to keep my financial aid?

- a. A minimum GPA is required in order to remain eligible for federal financial aid
 - i. undergraduates must maintain a 2.0 or higher
 - ii. graduate and professional students must maintain a 3.0 or higher
- b. Earned versus attempted hours must be at least 75%
 - i. Reasons for earned hours to be lower than attempted include failed classes, classes still in progress, audited classes, incompletes, and withdrawn classes
- c. Make sure to reapply for financial aid every year, including both the FAFSA and the Bastyr application for financial aid
- d. Maintain a minimum credit load
 - i. A student must be enrolled at least half-time to qualify for federal/state financial aid, and minimum credit load requirements vary depending on the program
 1. Half-time for ND students is 6 required credits
 2. Half-time for all other graduate programs is 5 required credits (including CHM)
 3. Half-time for undergraduates is 6 required credits (including HLD)

14. I need more money. How do I apply for additional aid?

The Financial Aid Office can certify financial aid up to a student's cost of attendance. That means that a student can receive enough financial aid to cover their estimated tuition/fees, books/supplies and a standard living allowance per year. As long as the cost of attendance has not been met, a student may apply for additional financial aid.

Once your financial aid has been "maxed out" at your cost of attendance, we will not be able to certify additional aid without supporting documentation. In this case, a Request for Additional Aid form will be required, with acceptable documentation of costs exceeding the standard living allowance attached.

15. I received more financial aid than I need. Can I repay part of it back to my loans?

Yes, it's a very good idea to use the least amount of loan as possible. You have 90 days from the date of disbursement to return loan funds back to us. You may make an online tuition payment in the amount you want returned (and then email the Student Accounts Office to let them know you want it returned to your student loans) or you can write a check to Bastyr University and mail it or drop it off in Student Accounts. We also recommend that when possible, students pay the interest accruing on unsubsidized loans while they are in school.

16. I was awarded a work study award – how do I access those funds?

- a. Current students with a Federal or State work study award, are eligible to apply for open work study positions
 - i. Apply by responding to a job posting and going through a brief application and interview process directly with the hiring supervisor
 - ii. Job postings are located on the MyBU student portal here:
<https://mybu.bastyr.edu/StudentAffairs/FinancialAid/WorkStudy/tabid/102/Default.aspx>
- b. Once hired for a first-time position, yet before the first day of work, there is new hire paperwork that you must complete
- c. New students may not start work in a work study position until they have begun attending classes

- d. Students are paid for their work twice per month and may use the funds for living expenses, etc. The typical hourly rate is \$12-\$15
- e. Students may work only up to the amount of their maximum work study award
- f. Examples of position titles include Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, Garden Worker, Office Assistant, Bookstore Clerk and Library Assistant.

17. May I receive an increase to my work study award?

- a. If you know how much of an increase you need, contact your Financial Aid Advisor via phone, email, or in person to request the increase
- b. If you need assistance figuring out how much of an increase you may need, please contact our Work Study Coordinator for assistance
- c. Please be aware that an increase in work study funds is not guaranteed. Also, the department under which you work must also have adequate funds with which to pay you
- d. Any request for an increase over \$3000 for one academic year should be directed to Danette Wells, Director of Financial Aid

18. May I roll my work study award over to the next quarter?

Yes, adjustments can be made during the academic year (July 1st-June 30th). You may also use your award from a future term in a current term, as long as it is within the academic year. Work study funds may not roll from spring into summer quarter. Summer is the beginning of the academic year for financial aid purposes.

19. May I “cash out” my work study award?

Any unearned work study award can be converted into a loan as long as you meet the loan deadline for that quarter and have loan eligibility.

20. What happens if I don't use all (or any) of my work study award by the end of the academic year?

Any unused work study funds are considered void at the end of each year (after June 30th). There is no penalty for not using all of a work study award and it does not negatively affect the rest of your Financial Aid, but those funds are no longer available to you should you want them in the future. It also will not affect whether you will receive another work study award in the following year.

21. Why does my loan amount not equal what is credited to my student account?

Direct Loans charges a loan origination fee for each type of loan which is charged to the borrower upon disbursement of the loan. The amount that disburses to Bastyr is the net amount of the loan, which takes into account the loan origination fee. Both the gross amount (the larger amount that includes the fee of your loan) and the net amount (the smaller amount that is available to disburse) are listed on your award letter.

22. When I graduate, how much loan should I expect to have borrowed?

Average Total Student Debt over last five years* Degree	
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine	\$251,400
M. S. in Acupuncture	\$194,152
M. S. in Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine	\$206,205
M. S. Nutrition & Clinical Health Psych	\$109,039
M.S. in Midwifery	\$118,097
M. S. in Nutrition	\$75,115
Bachelor of Science (all majors)	\$31,985
Completion of Didactic Program in Dietetics	\$14,753
Certificate in Holistic Landscape Design	\$49,131
Doctor of Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine	\$50,993

*Private and Federal Loans included through 2016

23. What is the best way to repay my student loan?

Most graduates use an income driven repayment plan. That way your monthly loan payment is based on what you are making, not on what you borrowed. Please contact Danette Wells at dwells@bastyr.edu with any questions or concerns about loan repayment.

You may also find information on loan repayment at <https://studentloans.gov>. There is a very handy "Repayment Estimator" on that site that shows an estimated payment under each of the repayment plans.

24. How can I find out about student loan forgiveness?

<https://studentloans.gov> is the best place to learn about federal loan forgiveness.

25. Is my file complete?

You can email finaid@bastyr.edu and we will check for you, or if you have access to MyBU, you can log in, go to My Stuff > My Financial Aid and then follow the link that says Financial Aid Document Tracking (top right hand side of the page). If everything says "Complete," then your file is complete. If anything says "In Progress," you need to either complete it, or check with us to see if it's something we need to complete.

26. Why is my financial aid not posting to my student account? Or, why is my tuition not paid?

- a. Did you apply?
 - i. We need a FAFSA and a Bastyr Financial Aid application, and sometimes a Graduate PLUS loan application
- b. Did you complete an MPN? <https://studentloans.gov>.
- c. Did you complete Entrance Counseling? <https://studentloans.gov>
- d. Did you complete the State Need Grant Directive? (Only for State Need Grant Funds)

If all of these are complete, please email finaid@bastyr.edu and we will research the issue and get back to you within 24 hours (during the work week).

27. How do I apply for scholarships?

- Bastyr Scholarships
 - **Incoming students** apply with their admissions application or the Supplemental Scholarship Application available on our website.
 - **Returning students** apply online at Community Force (only during March and April each year). The Financial Aid Director sends out an email to all students when the scholarship applications are available.
- Outside Scholarships
 - There are a few links and scholarship search sites listed on our public website
 - There are some links listed on MyBU under Student Affairs > Financial Aid > Scholarships

28. Why won't you talk to my uncle/grandfather/dad/spouse about my financial aid?

Without your written consent, we cannot talk to anyone else about your financial aid. If you wish to give permission for us to do so, please contact the Registrar's Office about a release of information form.

29. Where can I find more information on private loans?

<https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/2242500/1>

30. How do I apply for the Graduate PLUS loan?

Go to <https://studentloans.gov>, sign in, and then "Apply for the Direct PLUS Loan."

31. What types of aid are available?

Bastyr University participates in the following Title IV (federal) programs:

Pell Grant (first undergraduate degree only)
 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (first undergraduate degree only)
 Perkins Loan
 Subsidized Stafford Loan (undergraduate only)
 Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
 PLUS Loan (both Parent PLUS and Graduate PLUS)
 Federal College Work Study

Bastyr University participates in the following Washington State Aid Programs:

Washington State Need Grants (first undergraduate degree only)
 Washington State Work Study
 Washington State College Bound Program

Bastyr provides the following Institutional Aid Programs:

Bastyr Grants
 International Work Study
 Licensed Massage Therapist Scholarships
 PTK Scholarship (undergraduate only)
 AmeriCorps/PeaceCorps Scholarship
 There are also various donor scholarships available, which vary by year

32. What are the yearly loan limits? And, what are the lifetime Stafford loan limits?

Annual Limits (9 months)	Subsidized	Total (subsidized and unsubsidized)
Dependent undergraduates*	\$5,500	\$7,500
Independent undergraduates*	\$5,500	\$12,500
Graduate Students (not ND)	\$0	\$20,500
ND Students	\$0	\$40,500

*Post-bacc students have different annual limits

Aggregate Limits (lifetime)	Subsidized	Total (subsidized and unsubsidized)
Dependent undergraduates	23,000	31,000
Independent undergraduates	23,000	57,500
Graduate Students (not ND)	65,500	138,500
ND Students	65,500	224,000

33. Why is FAFSA asking me to pay \$75?

Because you went to www.fafsa.com and not <https://fafsa.gov>.

34. What are the loan deadlines every quarter?

They are posted on the MyBU at: Student Affairs > Financial Aid.