



# Financial Aid

## General Information

Financing a college education is primarily the responsibility of the student and parents. Financial aid is intended to supplement their resources. The North Central Financial Aid Office is committed to helping students obtain the maximum amount of financial aid available to help them accomplish their educational goals.

Sometimes prospective students assume they cannot afford to attend college. It is important to remember that paying for your education should be easier once you have received your financial aid award.

It is also to your benefit to begin the process of applying for financial aid as soon as you receive notification of acceptance. For students entering college in the fall, the FAFSA may be filed after January 1st of that same year. Often there are additional forms to complete in order to qualify for grants and loans. The earlier you submit this paperwork, the greater your chances are of receiving financial aid from programs with limited funding.

More information on North Central University Financial Aid can be found in a separate financial aid brochure offered online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure).

## Types of Financial Assistance

There are four main categories of aid available at North Central: grants; scholarships and discounts; student employment; and loans. Scholarships, discounts and grants are gift aid that does not have to be repaid. Student loans are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest.

### Federal and State Government Programs

*To determine eligibility for the following aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).* A new FAFSA must be completed each academic year to apply for grants and loans. For all loan programs students must be enrolled at least half time (6 credits). Minnesota residents must fill out a separate North Central Minnesota Grant Questionnaire to apply for a State Grant.

#### Federal Pell Grant

\$400 to \$4,050 (2005-2006 academic year—subject to change annually)

This federal grant program is available for undergraduate students with qualifying financial need who do not have a prior bachelor's degree.

#### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

\$100 to \$1,000

This federal grant program is available for undergraduate students and eligibility is based on exceptional financial need. These grants are limited in quantity and are awarded to eligible students as funds are available.

#### Minnesota State Grant

\$100 to \$7662 (2004-2005 academic year—subject to change annually)

This program, administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services office, provides financial assistance to Minnesota residents who demonstrate financial need. Maximum length of eligibility is 8 full-time semesters, regardless if a student receives a state grant during a semester. *Please note: According to Minnesota regulations, a minimum of 15 credit hours must be taken to be considered full-time and receive a full Minnesota State Grant. For credit loads of less than 15, grants will be pro-rated.*

#### Federal Perkins Loan

\$2,000 Maximum (annually)

Perkins Loans are low-interest federal loans that are awarded to students who have exceptional financial need. Perkins Loan funds are limited and are awarded to eligible students as funds are available. Repayment begins nine months after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment. The interest rate is 5%. The student may have up to 10 years for repayment, depending upon the amount of the loan. According to federal guidelines, first-time borrowers are required to complete loan counseling prior to the first disbursement of their loan.

#### Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan

\$2,625 Maximum—Freshmen

\$3,500 Maximum—Sophomores

\$5,500 Maximum—Juniors/Seniors

Stafford loans are available to qualified students through various lenders. Subsidized Stafford Loans are awarded on the basis of financial need. Interest does not accrue on these loans prior to repayment. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half time. The interest rate is variable but will not exceed 8.25%. The standard repayment period is up to 10 years with a payment of no less than \$50 per month. Monthly payments are based on the total amount borrowed. According to federal guidelines, first-time borrowers must complete loan counseling prior to the first disbursement of their loans. First-timer borrowers can apply online at [www.northcentral.edu/loans](http://www.northcentral.edu/loans).

### Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

\$2,625 Maximum—Freshmen

\$3,500 Maximum—Sophomores

\$5,500 Maximum—Juniors/Seniors

Unsubsidized Stafford Loans are available to students who do not qualify for the subsidized Stafford Loan or who are not eligible for the full subsidized Stafford amount. Students may have a combination of both types of loans, but the total loan will not

exceed the grade level maximum. Borrowers are responsible for all interest that accrues from the time the loan is disbursed until the loan is paid in full. The interest rate, repayment terms, and disbursement conditions are the same as for subsidized Stafford loans.

Additional unsubsidized Stafford Loan eligibility is available to independent students. Independent freshmen and sophomores may borrow up to an additional \$4,000 and independent juniors and seniors may borrow up to an additional \$5,000

## Steps to Apply for Financial Aid

Following is the procedure to apply for financial assistance to attend North Central.

1. Apply for admission to North Central University. A financial aid package is awarded only after admission to North Central has been granted. Admissions applications are available upon request from the Admissions Office or apply online at [www.northcentral.edu/apply](http://www.northcentral.edu/apply).

2. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine your eligibility for grants, loans or college work-study. There are two ways to file the FAFSA.

Option 1: If you have access to the Internet, we strongly recommend that you apply using FAFSA on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Using the online FAFSA application submits your data directly to the US Department of Education, which eliminates data entry mistakes and speeds up the processing of your application. If you plan to apply through FAFSA on the Web, we recommend that both you and your parents request a personal identification number (PIN) so you can electronically sign your online FAFSA application. You can apply for a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Both you and your parents should request PINs before you file the FAFSA—please note that it takes a few days for your PIN to be assigned. If both you and your parents do not have a PIN so you can electronically sign, then your FAFSA cannot be processed until you print out the signature page at the end of your online FAFSA application, both you and your parents sign it and mail it in.

Option 2: You can complete a paper FAFSA and mail it to the Federal Student Aid Programs in the envelope provided. This form is available upon request from the Financial Aid Office. North Central's Title IV school code for the FAFSA is 002369.

3. All Minnesota residents should fill out the Minnesota State Grant Questionnaire to determine eligibility for a state grant.

Applications are available upon request from the Financial Aid Office or online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms).

4. Apply for North Central scholarships and discounts. The following four scholarships and discounts require additional applications: Church Match Scholarship; Senior Teen Bible Quiz Scholarship; Minister, Minister Dependent, Missionary and Missionary Dependent Discount; Regent's Scholarship. These applications are available in the Financial Aid Office or online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms).

5. Approximately two to three weeks after filing the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) either by mail or e-mail, which will list your FAFSA information. Review the data on the SAR for accuracy. If you need to make corrections, follow the instructions on the SAR or contact North Central's Financial Aid Office. North Central will receive your FAFSA results electronically about the same time you receive the SAR if you listed North Central as one of your school choices on the FAFSA.

6. The Financial Aid Office will review your information and contact you if additional documentation or information is needed. You may be asked to provide copies of prior year federal income tax returns and additional forms verifying information listed on the FAFSA.

7. When all required documentation has been received, the Financial Aid Office will evaluate your information, calculate your aid eligibility and send you an Award Letter detailing amounts and types of financial aid for which you qualify. If you are eligible for loans or college work-study, additional applications must be completed to apply for these types of aid. Application instructions will be sent to you with your Award Letter. Awards are normally based on full-time enrollment (12+ credits per semester for federal programs and 15+ credits per semester for Minnesota State Grant). Any reduction in credits below these full-time levels may affect a student's financial aid.

above the regular Stafford limits, not to exceed the cost of attendance less other financial aid awarded. First-time borrowers can apply online at [www.northcentral.edu/loans](http://www.northcentral.edu/loans).

### Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

The Federal PLUS is a low interest loan available to credit-worthy parents of dependent students. The interest rate is variable but will not exceed 9 percent. Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. Parents may borrow up to the difference between the student's cost of attendance and financial aid awarded. A pre-approval process is available to determine if parents qualify for this loan. To be pre-approved or apply for a PLUS loan, go to [www.northcentral.edu/loans](http://www.northcentral.edu/loans).

### Supplemental Educational Loan Fund (SELF)

\$4,500 Maximum—Freshmen/Sophomores

\$6,000 Maximum—Juniors/Seniors

This state loan program is designed to supplement existing federal student loan programs. A student should complete the FAFSA and apply for and exhaust all eligibility for other forms of financial aid before applying for a SELF loan. Eligibility for the SELF is based on a student's grade level and the amount borrowed previously in a SELF loan. The SELF has a variable interest rate. Interest payments begin 90 days after disbursement and are paid quarterly while the borrower is enrolled. Principal payments begin one year after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment. A credit-worthy co-signer is required. SELF applications are available online at [www.northcentral.edu/loans](http://www.northcentral.edu/loans).

### Federal and Minnesota State College Work-study Programs

Amounts vary

Through these federal and state subsidized programs, North Central University is able to offer employment opportunities to students demonstrating financial need. NCU employs students in part-time jobs on campus working for maintenance, security, food service, library, and offices in various University departments. Applications are available upon request from the Financial Aid Office. Students usually work 10 to 15 hours per week and are paid on a bi-weekly basis.

*Federal or state aid amounts may change due to congressional or state legislative changes. The University reserves the right to alter this information when necessary without prior notice to financial aid recipients. Some of the above programs may require additional forms. Current information is available in the Financial Aid Office.*

### Alternative Loans

Many lending institutions offer private educational loans as supplements or alternatives to the loans offered through the federal and state aid programs. Information on alternative loans is available upon request from the Financial Aid Office or online at [www.northcentral.edu/loans](http://www.northcentral.edu/loans).

## Institutional Aid

These institutional aid programs may be awarded on the basis of merit, financial need or a combination of both. Need-based institutional aid eligibility will be determined by the results of your FAFSA information. The combination of institutional scholarships and discounts cannot exceed the student's tuition charges. In order to receive scholarships and discount awards, students must enroll for and maintain full-time status (12 or more credits) in the resident degree program or the scholarship/discount will be forfeited for that semester.

### Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships are awarded to first-time entering freshmen and transfer students who have demonstrated superior academic performance on their college entrance examination (ACT or SAT) and high school transcript. To see if you are eligible for a renewable academic scholarship, contact the Admissions or Financial Aid Office for a financial aid brochure or go online to [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure).

### Christian Leadership Scholarships

These renewable scholarships are awarded to new students based on ministry and activity involvement and academic performance. An application is not required; the scholarship is awarded based on the student's admissions application information.

### Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are awarded to prospective students who, by audition, show outstanding musicianship. Auditions are during Spring and Fall College Days, at National Fine Arts Festivals or by appointment with the Music department. Please call the Music department at 612.343.4700 to schedule an audition. Application deadlines are April 1 (fall), and Dec. 1 (spring).

### Senior Teen Bible Quiz Scholarships

These scholarships are available based on placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the District, Regional, or National level. Contact the Admissions or Financial Aid Office for more information. Application deadlines are June 1 (fall), Dec. 1 (spring). Applications are available online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms).

### Church Match Scholarships

North Central will match a church donation to your education with the Church Match Scholarship. Donations up to \$1,000/year will be matched as follows: 50% match for 1st and 2nd academic years at North Central; 75% match for 3rd academic year at North Central; 100% match for 4th academic year and beyond at North Central. Application deadlines are July 1 (fall), and Dec. 1 (spring entrants only). Applications are available online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/forms).

## Institutional Grant

The North Central Grant is awarded to students on the basis of financial need. Eligibility is determined by review of an individual's FAFSA information. The percentage of a student's need met by gift aid will depend on his or her financial need and academic achievement. No additional application is required to receive a North Central Grant, but filing the FAFSA is required.

## Minister and Minister Dependent Discount

### Missionary and Missionary Dependent Discount

Students who are eligible for the above discounts in the Assemblies of God, Church of God In Christ (COGIC) or Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada receive the following discount:

- Minister or Minister Dependent - \$1,400 per year
- Missionary or Missionary Dependent - \$1,600 per year

Other approved denominations - students who are eligible for the above discounts will receive the following discount amount:

- Minister or Minister Dependent - \$700 per year
- Missionary or Missionary Dependent - \$800 per year

The minister or missionary must be currently involved in a vocational, full-time ministry position to be eligible for this discount. The minister or missionary must have been licensed or ordained at least two years for this discount to apply. Application deadlines are Aug. 1 (fall) and Dec. 1 (spring).

## Donor Scholarships for Current Students

The following Donor Scholarships are made available to current students based on criteria established by the individual donors. Awards will be announced in the spring for the following academic year.

Brent Adamson Memorial Fund for Children's Ministries  
 Alan Bean Memorial Scholarship  
 Bethel Assembly of God (Minneapolis, MN) Scholarship Fund  
 G. Raymond Carlson Memorial Scholarship  
 Paul and Kathern Carlstrom Endowed Scholarship  
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa—First Assembly of God Scholarship Fund  
 Christian Celebration Center (Midland, MI) Scholarship Fund  
 Gunnar Danielson Memorial Scholarship  
 Michael Day Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Monte DeLong Memorial Scholarship  
 Fehlen Educational Leadership Scholarship  
 Monroe Grams Missions Scholarship  
 Rev. Beatrice (Emahiser) Granger Scholarship

## U.S. Grant Scholarship

Ortwin Hanson Endowment Scholarship  
 T.J. Jones Memorial Scholarship  
 Rev. Arvid and Marian Kingsriter Scholarship  
 Orill and Sarah Krans Memorial Scholarship  
 Mary Larson Memorial Scholarship  
 Leadership Development Scholarship  
 F.J. Lindquist Scholarship Fund  
 Irene Lindquist Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Marshall Memorial Scholarship  
 George, Sr. and Sarah Jane Mastrobuono Memorial Scholarship  
 Anna Moffett Jarvis Missions Scholarship  
 Marvin T. Nystrom Endowed Scholarship Fund  
 O'Brien-Niedlinger Scholarship Fund  
 Patrishak/Ulseth Scholarship  
 Rev. Samuel C. Peterson Memorial Scholarship  
 Lillian I. Petz Scholarship  
 Don Phillips Memorial Missions Scholarship  
 Ratzlaff Scholarship  
 Rev. and Mrs. Herman Rohde Scholarship  
 Rev. Daniel Rothwell Memorial Scholarship  
 Oscar and Ruth Schreier Scholarship  
 Niilo M. Seppala Memorial Scholarship  
 Sunrise Assembly of God (St. Peter, MN) Scholarship  
 Rev. Felix P. Temmel Memorial Scholarship  
 Waldo and Beatrice Trask Ministerial Scholarship  
 United Assembly of God (Plymouth, MN) Scholarship  
 Urban Ministry Scholarship  
 Willmar Assembly of God Scholarship Fund  
 Annabel Zimpfer Memorial Scholarship

## Institutional Aid GPA Requirements

Scholarships and discounts have a minimum required grade point average (GPA) and all scholarships and discounts require the student to be enrolled for and maintain full-time status (12 or more credits per semester). If a student does not meet this minimum requirement, he or she will lose the scholarship/discount for the following semester and will not be eligible to receive it again until he or she has met the requirements for that particular scholarship or discount. Satisfactory academic progress is checked at the end of each academic year.

Contact the Financial Aid Office to receive a financial aid brochure to determine the minimum GPA requirements for the various scholarships. The financial aid brochure can be found online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/brochure).

## Who will have access to the information I provide?

All financial aid information submitted will be kept in strict confidence in the Financial Aid Office. Information will only be released to individuals who have a legitimate

need to know according to the guidelines established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).



### Internet Resources

**Disclaimer:** *The following Internet web sites provide helpful information on student financial aid. These web sites are provided for the user's convenience. North Central University does not control or guarantee accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of this outside information. North Central University does not necessarily endorse any views expressed, products or services offered, or the organizations sponsoring these sites.*

The U.S. Department of Education's information on federal financial aid programs can be found at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). This web site also offers instructions on completing the FAFSA.

Minnesota Higher Education Services has information on federal and state programs at [www.mheso.state.mn.us](http://www.mheso.state.mn.us).

Mapping-Your-Future is a web site developed by guarantee agencies to assist students in selecting a college and in understanding issues related to federal student loans: [www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org).

The Financial Aid Information page at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) offers information on financial aid and scholarship search options.

A free financial aid scholarship search is available at: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

Male students ages 18 through 25 years of age may register with Selective Service (a requirement to receive federal student aid) at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).

## Changes in Regulations

The University reserves the right to make exception to policies indicated in order to maintain compliance with current state and federal regulations.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy to Maintain Financial Aid Eligibility

Federal regulations require that all financial aid recipients progress at a reasonable rate ("make satisfactory academic progress") toward achieving a certificate or degree. Progress is measured by:

1. the student's cumulative grade point average
2. the number of credits earned in relation to those attempted
3. the maximum time frame allowed to complete the academic program.

This requirement applies to all terms regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid. Progress is reviewed annually, at the end of the academic year. For students in a One Year Certificate program, progress is evaluated after the first semester.

### Cumulative Grade Point Average

Students who drop below the following minimum cumulative GPA will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. (The cumulative GPA includes credits and GPA transferred from other institutions.)

Credits Attempted	Cumulative GPA
0–29*	1.6
30–65*	1.8
66 & above	2.0

\*Students in a One Year Certificate program must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0. Progress is checked after the first semester. Students in an Associate Degree program must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA after earning 30 or more credits.

*Special Requirements for Minnesota State Grant and Minnesota College Work-Study Recipients:* Students must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA following the first semester of their junior year to receive Minnesota State Grant and/or Minnesota State Work-study funds. This requirement is enforced at the end of the academic year. The loss of eligibility is immediate with no probationary period.

### Cumulative Credits Earned

Students who fail to complete the required 67% of credits attempted will be placed on Financial Aid Probation.

## Maximum Time Frame

Students must complete a degree within the following maximum number of attempted credits. Students are no longer eligible to receive financial aid after they have reached these maximums.

Degree	Attempted Credit Limit
One Year Certificate	46
Associate Degree	94
Bachelor's Degree	201

Note: Students in the Elementary Education Degree program have an attempted credit limit of 219 credits.

Students who do not meet the standards of satisfactory progress at the end of the academic year will automatically be placed on financial aid probation for the following semester. Financial aid may still be received during the probation period. At the end of the probation period, the student must have achieved satisfactory academic progress as outlined above or financial aid will be terminated. Students will be removed from financial aid probation if they have achieved satisfactory academic progress.

## Repeated Courses

Classes in which the student received a grade of "F" may be repeated and may be eligible for financial aid. In specific degree programs, certain classes that require a "C" as a minimum passing grade may be repeated and may be eligible for financial aid if the student previously received a "D" in that class. Any other classes that are repeated will not be included in the total number of credits for the semester when determining financial aid eligibility. Credits attempted in repeated classes will be included in the cumulative credits attempted.

## Withdrawn Courses

Dropped or withdrawn classes count towards the cumulative credits attempted. However if a student drops a class during the first four weeks in a semester, it does not count towards the cumulative credits attempted unless the student completely withdraws from school. Students may retake classes from which they have withdrawn. When retaken, these classes will be included in the total number of credits for the semester when determining financial aid eligibility.

## Incomplete Courses

Incomplete classes do not earn credit but influence grade point average as an Incomplete F ("IF"). A grade of "IF" is assigned to any classes that are incomplete at the end of the semester. Incomplete classes either remain an "IF" grade if not completed or change to a different letter grade if completed. These credits count in the credits attempted for the semester in which the student was registered for the class. For more information, view the Incomplete Grades section on page 41.

## Audit Courses

Audit classes receive no credit and do not influence grade point average. They are not counted in credits attempted and are not eligible for financial aid.

## Remedial Courses

Remedial classes will be included in the total number of credits for the semester when determining financial aid eligibility.

## Pass/Fail Courses

Pass/Fail classes are not calculated in the cumulative GPA but will be included in credits attempted.

## Transfer Students

Transfer credits are calculated into the credits attempted, but are not factored into the cumulative GPA when a student first transfers to North Central. If a transfer student does not meet the minimum GPA requirement when progress is evaluated, transfer credits will be calculated into the cumulative GPA. GPA of transferred credits will continue to be used in the GPA calculation from that point.

## Summer School

Students attending in the summer semester will have satisfactory academic progress evaluated at the end of the semester, which would be the end of their academic year.

## Financial Aid Probation

Students may receive financial aid for the semester they are on probation. If they fail to meet the necessary satisfactory academic progress requirements at the end of their probation semester, their financial aid will be terminated until they have regained satisfactory progress status. When a student has been placed on financial aid probation for a semester and has regained satisfactory academic progress at the completion of that semester, that student will be removed from financial aid probation and will be eligible to receive financial aid.

## Financial Aid Termination

Financial aid termination will result in the loss of all federal, state and institutional aid, including grants, scholarships, loans and work-study. If a student successfully completes a semester without receiving financial aid and meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements, the student will then regain financial aid eligibility.

## Readmitted Students

If a student is placed on financial aid probation or termination status and does not return the following semester, they would be given the same status if they return at a later date. When a student withdraws or is dismissed from North Central

and is later readmitted, the semester in which they withdrew or were dismissed is included when the student's satisfactory academic progress status is evaluated.

### Amendments to Policy

This policy will be amended whenever applicable federal or state laws or regulations are changed. Upon approval of the President and the Financial Advisory Committee, the Financial Aid Director is authorized to incorporate and implement changes required in this policy by federal or state law regulations. The Financial Advisory Committee is to be appraised of these changes. Other amendments to the policy, not required by changes in law or regulations, will be considered through the revision procedures of the Financial Advisory Committee.

## Appeal Process

Students who fail to meet satisfactory academic progress standards and lose financial aid eligibility can appeal this decision. Appeals should be made within 30 days after the student receives notification of their financial aid termination status. Appeals must be made in writing and submitted to the Financial Aid Office for consideration by the Financial Advisory Committee. Students will receive a letter from the financial Aid Office within 30 days from the receipt of the appeal stating the decision of the Financial Advisory Committee. Acceptable reasons for an appeal include the following:

- Medical difficulty. Documentation may be requested.
- Family difficulty. Documentation may be requested.
- Emotional difficulty. Documentation may be requested.
- Learning disability. Documentation may be requested.
- Change in/or addition to a degree program requiring more than the maximum credits attempted or credits earned, documented by a statement from the Registrar.
- Other special, significant or unusual circumstances.

The Financial Advisory Committee reserves the right to initiate action on a student's status if they are aware of mitigating circumstances.

## Refund Policy for Students Who Withdraw Completely

Please see pages 44-45 regarding the academic withdrawal procedure.

If a student withdraws from the University after classes begin, a refund will be calculated based on the North Central University refund policy. Withdrawing students will retain a portion of their institutional financial aid based on the percentage of refund of charges (i.e. a student receiving a 75 percent refund of tuition, general fee, technology fee, and room charges would retain 25 percent of their institutional aid funds).

A Return of Title IV Funds calculation dictates the amount of federal financial aid that must be returned to the federal gov-

ernment by the school and the student if the student withdrew before the 60 percent point of the semester. The North Central University Refund and Return of Title IV Funds Policy is available online at [www.northcentral.edu/finaid/refund](http://www.northcentral.edu/finaid/refund).