
Six Steps Towards Paying for College

Paying for college is achievable and North Central is committed to providing you excellent service as you walk through this process. **Begin planning now**, if you haven't done so already!

To have a smooth financial transition into college life, follow these six steps as early as possible. When you arrive on campus, you will find that your preparation was worthwhile.

These steps are not the only options available to help pay for college. You or your family may have additional options including cash savings or other financing. It is the responsibility of each student to pay for educational costs and each family should develop their own personal plan to achieve financial success through college.

Step 1:

Apply for Institutional Aid

This includes scholarships/grants offered by North Central after acceptance. Institutional Aid includes:

- Church Match Scholarship
- Senior Teen Bible Quiz
- Regent's Scholarship
- Music Scholarship (*by audition only*)
- Minister/Minister Dependent Discount
- Missionary/Missionary Dependent Discount
- Donor Scholarships (*returning students only*)
- North Central Grant (*based on FAFSA results*)

President's/Dean's/Christian Leadership Scholarships are awarded to new students based on academic performance and leadership. No additional applications required.

For more info: www.northcentral.edu/finaid.

Step 2:

Apply for Federal/State Aid

Federal or state aid consists of grants, loans and/or college work-study and is awarded based on FAFSA results.

Apply for financial aid by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Once North Central receives your results, additional paperwork may be requested in order to verify information listed on the FAFSA. To keep the process moving, it is important that you respond to any requests made by the Financial Aid office as soon as possible.

We will send you an award letter that informs you of what you qualify for. Sign and return the award letter as soon as possible to begin processing your financial aid.

For more information on federal or state aid, go to www.northcentral.edu/finaid.

Step 3:

Set up a Monthly Budget Plan

Paying monthly on your tuition is a great way to keep school loans at a minimum and to avoid paying interest. North Central works with Tuition Management Systems (TMS) to bring you a zero interest monthly payment plan that can allow students to pay a portion of their costs in 5 monthly installments each semester (TMS Enrollment fee required).

Apply online at www.afford.com or contact the Student Accounts Office at 612.343.4401.

Step 4:

Apply for Alternative Loans

Many lending institutions offer private educational loans to help students pay for college. For most alternative loans, a co-signer is required, depending on a student's earnings and credit history.

View our preferred lender list, detailed information about North Central's alternative loan options and apply online at www.northcentral.edu/loans.

Step 5:

Search for Additional Scholarships

Many community businesses or large corporations offer a variety of scholarship opportunities. Be aggressive in searching for scholarships and utilize companies' websites to look for scholarships. Also, meet with your High School Guidance Counselor, as they too may have additional options for scholarship money.

Check out these sites for more scholarship options:

- finaid.org
- studentaid.ed.gov
- collegeboard.com

Step 6:

Find a Job On or Off Campus

Visit the Student Success Center's website at www.northcentral.edu/scc to search for jobs. Pay rates range from \$8-\$15 an hour in Minneapolis.
