Financial Aid Checklist

Know Your Costs

- Tuition and Fees
- MyCSU - Student Account Portal
  - Check Account Balance (one to two days after course registration)
  - Authorize Other Users (Parents or Others)
  - Set up Refund Preferences

Financial Aid Options

- Submit the your FAFSA as early as possible.
  - CSU School Code = 001561
  - FAFSA is the application process for Federal Grants and Student Loans
  - FAFSA includes Fall through Summer (ex. Fall 2026 through Summer 2027)
- Check your eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship programs (Georgia Residents)
  - GAFutures
  - My HOPE GPA
- Scholarships
  - CSU Scholarships
  - Scholarship Universe - External Scholarships Outside of CSU

Financial Aid Next Steps

Return any requested documents to the Financial Aid Verification Portal - available in MyCSU, Financial Information and Resources

- Review Financial Aid Offer Letter once you receive it.
- If you plan to take out Student Loans:
  a. Accept loans through the Financial Aid Dashboard in MyCSU
  b. Complete Promissory Note
  c. Complete Loan Entrance Counseling
  d. Borrow only what you need — understand interest rates and repayment options

Still Need Additional Resources?

Alternative Financing Options

- Nelnet Payment Plan - short-term payment plan; check MyCSU, Financial Information and Resources
- Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS Loan)
- Private Student Loan (credit-based)

Know the CSU Payment Deadlines - Plan Ahead!

Check the Academic Calendar for all upcoming dates and deadlines.

- If you are receiving an external scholarship, notify that organization of the CSU Student Accounts Mailing Address or via finaid@columbusstate.edu.
- If you are receiving third-party payments, see our College Savings Plans or Employer Tuition Assistance page.

Stay Eligible for Financial Aid

Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Federal Financial Aid

- 2.00 cumulative GPA (undergraduate), 3.00 cumulative GPA (graduate)
- 67% cumulative pace of progression
- 185 attempted hours maximum time frame (undergraduate)

Maintain HOPE Program Eligibility

- HOPE Scholarship - 3.00 cumulative GPA in college
- Zell Miller Scholarship - 3.30 cumulative GPA in college

Course Program of Study (CPOS) - Work with your Academic Advisor to ensure registered courses are within your program of study; financial aid cannot pay for courses outside of your program

Contact Us

Office of Financial Aid

Email: finaid@columbusstate.edu
Telephone:706-507-8800