

American Academy of Art College

2024-2025 Financial Aid Consumer Information

Accreditation

The American Academy of Art College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC).

Financial Planning for Tuition

The American Academy of Art College participates in the following student aid programs to help students with their education:

1. Federal Pell Grant
2. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
3. Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
4. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
5. Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student (PLUS)
6. Illinois Gift Assistance Programs

A student can receive a combination of any or all of the above listed programs based on eligibility requirements. The following pages give a brief description of each of the programs.

To help defray the cost of tuition, Academy students can apply for private alternative student loan programs that are administered by the individual lender and are not part of the federal student aid programs. Monthly payments can be another option. During the meeting with Financial Services, each of the programs will be reviewed and a tentative tuition plan will be discussed. Each new award year, every student works with Financial Services to plan their method of tuition payment.

Many of the Academy's students receive financial assistance from one or more sources. Until you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), there is not an accurate way to predict your eligibility for the federal programs. Therefore, we encourage everyone to apply for assistance to determine their eligibility. You should never assume you are not eligible for aid. A student can apply for financial aid at the school by coming to the Financial Aid Office on the third floor of our facility. You may come in during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call (312) 461-0600. Our Financial Services Department is available to assist you by answering all of your financial aid related questions.

The level of financial assistance depends on demonstrated and verified need as well as on the funds available. Financial aid programs are meant to assist students in meeting educational costs and seldom cover all expenses. Most students should expect to pay a portion of their educational costs.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) provides a calculation of the Student Aid Index (SAI) based on a detailed need analysis, taking into account many factors other than annual income alone. Also considered are total assets, debts, dependents, family size, marital status, and recent changes in a family's financial status. The application must be completed on-line at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> in order to establish your eligibility to receive federal financial aid. The student and parents are responsible for correctly completing the required information. A FAFSA Submission Summary will be sent which contains the information reported on the FAFSA and usually includes the

Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

The American Academy of Art College may determine a student's status for financial aid purposes and can certify documents only after a student:

1. Has been accepted for enrollment in a degree program; and
2. Has read and signed the Academy's Enrollment Agreement.

Financial Aid Eligibility Requirements

1. Demonstrate financial need for need-based federal student aid programs;
2. Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
An eligible noncitizen is a U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island), U.S. permanent resident (who has an I-151, I-551 or I-551C [Permanent Resident Card]), or an individual who has an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:
 - "Refugee"
 - "Asylum Granted"
 - "Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)"
 - "Conditional Entrant" (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
 - Victims of human trafficking, T-visa (T-2, T-3, or T-4, etc.) holder
 - "Parolee" (You must be paroled into the United States for at least one year and you must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and that you intend to become a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.)
3. Have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
4. Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree program.
5. Be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Direct Loan program funds;
6. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Academy;
7. Provide consent and approval to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your 2024-25 FAFSA form. Parent must also provide consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly into your 2024-25 FAFSA form if they are a required contributor;
8. Sign the certification statement on the FAFSA form stating that you're not in default on a federal student loan, you do not owe money on a federal student grant, and you'll only use the federal student aid for educational purposes;
9. Show you are qualified to obtain a college education by:
 - Having a high school diploma or a state-recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
 - Completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law (or-if state law does not require a homeschooled student to obtain a completion credential- completing a high school education in a homeschool setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under state law); or
 - Enrolling in an eligible pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-to-benefit" alternatives.

If you are in the United States on an F1 or F2 student visa only, or on a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa only, you cannot receive federal student aid. Also, persons with G series visas (pertaining to international organizations) are not eligible for federal student aid.

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are eligible only for Federal Pell Grants, and citizens of the Republic of Palau are eligible only for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), and Federal Work-Study. These applicants should check with their financial aid administrators for more information.

Verification

Applicants for financial aid must submit the following information to the financial aid office:

1. A signed, valid FAFSA.
2. AAAC Financial Aid Questionnaire
3. A copy of your Social Security card.
4. A copy of your driver's license or state identification card.

The Department of Education selects certain FAFSA filers for a review process called verification. During this process, our office is required to ensure that the information reported on the FAFSA is accurate. If necessary, we will update your FAFSA application and send it to the Department of Education for processing. If your application has been selected for verification, our office will notify you with instructions on how to proceed. We cannot process your financial aid package until verification is complete.

Special or Unusual Circumstances

If you or your family have experienced special or unusual circumstances that impact your ability to pay for school, you may be eligible for an adjustment on your FAFSA form. Examples of a special circumstance may include: substantial loss of income, change in assets, tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school, or high unreimbursed medical expenses. Examples of an unusual circumstance may include: human trafficking, refugee or asylee status, or parental abuse or abandonment. On a case by case basis, the Financial Aid Office may determine your situation justifies an adjustment to your FAFSA form. Contact the Financial Aid Office to request a review of your circumstances.

Federal Grant Programs

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant Program is a federal student aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Education for students who meet eligibility requirements. Awards are in the form of grants that do not have to be repaid. Awards for the 2024-2025 school year range from \$7,395.00 to \$773.00 for full-time students.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is a federal student aid program administered by the Financial Services Office at the American Academy of Art College. Awards are in the form of grants that do not have to be repaid. The FSEOG is a limited-funded grant and is disbursed to Pell eligible students using a ranking system based on the Student Aid Index (SAI).

Illinois Gift Assistance Programs

State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP)

The MAP provides grant assistance to eligible Illinois students who demonstrate financial need. MAP grants are applied toward tuition and mandatory fees, not to exceed the maximum award amount for the academic year. To determine financial need, an applicant must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as

possible after October 1 preceding the academic year for which they are applying. Funding for the MAP grant is limited; to ensure full-year consideration for an award, an applicant must apply early.

Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers and Police or Fire Officers

If a correctional officer employed by the Illinois Department of Corrections in a security position or an Illinois police or fire officer is killed or sustains an injury resulting in a permanent disability in the line of duty, the officer's spouse and children may receive grant assistance under this program, without regard to financial need. The grant may be used for an equivalent of 8 semesters of undergraduate enrollment. Grants are funded by appropriations from the Illinois General Assembly and are applicable toward tuition and mandatory fees.

State Financial Aid Programs

Most states have a scholarship or grant program available to students. However, many states restrict their financial aid to students who are residents of the state and who are attending an in-state institution (check your state for the availability of programs). Also, most programs have application deadline dates. Online information on state financial aid programs can be found by logging into:

- https://www.nasfaa.org/state_financial_aid_programs
- <http://www.collegescholarships.org/grants/state.htm>

Federal Direct Loan Programs

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan

The Federal Direct Subsidized Loan provides federally guaranteed, low-interest loans for undergraduate students who meet the eligibility requirements. The loan amounts are as follows: \$3,500 for a first year student; \$4,500 for a second year student; and \$5,500 for a third or fourth year student. As the Subsidized Loan is based on need, the interest that is charged is paid by the federal government during school attendance and the 6-month grace period. The interest rate is adjusted annually on July 1st.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan provides as much as \$6,000 for a first and second year student; \$7,000 for a third and fourth year student. These loan amounts are available for independent students and dependent students whose parents did not qualify for the Parent PLUS loan. (Dependent students whose parents qualify for the Parent PLUS Loan are eligible for \$2,000 per year.) You may receive a subsidized and unsubsidized loan for the same enrollment period. An unsubsidized loan is not based on need; therefore, interest is charged from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. You can choose to pay the interest or it can be deferred. If you defer the interest payment, it will be capitalized – that is, the interest will be added to the principal and additional interest will be based on the higher amount of the loan. The interest rate is adjusted annually on July 1st.

Federal Direct PLUS Loan

The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan for parents of undergraduate students provides loans up to the cost of attendance less any other financial aid received for an academic year. A requirement for the PLUS Loan is for the parent to have a good credit history. The interest rate is adjusted annually on July 1st. PLUS loan payments begin sixty days after the loan is fully disbursed or if requested, payments can be delayed until the dependent student is no longer a full-time or half-time student.

Loan Limits

Dependent Student and Parent Qualified for Parent PLUS Loan

Year	Direct Subsidized Loan	Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Total
First Year	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
Second Year	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
Third and Fourth Year	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Loan Limits: Maximum subsidized loan is \$23,000.

Total cumulative amount for subsidized and unsubsidized loans is \$31,000.

Independent Student or Dependent Student whose Parent did not qualify for the Parent PLUS Loan

Year	Direct Subsidized Loan	Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Total
First Year	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
Second Year	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
Third and Fourth Year	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Loan Limits: Maximum subsidized loan is \$23,000.

Total cumulative amount for subsidized and unsubsidized loans is \$57,500.

Entrance and Exit Interviews

All students taking out Direct Subsidized Loans or Direct Unsubsidized Loans must participate in Entrance Counseling. Entrance Counseling is to help you understand what it means to take out a Federal Student Loan.

All students who have taken out a Direct Subsidized Loan or Direct Unsubsidized Loan must participate in Exit Counseling. Exit Counseling is required when you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment. Exit Counseling provides important information you need to prepare to repay your federal student loans.

Disbursement of Funds

Your loan will be disbursed in two payments. As your loan covers two semesters, you will receive each half of your loan per semester. The Academy will post your disbursement to your student account within three days after the funds are received at the school. You will be notified by the school when your funds have been received and posted to your student account.

In the event that the posting of disbursements creates a credit balance on your account and the school does not have written permission to retain the funds, a check will be issued within 14 days of the posting to you or your parent as the case may be.

For Title IV eligible students whose financial aid file has been completed 10 days before the beginning of a payment period (beginning of the semester) and who will have a credit balance on their account, the student will receive their refund check by the 7th day of the semester for the purpose of purchasing books and supplies.

The Student's Responsibility

Having received the loan, your chief responsibilities are to make the most of your education, be in good standing, and then repay the loan. Should your situation change in any way it is your responsibility to inform the loan servicer (a company that handles your loan repayment). This means that if you marry, move, withdraw from school, or graduate, it is your responsibility to notify the loan servicer. When you immediately notify your loan servicer of your change in status, you will know what to expect and thus protect yourself from future problems. It is the student's and/or parent's obligation to repay any loans regardless of whether the program has been completed successfully.

Make your payments on time. If possible, try to make "advance payments" along with the required ones. Budget yourself to meet payment dates and to repay the loan as quickly as you can by making larger payments; you will pay a smaller total interest by doing this.

Sample Monthly Repayment Chart at 6% interest

Amount Borrowed	<u>10 Year Loan Term</u>		<u>15 Year Loan Term</u>	
	Monthly Payments	Total Interest Paid	Monthly Payments	Total Interest Paid
8,500.00	94.00	2,824.00	72.00	4,410.00
10,000.00	111.00	3,322.00	84.00	5,189.00
15,000.00	167.00	4,984.00	127.00	7,784.00
18,500.00	205.00	6,146.00	156.00	9,601.00
22,625.00	251.00	7,517.00	191.00	11,741.00
25,000.00	278.00	8,306.00	211.00	12,974.00
30,000.00	333.00	9,967.00	253.00	15,568.00
35,000.00	389.00	11,629.00	294.00	18,163.00
40,000.00	444.00	13,290.00	338.00	20,758.00
45,000.00	500.00	14,951.00	380.00	23,352.00

National Student Loan Data Systems (NSLDS)

The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the U.S. Department of Education's database for student aid. It is the centralized place for data collection of the Federal Direct Loan Programs, the Pell Grant Program, and other U.S. Department of Education Programs. Students and parents who access these programs will have their loan and/or grant information submitted to NSLDS and will be accessible by authorized agencies, lenders, and institutions. These programs are tracked through their entire life for each individual with the amounts borrowed and grant money received by school and date.

Cost of Attendance

Students attending the American Academy of Art College have direct and indirect costs to consider each academic year.

Direct costs are defined as costs that will appear on your student invoice. Direct costs include: tuition and activity and technology fees. Tuition is charged by full-time (12-16 credit hours); three-quarter-time (9-11 credit hours); and half-time (6-8 credit hours).

Indirect costs are expenses you may incur while attending AAAC. These costs will vary, but should be considered as you budget your expenses. Indirect costs include: books, course materials, supplies, equipment, food and housing expenses, transportation, personal expenses, and student loan fees.

Full-Time Cost of Attendance 2024-2025 Academic Year (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)

Cost of Attendance- Annual	Off-campus (with family)	Off-campus (not with family)
Tuition	\$38,640	\$38,640
Activity Fee	\$470	\$470
Technology Fee	\$400	\$400
Books, Course Materials, Supplies, and Equipment	\$1,200	\$1,200
Food and Housing (living expenses)	\$3,068	\$11,272
Transportation	\$800	\$800
Personal Expenses	\$3,400	\$3,400
Federal Student Loan Fees (average)	\$70	\$70
Total Cost Of Attendance	\$48,048	\$56,252

Withdrawal and Refund Policy

Withdrawal Procedure

Students who wish to withdraw from school after attending classes must have an exit interview with the Registrar and complete a Notification of Withdrawal form. Students that do not officially withdraw and stop attending, will be withdrawn 14 days from their last day of attendance. Withdrawal is complete when all forms have been processed and all financial obligations have been met. Transcripts of credits earned are issued only after withdrawal conditions are satisfied.

If a student withdraws from the Academy in good standing, the student will not be required to repeat the interview process upon returning to the Academy. However, if the degree requirements change during the student's absence, all new requirements, as listed in the new Enrollment Agreement must be met.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

1. **Refund:** All monies shall be refunded to applicants that did not meet all admission requirements and/or their application was rejected by the Academy.
2. **Three-Day Cancellation:** All monies paid by an applicant will be refunded if notice is received in the school office within three days after signing an enrollment agreement and making an initial payment.
3. **Cancelled Reservation:** Applicants requesting cancellation more than three days after signing an enrollment agreement and making an initial payment, but who do not report for class, may request a refund of monies paid to the school. All tuition and related fees except the \$150.00 reservation fee will be refunded.

For a student who begins classes, the following policy will apply. As the American Academy of Art College charges tuition and fees on a per semester basis, in all cases, the reference to tuition refers to the charges for the semester.

1. **First Week Withdrawal:** For a student withdrawing after entering school and attending class but within the first week of the semester, the school shall retain 10% of the tuition, the activity fee, and the \$150 reservation fee.
2. **After First Week Withdrawal:** For a student withdrawing after one week, but within the first four weeks of the semester, the school shall retain 45% of the tuition. The activity fee and the reservation fee are also retained.
3. **For a student withdrawing after the fourth week of the semester, but before the eighth week,** the school shall retain 70% of the tuition. The activity fee and the reservation fee are also retained.
4. **After the Eight Week of the Semester:** The school shall retain 100% of the tuition. The activity fee and the reservation fee are also retained.

Please note: Technology fees are refunded at the same percentage and on the same schedule as tuition charges for students who withdraw from school.

Withdrawal Recalculation of Title IV Aid Eligibility

If a student drops before 60% of the term has been completed, a portion of the federal aid received may need to be returned to the government. Thus, it may be the case that it was expected that financial aid would cover the full costs of education, but that because of the student's drop status, a portion of the funds must be returned. Moreover, because of the recalculation of the student's eligibility for aid, the student may owe the school additional amounts for tuition, fees, and books and supplies. The student may also owe funds back directly to the government, if he/she received funds for living costs.

For example, if you dropped after four weeks, the school would have earned 70% of your semester's tuition, but the government would only consider you as eligible for 26% of the aid you would have received had you completed the semester. This would mean that you would be responsible for paying the Academy the difference.

If federal aid is to be returned to the government, funds will be returned within 45 days to the financial aid programs in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan.
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loan.
3. Federal Direct PLUS Loan.
4. Federal PELL Grant.
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.
6. Other private or institutional aid.
7. The student or the student's parent.

The Academy uses the U.S. Department of Education calculator system called the R2T4 to determine the amount of aid that a student is eligible for upon withdrawing from school. The calculation is based on the student's last day of attendance and the credit hours taken during the period of enrollment.

Post-Withdrawal Disbursements

In some instances, a withdrawn student may not have received all eligible financial aid. The student will be notified in writing within 30 days of the school's determination of withdrawal that additional funds are available.

Upon written request from the student, a post-withdrawal disbursement can be made that will be applied to the account balance to cover unpaid charges. Any disbursements from Direct Loan funds will need to be repaid according to repayment policies of the U.S. Department of Education.

Refunds

Insofar as refunds apply, termination will be as of the last date of attendance. All refunds shall be based on the student's time in attendance, the tuition costs for the semester, and the Academy's Cancellation and Refund Policy. Any monies due the student shall be refunded within 14 days of the date that the school performs the return calculation.

Drug-free Workplace Statement

The American Academy of Art College disseminates this statement to notify its employees and students that it is the Academy's policy to maintain a drug-free workplace. All employees and students are hereby notified that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol is prohibited on the Academy's premises. Illegal drugs include the following non-prescription substances:

- Narcotics: opium, heroin, morphine and synthetic substitutes;
- Depressants: chloral hydrate, barbiturates and methaqualones;
- Stimulants: cocaine, its derivatives and amphetamines;
- Hallucinogens: LSD, mescaline, PCP, peyote, psilocybin and MDMA;
- Cannabis: marijuana and hashish.

As a condition of employment or study at the American Academy of Art College, every employee or student must:

- Abide by the terms of this statement; and
- Notify the Director of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring at the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.

Upon such notification, the American Academy of Art College must notify the U.S. Department of Education within ten (10) days and take one or more of the following actions with respect to any employee or student so convicted:

- Take appropriate personnel or enrollment action, up to and including termination or dismissal; and/or
- Require such employee or student to participate satisfactorily in drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purpose by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

In addition to making a good faith effort to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of all of the above, the American Academy of Art College will establish and maintain a drug-free awareness program to inform and educate employees and students about:

- The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
- The American Academy of Art College's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
- Referrals to drug counseling/rehabilitation programs;
- The penalties that may be imposed upon employees or students from drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.

For purposes of this statement, the site for performance of work done, and thus the drug-free workplace, consists of the following locations at 332 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois:

- all administrative offices, classroom studios, gallery, library, production room, autograph room, storage areas and bathrooms; and
- all stairways, hallways, elevators, Van Buren entrance, and lobby of the building.

If you, or someone you know, have a drug or alcohol problem, help is available through the following agencies:

HOTLINES:

- Detox-Haymarket 312/226-7984
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 800/662-4357

TREATMENT CENTERS:

North	Chicago Lakeshore	773/878-9700
	Chicago Treatment and Counseling Centers INC (CTCC)	773/506-2900
East	Loretto Hospital	773/854-5445
	Addiction Recovery Services	773/581-2930
South	Little Company of Mary Hospital	708/422-0110
	New Hope Community Service Center	773/737-9555
West	St. Elizabeth Hospital	773/278-2000
	Healthcare Alternative Systems Inc.	773/252-3100 x159

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