

Educational
Opportunity
Center



Paying for College

- **GRANTS** - based on financial need and don't normally have to be repaid. The FAFSA results determine your eligibility.
 - Federal Pell Grant
 - State Grants (Wyoming has Hathaway Scholarships)
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** - Most are awarded for talents such as academics, music or athletics. There are always a few based on financial need which is determined by the FAFSA.
 - Private/local scholarships (local businesses, organizations and memorials)
 - Institutional Scholarships (colleges offer their own scholarships to students going to their college.)
 - National Scholarships Sites - <https://www.goingmerry.com/> and <https://www.fastweb.com/>

Paying for College - FAFSA

- FAFSA application has 3 main components to help pay for college.
 - Pell Grant
 - Work Study
 - Loans
- **PELL GRANT**
 - \$7395 for the 2023-24 year (full time status 12 credits or more, will be pro-rated if less than full time, and is split in half by semester.)
- To continue to get the pell grant, they require the student to make SAP (satisfactory adequate progress) and the basic eligibility requirements.
- SAP is usually GPA and Completion Rate (most schools are 2.0 and 67% completion rate which completed credits divided by attempted credits)

Paying for College - FAFSA

- **FEDERAL WORK-STUDY**

- Provides part-time jobs for students through the college with financial need. Financial need is determined by FAFSA.

- **STUDENT LOANS**

- Subsidized Loans - do not accrue interest while in college. Financial need determined by FAFSA.
- Unsubsidized Loans - accrue interest while in college. No financial need qualifier.
- Parent Plus Loans - unsubsidized loan made to a parent of an undergraduate college student.

Funds borrowed through student or parent plus loan programs must be repaid.
Student loans are a resource if you borrow wisely!

Institutional Scholarships

- Most colleges offer scholarships specific to their college.
- Most colleges have a scholarship portal that students fill out one application and it will sort them into all the scholarships that they meet the qualifications for.
- Majority of colleges require the FAFSA as part of their scholarship application.
- Most of the colleges have a March 1st deadline for their institutional scholarships but some colleges have anywhere from November to April 1st deadlines.
- Scholarship offers usually are in the student's college portal. This is important to start checking in April to accept or decline offers before deadlines.

Hathaway Wyoming State Scholarship

- Must meet all requirements for each level.
- Wyoming pays for ACT to be taken in April of the student's Junior year at the high school.
- Students can take and retake the ACT to get a higher score up to the semester they want to start using the Hathaway scholarship.
- ACT test is offered in October, December, February, April, June and July each year.
- Test locations vary and not offered at every location for the test months.
- <https://www.act.org/>
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat>

Honors	Performance	Opportunity	Provisional
\$1,680 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$1,260 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$840 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$840 Max Award Amount Per Semester
May be used at a WY community college or at UW	May be used at a WY community college or at UW	May be used at a WY community college or at UW	Must first be used at a WY community college. *
Language Arts 4 Years	Language Arts 4 Years	Language Arts 4 Years	Language Arts Current HS graduation requirements
Math 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	Math 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	Math 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	Math Current HS graduation requirements; at least 2 of these courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry
Social Studies 3 Years	Social Studies 3 Years	Social Studies 3 Years	Social Studies Current HS graduation requirements
Science 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	Science 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	Science 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	Science Current HS graduation requirements
FPA or CTE or FL 4 years of either fine and performing arts, foreign language or career and technical education. <u>2 of the 4 years must be sequenced</u>	FPA or CTE or FL 4 years of either fine and performing arts, foreign language or career and technical education. <u>2 of the 4 years must be sequenced</u>	FPA or CTE or FL 2 years of either fine and performing arts, career and technical education, or foreign language (FL must be sequenced)	FPA or CTE or FL 2 years of either fine and performing arts, career and technical education, or foreign language (FL must be sequenced)
Hathaway GPA 3.5	Hathaway GPA 3.0	Hathaway GPA 2.5	Hathaway GPA 2.5
ACT Score 25	ACT Score 21	ACT Score 19	ACT Score 17

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Application opens in October to fill out for the next academic year. (example: seniors in fall 2024 will fill out the 2025-26 FAFSA)
- Needs to be filled out every year for the next academic year.
- Uses prior year of taxes (example fall of 2024 will use 2023 taxes for the 2025-26 FAFSA)

FAFSA Opens	FAFSA Academic Year	Taxes Needed
Oct. 1, 2024	2025-2026	2023
Oct. 1, 2025	2026-2027	2024
Oct. 1, 2026	2027-2028	2025
Oct. 1, 2027	2028-2029	2026

• <https://studentaid.gov/>

FAFSA - Dependent or Independent

Were you born before Jan. 1, 2001?

Yes No

As of today, are you married? (Answer “No” if you are separated but not divorced.)

Yes No

At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?

Yes No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)

Yes No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?^{*}

Yes No

Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?

Yes No

FAFSA - Dependent or Independent

At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)? Yes No

At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court? Yes No

At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care? Yes No

Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence? Yes No

Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence? Yes No

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes No

FAFSA - Requirements

- Both the student and at least one parent has an FSA ID. Certain circumstances may require both parents to have one.
- If parents are divorced - the parent that supports the student 51% will be used. If parent is remarried, their spouse is also included.
- FSA ID goes through social security to match up name, social and birthdate to confirm identity.
- The FSA ID needs to be set up at least 2 weeks before you can fill out the FAFSA.
- With clicking approve in the FAFSA, the IRS will transfer tax information for both the student and the parent.
- Student can select up to 20 colleges to send the FAFSA to. Doesn't commit them to one school.

WUE - Western Undergraduate exchange

- If looking at out of state colleges, WUE is a great thing to consider.
- A tuition-savings program that makes attending out-of-state colleges and universities more affordable for students.
- Agree to charge out-of-state students no more than 150 percent of the institution's in-state tuition.
- Tuition savings may vary depending on the college or major.
- Deadlines for WUE vary from each college.
- <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/wue-savings-finder/>

Freshman Year

- Take challenging classes in core academic courses.
- Work with their school counselors to create a yearly schedule to meet graduation and college admissions requirements. Remember the Hathaway curriculum.
- Talk to an advisor or school counselor about taking Advanced Placement® and honors courses.
- Identify interests and potential career fields through online resources by attending career fairs and other events.
- Get involved with community-based and leadership-oriented activities that best reflect their interests.
- Browse the College Scorecard to see what types of schools interest them.
- Start a running list of accomplishments, awards, and recognitions to use when completing college applications and writing résumés.

Sophomore Year

- Consider taking a practice test to prepare for the ACT.
- Attend college and career information events.
- Start learning about funding for college, including scholarships, grants, loans, work-study jobs, etc.
- Consider the types of careers that fit their interests and what college majors they require.
- Reach out to school counselors and/or mentors to discuss occupational interests and college requirements.
- Check progress on Hathaway curriculum.

Junior Year

- Attend in-person or online college fairs.
- Research how to pay for college and what federal student aid may be available to you.
- Start learning about funding for college, including scholarships, grants, loans, work-study jobs, etc.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications.
- Check progress on Hathaway curriculum.
- Take ACT test in April at the high school. Do your best as some scholarships have an early deadline during your senior year. (UW Trustee's Scholarship)
Hard to retake the test early enough your senior year.

Senior Year

- Register for and retake the ACT (take in Oct and again in April).
- Create an FSA ID for you and a parent in August or September.
- Complete and submit college applications prior to deadlines.
- Complete the FAFSA in October.
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation at least 30 days before they are due.
- Complete and submit college applications prior to deadlines.
- Complete and submit scholarship applications prior to deadlines.
- Consider college acceptances; compare financial aid packages offered.
- Decide on the college to attend (typically by May 1) and contact its offices.

Senior Calendar Checklist

August	September	October	November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be aware college scholarships will be opening and closing all year. Pay attention to college websites, school announcements and bulletin boards as well as scholarship websites. <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to EOC Coordinator to see if you qualify for Act or application fee waivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniels Fund Scholarship opens Sept. 15th. <input type="checkbox"/> FSA ID's should be created for you and parents. Watch for workshops at your school for assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow your college list, review college applications, and begin to apply for admissions. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for a letter of recommendations. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend senior events such as Financial Aid and Admissions presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete admissions applications. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend college fairs. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with your EOC Coordinator to see if you qualify for ACT and/or admissions waivers. <input type="checkbox"/> Daniels Fund Deadline Oct. 15th. <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional scholarships begin opening. Watch for them! <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your high school will have a FAFSA event to assist you. Colleges will have different priority deadlines. Be aware of them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete college applications if you have not done so already. <input type="checkbox"/> Univ. of Wyoming Trustees' Scholars Deadline Dec. 1st. <input type="checkbox"/> Find out about scholarship days at the colleges you are interested in. <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure to ask counselor to mail transcripts to schools you have applied to. <input type="checkbox"/> Retake the ACT/SAT if you are not happy with the score.
December	January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continue applying for scholarships. <input type="checkbox"/> Make a goal to finish applying to all colleges by January 1st. <input type="checkbox"/> Retake the ACT/SAT if you are not happy with the score. <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for college acceptance letters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to attend college campus days. <input type="checkbox"/> Submit mid-year grades to colleges. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep working on scholarship apps. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply to colleges if you haven't! <input type="checkbox"/> Pay attention to important deadlines! <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up to retake the ACT/SAT if you are not happy with the score. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for the Student Aid Report. Make changes as needed. <input type="checkbox"/> Contact your EOC Coordinator if your financial circumstances have changed since completing the FAFSA. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue applying for scholarships. <input type="checkbox"/> Most Institutional Scholarships have a March 1st DEADLINE! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for college acceptance letters. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply to colleges if you haven't. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue applying for scholarships. Many local scholarships have April deadlines.
April	May	June	July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for your college financial aid award letter. Remember to sign and return it or do it in the college portal. <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for important deadlines regarding housing, financial aid, etc. at the college of your choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Most colleges, you have to accept scholarships by a certain date in May. This usually is in the college portal. <input type="checkbox"/> Contact the college financial aid office to ensure that you have all the documents in place for financial aid. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize plans for summer jobs or internships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Packets should be arriving from colleges regarding registration for classes, campus events and student services. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for classes. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for new student orientation. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a GREAT summer! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Registration Events on campus if you haven't registered already. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider attending new student events on campus, usually these are held in August before classes start.

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Questions?

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