

# FINANCIAL AID: WHAT IS IT AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

## Types of Financial Aid

1. **Need-based** - based on student / family financial circumstances
2. **Merit-based** – based on a student’s talents and performance – merit scholarships are awarded for academics, athletics, extracurricular involvement, art, theater, music, journalism and more

\*Note: Residency, future job plans, alumni ties and other factors also can be criteria for awarding some need-based and/or merit-based grants and scholarships.

### Sources of Need-Based Financial Aid (Undergraduate Study)

1. **Federal Government**
  - ⇒ Federal Pell Grant
  - ⇒ Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
  - ⇒ TEACH Grant (grant available if you plan to become a teacher)
  - ⇒ Federal Work-Study
  - ⇒ Federal Perkins Loan
  - ⇒ Direct Subsidized Loan
2. **State Government (Illinois)**
  - ⇒ Monetary Award Program (MAP Grant)
  - ⇒ Nursing Education Scholarship Program
  - ⇒ Higher Education License Plate (HELP) Program
3. **Colleges and Universities** – The availability and amount of need-based grants and scholarships will vary widely among colleges and universities.
4. **Community & Private Sources (Employers, Foundations, Civic Organizations, etc.)** – Check with local and national scholarship providers for their selection criteria – many may be awarded based on merit as well as financial need.

### Sources of Merit-Based & Other Financial Aid (Undergraduate Study)

1. **Federal Government**
  - ⇒ Direct PLUS Loan (loan available to credit-worthy parents with undergraduate students, as well as graduate students)
  - ⇒ Direct Unsubsidized Loan
  - ⇒ Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant
2. **State Government (Illinois)**
  - ⇒ Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - ⇒ Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program
  - ⇒ MIA / POW Scholarship
  - ⇒ National Guard / Veterans / Dependents of Police, Fire & Correctional Officers Grants
  - ⇒ Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois
  - ⇒ Other Illinois Programs (For more info and a complete listing visit [www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org))
3. **Colleges and Universities** - The availability and amount of merit-based grants and scholarships will vary widely among colleges and universities; the criteria for merit-based awards also will vary.
4. **Community & Private Sources (Employers, Foundations, Civic Organizations, etc.)** – Check with local & national scholarship providers for their selection criteria – some scholarships may be awarded based on need in addition to merit criteria.



### REMEMBER!

1. **Grants & Scholarships** – Money doesn’t have to be repaid
2. **Loans** – Money must be repaid (although students usually can defer payment while in school full-time or in a grace period)
3. **Jobs** – Money must first be earned