

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Where to Start

Start by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at www.fafsa.gov to determine your eligibility for federal and state grants and low-interest student loans. The Art Academy of Cincinnati filing deadline is **May 1**. Our school code is **003011**. As you begin, there will be a few important things to have on hand:

- Your Social Security Number, and that of one parent if you are filing as a dependent as determined by the FAFSA.
- FSA ID
 - Visit the link below to create an FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>
- Your Driver's License or State ID
- Your Federal Tax information, with that of a parent's if you are a dependent or that of your spouse if you're married.
- Additional documents may be requested by the Financial Aid Office to complete your file. **An award letter cannot be generated until all requested documents are completed and returned.**

Remember: The student is the FAFSA applicant, and the student's legal name must be used as it appears on their Social Security Card. Parents must provide information on the FAFSA unless the student is determined to be independent by the Department of Education criteria as stated on the FAFSA.

FINANCIAL AID STEPS

- 1** Be accepted to AAC and submit your \$75 tuition deposit
- 2** Fill out your FAFSA
- 3** Submit requested verification documents, if any
- 4** Accept your Award Letter on Campus Café
- 5** Have a package review with the Financial Aid Office
- 6** Set up a payment plan



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FINANCIAL AID GUIDE



YOUR FINANCIAL AID PLANNING GUIDE WITH THE ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

We Are Here to Assist You

The Financial Aid Office at Art Academy of Cincinnati (AAC) is here to assist you in financing your college education.

Navigating the world of student aid is like assembling a puzzle; as we put all the pieces together, we create your unique financial picture. This guide will better acquaint students and parents with the basics of student aid and outline the steps you can take now to maximize your options.

Once your FAFSA is filed and you've been accepted to the Art Academy, you will receive an award letter from the financial aid office.

The award letter will list all the financial aid from federal, state, and institutional sources that you are eligible to receive. You have the option to accept or decline each specific type of aid offered. Your financial aid funds will not be disbursed to your student account until you have accepted your aid.

Your financial aid package will consist of many different types of aid which are described in this guide. Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns. The Art Academy is here to help you meet your financial challenges and navigate this new and exciting time!

FINANCIALAID@ARTACADEMY.EDU

1. INSTITUTIONAL AID

Art Academy of Cincinnati Entrance Scholarships

100% of students admitted to AAC receive the Entrance Scholarship, which covers 30-50% of tuition. This scholarship is based on your portfolio and can be raised by attending multiple portfolio reviews or submitting additional work. It renews every year as long as the student keeps their GPA at a 2.0 or above.

Full-Tuition Scholarships

We are proud to offer Full Tuition and Fee Scholarship opportunities to any Pell-eligible or first-generation student through the Vision Scholarships, and any Pell-eligible Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) student. Students must complete their general AAC application before applying for the Vision Scholarships or CPS Scholarship.

For more information, visit artacademy.edu/scholarships

Need-Based Grants

The AAC Office of Financial Aid is committed to making college education as affordable as possible. After completing the FAFSA, eligibility for additional Art Academy Need-Based grants will be determined by the Director of Financial Aid. These funds are separate from the Entrance Scholarship and are based solely on need as demonstrated on the FAFSA.

2. FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Grants

Your FAFSA will determine if you are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, a Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), or an Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG). Grant funds do not have to be repaid and are directly applied to your tuition costs.

Student Loans

All eligible freshmen who complete the FAFSA can receive \$5,500 in a low-interest, Federal Direct Stafford Student Loan. A portion of this loan amount may be subsidized, meaning the federal government will pay the interest on that part of the loan while you are enrolled in college.

Federal Student Work-Study

Federal Work-Study may be available to financially eligible students. Students must apply for work-study positions, and funds are limited.

3. ADDITIONAL AID SOLUTIONS

Parent Loans

The Federal Direct Parent Plus Loan is one option for financing any additional balance not covered by scholarships, grants, and student loans. This loan is credit-contingent, and parents must apply each year. Funds can be used to pay a tuition balance, as well as any other costs associated with your education, such as housing, food, transportation, books, and supplies.

Private Loans

Private or alternative loans from banks or credit unions can be obtained to help meet college costs once federal loan options have been explored. The student and a credit-worthy co-signer apply for private loans. Interest rates for these loans can vary and are not subject to the same terms and conditions as federal student and parent loans. Please shop wisely when considering this option.

4. TUITION PAYMENT & PAYMENT PLAN

Pay off balance by logging in to Campus Café to pay tuition via Diamond Mind. AAC offers 4-month Semester Payment Plans for Fall and Spring only. If you need assistance with your Semester Payment plan, please reach out to business@artacademy.edu

TUITION PROMISE

The Art Academy is the first and only private art and design college in the country to implement the **Four-Year Tuition Promise!**

We want to instill a sense of transparency in the college process, and grant families and students the stability they deserve while they work towards becoming the future creatives of tomorrow.

Learn more at artacademy.edu/promise