

PAYING FOR COLLEGE IN MICHIGAN

2011-12



You know **higher education is a lifetime investment** and will help you meet your life goals.

Part of getting there is having the **financial help** you might need to pay for college.

Whether college is many years away or you are going to be enrolling soon, **this guide can help you get connected** to many different sources of help.

Information is power! Information can help you pay for college in Michigan!



Starting Early: College Savings Plans

The earlier financial planning takes place, the better. Families can plan ahead by pre-paying tuition or saving and investing over time. The following two programs assist Michigan families in this effort:

Michigan Education Trust

The Michigan Education Trust (MET), Michigan's guaranteed tuition program, allows parents, grandparents, or others to pre-purchase undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. The contract price is based on current tuition costs and the age or grade of the child. For additional information about MET, call 1-800-MET-4-KID (1-800-638-4543) or access the Web site www.setwithmet.com.



Michigan Education Savings Program

The Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) is a savings/investment program designed to assist families with preparing for higher education expenses. A child's parents or others can open an account for the child/beneficiary. The MESP account then can grow through regular contributions and investment growth. For additional information about MESP, call 1-877-861-MESP (1-877-861-6377) or access the Web site www.misaves.com.



Applying for Financial Aid

The main sources of student financial aid are the federal government, state government, institutions (colleges and universities), and private sources such as associations, foundations, employers, and unions. To be considered for most financial aid programs, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1 of their high school senior year, and each year thereafter when applying for aid. This can be done online at www.fafsa.gov. (A paper form can be ordered by calling 1-800-433-3243.) Priority consideration for state programs is given to those students who apply by March 1.

Prior to completing the online FAFSA, the student and at least one parent must obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) access code at www.pin.ed.gov. The PINs are used as the electronic signatures for the FAFSA, and they allow access to the student's financial aid records.

Michigan Financial Aid Programs

Michigan Competitive Scholarship

The Michigan Competitive Scholarship is based on both financial need and merit. Competitive Scholarship funds may be used at Michigan public and independent, nonprofit, degree-granting postsecondary institutions. A student must take the ACT prior to entering college and achieve a qualifying test score.

(NOTE: Students need to put their Social Security Number on their ACT so that their test results and FAFSA records can be matched to determine eligibility.)

Michigan Tuition Grant

The Michigan Tuition Grant is based on financial need for use at private, nonprofit, degree-granting colleges and universities in Michigan.

Tuition Incentive Program

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for the first two years of college and beyond. Students must meet a Medicaid eligibility history requirement. The program targets students with financial need, so students are encouraged to also complete the FAFSA.



Children of Veterans Tuition Grant

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who are the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. The veteran must have died or become totally and permanently disabled as a result of military service.

Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Act

The Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Act program provides for the waiver of tuition at public community colleges and state universities for the surviving spouse and children of Michigan police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

- For additional information about Michigan student aid programs, contact the Office of Scholarships and Grants at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687), by email at osg@michigan.gov, or visit the Web site www.michigan.gov/studentaid.

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is a grant for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and have not yet completed a bachelor's or professional degree.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant provides funds to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Priority consideration is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.



Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant

For students who are not eligible for a Pell Grant due to not meeting the program's need requirement and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11/01.

Federal Work-Study

The Federal Work-Study program provides part-time employment for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need to assist with paying educational expenses.

Federal Loans

Federal Direct Stafford Loans and Federal Perkins Loans are available for students, and the parent PLUS loan is available for parents. These are funds that can help families pay college expenses. They are loans that must be repaid with interest.

- For additional information about Federal student aid programs, contact the U. S. Department of Education at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243), or visit the Web site www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Searching for Scholarships

When searching for other scholarship sources, remember the following:

- Check local sources first through the high school guidance office and local civic groups and businesses.
- Start searching early, during high school junior year.
- Use free, reputable Internet search services. Beware of scams and services requiring payment.

Useful Web sites:

- <https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/scholarship>
- www.michigancap.org
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.fastweb.com

Additional Federal & State Programs



Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

Foster care youth, Lutheran Social Services.

Web site www.mietv.lssm.org, or call 1-877-660-6388

Youth In Transition (YIT)

Foster care youth.

Web site www.michigan.gov/fyit, or call 1-517-241-8904

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Web site www.michigan.gov/mrs, or call 1-800-605-6722

Michigan Works!

Web site <http://michiganworks.org>, or call 1-800-285-WORKS (9675)

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

Web site www.michigan.gov/mdcr, or call 1-517-241-7748

Bureau of Indian Education

Web site www.bie.edu, or call 1-202-208-6123

Federal Health and Human Services Programs

Web site <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/scholarshipsloans>



Military Programs

Web site www.gibill.va.gov, or call 1-888-442-4551

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

Web sites www.mi.ngb.army.mil, www.afrotc.com, www.goarmy.com/rotc, www.nrotc.navy.mil

Education Tax Credits

Web site www.irs.gov (Publication 970), or call 1-800-829-1040

For questions about this publication or further information, access the Web site www.michigan.gov/studentaid; or contact Michigan Department of Education, College Access and Outreach at 517-373-9598.

