

Financial Aid

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

This application for federal aid (federal direct student loans and Pell Grants) is required to be considered for need-based financial aid. This application can be found at www.studentaid.gov/fafsa. This will require demographic, household, income, and asset information from the student. If the student does not meet the criteria to be considered an independent (*different* than tax dependency) student, parent information will be required as well. Students and parents must have their own FSA ID with separate and permanent email accounts. The FAFSA will provide an SAI (Student Aid Index) that is used for determining financial aid eligibility.

The FAFSA is *free*. If you see services being offered to file this for money, RUN!! Free assistance is provided by the financial aid administrator if needed. Call, text, or email as needed.

Pell Grant

This federal need-based grant is offered to students who demonstrate the most amount of financial need as determined by the FAFSA. This is offered to students who have not already completed an undergraduate degree. Because SMAT is a certificate rather than a degree program, students who receive Pell at SMAT may continue to receive Pell if they continue on to complete their undergraduate degree afterward. This grant is not a loan and does not need to be paid back.

Federal Direct Student Loans

Federal direct student loans are offered to students who file the FAFSA. They are in the name of the student only and require no cosigner. Students who wish to receive their federal loans must complete their Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (both found at www.studentaid.gov under "Loans and Grants") before any loans can be disbursed. These only need to be completed one time.

These federal loans have in-school deferment and a 6-month grace period. This means that no payments are required during school or until after the student has left school for 6 months. Then the loans go back into repayment. Students can always see how much they have in loans and who their loan servicer is by logging into their studentaid.gov account.

Federal loans for the 2022-23 year have a 4.99% interest rate. There is a limit to the amount of federal loan that a student can receive each year and over their lifetime.

There are two types of federal direct loans offered through the FAFSA:

Federal *Subsidized* Loan - this loan is need-based and offered to student based on FAFSA information. These loans have 0% interest while in school. The interest begins accruing at the normal rate when the loan enters repayment.

Federal *Unsubsidized* Loan - this loan is not need-based and offered to every student who files a FAFSA (except those who have already used their lifetime loan limit). This loan accrues interest from the point of disbursement.

Federal Parent PLUS Loans

If the student has financial need beyond what is offered through the FAFSA and through other options, parents can consider the Parent PLUS loan. PLUS loans are offered to parents of *dependent* FAFSA filers and are only limited in amount by the Cost of Attendance as determined by the Financial Aid Administrator. This means that more is available in PLUS loans than in federal student loans. PLUS loans are only in the name of the parent and cannot be transferred to the student's name at any time. Parents can apply for a PLUS loan at www.studentaid.gov/plus-app/. If the parent is denied due to credit or prior loans in default, the student will receive additional unsubsidized loan. The 2022-23 year interest rate for a PLUS loan was 7.54%.

Private Student Loans

Private loans are also offered by credit unions, banks, and private lenders. These loans are often in the name of the student and will require a cosigner. These loans often have higher interest rates and less flexible repayment plans than federal loans. Students and parents should consider the details of a loan's repayment when comparing interest rates. If you would like assistance in searching for a private loan, you can contact the financial aid administrator.

Veterans Benefits

The School of Missionary Aviation Technology is authorized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer eligible veterans, student assistance through the following:

- Chapter 30, Montgomery GI Bill®, (MGIB),
- Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill®,
- Chapter 35, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program,
- Chapter 1606, Montgomery GI Bill® / Selected Reserves, (MGIB-SR),
- Chapter 31, Vocation Rehabilitation Assistance,
- Michigan National Guard Tuition Assistance (MINGSTAP) & Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)
- Chapter 1607, Reserve Educational Assistance Program, (REAP).

Covered individuals may participate in the courses of education offered by School of Missionary Aviation Technology during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to SMAT a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

- The date on which payment from VA is made to SMAT
- 90 days after the date SMAT certifies tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility

The School of Missionary Aviation Technology will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to SMAT due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

Students who qualify for this assistance should contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at (888) 442-4551 to determine VA benefits available. Once a benefit package has been

determined, contact the SMAT Financial Aid Administrator for the procedure in applying for VA education benefits.

Other Financial Aid

There are a wide variety of available scholarship monies available for students, which require persistent and diligent pursuit. Applying and securing any scholarship money is the sole responsibility of the student. Any money received from this effort must be reported to the Finance Office so that the student's aid package can be adjusted accordingly.

Sponsoring churches or other organizations are a great source of not only financial assistance but an invaluable partner to your mission career going forward. The student is encouraged to seek this partnership with their home congregation and any other groups with which they might have connections. Individuals cannot send designated money directly to the student if they expect a tax deduction for charitable contributions; however, if those funds are channeled through another non-profit organization (church), the donor may receive the tax break from that institution which in turn can forward the donor's request for designated funds for a specific student.

All other financial aid or gifts must be included in the student's financial aid package.