Determining Your Eligibility

Your eligibility for financial aid is determined by the difference between your family’s available resources for college and the total cost of attendance at Fitchburg State University. The information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) results in an Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

The EFC is subtracted from the cost of attendance for the year:

Cost of Attendance – EFC = Financial Need

Your financial aid award is based on this eligibility, the university’s resources and institutional policy.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Your cost of attendance is based on your enrollment status and place of residence. A budget contains the following expenses: tuition, fees, room, board, and estimated costs for books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses and loan fees.

Should a change in enrollment or residency occur, your budget and eligibility for financial aid will be recalculated and your financial aid will be adjusted.

The total cost of attendance listed is an estimate for a full-time undergraduate day student who is a Massachusetts resident living on campus. Your budget is based on the housing information you supply on your FAFSA and is confirmed after add/drop.

For purposes of financial aid, Massachusetts residency is determined in accordance with regulations set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s Office of Student Financial Assistance. Please note that students qualifying for in-state tuition do not necessarily meet the residency requirements for Massachusetts state financial aid.

Estimated Cost 2016–2017*

On-Campus Massachusetts Resident

DIRECT COSTS:
- Tuition: $970
- Fees: $9,415
- Room: $6,445
- Board: $3,225

Total: $20,055

INDIRECT COSTS:
- Books/Supplies: $1000
- Transportation: $350
- Personal/Misc: $1,500

Total: $2,850

Total Budget: $22,905

*Final 2016-17 costs will be determined in June

**Out of state residents add $6,080 to tuition costs.

Contact Information

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
(978) 665-3156 • Fax (978) 665-3559
finaid@fitchburgstate.edu
fitchburgstate.edu/finaid

STUDENT ACCOUNTS
BILLING & PAYMENT PLAN
(978) 665-4126 • Fax (978) 665-3559
stuaccts@fitchburgstate.edu
fitchburgstate.edu/stuaccts

ADMISSIONS OFFICE
(978) 665-3144

Financial Aid Award Guide
Terms and Conditions of Awards

When you signed the FAFSA you agreed to very specific terms and conditions. As a recipient of financial aid, it is important that you fully understand the responsibilities listed below:

- You must report any outside awards, educational benefits and scholarships to the Financial Aid Office. We are required to make adjustments to your financial aid package to prevent or correct over-awards. A financial aid package can never exceed the cost of attendance.

- A reduction in course load may result in a decrease in financial aid. In addition, most states require full-time enrollment (12 credits or more) in order to receive a state grant or scholarship.

- Changes in your housing status may result in an adjustment to your financial aid and should be reported immediately to the Financial Aid Office.

- Withdrawal from the university may result in the partial or full cancellation of your financial aid award. Withdrawal may also affect your future eligibility for financial aid. Financial aid recipients considering withdrawal from the university are advised to contact the Financial Aid Office immediately.

- Satisfactory academic progress must be maintained in order to retain eligibility for financial aid. Refer to the university catalogue for the satisfactory academic progress policy.

- You must meet all tests of eligibility. If at any time you cease to be eligible, your awards will be cancelled. We assume you are the following: accepted to and enrolled in a degree program, a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S., maintaining at least half-time enrollment status, not in default on a student loan, and registered with Selective Service if you are a male over 18.

- You must reapply for financial aid each year. Priority will be given to students completing the FAFSA prior to March 1st.

Additional Payment Options

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS
Provides loans to qualified parents of dependent students. Parents may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus financial aid. Please visit studentloans.gov for an application and more information.

ALTERNATIVE LOANS
Offered by various lenders, these provide students and families with additional borrowing options. Please visit fitchburgstate.edu/finaid for current information.

PAYMENT PLAN
This interest-free plan divides your payments into equal monthly installments per semester. Contact Student Accounts for more information.

University Billing and Refund Procedures

Fitchburg State University generates electronic bills, called eBills, twice per year. Fall semester charges are billed in July (due in August). Spring semester charges are billed in December (due in January). Students receive an eBill notification at their Fitchburg State University student email account when a new bill has been issued.

You may use your financial aid award (except "estimated" awards and Federal Work Study) toward your bill. Approved financial aid will appear as a credit on the semester bill. Each semester, approximately 99 percent of your Direct Student Loan (approximately 96 percent of your Direct Parent Loan) may be used toward your bill once you have completed the promissory note and returned the award letter. Any alternative loan funds must be received by Fitchburg State University before they can be used to satisfy your bill. It is your responsibility to pay any balance due. Cash, checks, Master Card, Discover, Visa and American Express are options available to pay outstanding balances.

Although you may have financial aid above the amount of your bill with the University, Fitchburg State complies with the federal recommendations that all institutional obligations be satisfied before refunds are issued.

Disbursements will be processed in a timely manner once your enrollment and housing status is confirmed, your loan promissory notes have been properly signed, your award letter has been signed, and an entrance interview has been completed. Please plan accordingly for the purchase of books and the payment of rent if living off campus — refunds may not be available until the midpoint of the semester.

You may use your financial aid award (except "estimated" awards and Federal Work Study) toward your bill. Approved financial aid will appear as a credit on the semester bill. Each semester, approximately 99 percent of your Direct Student Loan (approximately 96 percent of your Direct Parent Loan) may be used toward your bill once you have completed the promissory note and returned the award letter. Any alternative loan funds must be received by Fitchburg State University before they can be used to satisfy your bill. It is your responsibility to pay any balance due. Cash, checks, Master Card, Discover, Visa and American Express are options available to pay outstanding balances.

Although you may have financial aid above the amount of your bill with the University, Fitchburg State complies with the federal recommendations that all institutional obligations be satisfied before refunds are issued.

Disbursements will be processed in a timely manner once your enrollment and housing status is confirmed, your loan promissory notes have been properly signed, your award letter has been signed, and an entrance interview has been completed. Please plan accordingly for the purchase of books and the payment of rent if living off campus — refunds may not be available until the midpoint of the semester.

Important Information for Incoming Students

Award Letters are mailed during the months of March and April, are based solely on the FAFSA data and are intended to provide you with an estimate of your financial aid eligibility. Revised award letters, if needed, are mailed once your financial aid file is completed and reviewed.

If you are borrowing a Federal Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loan for the first time at Fitchburg State University, you must complete a loan counseling session, called an Entrance Interview, and a Master Promissory Note. You may complete these requirements online at studentloans.gov.

Students who have financial aid in excess of their current charges are eligible for a Book Advance for up to $500. Students are notified of their potential Book Advance via their university email account prior to Move-In Day. The Book Advance is applied to the student’s OneCard and allows the student to purchase books and other educational materials at the university bookstore. These charges are then posted to the student’s account. Unused Book Advance funds will be removed from the OneCard and refunded to the student once all financial aid has been paid to the account.

Important Information for Incoming Students

Additional Payment Options

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS
Provides loans to qualified parents of dependent students. Parents may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus financial aid. Please visit studentloans.gov for an application and more information.

ALTERNATIVE LOANS
Offered by various lenders, these provide students and families with additional borrowing options. Please visit fitchburgstate.edu/finaid for current information.

PAYMENT PLAN
This interest-free plan divides your payments into equal monthly installments per semester. Contact Student Accounts for more information.

University Billing and Refund Procedures

Fitchburg State University generates electronic bills, called eBills, twice per year. Fall semester charges are billed in July (due in August). Spring semester charges are billed in December (due in January). Students receive an eBill notification at their Fitchburg State University student email account when a new bill has been issued.

You may use your financial aid award (except “estimated” awards and Federal Work Study) toward your bill. Approved financial aid will appear as a credit on the semester bill. Each semester, approximately 99 percent of your Direct Student Loan (approximately 96 percent of your Direct Parent Loan) may be used toward your bill once you have completed the promissory note and returned the award letter. Any alternative loan funds must be received by Fitchburg State University before they can be used to satisfy your bill. It is your responsibility to pay any balance due. Cash, checks, Master Card, Discover, Visa and American Express are options available to pay outstanding balances.

Although you may have financial aid above the amount of your bill with the University, Fitchburg State complies with the federal recommendations that all institutional obligations be satisfied before refunds are issued.

Disbursements will be processed in a timely manner once your enrollment and housing status is confirmed, your loan promissory notes have been properly signed, your award letter has been signed, and an entrance interview has been completed. Please plan accordingly for the purchase of books and the payment of rent if living off campus — refunds may not be available until the midpoint of the semester.

You may use your financial aid award (except "estimated" awards and Federal Work Study) toward your bill. Approved financial aid will appear as a credit on the semester bill. Each semester, approximately 99 percent of your Direct Student Loan (approximately 96 percent of your Direct Parent Loan) may be used toward your bill once you have completed the promissory note and returned the award letter. Any alternative loan funds must be received by Fitchburg State University before they can be used to satisfy your bill. It is your responsibility to pay any balance due. Cash, checks, Master Card, Discover, Visa and American Express are options available to pay outstanding balances.

Although you may have financial aid above the amount of your bill with the University, Fitchburg State complies with the federal recommendations that all institutional obligations be satisfied before refunds are issued.

Disbursements will be processed in a timely manner once your enrollment and housing status is confirmed, your loan promissory notes have been properly signed, your award letter has been signed, and an entrance interview has been completed. Please plan accordingly for the purchase of books and the payment of rent if living off campus — refunds may not be available until the midpoint of the semester.

You may use your financial aid award (except "estimated" awards and Federal Work Study) toward your bill. Approved financial aid will appear as a credit on the semester bill. Each semester, approximately 99 percent of your Direct Student Loan (approximately 96 percent of your Direct Parent Loan) may be used toward your bill once you have completed the promissory note and returned the award letter. Any alternative loan funds must be received by Fitchburg State University before they can be used to satisfy your bill. It is your responsibility to pay any balance due. Cash, checks, Master Card, Discover, Visa and American Express are options available to pay outstanding balances.

Although you may have financial aid above the amount of your bill with the University, Fitchburg State complies with the federal recommendations that all institutional obligations be satisfied before refunds are issued.

Disbursements will be processed in a timely manner once your enrollment and housing status is confirmed, your loan promissory notes have been properly signed, your award letter has been signed, and an entrance interview has been completed. Please plan accordingly for the purchase of books and the payment of rent if living off campus — refunds may not be available until the midpoint of the semester.