

Understanding Your Financial Aid Awards

Congratulations . . . on your decision to be a part of the BCC community. We reviewed the results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and are pleased to inform you that you qualify for financial assistance. Your Award Letter outlines the specific awards for which you are eligible and this enclosure describes the provisions of your awards.

About your awards . . .

Federal Pell Grant (PELL): Eligibility for this grant is determined by the Federal Processor, and it can be awarded to students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. It is generally the largest source of "free money" for college expenses and is available to non-priority as well as priority applicants for a lifetime limit of 144 attempted credits.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): This grant is awarded to Pell-eligible students with the highest need and also does not have to be repaid. Due to limited funding, SEOG is generally awarded first come first served.

MASSGrant (MSS): This grant is awarded by the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to state residents who filed their FAFSA by May 1, 2021. The amount on your BCC award letter is an estimate only. If you fail to meet the full-time requirement, BCC will replace your award with other state funds (while available). There is a limit of four semesters on receiving MASSGrants.

Tuition Waiver (TWR): Tuition waivers are awarded to residents of Massachusetts. A waiver can be used to cover day tuition charges for **state-supported courses**; if your day tuition is less than your award, you'll receive the lower amount. A waiver does not cover college fees, books, or any charges associated with summer, evening, or **non state-supported** classes. If you enroll in non state-supported classes, we will convert your waiver to a Cash Grant (while funds last). However, we can't replace your waiver if you already have another

type of waiver (DCF, Mass Rehab, National Guard, Veterans or the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship).

Mass Cash Grant (CGR): This grant is also for state residents and is awarded first to on-time priority applicants and offered to others on a funds-available basis. Like other grants, the Cash Grant provides 'free money' that can be applied to college expenses and does not have to be repaid.

Federal Work-Study (FWS): This program provides students with part-time employment opportunities in a variety of job sites both on and off campus. The minimum wage rate paid to students is \$14.52/hour with many students working the equivalent of 4 - 6 hours per week based on their award amount. Paychecks are issued every two weeks. For more about Federal Work-Study, please refer to the attached information sheet "**How Work-Study works!**"

Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans (FDSSL, FDUSL): Federal Direct Student Loans provide low interest loans to help meet expenses related to enrollment in college. Eligibility for a 'Subsidized' or 'Unsubsidized' Direct Loan is determined from the household and financial information provided on the FAFSA. Students can receive subsidized, unsubsidized, or a combination of both loans depending on eligibility. For details, see the attached information sheet "**How to Get Your Student Loan.**"

How your award amount was determined . . .

Your award is based on three factors:

- Your financial need (based on federal criteria and your FAFSA information)
- Cost of Attendance at BCC
- Available funding at BCC

Self-help awards such as jobs and loans are based on your Cost of Attendance (COA). Your combined gift aid and self-help package including your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) cannot exceed your COA. The following is an *estimated* COA budget for a Massachusetts resident enrolled in 12 credits/term:

Costs	Living at Home	Living on Own
Tuition	\$ 624	\$ 624
Fees	4,868	4,868
Books & Supplies	1,200	1,200
Living Expenses	5,448	11,832
Transportation	1,560	1,560
Miscellaneous	3,288	3,288
Total	\$16,988	\$23,372

If you enroll less than full-time . . .

Your financial aid offer assumes full-time enrollment. If you take fewer credits, most awards will be adjusted according to your actual enrollment status at the end of the refund period. ***If you add credits after the Drop/Add Period, you may be liable for any additional charges incurred.***

Award	Credits	% of Award Received
PELL	1-5	25%
	6-8	50%
	9-11	75%
	12+	100%
SEOG	0-5	0%
	6-8	50%
	9-11	75%
	12+	100%
MSS	0-11	0%
	12+	100%
TWR	0-2	0%
	3-12	100% of Day Tuition
CGR	0-2	0%
	3-5	25%
	6-8	50%
	9-11	75%
	12+	100%
FWS/FDSSL/FDUSL	0-5	0% of Award
	6-12+	Total Earned or Borrowed

Paying your semester bill . . .

Your Bill: You will no longer receive a bill in the mail; access and pay your bill online. You must also submit a **completed Semester Response Form (SRF)** online. We'll email instructions soon. Use the SRF to notify Billing that you will be enrolling whether or not your financial aid covers your bill. If your aid is insufficient to cover your bill, BCC offers 3-, 4-, and 5-month payment plans (embedded in your online bill).

Books: If you have any remaining financial aid **after** your tuition and fees are covered, an account will be set up for you at the College Store. Note this is **not extra money!** You can access your bookstore account 1 week before classes by going to www.berkshirecc.edu, log into [MyBCC](#) portal to access [Web Advisor](#), and then [Financial Aid for Students](#) and [Bookstore Account by Term](#). The charge period at the College Store runs for one month, from 1 week before classes to 3 weeks after.

Refunds: If your aid exceeds your total charges, we will issue you a refund check for the balance generally 30-45 days after the beginning of each semester (mid-October/mid-March) and on a rolling basis thereafter.

Changes in eligibility . . .

Keep your award notices. We reserve the right to adjust awards if:

- your enrollment changes,
- we receive new financial information for you,
- you fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (see enclosed policy statement),
- the College's funding levels change, or
- there are regulatory changes in the aid programs.

Have more questions . . . ? Contact us!

BCC Student Financial Services Staff

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