

Your Guide to Graduate Financial Aid for Online Programs 2023–24



Quinnipiac
UNIVERSITY

Dear Graduate Student

The Office of Graduate Financial Aid recognizes that financing a graduate education is an investment that you are making in yourself. With that in mind, we have put together this guide to assist you in understanding the process and answering your questions.

As you progress through the financial aid process, it is important to read all correspondence from our office. Many of the communications we send request or discuss information that directly relates to receiving your financial aid. These communications are generally sent to your Quinnipiac email. Therefore, please take the time to set up your Quinnipiac email early to avoid missing any communications from our office.

Remember you must reapply each year if you are requesting assistance with your college expenses.

We look forward to working with you as you accomplish your educational goals.

Sincerely,



Heather Hamilton
Director, Graduate Financial Aid

Quinnipiac University
Office of Graduate Financial Aid
275 Mount Carmel Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518-1908

Contact Us

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Quinnipiac school code

FAFSA: 001402



qu.edu/gradfinaid

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Graduate Financial Aid Checklist

- Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov and include school code 001402 for all federal funds.
- Complete the Quinnipiac University Financial Aid application (to provide us with information regarding the semester(s) for which you are seeking financial assistance, as well as your enrollment and housing plans).

If you wish our staff to discuss your information with someone else (parent, spouse, etc.), be sure to complete the “Authorization to Release Information.” Visit qu.edu/gradforms to access the forms.

- For priority processing, the recommended timeline for submitting forms is as follows:
Summer: March 1
Fall: June 1
Spring: November 1
- Once accepted into a graduate program, you will be notified via email with your QU username and instructions on setting up your password, which will enable you to access our Financial Aid Self-Service portal. The portal provides access to view your financial aid checklist, determine if any documents are needed and take action when your financial aid offer is ready.
- Review expenses and reduce wherever possible. Make a spending plan while in school.
- Once you receive notification, review your financial aid information at qu.edu/gradaward and complete the multi-step process to take action on your financial aid offer.

- If you are a new borrower at Quinnipiac, go to studentaid.gov and select “Loans and Grants” to complete the necessary paperwork for your Federal Direct Loan, including your Master Promissory Note (MPN) and entrance loan counseling. A confirmation is provided when each step is completed.
- Visit qu.edu/gradloans to research options and determine if you will need an alternative loan.
- Any loan funds requested and approved will be sent directly to the university as classes begin.
- For accounts that reflect a credit balance, a refund check will be generated within 14 days of school beginning and the funds coming to the university. One Stop will process any credit refunds by direct deposit to the bank account provided in the Self-Service portal or by mailing a check to a student’s permanent address.

Financial Aid at Quinnipiac University

Financial aid for Quinnipiac University's graduate programs consists primarily of federal student loans.

To understand what type of financial aid you are eligible to receive, it is important to understand how Quinnipiac defines enrollment for graduate students.

Enrollment Definition for Quinnipiac Graduate Students

- **Full-time** students are enrolled in a total of 9 or more credits per semester (summer/fall/spring) per the registrar's office.
- **Part-time** students are enrolled in a total of 5–8 credits per semester (summer/fall/spring).
- **Less than part-time** students are enrolled in a total of 4 credits or fewer in a semester (summer/fall/spring).

Students who are enrolled less than part time are not eligible for any form of federal or university financial aid.

Federal Direct Student Loan

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan is available to graduate students through the Department of Education. Based on a student's cost of attendance, enrollment and eligibility, the maximum amount of the loan per academic year/award period is \$20,500. A loan fee is deducted from the loan prior to funds being sent to the university.

Eligibility: Federal loans are provided to those who meet the FAFSA eligibility criteria, which include: U.S. citizens, permanent residents or eligible noncitizens who are enrolled at least half time (5–8 credits) each semester, are matriculated in a degree-granting program and have not defaulted on federal loans.

Terms: The interest rate is set each July 1 based on a formula using the treasury note and an additional percentage (July 1 rate of 10-year treasury note + 3.6% = rate with a capped rate of 9.5%). The rate is then fixed on the loan for each academic year.

Borrowers are responsible for paying the interest on the loan and can choose to either pay while in school or add any deferred interest to the principal balance of the loan (“capitalization”). When interest capitalizes, the principal balance will be increased by the amount of unpaid interest.

Repayment: Students will receive a one-time, 180-day grace period before repaying the loan(s). The grace period and/or repayment begin once a student falls below half-time enrollment, withdraws, stops attending school or graduates. The loan has a standard 10-year repayment term but may be extended depending upon the repayment plan selected.

Visit our website at qu.edu/gradloans for current interest rates and loan fees on federal loans.

Work Programs

Graduate assistantships are available on a limited basis to both full- and part-time graduate students. Students may receive either tuition assistance or a paycheck depending on the type of work performed at the university. Students interested in an assistantship should review qu.edu/gradwork for additional information. To apply, submit your information to the individual listed for each position of interest. Remember: Applying for a position is not a guarantee of receiving the job.

How Financial Need Is Determined

Quinnipiac University determines your need for financial assistance using the following formula:

Cost of attendance (COA) minus (-) Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = need

It is important to note that, in graduate school, meeting 100 percent of your need is very difficult. Therefore, to help pay for their remaining balance, students may elect to borrow additional funds (through an alternative educational loan) or apply for the university's payment plan (see Quinnipiac's One Stop website for details).

Expected Family Contribution

The Expected Family Contribution is derived from the data provided each year on your FAFSA, including income, assets, family size and number of people in college. It does not allow for consumer-type choices, credit card debt, mortgage expenses, etc. Your EFC is considered a measurement in helping us determine your level of financial need.

Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)

Your cost of attendance is composed of the actual costs of tuition and fees, as well as a standard budget allowance for the estimated costs of books, supplies, living expenses and miscellaneous expenses. The COA is adjusted based on the standard allowance for off-campus living expenses, living at home with parents or living on campus for housing and food.

There are two categories in your cost of attendance:

1. **Direct (Billable) Costs** for which you receive a billing statement from Quinnipiac's One Stop, such as tuition, university fees (including student, registration, technology), etc.
2. **Indirect Costs** you may incur but for which you do not receive a billing statement, such as books, supplies and living expenses. These estimates are for education expenses and are, therefore, used when calculating financial aid eligibility.

It is important to note that you will only be billed for the **direct costs** at Quinnipiac University. (Please refer to the One Stop and Billing section, page 16.)

An estimated cost of attendance for the 2023–24 year can be determined using the data listed in the Costs and Budgets section of our website qu.edu/gradcoa or by visiting the specific academic program pages.

Financial aid budgets do not allow for family costs and are based on expenses for the student only. We realize that based on personal lifestyle and courses required, the cost of books, supplies and living expenses will vary from student to student. To remain fair and equitable to all financial aid recipients, the Office of Graduate Financial Aid uses a standard budget for students based on their program, housing and enrollment plans. Living expense figures are reviewed and updated annually and are based on estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and periodic institutional surveys.

Feel free to contact our office for a budget sheet for your specific program of study.

Financial Aid Self-Service Portal

The Financial Aid Self-Service portal allows you to manage your financial aid information throughout the process.

Once you have been accepted to one of Quinnipiac University's graduate programs, you will be sent an email with information on how to begin accessing the portal. When you log into the portal and select "Financial Aid," you will be provided with a checklist on your "Financial Aid Home" screen that will enable you to work through the process, including reviewing which documents are received or needed, taking action on your awards, accepting your financial aid offer and checking the status of your loan information. Go to qu.edu/gradaward to access the portal.

Taking Action on Your Financial Aid Offer

The financial aid office will send you a notification when your financial aid offer is ready to review. Once logged into the portal, you will need to complete the indicated steps on your checklist. As this is a multi-step process, we recommend returning to the "Financial Aid Home" screen to ensure all necessary steps have been completed. The steps include:

Step One: Review the "My Awards" tab and take action by accepting, reducing or declining each award.

Step Two: Review the "Financial Aid Offer" tab to confirm, finalize and submit your award information.

Note: Failure to complete both steps may result in a delay of your funds being credited to your student account.

Accepting and submitting your award information confirms your understanding and acceptance of the terms and conditions surrounding your financial aid and allows for the accepted funds to be processed accordingly.

Please remember, revisions can be made by contacting the financial aid office.

Be aware, it is your responsibility to notify the graduate financial aid office immediately if you receive additional funding from an outside source or if your housing or enrollment plans change.

Revised E-Award Notifications

Once you have received your initial offer, you may receive a revised notice as revisions or modifications are sometimes necessary. Factors may include the receipt of additional funds, such as tuition benefits or outside scholarships, and changes in budget items, such as enrollment status or housing plans. Any changes to a financial aid offer will be reflected on a new notification. Revisions must be reviewed and submitted.

Outside Scholarships

Quinnipiac University encourages all students to research and apply for outside scholarships that are applicable. To assist you, we recommend the free scholarship web resources listed at the end of this brochure under “Websites.”

Federal regulations require that the Office of Graduate Financial Aid coordinates all sources of funding to ensure that you are not receiving any aid that you may not be eligible for or that exceeds your cost of attendance. For this reason, you are required to notify the Office of Graduate Financial Aid of any outside resource you will be receiving that is not already listed on your financial aid offer.

Additional Ways to Manage the Costs of a Graduate Education

- The university offers a payment plan through TouchNet to help you meet your educational expenses. Plans are available on a semester basis and there is a charge of \$75 to enroll in the payment plan. Contact One Stop for further information. (The plan is not available during the summer terms.)
- Many companies provide education benefits to their employees in the form of tuition reimbursement.

Quinnipiac University recognizes this and offers two plans:

1. **Employer Deferment Plan** — If your employer reimburses after grade completion.
2. **Employer Tuition Benefit Plan** — If your employer pays the university upon receipt of an invoice.

Visit qu.edu/onestop for specific details.

Alternative Loans

Quinnipiac University recognizes that the Federal Direct loan may not provide the resources a student may need during graduate school. Two types of alternative loans are available to graduate students:

The **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan** is a federal credit-based loan for graduate students offered through the Department of Education. The interest rate is set each July 1 based on a formula using the treasury note and an additional percentage. Once the rate is established, it remains fixed for the academic year. An origination fee also is deducted from the loan prior to funds being sent to the university. The criteria to receive the loan include completing the FAFSA (and passing all requirements associated with the FAFSA), enrolling at least half time (5+ credits per semester) and passing the

required credit check. The credit requirements are based on a student's creditworthiness versus a credit score. The individual's credit history can show either good credit or no credit but does not allow for derogatory credit. Go to qu.edu/gradloans for more information and details on how to apply.

Private Alternative Loans are offered by individual banks and are based on the credit score of the student and/or co-signer. Depending on the loan company, their alternative loans do not have the same requirements as the Federal Graduate PLUS loan. The interest rates may be fixed or variable with no caps and are determined when a student applies for the loan. Go to qu.edu/gradaltloans for more information about this type of loan.

The choice of which loan product or lender to use is ultimately yours. We encourage students to choose a lender that they have researched and feel comfortable using. We are happy to assist you with any questions we can answer or provide information about what our students have used in the past.

Students may not borrow in excess of their cost of attendance whether or not they are credit approved for an educational loan.

Veterans Benefits

Eligible veterans and/or their dependents may qualify for benefits for graduate studies at Quinnipiac University. Eligible VA programs include Yellow Ribbon, Post 9/11 and Montgomery GI Bill. Veterans must submit their certificate of eligibility letter to the VA and Military Affairs office and Graduate Financial Aid. For complete details, please visit the graduate financial aid home page.

Students may also contact Jason Burke, director of veteran and military affairs, at 203-582-8867.

First-Time Borrowers of Federal Direct or Graduate PLUS Loans

Entrance Counseling: All first-time borrowers of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized or Federal Graduate PLUS loans are required to complete entrance loan counseling online before a loan can be processed. The process will take approximately 15–20 minutes and will cover the rights and responsibilities of being a federal borrower. Go to qu.edu/gradmpn to complete the form.

Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN):

All first-time borrowers of the Federal Direct loan must have an MPN on file with the Department of Education for the unsubsidized loan funds to be sent to the university. The MPN is good for 10 years and is signed electronically using your FSA ID. Go to qu.edu/gradmpn to complete the form.

Master Promissory Note for Graduate PLUS: All first-time borrowers of the Federal Graduate PLUS loan must have a Graduate PLUS MPN on file with the Department of Education before the loan funds can be sent to the university. The MPN is good for 10 years if used without an endorser and if signed electronically using your FSA ID. Visit studentloans.gov to complete this MPN.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress measures the quality of the academic work and rate of movement toward the graduate degree. Graduate students who wish to receive assistance through any federally supported program must comply with the standards of satisfactory academic progress. All graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of no less than 3.00 throughout the course of their studies. In addition, they must be progressing and earning at least 67 percent of their attempted credits each semester. Satisfactory academic progress is reviewed each semester for each student to determine their individual progression.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student being placed on “Financial Aid Warning” for one semester (this allows students to still continue receiving financial aid but warns them of what is required to continue receiving aid). Failure to meet these requirements for two semesters will result in the student having to appeal to maintain their financial aid due to extenuating circumstances. If an appeal is granted, students will be placed on “Financial Aid Probation” and may continue receiving financial aid so long as they follow certain established guidelines.

Note: At the time that satisfactory academic progress is reviewed, students with any incomplete grades will be considered as not passing the course, and it may result in an “SAP” issue.

One Stop and Billing

One Stop manages the billing, collection, student account services, charges for withdrawals from courses and refund notifications. Students can visit One Stop's website at qu.edu/onestop to learn how to pay bills, obtain payment information, sign up for direct deposit and enroll in a payment plan.

One Stop will generate invoices/bills once you have been billed for your courses at the university. A notice will be sent to your Quinnipiac email with instructions on how to access your e-bill in Self-Service Student Finance. One Stop no longer generates paper invoices/bills mailed to your address. Students also can access up-to-date invoice information. To sign up for direct deposit (for any credit refunds) in Self-Service, go to Financial Information, Banking Information.

One Stop is aware that all financial aid funds are credited to a student's billing account at the start of the semester.

Refund Process and Policy

The withdrawal process is initiated at the registrar's office by filing a withdrawal form, which must be finished in its entirety to complete the withdrawal process. For purposes of clarification, "withdrawal" includes medical leaves of absence and mandatory medical leaves of absence, and the refund policy shall apply in all such cases. **Be aware that refunds are based on Quinnipiac University policy and the Return of Unearned Title IV Funds as required by the Department of Education.**

The policies below describe refunds for students withdrawing from a class or classes and/or withdrawing from the university.

Refund Policies Prior to the Start of Classes

Students who register for a class(es) and then withdraw by the **SUNDAY** of the week in which their **FIRST** class meets will receive a refund of 100% of any balance on their account, less financial aid.

Refund Policies After the Start of Classes

Students who register for a class(es) and then withdraw after the **SUNDAY** of the week in which their **FIRST** class meets will receive a pro rata refund of tuition and fees based on the schedule listed below. In all instances noted, any balance on the account, less financial aid, will be refunded.

Classes 4 weeks or longer:

- Withdrawal during first week of class: 80%
- Withdrawal during second week of class: 50%
- Withdrawal during third week of class: 30%
- Withdrawal after third week of class: 0%

Classes fewer than 4 weeks:

- Withdraws by the Sunday of the week in which first class meets: 100%
- Withdraws by the Monday of the week in which first class meets: 80%
- Withdraws after the Monday of first week: 0%

Please note that course fees may not be refunded or prorated under certain circumstances, such as after the start of the semester.

In addition, students receiving financial aid are also subject to the Return of Federal Financial Aid (Title IV) Funds policy that will determine the amount of federal funds a student has “earned” based on when they withdraw from the school.

Go to qu.edu/wrp for additional information.

Glossary of Terms

Cost of Attendance (COA) — The COA is composed of the actual costs of tuition and fees and an average allowance for living expenses, books, supplies and miscellaneous expenses.

Credit Refund — Occurs when the amount of any financial aid and payments exceeds the institutional charges owed to the university. Refunds are issued to the student according to university policies.

Creditworthiness — This credit check evaluation is used to determine if a Federal Graduate PLUS borrower has either no credit history, a good credit history or a non-adverse credit history.

Direct Cost — Charges for tuition and fees billed by the university. This also may include the cost for university-owned housing and food plans.

Disbursement — A payout of financial aid applied to the student's billing account at Quinnipiac. Generally, funds are applied in two or more payments.

Entrance Counseling/Interview — An online session offered by the federal government, which provides information on topics of loan repayment and debt management. Required to be completed prior to loan funds being sent to the school.

FAFSA — Free Application for Federal Student Aid is an online form completed annually by current and prospective graduate students to determine eligibility for student financial aid.

Federal Graduate PLUS loan — This is a type of loan available to graduate or professional student borrowers. Students must apply and be credit approved to receive the loan. Students can borrow up to the cost of attendance (minus any other financial aid).

Federal Unsubsidized Loan — An educational loan taken out in a student's name for which the student is responsible for paying the interest and principal. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date the funds are sent to the school and continues throughout the life of the loan.

Indirect Cost — Costs students incur but for which they do not receive a billing statement, such as allowances for books, supplies and miscellaneous expenses and off-campus living expenses.

Interest — The fee a lender charges a student for borrowing money. The interest is a percentage of the amount owed, which accrues and is added to your principal balance on a regular basis (usually either daily or monthly).

Loan (Origination) Fee — A fee, charged by the lender, that is subtracted directly from the loan funds before they are sent to the university.

MPN — This is a loan agreement document used for federal loans that indicates the terms and conditions of the loan and the agreement to repay the money borrowed plus interest. Must be completed to receive loan funds.

Private (Alternative) Educational Loan — Student loans provided by private lenders (like banks or other financial institutions) instead of the federal government. They usually have fewer repayment options, and stricter repayment terms and conditions, than federal loans.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q/ Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?

A/ Yes, you need to reapply and submit the FAFSA (for federal funds). For priority processing, please follow the recommended timeline:

Summer: March 1

Fall: June 1

Spring: November 1

Q/ If I have already started the semester, can I still apply for financial aid?

A/ Yes, as long as the semester or academic year in which you are enrolled has not ended. Students must submit all financial aid paperwork at least 2–3 weeks prior to the end of the term for the paperwork to be processed.

Q/ I borrowed loans as an undergraduate student; do I still have to continue repaying on them as a graduate student while in school?

A/ No, if you are enrolled at least half time (5 or more credits), then you may qualify for an in-school loan deferment for that semester (once the semester has begun). One Stop will report electronically to the Student Loan Clearinghouse two weeks after school begins and every month thereafter. As a borrower, you will want to confirm with your lender or servicer if they participate with the clearinghouse or if you have to file paperwork. In addition, if you are paying on private alternative loans, you want to confirm that you would qualify for the in-school deferment.

Q/ I was offered a loan for more than I need to pay my tuition bill. Do I have to accept it all?

A/ No, you are not required to accept the full amount offered. In fact, we encourage you to only borrow what you need as you will be required to repay the loan funds including any accrued interest. If you don't wish to borrow all of the funds, simply adjust the amount on your offer letter accordingly.

Q/ I have borrowed in excess of my tuition and fees. How will I receive my funds?

A/ If you have borrowed in excess of your bill, the funds will be issued to you in the form of a credit refund within two weeks of school starting and the funds coming to the school. The refunds are direct deposited (to the bank account provided in Self-Service) or mailed to your permanent mailing address. Please note, refunds will not be available by the first of the month to cover rent and other expenditures, so we encourage you to plan accordingly.

Websites

Quinnipiac University

Your link to everything at Quinnipiac

qu.edu

Office of Graduate Financial Aid at Quinnipiac

qu.edu/gradfinaid

Application Websites

Complete your FAFSA online (for federal funding)

fafsa.gov

Federal Websites

Comprehensive information on federal financial aid, including understanding, applying and completing the financial aid process and managing your loans

studentaid.gov

Department of Education Ombudsman helps resolve student loan disputes/problems with federal loans

studentaid.gov/feedback-ombudsman/disputes/prepare

Scholarship and Other Useful Sites

fastweb.com

collegeanswer.com

scholarship.org

scholarshipamerica.org

Free request to review credit report from each of the credit bureaus

annualcreditreport.com

Free credit score report

creditkarma.com

Contact Information

Graduate Financial Aid

203-582-8588

Graduate Student Affairs

203-582-GRAD

Office of the Registrar

203-582-8695

One Stop

203-582-8650

Student Health Services

203-582-8742

Main Campus Number

203-582-8200

Veterans Education

203-582-8867

Learning Commons

203-582-9867

Office of Accessibility

203-582-7608

