

# Student Financial Services

## General Information

- Financial aid is a commitment for four years or eight semesters assuming students remain in good standing with the college.
- We will continue to meet 100 percent of need based on the CSS Profile, which you need to file each year. (Preferred submission date of all required materials is ~November 15.)
- Share relevant emails/communications with your family/anyone who helps you pay your bill. Most communications go only to you.
- Become familiar with both the [Williams Student Records](#) (financial aid) and the [Williams Payment Portal](#) (your bill). Outstanding items, awards, bills, and credits will all be shown on these two systems. You can grant access to the payment portal to anyone via as an “authorized user” to view bills and pending financial aid. **TIP: do this so that those helping you pay your bill can see what you owe!**
- Statements are issued each month for any outstanding comprehensive fees as well as any miscellaneous charges that you accrue.

## Helping Students Meet Many Other College Costs

- *Free Books*  
All required course materials, lab fees, music lessons, and art supplies are free for financial aid recipients! Students must charge all required course materials to their student account at the Williams College bookstore. See separate notice for a step by step process!
- *Personal Allowance*  
Personal allowance—\$1,850 per year to cover expenses such as cell phone plans, toiletries, routine medical expenses, etc.—comes from your campus job earnings.
- *Health Insurance Grant*  
Williams covers the full cost of health insurance for financial aid recipients who do not have health insurance or whose health insurance does not meet the college’s requirements for coverage.
- *Summer/Break Storage*  
FREE storage is available to all financial aid recipients who wish to store some personal belongings while away from campus. The Office of Student Life administers this program.
- *Travel (domestic students)*  
Most students receiving financial aid pay for their travel to and from campus with funds earned through campus employment, but for many arranging travel can sometimes be difficult. Students can arrange travel ahead of time through our third-party agency, [Egencia](#) and have the cost of the ticket charged to their Williams student account, and pay it off over the academic year.
- *Travel (international students)*  
Most students receiving financial aid pay for their travel to and from campus by charging it through our third party travel partner [Global Travel Link](#). If students need reimbursement for travel arrangements, they should complete this [form](#).

- *Billing a Computer Purchase to the Student Account*  
You may need to purchase a computer during your time at Williams. You can do so and have the charge placed on your student account to be paid either with excess scholarship or a student loan. Students should inquire with their student financial services advisor for details.
- *First Yard Fund*  
Some incoming first-year and transfer students are eligible for the First Yard Fund. For students with the highest need, the fund provides a \$300 grant during the summer to cover the cost of items needed for the start of college: a winter coat and boots, dorm room supplies, etc.
- *Course Make-Up Fees*  
For students who need to take time away or need to make up a course away from Williams, the college will pay up to \$1,500 per course and any book expenses required.
- *Winter Study Grant*  
This grant will cover between 50-100% of students' primary course costs. The percentage is based on your financial need for the academic year and type of course you choose. Students are responsible for paying any difference between the grant and winter study charges that will be applied to your account. Students should inquire with their student financial services advisor for details.
- *Study Away Grant*  
When students study away from Williams and have a work award as part of their financial aid package, that award will be replaced with a grant while they are away, so that they won't have to work or borrow money during that time.
- *Two Free Summers*  
During two of your four summers at Williams, your summer income contribution will be waived and replaced with grant...no questions asked. Additionally, students can petition to have an additional summer income contribution waived if you are doing work that is unpaid or you will not earn more than their expenses for the summer.
- *Critical Needs Fund*  
If you have unexpected or unforeseen emergency expenses while you are enrolled, we have a critical needs fund to help with those expenses. Examples include but are not limited to: broken glasses, dental emergencies, travel home to support family in crisis, and emergency winter clothing purchases. Students should inquire with their student financial services advisor for details.

Our goal is to make this outstanding education within reach of each family that we serve. If there are questions or concerns during your time at Williams, we hope that you will reach out to one of our staff for a conversation about how we can help.

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