# **LAKE MICHIGAN**<sup>®</sup> C O L L E G E

## FINANCIAL AID

## What does it cost to go to school?

#### **Cost of Attendance**

#### **Direct Costs:**

Charged by the college

#### Tuition

• Course Fees

On-Campus Housing Charges

#### Indirect Costs:

Other expenses related to school

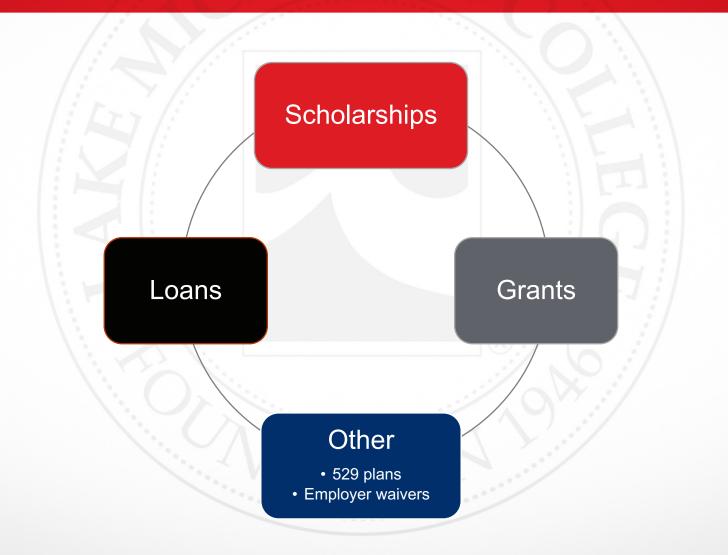
- Books
- Expenses for commuting to and from school
- Miscellaneous expenses (exam fees, educational supplements, personal expenses)



### **Fast Facts About Financial Aid**

- Any student attending an eligible US institution (like LMC) can use financial aid
  - Student Loans, Scholarships, and Grants all count as financial aid
  - Every student who is a US citizen will qualify for some form of financial aid
    - Over half of the students at LMC qualify for at least partial free tuition
- We have a whole department to help you get as much free tuition as possible

## What is Financial Aid?





## What Happens After I File My FAFSA?

- 1. The FAFSA takes **3-5 business days** to be processed
  - The Department of Education validates your information
  - Determines whether they need additional information
  - Calculates your SAI (Student Aid Index)
- 2. The Department of Education sends out information
  - You, the student, will receive your **Student Aid Report** (SAR)
  - Each school you listed on your FAFSA will receive a copy of your information
- 3. Your financial aid package at each institution is calculated based on the SAI (if possible)
- 4. The institution notifies you, the student
  - what **information we need** to continue processing your FAFSA **OR**
  - what financial aid you're eligible for

If you make changes to your FAFSA this process starts over



### **How Do I Get Started?**

Go to studentaid.gov to file the

#### Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The FAFSA is the key to unlocking all the different types of Financial Aid. Your budget for school, all loans and grants, and most scholarships require that you have a completed FAFSA on file with the school.



### When...

...should I file the FAFSA?

Every year! The FAFSA opens for the following year every October. 23-24 FAFSA: Fall 2023-Summer 2024 Opened in October 2022 Uses 2021 tax information 24-25 FAFSA: Fall 2024-Summer 2025 Will open on December 31 Uses 2022 tax information

...will I know what aid I received?

We put out estimated award offers **in mid to late spring** each year. You will know your final award amount 1-2 days after you register for classes



## GRANTS AND Scholarships

## **Grants and Scholarships**

#### **Both Grants and Scholarships:**

- May be given based on academic achievement, personal experiences, or financial need
- Do not need to be paid back
- Often require a FAFSA

#### Grants:

- Federal or state funds
- Granted to each student that meets the criteria

#### Scholarships:

- May be offered by:
  - The State
  - Institutions
  - Organizations
  - Private donors
  - The College
- May have additional requirements for participation or follow up
- May be renewable



## Where Can I Get...



Learn more at lakemichigancollege.edu/grants

## STUDENT LOANS

### **Student Loans**

**Stafford Loan**: A loan directly to you, the student, from the Department of Education Subsidized: Does not accrue interest while the student attends college at least half time Unsubsidized: Accrues interest from the date of disbursement

**Pros** Small fees Low, fixed interest rate Qualifies for government protection

**Cons** Annual and Lifetime limits



### **Student Loans**

#### Parent PLUS Loan: A loan to the parent of a dependent student

Accrues interest from the date of disbursement

**Pros** Small fees Medium, fixed interest rate Higher annual limit

**Cons** Debt transferred to parent Requires the ability to pass a credit check



### **Student Loans**

#### Private Loan: A loan to you, the student, from a bank or private lender

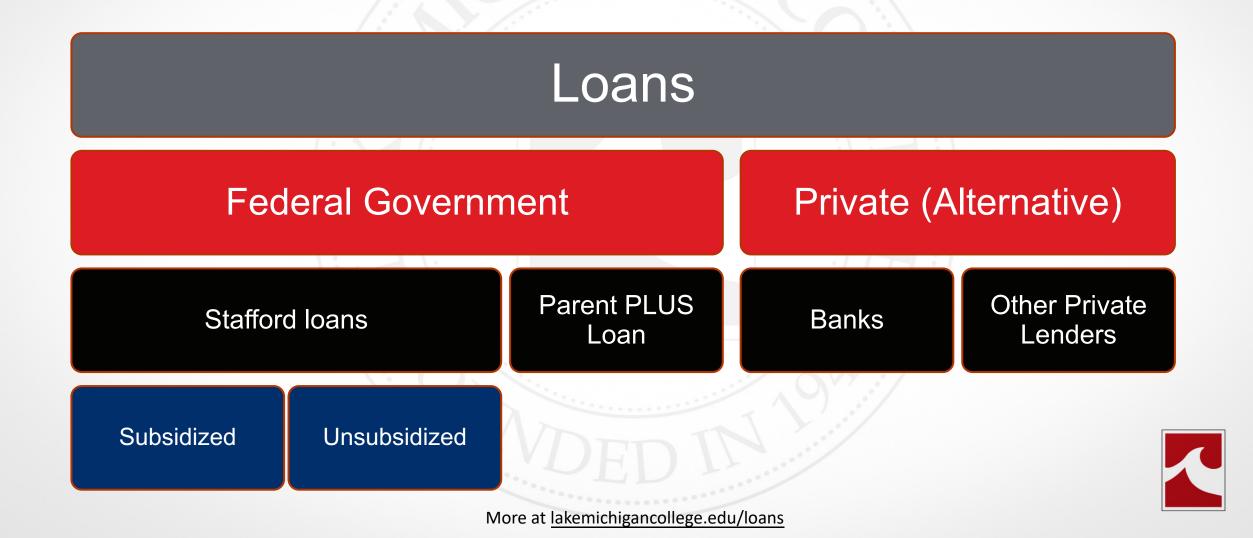
The final option for students who don't qualify for other forms of aid

#### **Pros** Keeps debt with student Highest annual limit Available to students in unique situations

**Cons** Requires the ability to pass a credit check or co-signer High interest rate High fees



## Where Can I Get...



## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

#### What is SAP?

In order to receive financial aid, students must be making progress toward earning a degree. SAP is the guideline from the Department of Education that defines progress.

#### SAP Rules

- 2.0 cumulative GPA
- 67% completion rate
- Total attempted hours is no more that 1½ times the number of credits in the program



## What happens if...

#### ... I don't meet the rules?

Everyone gets one semester of Warning where they can keep using financial aid while trying to get their GPA or Completion Rate up. If you are still not meeting the rules, you will be terminated from using financial aid again until you can meet the standard.

#### ... I have an extenuating circumstance that caused me to not progress?

You can file an appeal which includes a form, a letter explaining what happened, and documentation from a reliable third party (work, doctor, counsellor, program director, etc.) that supports your explanation of what happened.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

## Where Can I Get More Info?

#### Federal programs:

www.studentaid.gov

#### **State of Michigan programs:**

www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

#### Lake Michigan College programs:

www.lakemichigancollege.edu/financialaid



## Where Can I See My Financial Aid?

#### **Student Profile**

View your award letter Accept offered aid Finish missing steps Check your bill

#### VerifyMyFAFSA

Submit required documents

#### **Official LMC Email**

Receive communication from the college



## How Can I Make This as Easy as Possible?

**Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible** 

**Check your LMC Email and Student Profile regularly** 

**Do your paperwork** Upload required documents Turn in requests and applications

Ask questions! We are here to help



## Thank You!

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