

Financial Aid

Financial Aid 411

So you've decided to pursue a college education. GREAT CHOICE! Attaining a college education can open many doors in your professional and personal life.

College is an investment in your future, and there are many choices available for financing that investment. The [Georgia Student Finance Commission](#) has been giving students financial choices since 1965. We believe every student in Georgia should have the opportunity to go to college, and we are here to help you reach your goals. The first step for you is to understand these choices and make the best decisions based on your family's situation.

What are the specific types of financial aid?

There are four major types of financial aid:

- [Scholarships & Grants Programs](#) can be in the form of need-based, merit-based, or gift-aid.
- [Loans for Students & Parents](#) can be need-based or non-need based. Most financial aid packages involve some loans. We suggest you use our [Student Loans Over Projected Earnings \(SLOPE\) calculator](#) to help determine how much you should borrow.
- [Service Cancelable Loans](#) are student loans that can be repaid after graduation by working in the field of study for a designated number of years at specified locations in Georgia, or they can be repaid in cash.
- **Student Employment Programs** - Work-study programs provide employment opportunities. Work-study jobs may be on campus or in nearby communities. You are paid an hourly wage as set by the school. For more, see the financial aid professional at the college you plan to attend.