

# Applying for Financial Assistance

We hope you'll select a college or university by comparing academic programs, social opportunities and quality of life — not by looking solely at costs. We want you to choose the college that's a "good fit" for you. Therefore, we will work with you and your parent/s in order to determine all of your financial options. Carnegie Mellon has multiple types of financial assistance available to students who qualify. Approximately 59 percent of our students receive financial aid.

We've designed our financial aid program to help bridge the gap between what your family is able to contribute toward your education and the total cost of attending Carnegie Mellon. (The chart on page 24 breaks down the total cost of a Carnegie Mellon education per year.) The program only works if every family contributes as much as they reasonably can. Once the costs are within your family's reach, you must weigh whether or not Carnegie Mellon is the right university for you.

If your financial aid package does not meet your need for financial assistance, you have several options. First, carefully consider if a Carnegie Mellon education is financially viable for your family. Look closely at your family contribution to the cost of education, your expenses for the next four years and the amount of debt you may have. Carefully compare financial assistance offers that you may have from other colleges or universities. If Carnegie Mellon is your first choice, you'll need to consider college financing alternatives including loan programs (details on next page).

## Financial Aid Strategy

### Principles

- Carnegie Mellon allocates resources carefully and judiciously to the benefit of the high-quality students we seek to enroll in the university. Financial aid, viewed by many as an entitlement when federal resources were more plentiful, is now awarded by institutions who must balance resources, goals and priorities while attracting the highest quality students.
- Like many other colleges and universities, we use more of our limited resources to help families cover the cost of enrollment. Federal and state financial aid resources, awarded on the basis of financial need, are distributed under federal and state guidelines.
- Carnegie Mellon values diversity and we seek to build a community of people of varied gender, race, academic interest, talent and background to accurately reflect the global community and to provide an enlightening experience for our student body. We use our financial resources to advance our commitment to diversity.

- We seek to enroll students of the highest academic and artistic caliber in each of our six undergraduate colleges. We use our financial aid resources to enroll a class that reflects this goal.
- Carnegie Mellon's financial assistance program is designed to meet our two-part goal of helping students with demonstrated financial need afford the cost of education and rewarding those students who have outstanding talents and abilities. Both need-based financial assistance and merit scholarships are used to enroll high-quality students. Highest quality students, regardless of need, will receive the most favorable financial assistance packages.

### Practices

- Our merit-based financial aid strategy is aimed at rewarding the highest quality students. It aids high-quality students from middle-income families who may not have qualified for financial aid if it were awarded solely on the basis of financial need.
- Carnegie Mellon is willing to review financial awards to compete with other private institutions for students admitted under the Regular Decision plan. Unlike most institutions, the university states these principles to students offered freshmen admission under the Regular Decision plan. While Early Decision students are not eligible to participate in the review process, they do receive awards consistent or better than students admitted under Regular Decision, including consideration for merit scholarships, and are not penalized for declaring Carnegie Mellon as their first choice.
- We use statistical modeling as an aid in the distribution of limited financial aid dollars. It is a strategic tool that helps us pursue our goal of increasing the quality of the student body while using our resources as effectively as possible. This modeling takes into account a student's intended college major, academic and artistic talents, as well as financial need, but does not consider a student's participation in recruitment activities, such as a personal interview or campus visit.

### Early Estimate Form

To find out how much your family might expect to receive in aid — and how much you may need to contribute to the cost of a Carnegie Mellon education — take advantage of our Early Estimate Form along with information on our financial assistance program. You will receive an estimate form in our financial aid brochure early in the fall of your senior year. The form will also be available at <<http://my.cmu.edu/site/admission/page.estimate>>. If you complete and return the form by January 1, 2010, we'll respond with an estimate of your eligibility for grant, loan and student employment opportunities. There is no charge for this service and you need not apply for admission before requesting an estimate.

### Need-Blind Admission Policy

Carnegie Mellon follows a need-blind admission policy, which means we do not admit U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. based on their families' ability to pay for their education. Applying for financial aid will have no effect on your chances for regular admission. It may have an effect, however, on those students we are able to admit from the waiting list. There is no financial assistance for international students.

### Early Decision Applicants

For candidates admitted under Early Decision, we will provide an Early Decision Financial Aid Form along with your decision letter. Please complete this form and return it to the Office of Admission. Based on this Early Decision Financial Aid Form, we will provide you with a **tentative** financial aid package.

All Early Decision candidates are required to go through the Regular Decision financial aid process in order to calculate your actual package, which you will receive in early April 2010. (Please refer to the instructions below.)

Carnegie Mellon will meet the full demonstrated need with a combination of grants, loans and work-study as calculated by the university for all students admitted under Early Decision. However, we do not guarantee to meet full need for students who are deferred or denied admission under Early Decision and later admitted under Regular Decision.

### Applying for Financial Aid

Early Decision students should follow the instructions below to receive an initial estimate:

- 1. Both Early and Regular Decision applicants must complete the Carnegie Mellon 2010-2011 Financial Aid Application that can be found at <[http://my.cmu.edu/site/admission/page.apply\\_aid2](http://my.cmu.edu/site/admission/page.apply_aid2)>. Do not mail this form prior to January 1, 2010.**
- 2. Complete a 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** If you're a freshman applicant, be sure to mail your completed form (after January 1, 2010) to the federal processor. The FAFSA is available online at <[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)>. If you are applying for freshman admission, the preferred deadline for filing the FAFSA is February 15, 2010.

Our Federal Student  
Financial Aid School Code  
is 003242.

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### 3. Apply to your state grant agency for financial assistance.

Your state grant agency may be able to help with financial resources. Students from: Connecticut\*, Delaware, District of Columbia\*, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania\*, Rhode Island, Vermont\* and West Virginia\* often receive assistance from their state grant agency. All other students should also apply to their state authority for assistance. In most situations, your FAFSA will serve as your application. If you are eligible for grant assistance from your state, but you do not apply, Carnegie Mellon will **not** provide additional assistance to replace your lost state grant funds. If you are awarded a state grant after your financial aid package is determined, a dollar-for-dollar reduction to your Carnegie Mellon need-based grant funds will occur.

\* These states may require additional forms.

### 4. Send us a signed copy of parent/s and student 2009 U.S. Federal Tax Return or foreign tax return. Also send copies of parent/s W-2 Forms.

Print the applicant's name and social security number at the top of all forms. All forms should be sent with the Carnegie Mellon 2010 Financial Aid Application. If your tax returns will not be completed by March 15, 2010, please submit a FAFSA using estimated numbers and send us your tax returns as soon as they are available. If you are required to complete Schedule C and/or Partnership Schedule K-1 and/or IRS Form 2555 (Foreign Earned Income), then these documents are also required. Copies of foreign tax returns should also be translated onto a U.S. Form 1040 by a tax accountant.

### 5. If your parents are divorced or separated, Carnegie Mellon requires your noncustodial parent to complete and return the 2010 Noncustodial Parent Information Form.

Please forward the form to your noncustodial parent for completion. If the applicant's noncustodial parent is unavailable, unable or unwilling to complete the Noncustodial Parent Information Form, we will assume a \$6,000 contribution from the noncustodial parent. In order for us to consider waiving this \$6,000 noncustodial parent contribution, we require that you submit a letter from a disinterested third party (lawyer, social worker, guidance counselor, clergy, etc.) indicating the non-custodial parent is not providing and will not provide any support for college. A committee will review this information and make a final determination regarding the noncustodial parent contribution.

## Financial Assistance Explained

### Financial Assistance Award Notification

If you apply for financial assistance and you're admitted or wait listed to the university, you'll receive a financial aid award letter shortly after you receive your decision letter from the Office

of Admission. However, if you have not submitted all required documents, there may be a delay in your notification. The financial aid award letter will state the dollar value of any assistance you may be receiving if you are admitted and decide to enroll.

### What is Financial Need?

Financial need is the difference between your expected family contribution and the total cost of that education. (See page 24 for a breakdown of Carnegie Mellon's costs.)

### Determining Eligibility for Financial Aid

Eligibility for federal, state, Carnegie Mellon and most private aid programs is determined by using the federal methodology, a need-analysis formula authorized by Congress.

### Determining Your Expected Family Contribution

We use the information which you and your parent/s provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Carnegie Mellon 2010 Financial Aid Application and other documents to determine the amount you and your parent/s are able to contribute toward your education at Carnegie Mellon. This value is called the expected family contribution (EFC).

The EFC is comprised of a parent contribution (PC) and a student contribution (SC). The calculation of PC and SC usually includes resources from income and assets and is an indicator of your ability to contribute and/or borrow.

### We Package Your Aid in Three Parts

Once we determine what you and your family are able to reasonably contribute toward your college education, we combine different types of financial support into a package.

#### Part 1: Grants Based on Talent and Need

We award grant funds on the basis of academic/artistic talent and performance and demonstrated financial need. Many factors are considered, including high school performance and non-academic activities.

Funds administered for this purpose are derived from the university's operating income, annual gifts, endowed funds, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal SMART Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) funded by the federal government and state grants. You will be considered for the scholarships and grants for which you are eligible.

#### Part 2: Low-Interest Student Loans

We may supplement your scholarship and grant aid with a long-term, low-interest loan available from the Federal Perkins Loan Program. This loan is administered by the university.

We may also expect you to apply for a loan under the Federal Stafford Loan (FSL) Program through a lender of your choice. To view a complete list of Carnegie Mellon's recommended Stafford Loan Lending Partners, go to <[www.cmu.edu/hub/fa/fa\\_studentloans.html](http://www.cmu.edu/hub/fa/fa_studentloans.html)>. **Regardless of our recommended lenders, we will process any loan from any lender, federal or alternative.** If you file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we will determine your eligibility for an FSL and will notify you of your eligibility in a financial aid award letter.

- Federally subsidized loans are interest-free while you are enrolled in college and for the first six to nine months after graduation, or after you choose to be enrolled on a part-time basis (less than half time).
- Interest starts to accrue at a fixed rate of 5% for the Federal Perkins Loan. The interest rate for subsidized Stafford Loans is 5.6% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2009 and before June 20, 2010. The interest rate for unsubsidized Stafford Loans is fixed at 6.8%. Fees are 1.5%.
- Admitted students who choose to enroll are required to complete a Federal Stafford Master Promissory Note (MPN) and an Entrance Loan Counseling Session.

### Part 3: Work-Study/Employment

There are many student employment opportunities on campus, both need-based and non-need-based.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a need-based self-help award. If you have been awarded FWS, your FWS award is the total that you can earn during the academic year as a work-study student. Funds earned in the Federal Work-Study Program are not credited to your student account.

If you have not been awarded FWS and wish to work on campus, there are positions available. Both need-based and non-need-based student employment positions are advertised on the Career Center's Web page, <[www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/career/tartantrak.html](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/career/tartantrak.html)>.

All undergraduates who are employed by Carnegie Mellon complete timecards and are paid by check on a bi-weekly basis. Students may elect to have their pay direct deposited into a local checking or savings account.

### Tuition Payment Plan

The Carnegie Mellon Tuition Payment Plan administered by Tuition Management Systems (TMS) is recommended to help you budget payment of your educational expenses and limit your debt.

The Carnegie Mellon Tuition Payment Plan allows you to spread your payments out over 10 months.

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There is no interest charged on the plan, and a variety of other benefits, including life insurance, are provided, all paid for with a single, low annual enrollment fee. A semester option at a lower fee is available for those graduating in December or beginning their enrollment in the spring semester.

Benefits of the Carnegie Mellon Tuition Payment Plan include:

- Interest-free payments.
- Life insurance coverage for the bill payer.
- Toll-free, top-rated telephone service with extended personal service hours at 888-251-3533.
- BorrowSmart Affordability Planning and Counseling with friendly and professional education payment counselors.
- A wide variety of payment methods include personal checks, money orders, credit cards, Western Union by wire or check and automated payments from a checking or savings account.
- 24-hour access to account information at <www.afford.com> or The HUB Web site, <www.cmu.edu/hub> or a toll-free InfoLine.

We hope that you seriously consider the advantages of paying some or all of your balance interest-free. This strategy is the most effective means of limiting your debt. Feel free to contact Tuition Management Systems for BorrowSmart Affordability Planning and Counseling at 888-251-3533 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Carnegie Mellon Tuition Payment Plan offers you the convenience of investigating, enrolling and paying online. If you set up a monthly payment plan with TMS, one half of your contracted amount will be credited to your fall invoice and the remainder to the other semesters contracted. If you still have a balance once your contracted amount is credited on the invoice and after deducting the amount of your approved loans, you will either need to increase your contract with TMS or send the balance due on your student account to Carnegie Mellon.

## Outside Grants and Scholarships

Be sure to seek outside scholarship and grant assistance through local, state and federally sponsored programs when possible. If a student receives tuition remission from a parent's employer (including but not limited to colleges or universities other than Carnegie Mellon), this gift aid would fall under our outside scholarship policy.

If you receive an annual total of \$7,000 or less in outside scholarships (other than state or federal grants), Carnegie Mellon will *not* reduce your need-based Carnegie Mellon undergraduate grant/scholarship funds. In other words, students will retain 100% of their need-based Carnegie Mellon grants in addition to those outside

scholarship funds that total less than \$7,000. In some cases, we may have to reduce a portion of your Federal Work-Study award, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Stafford Loan or Federal PLUS Loan.

If you receive more than \$7,000 annually in outside scholarships (other than state or federal grants), your need-based Carnegie Mellon undergraduate grant/scholarship will be reduced by one-half the value that exceeds \$7,000.

In the case of federal and state grants that were not included in our initial award, a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your need-based institutional grant/scholarship funds will occur.

## International Students Assume Total Cost

Financial aid is not available to undergraduate international students. If you're an international student who plans to enroll at the university, you and your family must assume the total cost of a Carnegie Mellon education. Please use the following costs as a reference. Actual costs for 2010-11 have yet to be determined. In 2009-10, the cost is \$54,558, which includes health insurance but excludes travel expenses. Undergraduate, international students are also not eligible to participate in monthly payment plans.

Fall 2010 international students are required to pay half of the cost of tuition and health insurance by June 15. The university and the United States officials who issue the necessary visa require certification of your ability to meet financial obligations. If you're offered admission, you must pay the enrollment deposit of \$800 for Fall 2010 before you can receive a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or IAP-66) to secure your entry visa. If an \$800 deposit has been posted, it would be deducted from the balance due by June 15.

## Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships

**Air Force ROTC:** Two-, three- and four year scholarships are available to qualified undergraduate and graduate Carnegie Mellon students who join the Air Force ROTC program.

Scholarships pay up to \$15,000/year towards tuition, plus \$800 for books/year and a monthly tax-free allowance that ranges from \$300-\$500/month depending on your year in school.

Students are required to attend AFROTC courses at the University of Pittsburgh, which are described in Carnegie Mellon's course catalog under Aerospace Studies. Completion of the AFROTC program leads to a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and a starting salary of approximately \$40K/year.

For details about the AFROTC program as well as information on courses, scholarships and flying programs, interested students are encouraged to contact Air Force ROTC Detachment 730 at 412-624-6396, view their Web site <www.Det730.com> or contact:

Unit Admissions Officer, Air Force ROTC  
University of Pittsburgh  
2917 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001

**Army ROTC:** The Army offers two-, three- and four-year scholarships to qualified students. The scholarships cover full tuition and fees per year plus \$1,200 per year for books. Scholarship students also receive allowances of \$2,500-\$4,800 per year. These scholarships are based on student merit and not parent income. There is no obligation incurred for any freshmen students. To become eligible for a scholarship, some of the criteria are as follows: be a U.S. citizen, have a minimum SAT score of 920 on the Critical Reading and Math tests, have a minimum GPA of 2.5, meet physical standards and be a full-time student. For more details and information concerning Army ROTC contact a representative at 412-624-6254, visit <www.armyrotc.com> or:

Army ROTC, Admissions and Enrollment Offices  
Room 306 Bellefield Annex  
315 S. Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
<armyrotc@pitt.edu>

**Navy-Marine Corps ROTC:** The NROTC offers two-, three- and four-year scholarships based on competitive national and regional selection. While on a Naval scholarship students will receive the following benefits:

- Full tuition (including all related fees).
- Textbook stipend of \$750 per year.
- A monthly stipend starting at \$250 per month their freshmen year and increasing to \$400 per month by their senior year.
- Full active-duty pay and benefits while on summer training cruises.

Special scholarships are available to minority students and students who are interested in careers as nuclear power officers. These special scholarships are available to students who have completed at least one term of academic college course work.

For more information, call 412-268-5109, visit <www.cmu.edu/nrotc> or <www.navy.com/careers/nrotc> or write to:

Commanding Officer, NROTC  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4615 Forbes Avenue, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890

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## Total Costs

The cost for entering freshmen at Carnegie Mellon for the 2009-10 academic year is:

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Commuter</b>
Tuition	\$40,300	\$40,300
Fees	\$620	\$620
Room and Fees <sup>1</sup>	\$6,060	N/A
Dining <sup>2</sup>	\$4,280	\$1,670 <sup>2</sup>
Books and Supplies (Est.) <sup>3</sup>	\$1,000	\$1,000
Personal/Miscellaneous (Est.)	\$1,400	\$1,400
Transportation (Est.) <sup>4</sup>	variable <sup>4</sup>	\$640
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,660</b>	<b>\$45,630</b>

The university reserves the right to change its charges without notice.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the cost of a standard double room. Your actual cost may differ.

<sup>2</sup>The commuter dining amount is based upon 12 meals plus \$8 DineXtra per two weeks.

<sup>3</sup>Students in architecture, art and design should plan on \$600 in additional costs for books/supplies.

<sup>4</sup>A travel allowance for resident students depends on the distance from the student's home to Carnegie Mellon.

Note: In addition, minimal health insurance coverage is required at an estimated cost of \$928+ per year, unless a waiver is granted because you are covered under your family's health plan. Premium health insurance coverage is suggested for international students at an estimated cost of \$2,000+ per year.

## Scholarship Policy

Scholarships are awards that you do not have to repay. The Carnegie Mellon Institutional Academic Scholarships are awarded to students when they enter as freshmen and are renewed annually if the student meets the cumulative 2.0 QPA requirement.

The total amount of your grants and scholarships (money that doesn't have to be paid back) cannot exceed the total cost of tuition, fees and standard room and board.

Scholarships are designed to recognize and reward outstanding academic, artistic and personal achievement and are open to all qualified students regardless of race or national origin.

## Presidential Scholarships

Presidential Scholarships are awarded to artistically and academically talented middle income students who qualify for little or no need-based financial aid. The Presidential Scholarships are open to all qualified students regardless of race or national origin. You must apply for need-based financial aid to be considered. (This verifies that you are not eligible for significant financial assistance.)

You must submit the 2010-11 FAFSA in order to be considered for the Presidential Scholarship. If you are awarded the Presidential Scholarship, you must submit all of the required Carnegie Mellon and Federal Student Aid forms and tax documents before the scholarship will be credited toward the student's account. Winners will be notified in their notification of financial aid.