


# Financial Aid FAQs

## Nursing@Simmons Tuition and Billing

### 1. How much does the Nursing@Simmons program cost?

Tuition is based on the number of credits for which you register. Current tuition rates and fees can be found on the [Nursing@Simmons program website](#) .

### 2. How much is the tuition deposit?

The current tuition deposit is \$650.

### 3. Can I use financial aid to cover the deposit?


Federal student aid cannot be used to pay the deposit.

### 4. Will I be able to view my award package before submitting the deposit?



You do not need to pay your deposit to receive your financial aid package. However, Student Financial Services will not be able to provide an award until they have received the FAFSA form for the year. Complete this document at the same time you complete your application for admission.

### 5. When will I receive a tuition bill, and when is payment due?


Billing statements are mailed monthly to each student's home address if there has been any account activity or if there is a balance due. Monthly statements are also

posted online via the Student Account Center, which can be accessed by logging in to [AARC](#) . Tuition payment is due seven days prior to the start of each term.


### 5. How do I pay my bill? (Electronic debit, check, money order, etc.)

Information on various payment methods can be found on the [Student Financial Services](#)  web page. You can make a payment online through the Student Account Center by logging in to [AARC](#) , or you can set up a payment plan through Higher One.


### 6. How does my employer make my tuition payment?

You will need to contact [Student Financial Services](#)  for information about Employer Tuition Assistance.

### 7. Does the school offer payment plan options?

Yes. If you are interested in setting up a payment plan for your tuition, you can sign up online with Higher One. If you have questions or concerns, contact [Simmons Student Accounts](#) .

### 8. Will my registration be canceled if the bill is not paid when classes begin?

Charges for tuition, fees, and any prior balance must be paid in full each semester before a student may attend class. For more information visit [Simmons Payment Policies](#) .

## 9. What is the process if I'm eligible for a refund?

If you receive funds that exceed the amount of tuition and fees for a term, you will have the credit balance refunded approximately four weeks after the term begins. A financial aid refund check will be mailed at that time.

## 10. Who can I contact at Simmons for billing and payment questions?

Visit [Simmons Student Accounts](#) for billing and payment information.

# Financial Aid at Simmons

## 1. Do I need to include my Social Security number (SSN) in my application for admission to be eligible for aid?

Yes, you will need to include your SSN in your application for admission, in order for Simmons to retrieve your FAFSA from the federal database. Contact Student Financial Services at 617-521-2001 to verbally provide your SSN or find out how to securely send us a copy of your SSN card, so that we can verify your information and update your account.

## 2. Are internal scholarships available for this program?

Nursing@Simmons offers a limited number of competitive scholarships. All applicants who submit their completed applications on time are automatically considered for these awards during the admissions application review. No separate application form is required for consideration of scholarships.

There are numerous external funding opportunities and

nursing scholarships available, which we encourage you to explore. You can independently research funding opportunities that may be available to you through your employer, local agencies, or private organizations. You can review the [Other Resources](#) section of the Financing Your Degree web page for external scholarship information, such as national nursing scholarship opportunities.

## 3. What is the minimum number of credits required to receive federal student aid?

You must be registered for at least five credits per semester to be eligible to receive federal student aid.

## 4. Once admitted, how long will it take to receive my financial aid award package?

Once the current FAFSA have been received, continue to monitor your email and portal to view your award package.

## 5. How will I receive my financial aid award letter?

You will receive your award letter via standard mail, and it will be available by logging in to [AARC](#).

## 6. How do I accept my student loans?

You will accept your loans through the Financial Aid section of your Simmons' portal.

## 7. Am I required to accept the full amount that I am offered on my award letter?

No, you can choose to accept all, part, or none of your financial aid award.

## 8. Does my Direct Loan eligibility cover the entire cost of the program?

Assuming you are eligible for both the Direct Unsubsidized Loan and the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, the aid will cover the current academic year in which you are enrolled. Simmons also allows students to borrow for certain indirect costs, in addition to tuition and fees.

## 9. How soon will loans disburse to my student account?

Federal student loans do not disburse earlier than 10 days prior to the start of classes.

## 10. Can I use loans to cover additional expenses (housing, books, supplies, etc.)?

The total cost of attendance (COA) for the academic year includes tuition, fees, and living expenses. If you have eligibility for additional loan funds based on your COA, you can use those resources to cover expenses such as books, supplies, living, meals, etc. However, the school determines when loans will disburse and when refunds are issued.

## 11. Can I use loans to cover immersions?

If you are eligible for additional loan funds/refund, you can use those resources to cover immersion expenses.

## 12. Who can I contact at Simmons for financial aid questions?

Visit the [Student Financial Services](#) website for details regarding general financial aid information and loan options, or call 617-521-2001.

For questions pertaining to financial aid for active-duty

military service members and veterans benefits, please contact your assigned [financial aid officer](#).

## FAFSA

### 1. What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) is the application the U.S. Department of Education uses to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid.

### 2. Where can I find the FAFSA?

The [FAFSA](#) is available online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](#). The FAFSA is a free application; you will not be asked to pay.

### 3. What is the Simmons FAFSA school code?

The Simmons FAFSA school code is 002208.

### 4. Do I need my parents' tax information to complete the FAFSA if I live on my own?

If you are applying for graduate school, you do not need your parents' information to complete the FAFSA.


### 5. When should I complete the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is available every October for the upcoming academic year. If you are planning to use federal student aid, you should complete your FAFSA while applying for admission.

### 6. What constitutes an academic year for federal student aid?

Simmons processes financial aid on what is called a Borrower-Based Academic Year (BBAY). This means a financial aid year for the online program equals two terms.

## 7. What federal student aid is available to graduate students?

The type of federal student aid graduate students are eligible to apply for include the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan and the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan. [Learn more about the types of federal student aid here](#) .

## 8. Will I need to fill out the FAFSA each year?

Yes, you will need to complete the FAFSA for each academic year in which you plan to apply for federal student aid.

## 9. Why am I not eligible for the Pell Grant or Federal Subsidized Loan?

The Department of Education awards Federal Pell Grants and Subsidized Loans to eligible undergraduate students who have not yet completed their bachelor's degrees and who demonstrate financial need. The Department of Education does not evaluate need or income for loans at the graduate/professional level. Therefore, graduate students are not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant or Direct Subsidized Loan.

## Direct Unsubsidized Loan

### 1. What criteria are used to determine eligibility for federal student aid?

In order to apply for federal student aid, you must:


- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you're male (ages 18–25)
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree program

- Be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Not currently be in default on previous student loans borrowed through FSA
- Not have exceeded the maximum aggregate loan limit


**Please note:** The Direct Unsubsidized Loan is not based on need or income.

[You can learn more about federal student aid eligibility criteria here](#) .


### 2. What if I am currently in default or have defaulted on a prior federal student loan?

Visit the [National Student Loan Data System](#)  (NSLDS) and contact your lender for details on how to clear the default. Students in default are not eligible for additional federal loans until the default is cleared.

### 3. What is the aggregate loan limit?


The total amount that you may borrow for undergraduate and graduate study. [Learn more about aggregate loan amounts here](#) .

### 4. How do I find out if I am near my aggregate loan limit?


You may go to the [National Student Loan Data System](#)  (NSLDS) website to view your federal student loan borrowing history.

### 5. What is the difference between a Direct Unsubsidized Loan and a Direct Subsidized Loan?


Direct Subsidized Loans are available to undergraduate students with financial need. The U.S. Department

of Education pays the interest on subsidized loans while students are enrolled in their undergraduate program. Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students; there is no requirement to demonstrate financial need. The Unsubsidized Loan begins accruing interest as soon as funds are disbursed. [Visit the Federal Student Aid website](#)  to learn more about the difference between unsubsidized and subsidized loans.borrowing history.


## 6. How much am I eligible for in the Direct Unsubsidized Loan?

Most graduate-level students are potentially eligible to receive up to \$20,500 per academic year in the Direct Unsubsidized Loan. [Visit the Federal Student Aid website](#)  to learn more about graduate annual loan limits.


## 7. How do I apply for the Direct Unsubsidized Loan?

To apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, you must first complete and submit the [FAFSA](#) . Simmons will use the information from your FAFSA to determine how much student aid you are eligible to receive.

## 8. What is the current Direct Unsubsidized Loan interest rate?


The [Direct Unsubsidized Loan interest rate](#)  is determined at the beginning of each academic year and is available on the StudentAid.gov website.

## 9. Are there any additional loan fees for the Direct Unsubsidized Loan?

There is a loan origination fee that is a percentage of the total loan amount. The loan origination fee is deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement you receive. [Visit the Federal Student Aid website](#)  for more information on Unsubsidized Loan origination fees.

## Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

### 1. What is the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?

The Direct Graduate PLUS loan is a federal loan that graduate or professional degree students can use to help pay education expenses in addition to the Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Learn more about [Direct Graduate PLUS Loans](#) .

### 2. What are the eligibility criteria to apply for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?

In order to apply for a Direct PLUS Loan, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you're male (ages 18–25)
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree program
- Be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Not currently be in default on previous student loans borrowed through FSA
- Not have exceeded the maximum aggregate loan limit

Not have an adverse credit history


**Please note:** The Graduate PLUS Loan is based on credit history.

### 3. Do Direct PLUS Loans affect my aggregate loan limit?

Only Direct Subsidized/Direct Unsubsidized Loans, (formerly referred to as Stafford loans) and federal loans

made through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program count towards your aggregate loan limit.

#### **4. What are the credit criteria to receive the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

One of the eligibility requirements to receive a Graduate PLUS Loan is that you must not have an adverse credit history. A credit check is performed to determine whether a Graduate PLUS Loan applicant meets this requirement. A list of what constitutes “adverse credit history” can be found on the [Federal Student Aid website](#) .


#### **5. How much can I borrow with the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

If approved for the Graduate PLUS Loan, you can borrow up to the cost of attendance as determined by the school/program.


#### **6. When can I apply for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

You can apply for the Graduate PLUS Loan within 180 days prior to the start of your program or once you are enrolled.


#### **7. How do I apply for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

To apply for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, you must first complete the FAFSA. Once you have completed the FAFSA, you can [apply for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan](#)  by completing the credit application at StudentLoans.gov. Also complete the Graduate PLUS Loan Agreement Master Promissory Note (MPN).


#### **8. What are my options if I’m denied the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

If you are denied the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, you may reapply with an endorser or follow instructions on the [Federal Student Aid website](#)  to appeal the denial.

#### **9. What is the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan current interest rate?**

The [Direct Graduate PLUS Loan](#)  interest rate is determined at the beginning of each academic year and is available on the StudentAid.gov website.

#### **10. Are there any additional loan fees for the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?**

There is a loan origination fee that is a percentage of the total loan amount. The loan origination fee is deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement you receive. Information on PLUS loan origination fees can be found on the Interest Rates and Fees page of the [Federal Student Aid website](#) .

### **Loan Repayment**

#### **1. Do I have to repay my student loans while I’m in school?**


You are not required to pay your student loans while you are in school if you are enrolled at least half time. Your unsubsidized loan will go into repayment six months after you graduate, fall below half-time status, take a leave of absence, or withdraw from the program.

#### **2. When do I have to repay my loan?**

After you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment, you will have a six-month grace period before you are required to begin repayment. During this period, you will receive repayment information from your loan servicer, and you will be notified of your first payment due date. Payments are usually due monthly. You are not required to pay while in school; however, if you choose to, there is no penalty to prepay. [Learn](#)

[more about repayment timelines](#) 


### **3. What are the repayment plan options, and how do I select one?**

The Department of Education (ED) offers multiple options for repayment. You may visit the [ED website for more information on loan repayment plans](#) 


### **4. Is there a repayment calculator or estimator that I can use?**

Yes, visit the [ED website for repayment calculators](#) 

### **5. Can I consolidate my graduate loans and my undergraduate loans?**


A Direct Consolidation Loan allows you to consolidate (combine) multiple federal education loans into one loan including both graduate and undergraduate loans. The result is a single monthly payment instead of multiple payments. [Learn more about loan consolidation](#) 

### **6. Are there any loan forgiveness options available?**

Review the Department of Education website for more information on [federal loan forgiveness programs](#) 


## **Military Education Benefits**

### **1. How do I apply for military education benefits?**

To begin the process of applying for eligible military education benefits, visit the [Veterans Affairs website](#) 

### **2. What documents are required to process military education benefits?**


Visit Vets.gov to complete the [Education Benefits](#)

[Application](#) , which generates a request for the Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Once approved for benefits, the VA will mail the COE to you within 6-8 weeks from submitting the application. A copy of the Certificate of Eligibility must be provided to Student Financial Services by mail, fax or emailed to sfs@simmons.edu.


### **3. What is the difference between active and non-active duty?**

Active Duty is in the military full time and is not currently eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP). Non-Active Duty is someone who is not currently serving or no longer serving in any capacity of military service of the United States and is eligible for YRP if at 100% per the Certificate of Eligibility (COE).


### **4. What are the eligibility factors for the Post 9/11 GI Bill?**

You are potentially eligible if you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after Sept.10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged veteran or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA-administered program. Learn more about [the Post-9/11 GI Bill here](#) 


### **5. What is the national maximum per academic year for private schools?**

The Post 9/11 GI Bill payment rates are determined at the beginning of each military academic year on August 1. The 2018–2019 tuition and fee payments can be found on [the Education and Training page of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website](#) 

### **6. What is the current tuition and fee payment rate, and Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)?**


The tuition and fee payment rate, and MHA are determined at the beginning of each military academic year on August 1st. The current rate table is located on [the Education and Training page of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website](#) .

## **7. What is the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP)?**

The Yellow Ribbon program allows degree-granting private colleges and universities in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the annual maximum cap for the resident tuition and fees at public institutions. Veterans who are utilizing Post-9/11 GI Benefits and who are entitled to 100% of their benefit may be eligible. To participate in the Yellow Ribbon program, you must be using Post-9/11 GI benefits at 100% eligibility, not on active duty, and not a military spouse. There are a limited number of Yellow Ribbon awards available. Learn more about [the Yellow Ribbon Program](#) .

There are a limited number of Yellow Ribbon awards available to Simmons University students. Please contact Student Financial Services for more information about this program.

## **8. Who can I contact at Simmons for questions about using Military Education Benefits?**

For questions pertaining to financial aid for active-duty military service members and veterans benefits, [please contact your assigned financial aid officer](#) .