

YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

2021–2022



COLLEGE OF THE
Holy Cross

DEAR STUDENT:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year at the College of the Holy Cross!

This booklet is intended to help you understand your financial aid notification, the terms and conditions of your offer, your financing options and other important information. We encourage you to read this booklet in its entirety.

We have included a worksheet to assist you in calculating your cost for each semester after financial aid is applied. This is a very important step as you make a financial plan for the academic year.

We hope that we have addressed your questions and concerns within these pages, but should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Any of our professional staff is available to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can reach us by phone at 508-793-2265 or by email at financialaid@holycross.edu.

We wish you an enriched and successful academic year!

Sincerely,

Office of Financial Aid

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AWARD

Typical financial aid offers consist of a combination of grants, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, and loans:

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

› **Magis Scholarship:**

Magis Scholarship recipients are among the most talented applicants to Holy Cross each year, and have distinguished themselves in their school and community as top scholars, model citizens, and leaders. Magis, latin for "more," reflects the Jesuit invitation to dig deeper, pursue excellence and allow space for attentiveness, and we are confident that Magis Scholarship recipients will embrace that ideal and make the most of the gifts and opportunities with which they have been blessed. Magis Scholarships are renewed each year for four years provided students are maintaining good academic progress and a satisfactory disciplinary record. These scholarships are only offered at the time of admission.

› **Faber Scholarship:**

Faber Scholarships are awarded each year to students identified through the admissions process in recognition of strong academic achievements and commitment to personal growth and responsibility coupled with demonstrated financial need. Named for St. Peter Faber, one of the first Jesuits, the Faber Scholarship is renewed each year for four years provided students are maintaining good academic progress and a satisfactory disciplinary record. Recipients of the Faber Scholarship must also complete the financial aid application

process each year. These scholarships are only offered at the time of admission.

› **Holy Cross Grant:**

An institutional need-based grant to be applied to billed institutional costs. Eligibility for this program is determined by the College's institutional methodology. Our goal is to renew this grant each year, although it is subject to change based on demonstrated need.

› **Holy Cross "More Than One" Grant:**

An institutional need-based grant established to provide greater transparency to students and families. If your family has more than one dependent enrolled as an undergraduate in a college or university, your Holy Cross Grant (or a portion of it) may be designated as a Holy Cross "More Than One" Grant. Please note that you will not be eligible for this grant in future years when there is no longer more than one in college. The amount is also subject to change each year based on demonstrated need and how many dependents are enrolled as undergraduates in a college or university.

› **Federal Pell Grant:**

A federal grant program with amounts ranging from \$672 to \$6,495 for the 2021-2022 academic year. These amounts are subject to change according to the federal government. Student eligibility for this program is determined by the information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and federal methodology. Federal Pell

Grant funds are paid directly to the College and applied to the student's account.

› **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG):**

A federal grant program for students who, according to federal methodology, are determined to exhibit exceptional financial need. Holy Cross is granted a limited amount of funding for this program and priority SEOG eligibility is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.

More information on scholarship and grant opportunities can be found on our website at <https://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/scholarships-grants>.

WORK-STUDY

› **Federal Work-Study:**

An employment opportunity administered by Holy Cross and funded in part by the federal government. Students must show demonstrated federal need in order to qualify for the Work-Study program. These funds are not applied to the student's account and will not reduce billed costs, but will be paid directly to the student and are intended to defray the non-billed costs of education, such as personal expenses, travel, and books. First-year students are placed in positions within the College's Dining Services. Average amounts offered range from \$900 to \$1,800. You may decline to participate in Work-Study if you wish. More information is available at <https://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/work-study>.

FEDERAL LOANS

› **Federal Direct Loan:**

The College participates in the

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Under this low interest loan program, the funds for your loan come directly from the federal government. Repayment on Federal Direct Loans begins six months after the student borrower ceases to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis. The interest rate, set every July 1, is currently 2.75 percent. There is currently an upfront 1.057 percent origination default fee (subject to change) which is deducted from your loan amount before the loan funds are sent from the federal government to the College.

There are two types of loans available:

- **Subsidized.** Students who show demonstrated financial need are offered a Federal Direct Subsidized Loan, on which the government pays the interest while the student is enrolled at least half-time or in the six month grace period.
- **Unsubsidized.** Students are eligible to borrow the Unsubsidized Loan as well. Unsubsidized means that all interest charges for this loan are the responsibility of the borrower. Borrowers have the option to either pay the interest as it is assessed or have it accrue and be capitalized once in repayment.

The maximum amount you can borrow each year in Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans depends on your grade level and on whether you are a dependent student or an independent student. You have the right to decline or lower your loan amount(s).

The following table shows the maximum amount that you may borrow each academic year in Federal

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans. The actual loan amounts you are eligible to receive for an academic year may be less than the maximum annual amounts shown.

	Dependent student ¹	Independent student ²
1st-year undergraduate	\$5,500 (of which a maximum \$3,500 may be subsidized)	\$9,500 (of which a maximum \$3,500 may be subsidized)
2nd-year undergraduate	\$6,500 (of which a maximum of \$4,500 may be subsidized)	\$10,500 (of which a maximum of \$4,500 may be subsidized)
3rd and 4th-year undergraduate	\$7,500 (of which a maximum of \$5,500 may be subsidized)	\$12,500 (of which a maximum of \$5,500 may be subsidized)

¹ Except those whose parents are declined to borrow a PLUS loan.

² These limits also apply to dependent students whose parents are declined to borrow a PLUS loan.

Federal Direct Loan proceeds are paid directly to the College, less the origination default fee, on a per-semester basis in two equal disbursements.

If you are a first-time borrower, Holy Cross, as well as the federal processor, will contact you to complete Entrance Counseling, a Master Promissory Note (MPN), and the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment. These steps are necessary before the College can make the first disbursement of your loan. Entrance Counseling helps you understand your responsibilities regarding your Direct loan(s), and the MPN is the binding legal document that lists the conditions under which you are borrowing and the terms under which you agree to repay your loan. The MPN is valid for 10 years. The Annual Student Loan

Acknowledgment must be completed each year that you accept a new federal student loan. The goal is to help you understand how your loans affect your financial future.

If you want to decline all or part of the Federal Direct Loan, whether the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized, you may do so via your STAR account after June 1 or send a written request directly to the Financial Aid office.

INSTITUTIONAL LOAN

› College of the Holy Cross Loan:

An institutional loan program offering a fixed interest rate to students who demonstrate financial need. The loan is offered by the Office of Financial Aid based on demonstrated financial need, and the program is administered by the College with a limited amount of funds available each year. Student borrowers must complete a College of the Holy Cross Loan Master Promissory Note to borrow funds through this program. Borrowers will need a parent/guardian co-signer if they are under 18 years old. Students may borrow up to \$6,800 over four years. Loans originated during the 2021-2022 academic year will bear a 6.0 percent fixed interest rate. This interest rate is subject to change each academic year. No interest accrues until the start of the repayment period which begins three months after the student borrower ceases to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis. The repayment period is 10 years, and this loan is not eligible for deferment.

As described previously, borrowers may qualify for the Federal Direct Loan Program, the terms and conditions of which may be more favorable compared to those of

the Holy Cross Loan. The College of the Holy Cross Loan may be declined. Additional information concerning Federal Direct Loans is available from the College at <https://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/student-loan-programs> or on the website of the U.S. Department of Education at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>.

Loan terms and conditions:

If this loan is not paid on time, it may be assessed late charges not to exceed 20 percent of the monthly payment due. The late charges may be added to the outstanding principal balance the day after the scheduled payment was due or included with the next scheduled payment after notice.

Additionally, the loans may also be deemed to be in default if scheduled payments are not made for at least 90 consecutive calendar days and the

full remaining loan amount (including late penalties and /or other fees and charges) may become due and payable immediately upon default. If the loan is deemed to be in default, the borrower is responsible for paying all collection and other costs, fees and expenses.**

Please note that if a borrower files for bankruptcy the borrower may still be required to pay back the loan.

If the loan is approved, the terms of the loan will be available and will not change for 30 days except as a result of adjustments to the interest rate and other changes permitted by law. Before the loan may be disbursed, the borrower must complete and submit a self-certification form which will be provided by the College as part of the loan application process.

Assuming full principal and interest payments are made when due under this loan, the total cost would be as follows:

Amount Borrowed	Interest Rate	Loan Term	Total Paid over 10 years (includes associated fees)
\$5,000*	6% fixed (subject to annual change for new loans)	10 years from start of repayment period	\$6,662

*This example is based on borrowing a total of \$5,000 in a Holy Cross loan. However, the current borrowing limit is \$6,800 over four years.

**Including, but not limited to, costs, fees and expenses of attorneys and/or any collection agency which may include, but is not limited to, a collection fee based on a maximum percentage of 33% of the outstanding loan amounts, and court costs.

DETERMINATION OF NEED

Your eligibility for need-based financial assistance at Holy Cross has been determined based on the income and asset information your family has provided via the CSS Profile, the FAFSA, and all tax documents submitted to IDOC. Holy Cross uses institutional methodology to determine eligibility for institutional grant assistance. Eligibility for federal funds has been determined using federal methodology. Additionally, these funds have been allocated in accordance with annual federal caps and funding levels, current as of today and are subject to change.

The following is the cost of attendance used to determine financial need for the 2021-2022 academic year:

COST OF ATTENDANCE:

Campus Resident

Billed Costs:

Tuition	\$55,800
* Housing and Meals	16,080
Health Services	370
**Student Activity Fee	370

Total Billed Costs **\$72,620**

Non-Billed Costs:

Books and Supplies	1,000
Personal/Miscellaneous	900

Total Non-Billed Costs **\$1,900**

Total Cost of Attendance **\$74,520**

Total Cost of Attendance for commuters is \$64,440

** Housing and Meals are based on the standard room cost and the full meal plan*

***Student activity fee due 1st semester*

Please use this worksheet to determine your family's financial responsibility.

WORKSHEET

FALL SEMESTER 2021

\$36,495

-

-

-

\$_____

Total billed costs*

Grants and Scholarship

Loans (less fees)

Other (not Work-Study)

Balance Due

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

\$36,125

-

-

-

\$_____

*Billed costs include Tuition, Housing and Meals, the Health Services Fee and Student Activity Fee. If you will not be covered by your family's medical insurance you will also be charged the medical insurance premium of \$2,753 in the fall semester. Work-Study is paid directly to the student and should not be used to estimate your balance due.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- › You may decline any portion of this offer electronically via your STAR account once access is granted this summer or in writing to the Office of Financial Aid.
- › All financial aid applicants who accept financial aid at Holy Cross must submit **signed** copies of parent, student, and business 2019 Federal Income Tax Forms, including all schedules, W-2s, and K-1s to the College Board's Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC) at <https://idoc.collegeboard.org>. Noncustodial Parent Tax Forms must also be sent or uploaded directly to IDOC. If the parent and/or student will not file a federal return, the Non-Filer Statement should be submitted in its place. This form can be printed from our website. All documents should have been submitted to IDOC by November 1, 2020. If you have not yet done so, please submit the required documents as soon as possible to avoid the cancellation of your offer.
- › **If your FAFSA is selected for federal verification, you and your parents must either use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when completing your FAFSA, or submit SIGNED copies of the parent and student 2019 federal tax returns, if you haven't already. Please note that parents who are married but filing separately, or are unmarried but living together, must submit their individual signed federal tax returns.**
- › **If your FAFSA is selected for federal verification and your parent(s) did not file a federal tax return in 2019, you must submit an IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter. This can be requested online at www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript.**
- › **In addition, our office will need a completed Federal Verification Worksheet which can be found on our website at <https://www.holycross.edu/applying-aid/financial-aid-forms-and-links>.**
- › **Please be advised that the Financial Aid office cannot finalize your financial aid offer until the verification process is complete.**
- › Your financial aid offer is contingent upon a review of all family tax documents. The College reserves the right to revise a student's offer if this review reveals income or assets not considered at the time of the original notification.
- › Additionally, the College reserves the right to review, modify or cancel a student's offer in whole or in part if it determines that any of the information provided by a student or on the student's behalf is inaccurate or incorrect. Providing false information in order to obtain financial aid will result in the student losing any aid received. If federal funds are involved, the federal government will be so advised. In such cases that family will be ineligible for any College assistance in the future.
- › Federal funding including Direct Loans, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Pell Grants are considered provisional as Congress has not yet given final notification on appropriations for the 2021-2022 school year. Should these types of assistance fail to be

funded at levels that will allow the College to meet provisional offers, the financial assistance will be either reduced or canceled entirely.

- › The College reserves the right to review and alter its commitment to a grant or scholarship for a student if that student fails to achieve the College's minimum academic requirements or fails to maintain a satisfactory disciplinary record.
- › The Office of Financial Aid must be notified in writing if a sibling fails to enroll as reported in any institution

of post-secondary education (undergraduate or graduate levels). This may result in a change to the financial aid offer.

- › If your financial aid offer is based on your status as an on-campus resident participating in the meal plan, the total amount of your financial aid is subject to change should you no longer reside on-campus or participate in the meal plan for any reason, including but not limited to, your decision or the College moving to remote instruction.

FAMILY FINANCING OPTIONS

The College of the Holy Cross is committed to working with our families to make available the best possible financial resources to ensure that a Holy Cross education is affordable. We believe that selecting a type of loan, a lender and/or the best combination of loan and payment is an individual family choice. However, we are often asked to provide guidance and tools to assist in this decision-making process.

There are numerous programs available to help a family meet its financial responsibility for higher education. Each option has its own advantage, whether it is a low interest rate, easier-to-meet eligibility criteria, or a longer repayment period. For more extensive guidance on "Family Financing Options" please refer to our website at <http://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/family-financing-options>.

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Parent Loan Program for Undergraduate Students (PLUS Loan).

The Direct PLUS Program is a federal loan program which provides loans to parents of dependent students to attend college. PLUS borrowers do not have to demonstrate need, but must not have an adverse credit history or

have defaulted on a prior federal loan. This federal parent loan program allows the parent to borrow up to the full cost of attendance minus any financial aid received by the student. The interest rate, which is set every July 1, is currently a fixed 5.3 percent. The net loan amount is less than the amount borrowed because of an origination fee (currently, 4.248 percent, subject to change). This loan offers options to enter immediate repayment or to defer repayment of interest and principal until after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half time. Repayment on the PLUS Loan begins 60 days after the last disbursement of the loan. The maximum repayment term is 10 years.

A FAFSA must be filed for the student in order to borrow a PLUS Loan. Additionally, the parent must complete the Direct PLUS Master Promissory Note and the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment via <https://studentaid.gov/>. For more information on the Federal Direct PLUS Loan please visit our website at <http://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/family-financing-options>.

The Monthly Payment Plan Option.

Many students and their families are looking for ways to budget their educational costs. The College of the Holy Cross has partnered with TouchNet Bill+Payment to offer semester payment plans beginning as early as May 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester. With TouchNet Bill+Payment, you can plan for your educational expenses in a number of

ways, eliminating the need to make a single large payment prior to each semester. For more details please visit the Bursar website at <https://www.holycross.edu/bursars-office/monthly-payment-plan-option>.

Remember, the Office of Financial Aid is here to assist you with any questions that you may have regarding your financial aid offer and the financing of your student's education.

OUTSIDE RESOURCES

The student must notify the Financial Aid office of all outside assistance that he or she may receive. To do so, students should use the process described in the steps below beginning in late May or once they have access to their STAR portal.

1. Log into your STAR self-service portal.
2. Click on the Student Center tile.
3. Under the Finances heading, click on *View Financial Aid*.
4. Select the 2022 Aid Year.
5. On the Award Summary screen, click on *Report Other Financial Aid*.
6. On the Aid from Other Sources screen, click on *Report Additional Aid*.
7. On the Report Other Financial Aid screen, "Type" refers to whether the fund is for fall only, spring only, or divided evenly over both terms. Under "Description," type the name of the scholarship organization or donor. "Amount" is the total scholarship amount.
8. If you have multiple funds to report, click *Add Another Award*.
9. Click *Save*.

If scholarship, prize, or gift assistance is granted from another agency in

addition to the financial aid offered by the College, an adjustment of the Holy Cross Financial Aid offer may be required. Students are allowed to keep any outside assistance they receive up to *federally determined need*. Should outside assistance bring a student's total award *above* federal need, the Financial Aid office will reduce the loan and/or work components of the student's offer first. Only if the total outside assistance received exceeds the federal need *and* loan and work portion of the Holy Cross offer will Holy Cross Grant assistance be affected.

There are many online resources to help you research additional available scholarships and grants, including the following:

<https://www.fastweb.com>
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

› Federal Pell Grants and State Grants

The College makes every effort to estimate a student's Federal Pell Grant and/or State Grant eligibility. If after income and asset verification the Federal Pell Grant and/or State Grant amount differs from the original estimate, the Holy Cross Grant will be adjusted accordingly. This adjustment policy applies only

to offers where a Holy Cross Grant was part of the original notification. Please be advised that should it be determined that a student is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant or State Grant after the original offer is made, this additional assistance will directly reduce Holy Cross Grant eligibility.

› **State-sponsored Grants**

If you are a resident of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, or Vermont, Holy Cross expects that you will take advantage of state-sponsored grant programs by applying to them directly. Apply for free online at www.fafsa.gov. The deadlines and further instructions for particular state grants can be found on the FAFSA.

RENEWAL PROCESS AND POLICY

› **You must reapply for financial aid each year.** Every year financial aid applicants are required to submit a FAFSA, a CSS Profile, and all required tax documentation. Instructions will be emailed to students and parents in late September. The priority filing date for renewal of financial aid is November 1 of each year.

› Holy Cross maintains its commitment to renew institutional financial aid in future years at the same levels, as long as your demonstrated financial need as determined by the College does not change and you apply by the priority deadline of November 1. However, if your financial need as determined by the College changes, your financial aid offer may be increased or decreased accordingly.

› Your financial need will be determined each year based on the information provided on the renewal documents. The level of financial assistance in future years will be impacted by income and

asset fluctuations as well as changes in the number of dependent family members enrolled as undergraduate students at least half-time in a college or university.* Siblings enrolled as graduate students will only impact the need for federal financial assistance.

› The College reserves the right to adjust a student's financial aid offering at any time should federal or state governmental regulations and funding levels change. In addition, any outside aid from agencies other than Holy Cross could also affect the level of assistance.

› The College reserves the right to review and alter its commitment to grant and scholarship students who fail to achieve the College's minimum academic requirements or fail to maintain a satisfactory disciplinary record.

› Your eligibility for Holy Cross funded grant and scholarship assistance is limited to eight (8) semesters.

*Siblings enrolled in U.S. military academies where all costs are borne by the U.S. government are not considered for either the institutional or the federal needs analysis.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The College of the Holy Cross admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, national and ethnic origin, or on any other unlawful basis, in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship/grant and loan programs, and athletic and other College-administered programs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students considering a leave of absence (LOA) from the College are strongly encouraged to speak with their class dean before making any decisions. Generally speaking, students who are in good academic standing and who receive financial aid will have their financial aid reinstated once they return. For students who return within the same academic year, their aid will be restored when they return to campus. For students who take a LOA and then return in a subsequent year, however, need to submit the required financial aid application documentation to have their eligibility redetermined for that year.

Students who receive or have received federal student loans should be aware that the loans will go into repayment six months after they are no longer enrolled at least half-time. Therefore, students who are on LOA for longer than six months will have to start paying back their loans. Once they return to class, though, the loans will go back into deferment.

Students who receive federal aid should be aware that if they take a LOA during the middle of a semester, they will be subject to federal Return to Title IV Aid regulations. The College is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a LOA prior to completing 60% of a term. The student's eligibility for the funds received from federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in these situations.

Taking a LOA can also impact students' satisfactory academic progress (SAP). Students must maintain SAP in order to maintain financial aid eligibility, so taking a LOA — especially during the middle of a semester — can impact that SAP calculation, which can then impact aid eligibility. More information about the SAP policy is available at <https://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/maintaining-good-academic-standing>.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

› **Academic Year**

The school year, usually from the beginning of September through the end of May.

› **Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment**

Must be completed each year that you accept a new federal student loan via this website: <https://studentaid.gov/asla/>. It is intended to help you understand how your loans affect your financial future. Must be completed by both student borrowers of Federal Direct Loans and parent borrowers of the Federal Direct PLUS Loan.

› **Billed costs**

Costs directly charged by the College, such as tuition, fees, housing, meals, and health insurance. If you will not be covered by your family's medical insurance, you will be charged the medical insurance premiums of \$2,753.

› **Cost of Attendance**

COA. Also known as the cost of education or "budget." The total amount it should cost the student to go to school, including tuition and fees, housing and meals, allowances for books and supplies, transportation, and personal and incidental expenses. Loan fees, if applicable, may also be included in the COA.

› **Dependent**

For a child or other person to be considered your dependent, they must live with you and you must provide them with more than half of their support. Parents cannot both claim the same child as a dependent if they file separate tax returns.

› **Entrance Counseling**

Entrance counseling reviews the borrower's rights and responsibilities and the terms of the borrower's loans. Borrowers must complete entrance counseling before they receive federal student loans for the first time.

› **Expected Family Contribution**

The expected family contribution (EFC) is a measure of the family's financial strength. It is calculated based on the FAFSA and CSS Profile and is a minimum measure of the family's share of college costs. It is used to determine the student's eligibility for student financial aid in the calculation of financial need. Despite the name, it is not the amount of money the family will pay for college. Most families will pay more than the EFC because the financial aid offer may include loans and/or student employment.

› **Federal Methodology**

A type of need analysis using the information presented on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Federal Methodology determines financial need for federal aid according to the regulations set by the U.S. Department of Education.

› **Federal Work-Study (FWS)**

A federal program offered and administered by the College that provides opportunity for part-time employment to students with financial need to help pay non-billed costs. Funds are paid out through a paycheck, as earned.

› **Gift Aid**

Gift aid can include awards with titles such as grants, scholarships,

remissions, awards, waivers, etc. Gift aid can be awarded based upon many factors, including financial need and merit (academic, athletic, musical). Merit scholarships will be renewed each year provided that you continue to make good academic progress and maintain a satisfactory disciplinary record. Need-based grants can change each year based on changes in income, assets, and the number of dependents enrolled as undergraduate students in a college or university.

› **Grant**

A type of financial aid based on financial need that the student does not have to repay.

› **Institutional Methodology**

A type of need analysis using the information presented on the CSS Profile. Institutional Methodology provides a fair and equitable determination of a family's financial need for Holy Cross funded aid.

› **IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)**

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) allows taxpayers to transfer information from their federal income tax returns to answer corresponding questions on FAFSA on the Web and using the myStudentAid mobile app. The IRS DRT may be used to complete the initial FAFSA or to update the information on the FAFSA after the student and/or parent's federal income tax returns have been filed. The IRS DRT may be used 3 weeks after filing the federal income tax return electronically and 11 weeks after filing a paper federal income tax return. If a balance is owed on the federal income tax return, there may be a delay in the availability of the IRS DRT.

› **Loan**

A loan is money borrowed from the government, a bank or another source. Loans must be repaid, usually with interest, over a specific period of time.

› **Master Promissory Note (MPN)**

The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education or other entity for private loans. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s); for instance, it will include information on how interest is calculated, when interest is charged, available repayment plans, and deferment and cancellation provisions.

› **Need/Financial Need**

The difference between the COA and the EFC is the student's financial need — the difference between the cost of attending the school and the student's resources. The financial aid offer is based on the amount of financial need. The process of determining a student's need is known as need analysis.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ \hline = \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

› **Need-Based Aid**

Financial aid that is need-based depends on your financial situation. Most government sources of financial aid are need-based.

› **Net Costs**

The amount of billed and non-billed costs remaining after all grants and scholarships are applied. Net cost can be covered through a variety of sources, including: savings, income, and education loans.

› **Non-Billed costs**

Non-Billed Costs are estimated expenses that are not paid directly to the College, such as books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and personal expenses.

› **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

A student must make this in order to continue receiving federal or institutional aid. If students fail to maintain academic standing consistent with the school's SAP policy, they are unlikely to meet the school's graduation requirements. Please find our SAP policy here: <https://www.holycross.edu/how-aid-works/maintaining-good-academic-standing>.

› **Scholarship**

A form of financial aid given to undergraduate students to help pay for their education. Most scholarships are restricted to paying all or part of tuition expenses, though some scholarships also cover housing and meals. Scholarships are a form of gift aid and do not have to be repaid. Many scholarships are restricted to students in specific courses of study or with academic, athletic or artistic talent.

› **Self-Help Aid**

Financial aid in the form of loans and student employment.

› **Verification**

Verification is a review process in which the financial aid office determines the accuracy of the information provided on the student's financial aid application. If a student's FAFSA is selected for verification, the college financial aid administrator will compare the information submitted on the FAFSA with independent documentation of the information, such as IRS tax transcripts and W-2 and 1099 forms. The U.S. Department of Education uses a risk-based model to select approximately one third of FAFSAs for verification.

College of the Holy Cross
Office of Financial Aid
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Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-2395