



School of the Art Institute  
of Chicago

**Thank You for  
Joining Us Tonight!  
The Webinar will  
begin at 6:35 PM (CT).**



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# How to Apply for Financial Aid Using the 2026-27 FAFSA



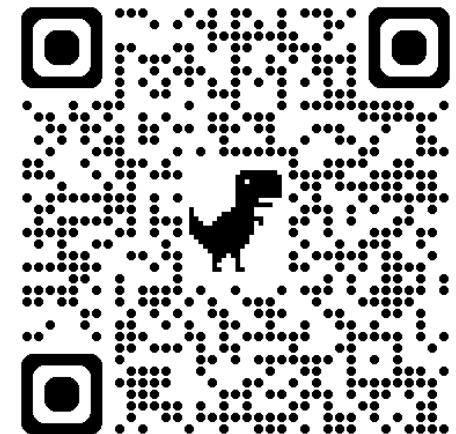
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*This webinar is being recorded  
and it will be available on the  
SAIC website and will be emailed  
to any individual who registered  
for the webinar within 48 hours.*

# Tuition and Fees Cost

- ▶ The cost of an education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago includes more than just tuition—to the right, you'll find a full breakdown of direct costs that may be charged to a student's account, including housing, insurance, and more for the 2025-26 academic year.
- ▶ Currently the Tuition and Fees for the 2026-27 academic year have not been published.
- ▶ Official Tuition and Fees cost for 2026-27 will be made available early in 2026.

2025-26  
Tuition and  
Fees  
**(Scan this QR  
Code)**



# SAIC Merit Scholarships

- ▶ SAIC awards generous **Merit Scholarships** to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional levels of thoughtfulness, skill, conceptual capabilities, and academic groundedness.
- ▶ Scholarships are financial awards that **do not need to be repaid**.
- ▶ No additional application is required; merit scholarships are **awarded at the time of admission** based on a holistic view of your **portfolio and application materials**.

More  
information  
regarding  
SAIC Merit  
Scholarships  
**(Scan this QR  
Code)**



# What is the FAFSA?

- ▶ It is the free **Federal Application** that student's need to submit each year to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid.
- ▶ To apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans, you need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
- ▶ In addition, many states and colleges like SAIC use your FAFSA information to determine your eligibility for need based state and school aid.





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# Submit the FAFSA?

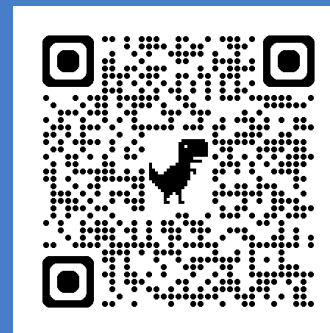
- ▶ Student's must **submit a FAFSA each academic year** in which Financial Aid is sought.
- ▶ Students must be a **U.S. citizen** or **eligible noncitizen** -- International Students **do not** submit a FAFSA.
- ▶ Dependent students, in accordance with Federal Student Aid, **must** also **include their parents information** on their FAFSA Application as a "**Contributor**".
- ▶ The **2026-27 FAFSA** became available to complete on October 1, 2025.
- ▶ Available on-line at **StudentAid.gov**
- ▶ SAIC School code - **001753**



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# Secure an FSA ID before submitting your FAFSA

- ▶ Students and Contributors **will not be able to access** the FAFSA form **without an FSA ID** set up prior to starting the form.
- ▶ An **FSA ID** is a **username and password** you need to access Federal Student Aid Applications.
- ▶ Remember, the **FSA ID is unique** and the **student and contributor** (usually **parent or student's spouse**) should have their very own. **Do not mix them up.**
- ▶ Please be sure to remember your FSA ID; you will need it again in the future. **Write it down in a secure place!**
- ▶ Create an FSA ID - [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id](https://StudentAid.gov/fsa-id)



Create an FSA ID  
(Scan this QR Code)



# What happens next?

- ▶ The student will receive a **email** from Federal Student Aid after the FAFSA is submitted.
- ▶ **READ** that email and share it with your contributors (Parent or Student's Spouse) as applicable.
- ▶ Your FAFSA information is **shared with the colleges** you list on the application. (*up to 20 colleges can be added*)
- ▶ Schools use your information to determine how much need based aid you may receive at that individual school.
- ▶ Other schools might also have **other forms** for you to fill out
- ▶ The **FAFSA is the only** Financial Aid Form **needed at SAIC**.

# What is the result of the FAFSA?

- ▶ If your FAFSA is complete, the student will be notified of the results of the FAFSA – **Student Aid Index (SAI)**
- ▶ Schools use the **SAI** to determine your federal student aid eligibility and financial aid award.
- ▶ Your SAI is **not** the amount of money you will have to pay for college **nor** is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. It is the number used by Federal Student Aid and your school to calculate the amount of aid you are eligible to receive.



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# Financial Aid Award Offer

- ▶ If admitted and once SAIC receives your SAI from your submitted FAFSA, we will use it to determine your eligibility for Financial Assistance and provide you with a **Award Offer**.
- ▶ Your Financial Aid Award may contain:
  - ▶ **Scholarships and Grants** (*free money*)
    - Merit Scholarships from SAIC
    - Need Based Grants
  - ▶ **Federal Work-Study Eligibility** (*earned money*)
    - Based on need (SAI)
  - ▶ **Federal Student Loans** (*must be paid back*)
    - Federal Direct (Stafford) Loans
    - Eligibility for credit based Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans
  - ▶ **Eligibility for Private Loans** (*must be payed back*)
    - Private Educational Loans offered by private banks and lending institutions. Also credit based.

**SAIC will begin providing  
Financial Aid Award  
Notifications beginning in  
Mid/Late-January 2026**

# When and how will you receive Financial Aid Award Offer

## When do students receive their SAIC Financial Aid Offer?

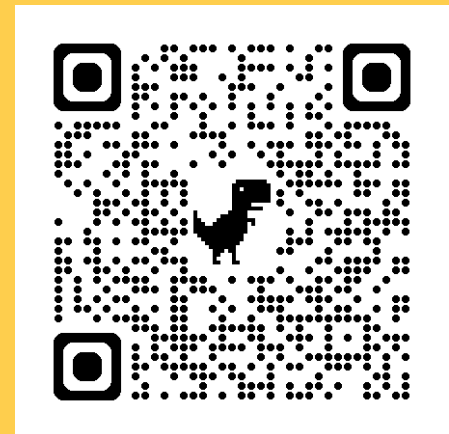
- SAIC will begin awarding new undergraduate students who have submitted a 2026-27 FAFSA for **beginning in Mid-Late January, 2026.**
- **After** the student has been **admitted to SAIC** and we have **received your FAFSA**

## How will I receive notification of my SAIC Financial Aid Award Offer?

- **Email:** An email will be sent informing students (**SAIC and Personal**) that they have been awarded financial aid and that the award offer can be reviewed on the student's **Self-Service portal.**
- **Mail:** A financial aid award offer packet will be mailed to the **home mailing address** in a plain **Big Blue Envelope.**

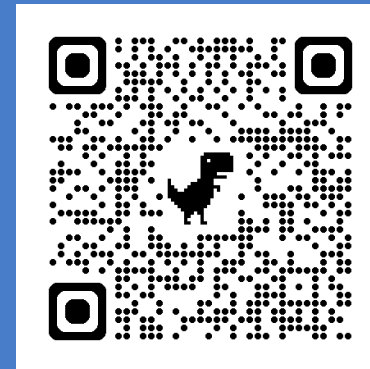
## What do I do if I need help understanding my cost and Financial Aid?

- Schedule a virtual or phone appointment at **saic.edu/sfs** in the "Contact section".



# Helpful Videos from FSA

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Education (ED)/Federal Student Aid (FSA) provides short, but very **helpful videos** for students and families on **YouTube**, including:
  - ▶ Create and Access Your StudentAid.gov Account
  - ▶ Start your FAFSA Form
  - ▶ Who is a Contributor on the FAFSA Form?
  - ▶ What Happens After Submitting Your FAFSA?
- ▶ [youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid](https://youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid)



FSA YouTube Channel  
**(Scan this QR Code)**



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# Apply for Outside Scholarships

- ✓ Check with your Guidance Office
- ✓ Employers
- ✓ Local Civic Organizations
- ✓ Internet Searches
- ✓ [saic.edu/outsidescholarships](http://saic.edu/outsidescholarships)

Begin looking for Outside Scholarships beginning the first semester of your Senior Year!



Outside Scholarship List  
**(Scan this QR Code)**



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## ***SAIC Student Financial Services***

### ***We are here to help you!***

Email: saic.sfs@saic.edu  
Phone: 312.629.6600  
Fax: 312.629.6601

**QUESTIONS?**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (CT)

Website: saic.edu/SFS  
Forms: saic.edu/faforms



Facebook: facebook.com/SAICsfs



X: x.com/SAIC\_SFS

*We routinely post  
helpful resources,  
friendly reminders,  
and outside  
scholarships we  
have been made  
aware of.*