

**The Webinar will begin  
at 6:35 PM (CT)**

**SCHOOL  
OF THE ART  
INSTITUTE OF  
CHICAGO** 

# Understanding Your Financial Aid Award and Cost

**SCHOOL  
OF THE ART  
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CHICAGO** 

*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.*

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# Financial Aid, Cost, and Steps at SAIC

**The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)** and the **Office of Student Financial Services** are committed to partnering with students in planning and assisting with the cost of education.

## Agenda

- FAFSA
- Financial Aid
- Cost
- Next Steps

# Can the 2026-27 FAFSA Still Be Submitted?

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY!**

**Apply NOW, if you have not. (SAIC School Code 001753)**

Available online at  
**fafsa.gov**  
(Scan this QR Code)

## 2026–27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2026–27  
FAFSA® Form

[Start New Form](#)

Edit a 2026–27  
FAFSA® Form

[Edit Existing Forms](#)

Accept an Invitation for a  
2026–27 FAFSA® Form

[Accept an Invitation](#)



Need the 2025–26 FAFSA® Form?

[Start New Form](#)

[Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation](#)



# Where can I review my Financial Aid Offer?

## Admitted International Students

Can review your Financial Aid Offer NOW on Self-Service

## Admitted Students who have submitted a FAFSA

Once you received your Award Notification Email, you can then view your Financial Aid Offer on Self-Service

Select the “Financial Aid” Icon on Self-Service

# Your Financial Aid Award Offer

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

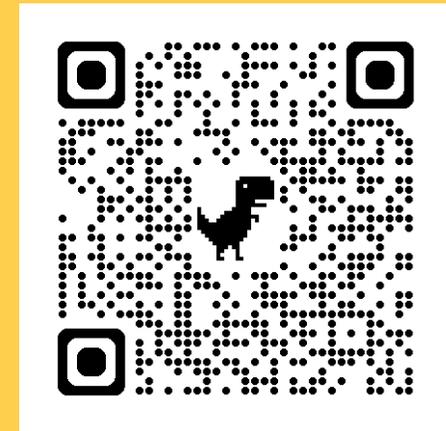
- SAIC began awarding New Graduate and Post-Bacc. students who have submitted a 2026-27 FAFSA **beginning at the end of February 2026.**
- **After** the student has been **admitted to SAIC** and we have **received your FAFSA**

## How will I receive notification of my SAIC Financial Aid 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 **big plain blue envelope.**

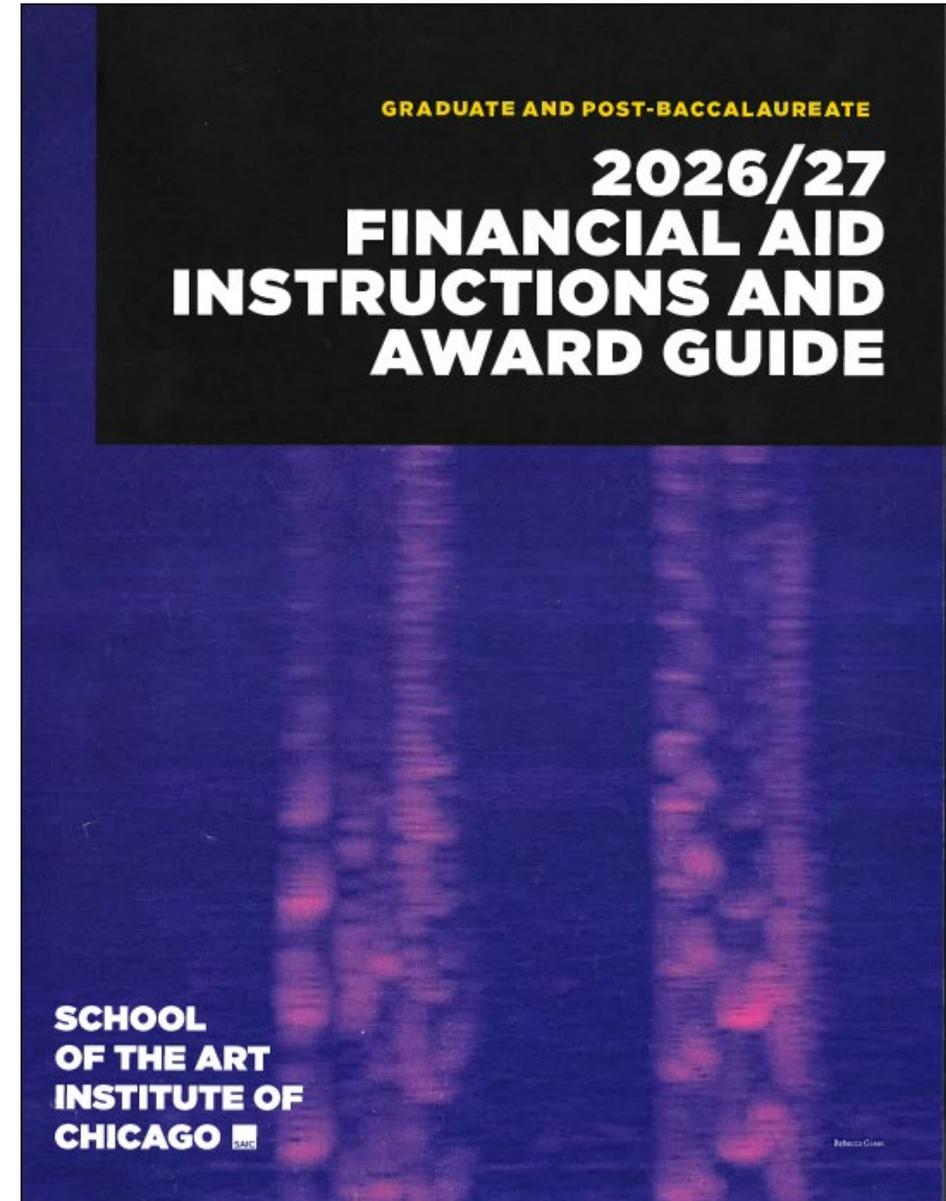
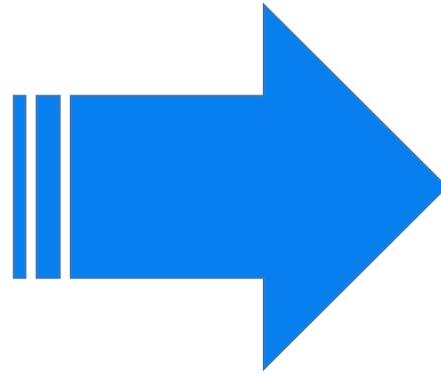
## What do I do if I need help understanding my cost and Financial Aid?

- Make a Zoom or phone appointment at **saic.edu/sfs** in the Contact section.



# Financial Aid Award Guide & Instructions

Please be sure you read the **2026-27 Financial Aid Award Guide and Instructions Booklet** that will be provided with your award notification for students who submitted a FAFSA.



# Next Steps: Calculating Cost to Attend SAIC

2026-27  
Graduate/Post-  
Bacc.  
Budget  
Worksheets  
(*Scan this QR  
Code*)

Budget worksheets called **Figure Your Cost** and a listing of estimated costs can be found at [saic.edu/fyc](https://saic.edu/fyc).

1. Complete your **budget worksheet** to determine if you have enough financial aid resources
2. You may need to apply for the **additional credit based loans** to cover the gap if you do not have the personal funds to address any remaining balances.



# Next Steps - Determining Aid Offers and Cost at SAIC

$$\text{Estimated Cost of Attendance} - \text{Eligible Financial Aid} = \text{Remaining Cost}$$

SAIC provides scholarships, grants, loans and work-study for those that are eligible.

If you would like to borrow the offered student loans, you must accept them by following the steps for each loan type.

**Loan Steps at**  
[saic.edu/loansteps](http://saic.edu/loansteps)

- **Federal Direct Stafford Loans**  
Accept (First-Time Borrowers) or Decline
- **Eligibility for Credit Based Loans**  
Must be applied for and approved to secure these loans



# Important Deadlines

- **June 1** - Completed Figure Your Cost Worksheet NOW so you know what your remaining cost will be after your Financial Aid is applied.
- **July 1** – Apply for Student Loans such as Federal Stafford Loans for the student and Credit Based Loans if needed.
- **July 15** – Email notification sent to students that Fall 2026 charges are available in Self-Service and on Transact. Request 529/College Savings Plan Funds from provider and VA Benefits. (*If applicable*).
- **August 1** – Enroll in the Fall 2026 Payment Plan if you will be using this to address your Fall 2026 Direct Cost.
- **August 15** – Payment in Full or Payment Arrangements Due for Fall 2026.
- **August 24** – First Day for Fall 2026 Classes --- Health Insurance Waivers Due.

**Graduate  
Admissions  
Next Steps**



# Extenuating Circumstances / Professional Judgments

- Involuntary Loss or Reduction of Employment
- Separation, Divorce, or Death
- Loss of Taxed/Untaxed Income or Benefit
- Loss of One-time Income
- Unusual, Unreimbursed Medical Care Expenses
- Catastrophic Event

**[saic.edu/faappeal](https://saic.edu/faappeal)**



# Outside Scholarships

We suggest that students explore **outside scholarships** as an additional source of funding for their education well in advance of the term for which the funding is desired.

Outside scholarship payment and relevant criteria should be sent directly to the Student Financial Services Office.

- Online Scholarship Search Sites
- Outside Scholarship Lists
- Outside Scholarship Processing and Instructions

**Outside  
Scholarship  
Suggestions**



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# Contact Information

Student Financial Services  
36 South Wabash, suite 1200  
Chicago IL 606013

Telephone 312.629.6600  
Email [saic.sfs@saic.edu](mailto:saic.sfs@saic.edu)

Appointments can be scheduled  
At [saic.edu/sfs](https://saic.edu/sfs)

