

GUIDE  
FOR  
PARENTS

*The* **QUESTIONS**  
*we hear most often.*

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*The* **ANSWERS**  
*you've been looking for.*

Scholarships, Financial Aid  
and Financing Options



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## GLOSSARY

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**EFC** (Expected Family Contribution): This number reflects the family's ability to contribute to the cost of one year of post-secondary education as calculated by the FAFSA. The EFC assists in the determination of federal and other need-based aid.

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**FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): The application you fill out to determine eligibility for need-based financial aid at pretty much every college.

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**HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS:** These are merit-based scholarships available to Georgia residents. HOPE or Zell Miller scholarships provide assistance toward the cost of tuition.

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**MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS:** Money your child receives for an academic achievement or talent.

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**NEED-BASED AID:** Funds that are awarded based on your family's financial circumstances (some of these funds come from Berry and some from the federal government).

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**NET PRICE CALCULATOR:** Online tool that provides an estimate of what financial aid offer you might expect based on your family's specific financial information. Berry's can be found at: [berry.edu/npc](http://berry.edu/npc)

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**FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS:** Federal Student Loans and Parent PLUS Loans are available with a valid FAFSA. Students may borrow up to an annual amount based on eligibility. Parents may apply for a PLUS Loan up to the cost of attending Berry to help pay for college.

*Nationally recognized for  
its **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE,**  
**CULTURE of MENTORSHIP**  
and **EXTRAORDINARY**  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**OPPORTUNITIES,** a *Berry*  
*education has lifelong value.**

(Keep value in mind  
when considering cost.)





**9**

hours per week were spent on **PAID PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE** (on average).

**99%**

of graduates say a Berry education led to **A JOB OR ACCEPTANCE TO GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL.**

**99%**

of students **PARTICIPATE IN BERRY'S LIFEWORKS PROGRAM** at some point in their college career.

**100%**

of Berry students are assigned **PEER AND FACULTY MENTORS.** Most graduate with three or more significant mentors.



**82%**

of Berry graduates  
completed a significant  
**RESEARCH** or  
**INTERNSHIP** experience.

**82%**

of Berry freshmen  
**RETURN TO BERRY**  
**FOR THEIR**  
**SOPHOMORE YEAR.**

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# SO, HOW MUCH DOES BERRY COST?

*We're glad you asked.*

Others may prefer to talk around the question, because, let's face it, the cost of college can be an instant deal-breaker. We prefer to be straightforward about the costs of Berry. But then to place them in context.

Let's start with the straightforward:

- 2021-2022  
→ **TUITION AND FEES: \$38,656**  
→ **ROOM (traditional): \$7,640**  
→ **BOARD (unlimited): \$5,980**

First-year students normally reside in one of the traditional residence hall rooms. All first-year students are required to have the Unlimited Meal Plan.

Thanks for being straightforward. What was that you said about context?

Two things:

- 1 **If your family needs help covering the costs of Berry**, there are many sources of support, including (but not limited to) Berry merit scholarships and need-based financial grants (read on).
- 2 **If your family is able to pay the full cost of Berry**, it will be the best investment you'll ever make.

That seems like a bold claim. Would you kindly back it up?

We have no interest in twisting your arm. Over there to the right are some facts. The likely return on your investment. We believe they speak for themselves.

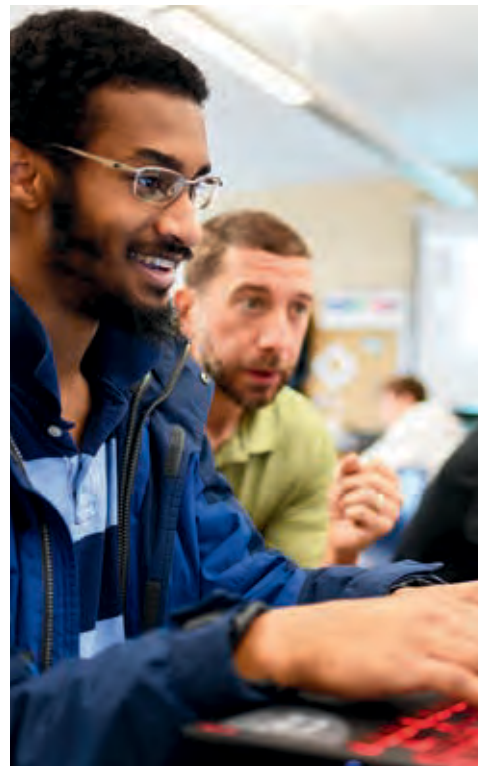
Are payment plans available?

Absolutely. Cost-equalization plans allow you to spread the costs for each semester into four or five payments.

Statistics accurate as of 9/1/2020

## Tell me more about MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Berry merit scholarships recognize and reward students for specific achievements, abilities, interests and experiences (*from success in school to excellence in the arts to outstanding civic contributions*).



What size scholarship might my son or daughter receive?

For students who were awarded merit scholarships this past year, the range was \$8,000-\$24,000.

How do we apply for a merit scholarship?

Every Berry applicant is automatically considered for an academic scholarship. To learn about how to apply for more specialized scholarships (music, theatre, writing, etc.): [BERRY.EDU/AID](http://BERRY.EDU/AID)

Are there other types of scholarships?

Yes. We offer scholarship programs that enhance the college experience while helping offset costs, even allowing students to graduate debt-free. Typically, 20% of our incoming class will participate in a four-year cohort scholarship program that may meet full need. Learn more at: [BERRY.EDU/AID](http://BERRY.EDU/AID)

## What about NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID?

Need-based financial assistance (*a combination of federal programs and Berry-provided aid*) helps families who would not otherwise be able to pay the full cost of attendance. Eligibility is based on your family's income, assets and other financial factors.

We're interested in need-based aid. How do we apply?

By filling out and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA. It's the application almost every college requires of families seeking aid.

The Berry code is: **001554**

You can find it here: [FAFSA.GOV](http://FAFSA.GOV)

To get top consideration for financial aid, complete the FAFSA as early as possible (available on October 1 of each year). Be sure to note this year's filing deadlines: **Early Action: December 1/Regular Decision: February 15.**

→ **Berry was founded on the idea that education should be accessible — and an investment to be shared by all involved.**

**More than a century later, we remain committed to working in close partnership with families to make a Berry education possible for students from a wide range of financial backgrounds.**

**In 2021, those that qualify for a need-based grant received Berry grants from alumni and friends ranging from \$2,500-15,000.**



But why should I even consider Berry when state schools cost so much less?

Three things to consider here:

- 1 **Your return on investment at Berry will be considerably higher.** (Please have a look at the previously featured facts.)
- 2 **Berry's four-year graduation rate is nearly double that of state institutions\***, and state scholarships only cover an amount of attempted credit hours (limited to approximately 4 academic years of full-time enrollment). When comparing Berry and state institutions, be sure to factor in the cost that 1-3 extra years of (unsubsidized) tuition at a state school might add to your total.

\*Source: The Council of Independent Colleges

- 3 **You won't know the actual cost difference between Berry and a state university until you find out how much scholarship and need-based aid your family might receive from Berry.** For some families, the cost of Berry and public education are about equal after all scholarships and aid are taken into account. For other families, Berry still costs more, but the difference is well worth the added value (and long-term results) a Berry education provides.

Visit [BERRY.EDU/STATS](http://BERRY.EDU/STATS) for the figures we use to substantiate this surprising-yet-critical claim.

My child should be eligible for a HOPE Scholarship. Doesn't that mean a state school makes the most sense?

Not necessarily. HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships can be used to fund a Berry education. Of all the Georgia residents in Berry's 2020-21 first-year class, 92% qualified for either a HOPE Scholarship (\$4,304 toward their Berry tuition) or a Zell Miller Scholarship (\$5,616 toward their Berry tuition). The Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant provides another \$850/student (reduction related to COVID-19 state budget cuts).

But we're not from Georgia.

Families like yours are what make Berry a national institution, with students from 48 states and 37 countries. And while the HOPE or Zell Miller scholarships won't be a component of your financial aid offer, we think you'll find our aid programs and willingness to help with college costs make taking a closer look a Berry a wise decision.

Could my son or daughter use a Berry scholarship or financial aid to study abroad?

Berry aid can be applied to study abroad through Berry's International Experiences program. There are many options available; specifics depend on the program and destination country.

I'm sorry, but Berry just seems too expensive.

We understand. But if Berry is otherwise a great fit for your son or daughter, we ask you to take this leap of faith: Apply to Berry and apply for aid. The bottom line might shift considerably in light of scholarships and need-based assistance. We hear every day from parents and students who tell us how glad they are to have reached for their dreams and found them so much closer than they'd realized.

Use our Net Price Calculator to get a quick estimate of what your family's aid offer might look like: [BERRY.EDU/NPC](http://BERRY.EDU/NPC)

I assume that more detail on all of this is available online?

Here you go: [BERRY.EDU/AID](http://BERRY.EDU/AID)

Thanks, but I prefer to talk to an actual person.

Please feel free to contact us. It would be our pleasure to discuss any of this with you. We understand that it's a lot to take in. We get that this is a significant investment. We'll do whatever we can to answer your questions and help navigate this process.

Please feel free to call us at: **800.237.7942 OR 706.236.2215**

Email: [ADMISSIONS@BERRY.EDU](mailto:ADMISSIONS@BERRY.EDU)