

Updated February 2012

HOW TO FINANCE YOUR EDUCATION

#1 BEST VALUE IN THE NATION

—Kiplinger's Personal Finance, 2011

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE

As one of the **nation's best public universities**, Binghamton provides you with an excellent education and — because it's public — a price that says value.

Many students look for ways to finance their cost of attendance. Binghamton can assist you with understanding financing options including student and parent loans, and Binghamton's billing process. We have also outlined personal financing options as well as tax benefits currently available.

Annual Budget (2011-12)

Tuition and fees	\$7,216*
Room and board**	\$11,810
Total Cost of Attendance	\$19,026

*Out-of-state students add \$8,110

**Figures reflect housing plan standard double and average meal plan

As of February 2012, subject to change

BINGHAMTON'S FINANCING OPTIONS

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form that is completed online annually to determine a student's eligibility for federal and state student financial aid (including grants, loans, most scholarships and work-study programs). The following loans (which have annual limits) may be included in the offer, and vary depending on the cost of attendance and other aid/resources received.

Federal Student Loans

There are two types of Federal Direct Loans: **subsidized** and **unsubsidized**. The interest rate on both is 6.8%. Subsidized loans are awarded on the basis of need as determined by the federal government. Interest begins to accrue upon repayment. Unsubsidized loans are available regardless of financial need, and interest begins to accrue upon disbursement. Repayment of either loan begins 6 months after graduation or if you fall below 6 credits.

Students are eligible for up to \$5,500 the first year, \$6,500 the second year and

\$7,500 the third and fourth years. You may still need to borrow additional funds; however, it is recommended that you accept this form of funding before applying for parent or student private alternative loans.

Federal Parent Loan

Parents of undergraduate students enrolled in at least 6 credits are eligible to apply for the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan. Credit approval is required. Funding limits vary according to the aid you receive, but cannot exceed the cost of attendance. Rates are fixed at 7.9 percent with a 4 percent origination fee. Interest

begins to accrue after first disbursement. Repayment begins 60 days after final disbursement on the loan, or it can be deferred until 6 months after the student graduates or falls below 6 credits.

Alternative (Private) Loans

To be eligible, you will need a credit-worthy cosigner and/or have established credit. Funding limits vary according to the aid you receive but cannot exceed the cost of attendance; rates vary by lender and credit-worthiness.

Visit <http://www.bingfa.binghamton.edu> for more information.

PARENTS: PERSONAL FINANCING OPTIONS

Personal circumstances (e.g., home ownership, life insurance policy, 401k) may provide additional ways to finance your student's education.

- **Home Equity Line of Credit** — Borrow up to 100 percent of the equity in your primary residence. You may use a fixed or variable rate loan to help pay for college expenses. Interest may be tax deductible.
- **Life Insurance Loan** — Borrow or withdraw funds using the equity in your life insurance policy. Certain withdrawals to pay for college expenses may be tax free.
- **529 College Savings Program** — Withdrawals are exempt from New York state income tax when used for qualified higher-education expenses.
- **401(k) Loan** — Borrow up to 50 percent of the equity in your qualified 401(k) loan. You repay yourself over a specified period of time (as determined by your employer).

FEDERAL TAX BREAKS

Several federal income tax credits/deductions are available. Based on your income, you may qualify and receive the following:

- **American Opportunity Tax Credit** – Up to \$2,500 per year for each eligible student
- **Lifetime Learning Credit** — Up to \$2,000 per year
- **Student Loan Interest Deduction** — Available during loan repayment

Consult your tax professional for more details.

Loans

There are many types of loan options. We encourage you to compare them closely before making your final decisions. Don't forget to ask about the total amount to be received, interest rates, origination fees, repayment schedules and repayment options.

Binghamton's Billing Process

Full payment must be received by the due date on the e-bill. A \$30 fee will be assessed each month until paid in full. In order to participate in early registration, the semester balance must be paid in full prior to registration.

This chart illustrates monthly loan payment examples based on amount borrowed and applicable interest rates.

TEN-YEAR LOAN (120 EQUAL PAYMENTS)					
Amount Borrowed	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Student-subsidized/ unsubsidized loans 6.8% monthly payment	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$230	\$288
Parent PLUS loan 7.9% monthly payment	\$60	\$121	\$181	\$242	\$302

THE BINGHAMTON ADVANTAGE

"I made the decision that I could get an incredible education without imposing a large financial burden on myself or my family. I'm happy knowing I have a minimal amount of debt and a high-quality, extremely competitive education."

Allison, English, rhetoric and global culture

"I couldn't be happier with my decision — the friendly atmosphere, the wide variety of interesting courses, and of course, Binghamton's affordability—made my choice easier."

Sarah, cinema

"Binghamton gave Karla a high-quality education at an extremely reasonable price that affords us the opportunity to assist Karla financially as she continues her education towards a graduate degree."

Mother of Karla, psychology

"Binghamton University was less expensive than my former private high-school tuition which kept my mom happy."

Elliot, history

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Binghamton University Scholarships

Scholarship awards vary from one State University of New York (SUNY) campus to another and are based on individual institutional funding resources. Most of Binghamton University's scholarship funding is made available thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends.

Because Binghamton University is fairly young, having been in existence only since 1946, our scholarship base is competitive and highly selective, just as our student body is. As a result, scholarship funding is given first to students demonstrating high merit as well as high financial need.

If you have been awarded a scholarship, you will be notified either in your financial aid award offer (mid-to late March) or in a letter from the selection committee.

Current students who have proven themselves academically or as leaders in other areas, such as community service, have the opportunity to apply for a variety of scholarships. For more information, visit <http://www.bingfa.binghamton.edu>

Scholarships from Outside Sources

Binghamton University encourages students to pursue outside sources of scholarships. We encourage you to use such free scholarship search sites as FastWeb, FinAid! and College Board. We urge you NOT to pay anyone to locate possible scholarships for you as this information is available online for free. Your hometown service organizations and parent/guardian employers can be other sources of information.

Student Employment

Many student employment listings for Binghamton University students are available online at eRecruiting (<http://binghamton.experience.com>). Each semester, students can "earn while they learn" through a variety of on-campus and off-campus jobs. Hiring is at the discretion of employers and job placement is not guaranteed.

"THE PREMIER PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NORTHEAST"

— Fiske Guide to Colleges, 2010

"BEST BUY"

— Fiske, 2010

"...TOP TIER ACADEMICS AND PALATABLE STICKER PRICE"

— The Princeton Review, 2012

CAN YOU AFFORD *NOT* TO ATTEND BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY?

"BEST VALUE"

— ranked #4 among public U.S. colleges

— The Princeton Review, 2011

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

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