

Cendara University Financial Aid Guide

Academic Year 2024–2025

The Office of Financial Assistance is dedicated to making a Cendara University education accessible and affordable. Cendara offers a range of scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study opportunities to help offset educational expenses outlined in the annual fee structure. This guide details available aid programs and provides step-by-step application instructions.

To contact us:

Office of Financial Assistance

2nd Floor, Founders Hall

Email: financial.aid@cendara.edu | Phone: (317) 555-2473

1. Types of Financial Aid

Cendara University offers the following forms of assistance:

- **Scholarships:** Merit-based, talent-based, and need-based awards that do not require repayment.
- **Grants:** Need-based aid, typically from university, state, or federal sources; no repayment required.
- **Loans:** Borrowed funds that must be repaid with interest; both federal and institutional loans are available.
- **Work-Study:** Part-time campus employment to earn money during the academic year.

Each student may be eligible for a combination of these aid types.

2. Scholarships

Cendara University proudly awards a variety of scholarships, both automatic and application-based, to exceptional students across disciplines.

2.1 Merit Scholarships

Scholarship Name	Eligibility	Value per Year	Renewable	Special Criteria
Presidential Scholarship	Incoming first-year undergraduates; top 5% of applicants (GPA 3.95, SAT 1450/ACT 33, or IB 40+)	\$18,000	4 years	Leadership & community contribution
Cardinal Scholar Award	All new undergraduates with strong academics (GPA 3.6)	\$7,000 – \$12,000	4 years	Automatic consideration
Graduate Dean's Award	New graduate students, outstanding prior GPA (3.85)	\$5,000 – \$9,000	Up to 2 years	Department recommendation required
Provost Transfer Award	Transfer students (30 credits, GPA 3.75)	\$6,000	2 years	

2.2 Competitive & Special Achievement Scholarships

Scholarship Name	Who Can Apply	Value	Criteria
Cendara Arts Fellowship	First-year or transfer	\$4,000	Portfolio review; visual/performing arts majors
Cendara STEM Scholars	First-year	\$8,000	Demonstrated excellence in STEM fields; interview required
Global Diversity Scholarship	Int'l & U.S. students	\$5,000– \$10,000	Promoting campus diversity; essay & recommendation required
First-Generation Promise	First in family to attend college	\$3,500	FAFSA/CSS Profile required; preference for Pell-eligible
Valentina Mateo Leadership Award	All undergraduates	\$2,000	Outstanding leadership/service during prior studies

- **Application deadlines:** Most scholarships require fall term applications by February 15; some have additional interview or portfolio dates in March.

2.3 Departmental & Donor Scholarships

Each department manages additional awards (ranging: \$1,000–\$6,000/year), often tied to academic major, talent, or declared area of interest.

Visit scholarships.cendara.edu/departments for details and application instructions.

3. Grants

Cendara administers several need-based grant programs drawn from institutional, federal, and state sources.

Grant Name	Eligibility	Value per Year	Application
Cendara Access Grant	Undergrad (full-time); based on demonstrated financial need	\$2,000–\$8,000	FAFSA or CSS Profile
Federal Pell Grant	U.S. citizens/permanent residents; demonstrated high need	Up to \$7,395	FAFSA
State Opportunity Grant	Indiana residents (full-time undergrad/grad); need-based	\$1,200–\$4,500	FAFSA
Graduate Tuition Grant	Graduate students (limited selection)	\$2,500–\$5,000	FAFSA or separate app

- **Award amounts** depend on Expected Family Contribution (EFC), cost of attendance, and funding levels.
 - All grants are subject to annual review and funding availability.
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4. Loans

Student loans are designed to help cover gaps after scholarships and grants are applied. Repayment with interest is required.

4.1 Federal Student Loans (U.S. citizens/permanent residents)

Loan	Annual Borrowing Limit	Typical Interest Rate	Notes
Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500–\$5,500 (undergrad)	5.50%	Need-based, interest subsidized
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000–\$20,500 (undergrad/grad)	5.50%–7.05%	Interest accrues immediately
Grad PLUS Loan	Cost of attendance minus aid	8.05%	Credit check required
Parent PLUS Loan	Parent borrower for undergrads	8.05%	Credit check required

4.2 Institutional Loan Programs (Domestic & International)

- **Cendara Opportunity Loan:** Up to \$7,500/year (Fixed 6.25% interest, deferred repayment until 6 months post-graduation; cosigner required for international students)
- **Short-term Emergency Loan:** Up to \$1,200/semester (No interest, payable within 6 months)

Note: Loan counseling is required for all new borrowers.

5. Work-Study Employment

Cendara's Federal and Institutional Work-Study programs provide part-time, on-campus jobs to assist students in meeting expenses.

- Typical positions: Library assistant, lab tech, campus events, dining hall, research aide
- Hourly pay: \$12 – \$15 (undergraduate), \$14 – \$18 (graduate)
- Maximum hours: 15/week during terms

Eligibility depends on need and timely application; indicate work-study interest on the FAFSA or Cendara Application for Aid.

6. Application Procedures

To receive financial aid, applicants must complete the appropriate forms and follow these steps:

Step 1: Gather Required Documents

- Student and parent tax returns (prior-prior year, e.g., 2022 for 2024–25)
- W-2s and other income statements

- Bank statements and records of investments
- Social Security numbers or governmental IDs (if applicable)
- Academic transcripts for some merit aid

Step 2: Complete Applications

Aid Type	Required Application(s)	Link / Submission Method
Federal Aid (U.S.)	FAFSA	https://studentaid.gov (School Code: 036469)
Need-Based Aid (Intl)	CSS Profile	https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org
University Scholarships	Cendara Scholarship Portal	scholarships.cendara.edu/apply
Indiana State Grants	FAFSA (by April 15)	Same as above
Graduate Department Awards	Dept. Application	Contact department directly

Step 3: Submit Supplemental Materials

- Essays, letters of recommendation, or portfolios as specified for certain scholarships
- Documentation verifying special circumstances (loss of income, medical bills, etc.)
- International students: proof of English proficiency & financial Documents

Step 4: Meet All Deadlines

- **Priority Deadline:** February 15, 2024 (for maximum consideration)
- Cendara Scholarship Portal: Opens October 1, closes March 1
- FAFSA/CSS Profile: Opens October 1; final deadline May 1
- Department/Graduate Scholarships: Vary by unit (consult website)

Step 5: Review Aid Offer & Accept

- Cendara's Office of Financial Assistance will send an "Aid Notification" via email/portal.
- Review your offer, accept/decline individual items online.
- Submit additional documents if requested (tax forms, clarification letters, etc.)

Step 6: Maintain Eligibility

- Must be enrolled at least half-time each semester (12 credits undergraduate, 9 credits graduate unless otherwise stated)
 - Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (minimum GPA 2.0 undergraduate/3.0 grad, 67% completion rate)
 - Renew FAFSA or applicable forms each year
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7. Additional Financial Support Resources

- **Outside Scholarships:** Students encouraged to apply for external awards (employers, civic groups, national competitions).
 - **Payment Plans:** Flexible semester installment plans available via the Bursar's Office.
 - **Emergency Assistance Fund:** One-time support for unforeseen crises; contact deanofstudents@cendara.edu.
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8. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I combine multiple scholarships or grants?

A: Yes, but total aid may not exceed direct costs (tuition, fees, room/board). Some awards have restrictions; always check notifications.

Q: I missed the deadline. Can I still apply?

A: Late applications are accepted, but funding may be limited. Contact the Office of Financial Assistance for guidance.

Q: What if my family's financial situation has recently changed?

A: Submit a Special Circumstances Appeal form with supporting documentation for re-evaluation of your aid package.

9. Contacts & Further Information

- **Office of Financial Assistance:** Founders Hall, 2nd Floor
 - Phone: (317) 555-2473
 - Email: financial.aid@cendara.edu
 - Website: financialaid.cendara.edu
 - Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm
- **Scholarships Team:** scholarships@cendara.edu
- **International Student Support:** iss@cendara.edu

For policy details or appeals, reference the Student Financial Assistance Handbook.

Empowering your future, today — Cendara University Financial Assistance