

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.

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 graduate, 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