



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE & NEW EARTH INSTITUTE



CONSCIOUSNESS-CENTERED GRADUATE SCHOOL, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

FINANCIAL AID FAQ's

How much does it cost?

MA Tuition & Fees Costs:

- \$626 per unit
- \$300 per quarter Resource Fee

PhD Tuition & Fees Costs:

- \$835 per unit
- \$300 per quarter Resource Fee
- \$2,200 Residency 1 Fee
- \$1,000 Residency 2 Fee
- \$1,000 Residency 3 Fee
- \$500 Mentor fee per quarter

For full program cost estimates, see our Cost of Attendance page on the web:

<https://www.swc.edu/student-right-to-know-act/cost-of-attendance/>

How much can I borrow?

- **Unsubsidized Loans:** Eligible students who submit a FAFSA qualify for up to \$20,500. Submit your FAFSA online at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>
- **Federal Grad PLUS:** Students needing more than \$20,500 in Unsubsidized Loans.
 - Requires FAFSA submission first.
 - Then apply for a **Federal Grad PLUS Loan** online at <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/>
 - Amounts vary, depending on other aid received and your established annual Cost of Attendance.
 - Students must not have an adverse credit history to be approved. <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/what-is-adverse-credit-history>
 - You can apply at any time during the aid year.
 - Credit decision expires after 6 months.
 - If denied, you can either appeal with US Dept. of Ed. or seek a co-signer.
 - To view student loan interest rate information, please go to: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>

Will I have enough financial aid to cover my tuition?

It depends on your program planner. The \$20,500 unsubsidized loan will cover approximately 30-31 units (MA programs) per academic year (\$626 x 31 units + \$300 resource fee per quarter = \$20,606) so the faster your program, the more you may need to borrow each year to cover tuition and other expenses. The academic year starts with the Fall quarter, and includes the Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters.

So, I can borrow up to my Cost of Attendance...what is Cost of Attendance?

Cost of Attendance (COA) is the total estimate of what it costs to attend the school for one academic year. It includes direct costs (Tuition and Fees – what you pay directly to the school) and Indirect Costs (housing, food, transportation, misc. personal expenses, books, materials, equipment, supplies, loan fees, and *personal therapy (*for ATCN, ATCP, and CN students only)). If you request the maximum amount for a Grad PLUS loan, we will calculate the loan up to your COA, minus other aid you're receiving.

I'm worried about debt, what other options are there?

Graduate students are not eligible for federal need-based aid (Pell grants, subsidized loans, etc.), but may still qualify for merit-based scholarships or outside need-based aid.

- **Honorary Scholarships** – Visit our website for details: <https://www.swc.edu/financial-aid/honoraryscholarships/>
- **Outside Scholarships** – SWC does not endorse any specific outside scholarship or organization, but we have compiled a list of outside scholarship search engines and resources you can browse through: <https://www.swc.edu/outside-resources/>
- **Graduate Assistantships** – contact Dru Phoenix (Director of Admissions – DruPhoenix@swc.edu) for information regarding GA positions. <https://www.swc.edu/overview/tuition-and-financial-aid/graduate-assistantships/>
- **VA Benefits** - <https://www.swc.edu/veterans-benefits/>

I don't need to borrow loans; how do I pay out of pocket?

- Students can pay online through Populi via electronic check or credit/debit card.
- Payment plans for students taking 2 or more credits can be requested by contacting the Business Office at 505-467-6837 or atnbursar@swc.edu at the time of registration.

Payment Plan Terms:

- The payment plan must be in place and one-third of the financed tuition and fees paid by the first day of classes for the student to be in good standing.
- The second payment of one-third is due on the 30th day of the quarter, and
- The third and final payment of one-third is due on the 60th day of the quarter. Payment plans must be paid in full by the final due date.

- Students on payment plans and in good standing may register for a subsequent quarter before their final payment. If final payment is not made in full on the due date, students will be disenrolled from subsequent quarter courses.
- There is a \$25 fee for each payment plan agreement.
- If payments are not made by the scheduled due date, a \$25 late charge is assessed.

How and when can I expect my refund?

SWC's policy is to apply aid to tuition and fees first, and then students can request any funds leftover to be issued to them as a living expense refund. Refunds are issued on the second Thursday of each quarter, after the add/drop period has ended.

Students can receive their funds via direct deposit by completing the [ACH Authorization Form](#)

Students without direct deposit authorization on file will be mailed a check to their address listed in Populi.

Disbursement Dates for MA Programs:

Quarter	Classes Start	Last Date to Drop (5PM) and Receive 100% Refund of all prior charges for the quarter*	Disbursement Date*	Refund Date*	Classes End
Fall	9/22/2025	9/29/2025	09/24/25	10/2/2025	12/7/2025
Winter	1/5/2026	1/12/2026	1/7/2026	1/15/2026	3/15/2026
Spring	3/30/2026	4/6/2026	4/1/2026	4/9/2026	6/7/2026
Summer	6/22/2026	6/29/2026	6/24/2026	7/2/2026	8/30/2026

Disbursement Dates for PhD Program:

Quarter	Classes Start	Last Date to Drop (5PM) and Receive 100% Refund of all prior charges for the quarter*	Disbursement Date*	Refund Date*	Classes End
Fall	9/14/2025	9/22/2025	9/17/2025	9/25/2025	11/23/2026
Winter	1/4/2026	1/12/2026	1/7/2026	1/15/2026	3/15/2026
Spring	3/29/2026	4/6/2026	4/1/2026	4/9/2026	6/7/2026
Summer	6/21/2026	6/29/2026	6/24/2026	7/2/2026	8/30/2026

*An add/drop form must be submitted by 5pm on Monday of the second week of the quarter. This is the last date to drop a course and receive 100% tuition refund; courses dropped after this date will be considered a withdraw and the student will receive a "W" on their transcript.

*The disbursement date is the date the funds are posted to the student's account in Populi.

*Refund date is the second Thursday of each quarter; students will receive their refund either through ACH Direct Deposit or via check mailed to the address on file in Populi.

I still have questions about financial aid, who do I contact?

Michelle Scarber

Financial Aid Administrator

505-467-6602

financialaid@swc.edu

To make an appointment: <https://calendly.com/financialaid-pqh5>