

How Financial Need is Determined

What is "financial need"?

Financial need can best be described as the difference between the student's financial aid budget and the family's resources available to meet that budget.

When students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the information provided is processed using a mathematical formula called Federal Methodology. This result (or answer) this formula provides is called the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a combination of both a parent contribution and a student contribution.

Your family's EFC will be listed on the Student Aid Report that you can access online at fafsa.ed.gov. Your family's EFC will also be sent electronically to all the colleges that were listed on your FAFSA. For more information on the EFC and how financial need is determined, please read more about it in "[The Student Guide](#)."

The college then subtracts the student's EFC from the appropriate [cost of attendance](#) budget. The difference is the student's amount of "financial need" at the college. Southwestern then attempts to meet this need or the cost of the college (whichever is lower) through a combination of grants, loans, scholarships, and other resources.

What about students without "financial need"?

Activity grants, institutional academic scholarships, and regular employment are available to students without financial need. Federal Stafford student loans and United Methodist Loans for students are also available.

Students who do not demonstrate need may also find employment in on-campus jobs as well as in the Winfield community. Priority for on-campus jobs, however, is given to those students demonstrating financial need who participate in the Federal Work Study program.