12 Ways to Pay for Your Degree

Education is a great investment in your future. But not all costs have to come out of your own pocket. These are just some of the ways to reduce or offset education expenses. Talk with an enrollment counselor to see which might apply to you.

- **Employer assistance**
  Many organizations offer tuition assistance to employees. Talk to your employer to see if financial incentives or reimbursements are available to you. If you’re looking for a job, ask about such benefits.

- **Transfer credits**
  Applying coursework from other institutions can reduce the time or the number of credits you’ll need to complete your degree. Transfer credits can also lower the cost of your degree from Capella.

- **Capella scholarships**
  To help reduce your tuition, Capella offers scholarships for many programs and degree levels. The locker: Most are noncompetitive, not based on financial need, and don’t have to be repaid. Make sure to apply.

- **Federal grants**
  You can use federal grants to pay for education-related expenses including tuition, books, technology, and more. Awards are based on financial need, and repayment is not required. To see if you qualify, fill out the FAFSA.

- **Military benefits and discounts**
  Capella offers tuition discounts to certain members of the military community, and education benefits may be available through the VA, your service branch, or your state government.

- **Low-cost general-education credits**
  Capella’s learning partner, Sophia Learning, offers low-cost general-education classes for bachelor’s students. You can sample Sophia Learning offerings for free, and if you enroll, your completed courses can be applied to a Capella program, helping to reduce your tuition.

- **Work-study program**
  The Federal Work-Study program offers part-time employment to students to help meet education costs. The pay goes directly to you—with no repayment obligation. Fill out the FAFSA to see if you qualify.

- **Non-Capella Scholarships**
  Many professional organizations, as well as some businesses and nonprofits, offer scholarships to qualified applicants. Contact associations you’re a member of, or ask an enrollment counselor to help you find resources.

- **Prior learning assessment**
  If you’ve got certifications or military experience, you may be able to turn that learning and experience into credit through Capella’s prior learning assessment process. Good deal, huh?

- **Combined degrees**
  If you want to pursue a bachelor’s in nursing followed by a master’s, you may be able to get a jump-start on your advanced degree by taking master’s-level courses as part of your undergraduate work.

- **Federal student loans**
  The federal government offers low-cost loans to qualifying students. Are you among them? Fill out the FAFSA and you may be surprised.

- **Private loans**
  If you’ve exhausted all possible ways to pay for your education, taking on a private loan may be the answer. But check the terms carefully. Don’t get caught in a repayment plan you can’t manage.