

## Financial Aid Glossary

One challenge in navigating financial aid is learning some new vocabulary and acronyms. This glossary will help you with the knowledge you need to better understand common financial aid terminology and definitions.

### Types of Costs

#### Cost of Attendance

Sometimes referred to as COA, this is the estimated cost of attending a specific institution for one academic year. The cost of attendance includes both Direct Costs and Indirect Costs.

**Direct Costs** include tuition, fees, housing, and meal plan. As a residential campus, these costs are billed directly by Lawrence to the student.

**Indirect costs** are not billed by the school, based on expenses such as books, transportation, miscellaneous personal expenses, and any other cost-of-living expense. Students are not billed for these costs by the institution, but they incur them along the way.

The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the amount of scholarships and grants that a student has been awarded.

### Types of Aid

**Merit Aid** (often called awards or scholarships) is awarded based on a student's academic records, artistic achievement, or other criteria determined by the institution. This type of aid is awarded without consideration of a student's ability to pay or financial need.

**Need-based aid** (often referred to as grants) is based on completion of the financial aid application. Grants, like scholarships, are not repaid. Need-based grants are funded by Lawrence and the federal government, as well as the states and other outside organizations.

**Self-help aid** includes student loans and work-study opportunities, all of which are designed to help make education more affordable. Loans require a form of repayment as determined by the nature and terms of the loan agreement.

