

The Value of a Bryn Mawr Education

Bryn Mawr College students understand the value of a strong academic foundation and have dedicated significant time and effort to reaching their educational goals. The College recognizes their effort and reciprocates that commitment by meeting 100% of students' demonstrated need.

Families face many challenges when making a college decision; there is much to be considered and evaluated. Recognizing that each family brings with it a unique set of circumstances, the Office of Financial Aid works to help students and their families navigate the process and find solutions.

Faculty quality and accessibility, small classes and the depth of our library and laboratory facilities are all critical to the way Bryn Mawr students learn. Empowering young women and stimulating their intellectual growth has been the College's mission since 1885. Faculty and staff take their work seriously and it shows. A Bryn Mawr degree is recognized by employers, business leaders, and graduate and professional schools as excellent preparation for success.

A few facts about outcomes:

- **Bryn Mawr was listed among the top ten liberal arts colleges on the *Wall Street Journal's* list of feeder schools to the nation's top law, medical, and business schools.**
- **Bryn Mawr is among the top ten of all colleges and universities in the United States in the percentage of students it sends on to the Ph.D.**
- **In "*An Outcomes Based Assessment of Universities*" developed by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, Bryn Mawr ranked 14th among all colleges and universities in the United States for producing the most successful graduates.**
- **Bryn Mawr women major in math and science at a rate that is 4 times that of women nationally.**



What are the costs at Bryn Mawr?

For the 2008-2009 academic year

Tuition	\$ 35,700
Room and Board	\$ 11,520
College Fee	\$ 600
Self-Government Fee	\$ 240

Costs for the next academic year are announced by the Board of Trustees in February.

Students should also anticipate annual expenditures for books, supplies, and personal expenses. Current estimates of these indirect costs, which are not billed by the College, are \$1,000 for books and supplies and \$1,000 for personal expenses for the nine-month period. Actual expenditures depend upon individual needs and vary from student to student. Travel expenses can also add to the cost of a Bryn Mawr education.

Does Bryn Mawr offer financial assistance?

Yes. The amount of assistance offered through the Financial Aid Office is the difference between the total costs for a year at Bryn Mawr and the total resources the student and her family are able to contribute. In 2007-2008, the College offered over 18.2 million in grant assistance alone to 56% of the undergraduate students.

How is financial aid eligibility determined?

Each student's eligibility is determined by a thorough review of the family's financial information. This process uses formulas and guidelines which have been carefully developed and are widely used by most of the country's leading colleges. With these formulas and guidelines, financial aid counselors are able to

determine a family's ability to absorb college expenses over time. Once the assessment is complete, an "expected contribution" from the family is established.

The student's own resources are considered along with those of her parents. In particular, the student is expected to contribute approximately \$2,000 from summer earnings. A portion of her own assets will be considered to be available in each of her years as well.

How will Bryn Mawr meet my financial aid eligibility?

A typical financial aid award consists of three types of assistance: grant, loan and on-campus work. A grant does not have to be repaid or earned. The funding for grants is provided by the College through its endowment, alumnae, benefactors and operating funds; the Federal Pell, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity, Federal Academic Competitiveness and Federal SMART Grant Programs; and state grant programs. An on-campus job (paid for in part by the Federal Work Study Program) may meet approximately \$2,000 of need. This assumes that a freshman will work about ten hours per week. A portion of need may also be met through federal loans, the Federal Stafford Loan and/or Federal Perkins Loan.

What are the Financial Aid Application Deadlines?

- PROFILE and Noncustodial Parent's PROFILE:
 - Early Decision 1: November 15
 - Early Decision 2: January 1
 - Regular Admission: February 6
- FAFSA February 6*
- Federal Income Tax Returns and/or Non-Tax-Filer Statements – March 1

* All candidates must file the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, but no later than the first week in February. Estimated tax figures are acceptable for early filing. We will confirm the accuracy of the student's and parents' tax figures once we receive all completed federal income tax returns in early March.

How do I apply for Bryn Mawr's financial assistance?

You and your parents must submit the following forms in



accordance with published deadlines:

- College Scholarship Service (CSS) PROFILE
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Parents' and student's 2008 Federal Income Tax Forms with all schedules and attachments, both personal and business, and W-2 forms*
- CSS Noncustodial Parent's PROFILE if your parents are divorced, separated or have never been married

*Students and parents who are not required to file a federal income tax return must still submit copies of the W-2 forms along with a written statement confirming their non-filing status and listing any sources of untaxed income.

File the PROFILE online at <http://www.collegeboard.com>. Be sure to use the Bryn Mawr CSS code #2049 to send your results to Bryn Mawr.

File the FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or you may obtain a paper application from your high school guidance office or by calling 1-800-433-3243. The Bryn Mawr federal code is #003237.

File the Noncustodial PROFILE, if applicable, at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

Submit 2008 tax returns, W-2s, and applicable supplemental forms for parents and student through the College Board Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC).

Complete financial aid application instructions are available on the Bryn Mawr website at <http://www.brynmawr.edu/financialaid>.

What is the College Board Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC)?

Bryn Mawr contracts with the College Board to collect students' and parents' federal tax returns, non-tax-filer statements, and other documents pertinent to a student's financial aid application. The College Board stores the documents, on the student's behalf, in a secure environment and transmits the information electronically to the financial aid office(s) of IDOC-participating colleges and programs to which the student applies. Many selective institutions participate in IDOC. There is no cost to the student to submit information to IDOC.

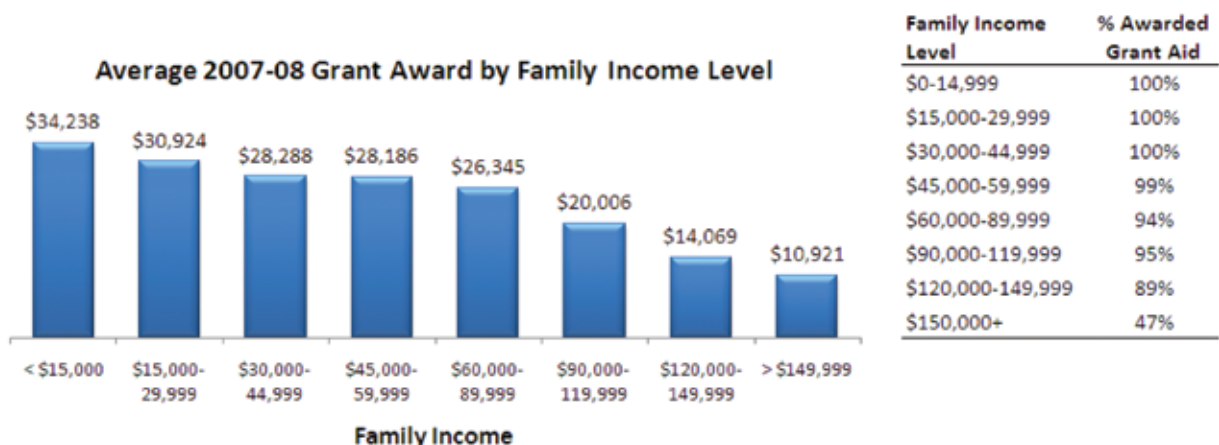
In late January, IDOC will send an email notifying applicants who list Bryn Mawr on their PROFILE to submit required documents to the College Board.

Will my family qualify?

Each application is reviewed carefully. The factors which have the greatest impact on the family contribution are current income and assets, size of family, and number of children enrolled in undergraduate colleges.

The graph below indicates average grant awards only.

A thorough review of each family's situation is required to make a complete aid determination.



If I receive financial aid for my first year, will I also get aid in the following years?

As long as you continue to demonstrate eligibility for financial assistance and your academic work satisfies at least the minimum standards, you will continue to receive financial aid. Awards are not automatically renewed; students must reapply each year. The financial aid award may change as a result of annual changes in family circumstances, such as the number of family members enrolled in college or the family's gross income. Self-help expectations (that is, the amount earned through campus employment and the amount of federal loan a student is expected to borrow) increase each year.

When will I hear the answer to my request for financial aid?

Financial aid award notifications are announced simultaneously with admission decisions for students whose financial aid applications are complete by our deadlines. To ensure full aid consideration, please apply on time.

Is Bryn Mawr College “need-blind”?

In 2007 - 2008, the College supported 56% of the undergraduate students with grant assistance, demonstrating a substantial commitment to financial aid. While Bryn Mawr College is “need-sensitive,” the admissions committee does not have access to a student's finances when determining her eligibility for admission. Once admissibility is determined, funds are distributed until the financial aid budget has been exhausted. If there are places remaining to be filled in the class, a student's eligibility for aid may have to be taken into account.

Does Bryn Mawr have a prepaid tuition plan?

Yes. Tuition for all four years, or tuition, room, board and fees for all four years may be paid by August 1 of the freshman year at the tuition rate of the first year. The advantage of the prepaid tuition plan is that parents pay four years of tuition or tuition, room and board at the current rate and incur no further increases. The prepaid tuition option is only available to full fee paying students. If students are receiving any aid, loans or scholarships, they cannot participate in the prepaid tuition plan.



Are there commercial loans available? Where can I get more information?

A number of alternative loans are available to help meet educational costs. For helpful comparison information visit <http://studentloanlistings.com> and select private. You may also contact the Financial Aid Office.

If I do not apply for financial aid as a freshman, may I apply in subsequent years?

You must apply for aid as a freshman to be considered for institutional grant assistance during any of your four years at the College. You may apply and will be considered for Federal aid, including the Federal Stafford Loan Program, every year whether or not you applied for institutional aid as a freshman.

To be considered for aid from the College as a freshman your response to the Financial Aid Intent question on the Common Application must be “Yes.”

Is it possible to work on campus even if I don't qualify for aid?

Absolutely. More than 70% of Bryn Mawr students work on campus. Additionally, the Career Development Office keeps a listing of part-time jobs in the community for which any interested student may apply. Average awards to freshmen are \$2,000 for the academic year.



Are there federally supported loan programs for students and parents, regardless of financial aid eligibility?

Yes. The Federal Stafford Loan is a long-term, low-interest educational loan for students. Repayment of the principle is not required until after the student leaves school. Two types of Federal Stafford Loans are available: subsidized, in which the 6% fixed interest is paid by the government during enrollment and unsubsidized, in which the 6.8% fixed interest is paid by the student quarterly or accrued during enrollment. To qualify for the interest subsidy, the student must demonstrate financial need; financial need is not required to qualify for the unsubsidized loan. Eligibility is determined by the Financial Aid Office based on the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the total cost of education and the amount of other financial aid the student receives.

Stafford Loan Limits		
First Year	\$3,500 Subsidized/ Unsubsidized	+ \$2,000 Unsubsidized*
Second Year	\$4,500 Subsidized/ Unsubsidized	+ \$2,000 Unsubsidized*
Third and Fourth Year	\$5,500 Subsidized/ Unsubsidized	+ \$2,000 Unsubsidized *

*Independent students and dependent students whose parents are denied a PLUS Loan are also eligible to borrow additional unsubsidized loan funds: 1st and 2nd year students may borrow an additional \$4,000 and 3rd & 4th year students may borrow an additional \$5,000.

The Federal PLUS Loan is a loan for parents of undergraduate dependent students. Parents may borrow up to the full cost of attendance (less any other financial aid received) through the Federal PLUS loan program. Need is not a criterion, but the applicant must be creditworthy.

For details about these programs, contact the Financial Aid Office or visit our website

http://www.brynmawr.edu/financialaid/fa_types_aid.shtml

Where can I find other scholarship support?

American Education Services, a Pennsylvania state agency, offers an outside scholarship search service at www.aessuccess.org. Additional links are available at www.finaid.org including information on “scholarship scams” which you should read before you pay anyone or any organization for information.

Local civic organizations, your high school guidance office, and your parents' employers may also be good sources.

Will an outside scholarship affect my Bryn Mawr award?

We encourage students to apply for outside scholarship from private sources to reduce reliance on loan and work, and to assist with the College's commitment to meet the full demonstrated need of all eligible students. Our policies are designed to supplement a family's own resources, so that all students demonstrating eligibility can attend the College with the full amount of assistance that they need.

When a student receives additional scholarships from private sources, adjustments are made by modifying the self-help (first loan, then work) and institutional gift aid portions of the student's award. The first \$500 of outside grants and scholarship programs plus half of the remaining balance replaces self-help; the remainder replaces institutional gift aid. Once a student's loan and work awards are eliminated, the remaining outside grant will substitute for Bryn Mawr Grant dollar for dollar.

Note: College policy requires that all federal and state grants, tuition benefits and entitlements replace an equal amount of Bryn Mawr Grant.



Financial Aid Facts

- Percentage of Bryn Mawr College undergraduates who are receiving institutional support: 56%
- The average freshman financial aid package during 2007-2008 was \$31,154.
- The average freshman grant during 2007-2008 was \$26,483.
- The median family income of freshman financial aid recipients in 2007-2008 was \$71,863.
- More than 70% of students work on campus; students do not need to be financial aid recipients to participate in campus employment.

If you have questions not answered here, please contact:

Office of Financial Aid
Bryn Mawr College
101 N. Merion Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899
610-526-5245
finaid@brynmawr.edu

Bryn Mawr College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual preference, age or handicap in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other College-administered programs or in its employment practices. In conformity with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, it is also the policy of Bryn Mawr College not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, activities or employment practices. The admission of women only in the Undergraduate College is in conformity with a provision of the Act.

Inquiries regarding compliance with this legislation and other policies regarding non-discrimination may be directed to the Equal Opportunity Officer who administers the College's procedures, Taylor Hall.