



Fall 2024 for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Dear Messiah University Student and Parents:

The instructions and applications for financial aid for the 2025–2026 academic year are now ready for your review.

- These forms are available via [our on-line financial aid forms page](#). Included are most of the forms necessary to apply for Federal, state, and institutional aid.
- Check out our [Seven Steps to Financial Aid](#) for step by step instructions on completing the financial aid application process.

For the 2025-2026 FAFSA, your 2023 tax data will be used.

Since most people file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically, the United States Department of Education does not provide the paper FAFSA booklet to colleges. If you wish to file using the paper FAFSA, you will need to request a blank form from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243. You should receive your blank FAFSA in 3 to 7 business days. You can also download a [PDF version](#) of the FAFSA, which you can print and fill out in paper form.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST FILE A FAFSA EACH YEAR IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FORMS OF AID THAT ARE BASED ON YOUR FINANCIAL NEED. See the [File your FAFSA](#) box for a listing of these types of aid, and be aware that [the Messiah University Grant is one of the forms of aid for which you must file the FAFSA each year](#).

If you filed an electronic FAFSA or electronic correction last year, you should receive a reminder from the Federal government instructing you to use your [account](#) (FSA User ID) to file electronically for the upcoming year. This reminder will be in the form of an email message (if you provided a valid email address) sent **only to the email address given as the student's email address when completing the FAFSA**, or a letter if you did not provide a valid email address.

It could take as long as one month for the FAFSA to be processed and to reach our office. Electronic filing options will usually shorten processing time to a few days, but we urge you to file as soon as possible in order to allow for processing delays.

Communications from our office will be almost exclusively via your Messiah University email address, so please check this email account regularly. A common request we receive is to have copies of all Financial Aid communications forwarded to parents. While our system is not able to function in this fashion, we have created a set of instructions that students can use to forward emails to parents, or anyone whom they would like to receive copies. Click [here](#) to see these instructions.

The time line for the processing of financial aid applications should be as follows:

- **New students: We plan to begin sending financial aid packages to new students by mid-January.** Once your package is completed, you will receive an email message (at your Messiah University email address) with instructions for viewing your on-line Financial Aid Award Notice via the [Accepted Student Resources webpage](#). If you file your FAFSA after the date we begin sending financial aid packages, you should expect to receive notification of the availability of your award within a few days of the date we receive your FAFSA results, unless you have additional items you are required to submit in order to complete your processing.
- **Continuing students:** You should expect to receive your financial aid package for the 2025-2026 year in early July, 2025. Please keep in mind that we can't start financial aid packages for continuing students until late May, after grades for the spring semester have been entered. The main advantage to you in filing earlier will be to give you more time to complete any needed paperwork so that your applications will be ready for the completion of your financial aid package during June and July. It is not necessary for you to contact us about the status of your package until July 15, unless you have reason to believe there is a problem.

• **All students:** If there are any items that are needed to complete your file, you will be notified via your Messiah University email account.

Please call us at 717-691-6007, FAX us at 717-691-2349, or contact us by email at FINAID@MESSIAH.EDU, if we can assist you in completing these forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Gearhart". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Greg Gearhart
Director of Financial Aid