

Your dream college

You have found the perfect college or university that you want to attend. It checks off your entire must-have list.

But then you may wonder:

- "Can I actually afford to attend this college?"
- "How can I minimize the amount of debt I may accumulate?"
- "How do I start looking for scholarships and additional funding?"
- "Will I get the job I want?"

These questions are all normal and many students ask them when they are considering their choices for college. However, even though students and their families recognize the value of the high-quality education that is offered by a private college, many students believe that this education is too expensive and they decide not to apply. Believing that a private college education is unaffordable may be the most commonly stated myth in higher education. If this is what you and your family are thinking, please continue reading to see how you may be able to afford to attend a private college.



MICUA Members

- Capitol Technology University
- Goucher College
- Hood College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola University Maryland
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- McDaniel College
- Mount St. Mary's University
- Notre Dame of Maryland University
- St. John's College
- Stevenson University
- Washington Adventist University
- Washington College

Contact Us

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Maryland Independent College
and University Association



You can afford a private college

STICKER PRICE ≠ COST

The private nonprofit member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) work diligently to make it possible for every interested student to attend the college of his or her choice.

Remember, the initial “sticker price” (tuition and fees) of a college is not your final price. Ninety percent of the incoming class of students at MICUA colleges and universities receive some form of financial assistance, and there are a number of scholarships, grants, and loans that have been created specifically to help students offset the cost of a private college education. Financial aid based on your family’s income and financial circumstances (need-based aid), and merit scholarships based on your academic achievements and talents, can significantly reduce the cost of a private college.

MICUA INSTITUTIONS ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

When you are admitted to a MICUA college or university, your financial aid office automatically considers you for these scholarships. Need-based aid is determined by a federal formula that evaluates your family’s financial situation and determines an “Expected Family Contribution” or EFC. MICUA institutions take these and other factors into consideration to address your financial needs.

Our private colleges also provide institutional aid to help students cover expenses. Our institutions award five times as much grant aid to our students as the State and federal governments combined. You can learn more about this type of aid, the importance of submitting a FAFSA on time, and specific programs, by contacting the financial aid office of the private institution you are interested in attending.

EXPLORE THE TRUE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT

Completing a degree sooner saves money and decreases debt. MICUA member institutions lead the nation in graduates who finish in four years. Over 90% complete their bachelor’s degree within 6 years and a significant number of students complete their degree within 4 years.

The cost of an education at a MICUA member institution is a sound investment you can’t afford not to explore. Consider the long-term value of a college education, which relates total cost to measurements like quality of education and career readiness, which are all metrics that impact your bottom line throughout life. MICUA graduates rank among the highest in the United States in employability; early, mid, and late-career salaries; and employment rates even in the most significant economic downturns.

MICUA member institutions are committed to helping students obtain the financial help needed to make private college affordable. That’s why we partner with members of our community to create need-based scholarships and programs that help students attend and succeed in college.

All MICUA member institutions participate in the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP), a public-private partnership to help close the college affordability gap by supporting capable Maryland high school graduates with financial challenges.

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I am a Loyola student that can attend a university that I love due to scholarship. The economic impact that this pandemic brought on is real, but I feel immense gratitude to those who continue to make my academic scholarship possible, and in turn, grant me access to opportunities at Loyola and beyond.

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Brianna Wright, '21

