You’ve been admitted to Bowdoin—hooray! You may be wondering what comes next, so here’s an overview of what you can expect during your first year with respect to financial aid.

**Financial Aid Calendar**

Prior to May

**Find a summer job.** We expect nearly all domestic students to contribute $2,300 toward educational expenses. These funds are meant to come from summer earnings, but the expectation could be covered by parents or extended family members, savings, outside scholarships, or a loan.

**Apply for outside scholarships.** They may help to reduce the amount your family is responsible for paying.

May

**Set up and log in to your MyAid portal.** You will receive instructions this month. This portal contains all information related to financial aid while you’re enrolled at Bowdoin.

**Set up your QuikPay account so you receive your billing notification in July.** You will receive instructions from the Bursar’s Office this month. If you would like to give your family access to view your semester bill, be sure to create authorized payer accounts in QuikPay. QuikPay is the online system you will use to view and pay your semester bills from Bowdoin.

**Begin looking at flights if you are traveling to campus from far away.**

June

**If you indicated on your CSS Profile that a sibling will be enrolled full time in an undergraduate program, complete the sibling enrollment information form.** You may find this in the Forms and Resources section of your MyAid portal.

July

**You will receive the fall semester bill in the first week of July.** Plan ahead with your family to determine how you’ll pay for your fall semester.

**Sign up for a July phone call with your financial aid counselor if you’d like assistance making a plan to pay for the fall semester bill.** You will receive an email inviting you to sign up for an appointment in mid-July.

**Complete the loan application and request process if you plan to borrow for the upcoming year.** You can find instructions in the Forms and Resources section of your MyAid portal.

**If you have not done so already, finalize your transportation plans to arrive to campus for orientation.**

August

**The fall semester bill is due in the first week of August.** Be sure to complete the Bursar’s Office Student Payment Survey if you’re expecting outside scholarships or 529/College Savings Plan payments to arrive after the due date.

September

**Make travel plans if you plan to go home for fall break or Thanksgiving break, especially if you need to book a flight.**

October

**You may begin completing the FAFSA and CSS Profile for next year on October 1.**

**Review your financial aid application requirements in your MyAid portal.**

**Attend a Financial Aid 101 session if you have questions or concerns about how to apply for aid for the upcoming academic year or about financial aid in general.** You will receive an email invitation in mid-October.

**Make travel plans for winter break, especially if you need to book a flight.**
November
Sign up for a Financial Aid 202 appointment with your financial aid counselor if you would like assistance completing your financial aid application for next year. You will receive an email invitation in late October or early November.

December
You will receive the spring semester bill in the first week of December. Plan ahead with your family to determine how you'll pay for your spring semester.

January
The fall semester bill is due in the first week of January. Be sure to complete the Bursar’s Office Student Payment Survey if you're expecting outside scholarships or 529/College Savings Plan payments to arrive after the due date.

Your financial aid application materials for the upcoming academic year are due by January 15. Review your financial aid application requirements in your MyAid portal.

Make travel plans for spring break if you plan to leave campus, especially if you need to book a flight.

March
Make travel plans for the end of the school year if you have not already done so.

June
Your financial aid for the upcoming academic year will be available in your MyAid portal in mid-June. You will receive an email when the information is available.

A note about planning ahead for travel:
Students are generally responsible for planning and paying for their own travel arrangements, and most students use their earnings from summer and on-campus employment to pay for transportation. Flights, trains, and buses are likely to be less expensive if you book earlier. Booking a roundtrip ticket is also generally less expensive than booking two one-way tickets. Therefore, it pays to plan your travel schedule well in advance. We recommend comparing costs on several different websites before making a final decision. Below is an example travel schedule:

**ROUNDTRIP #1:**
- Arrive on campus for orientation
- Return home for winter break

**ROUNDTRIP #2:**
- Arrive on campus before spring semester classes begin
- Return home for spring break

**ROUNDTRIP #3:**
- Arrive on campus at the end of spring break
- Return home for summer break

It's up to you to decide how often you'd like to return home. Students are generally able to stay on campus during shorter breaks, but they may need to notify the appropriate offices if they choose to stay. Students must obtain special permission to stay on campus during winter break.

Questions? Call us at (207) 725-3144, email us at sao@bowdoin.edu, or stop by Ashby House at 254 Maine Street.