How Bowdoin determines your aid:
We identify the gap between the total cost to attend and a family’s ability to pay.

1. We take the total cost (tuition, fees, room and board, books, personal expenses, and sometimes travel).
2. And subtract your family’s financial share (Family share is based on income, assets, and household information and includes the student’s contribution, which is typically an amount determined based on summer earnings, savings, etc.).
3. The difference is your financial need.
4. Bowdoin’s loan-free* aid packages—typically composed of an on-campus work expectation and grants—fill the gap.
   *Families may elect to use loans to help finance their share of the costs.

Because of the pandemic, the College has taken extraordinary measures to ensure the health and safety of our campus community while continuing to ensure access and affordability for all students, regardless of financial need.

Bowdoin made the following adjustments to our standard policies for aided students for 2020–2021, which resulted in additional grant consideration—and potentially a refund for our highest need students to use for expenses not billed by the College.

- The student summer contribution was waived (usually $2,300 per year).
- The campus work expectation was waived (usually $2,200 per year).
- At-home living expenses were factored into aid packages for students not residing on campus ($2,500 per semester).

Additionally, tuition was kept at 2019–2020 levels for all Bowdoin students.

A wide range of family income brackets qualify for aid at Bowdoin:

- 50% of the class received aid
- $49,250 average Bowdoin grant
- $5,250 average outside grant
- $1,900 typical campus employment contribution
- $2,300 typical student contribution
- $21,200 average family contribution

During a typical year, employment is available to all interested students.

Go to bowdoin.edu/student-aid to estimate your potential aid package.
Parents and families—we’re here to help.

We are committed to making Bowdoin affordable for your family. We’re ready to work closely with you on a one-on-one basis and do the best we can to ensure your financial circumstances allow your student to attend Bowdoin. We’re serious—just ask us.

Jeremiah Brown ’23

Hometown: Cabot, Arkansas
Intended Major: Sociology and Education (coordinate major)
Intended Minor: Economics and Finance

“When I visited Bowdoin, I fell in love with the College. Thinking I could attend felt like a dream, and when I met with my financial aid counselor I realized my dream could become a reality. Cost was the deciding factor in my college choice and I picked Bowdoin because they think about financial aid differently. When my family’s financial situation worsened, my aid increased. If you’re admitted, Bowdoin works to make sure the cost is feasible.

I come from a single-parent, low-income household in rural Arkansas. The Student Aid Office (SAO) has worked with me throughout the application process and during my time here to ensure that my education remains financially attainable. Financial aid is only one of the reasons I’m happy with my choice, but for my mother it’s the main reason—in large part because SAO has been committed to helping us.”