

# Outside Scholarships

Have you wondered about how to find outside scholarships and whether it's even worth pursuing? We think it is—and we have recommendations to help you.

Bowdoin's policy aims to let students benefit from their outside scholarship as much as possible. Your Bowdoin Grant is only reduced if:

Your total financial aid exceeds the cost of attendance\*  
OR Federal regulations require us to do so

**\*COST OF ATTENDANCE = Tuition/Fees + Room + Books/Supplies + Meals + Personal Expenses + Transportation**

## In what circumstances would federal regulations require a Bowdoin Grant to be reduced?

A Bowdoin Grant is unlikely to be reduced for a student who does not receive federal grant aid, including Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Please contact the Student Aid Office (SAO) at [sao@bowdoin.edu](mailto:sao@bowdoin.edu) or (207) 725-3144 if you want to discuss your specific circumstances.

## Do outside scholarships impact federal loan eligibility?

Receiving an outside scholarship can reduce a student's Federal Direct Subsidized Loan eligibility. It will not reduce eligibility for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan or the Parent PLUS Loan, unless total resources exceed the cost of attendance.

## How are outside scholarships applied to my financial aid package?

In most cases, outside scholarships first replace your summer work and campus job expectations, which are \$2,300 and \$2,200, respectively. If the scholarship exceeds \$4,500, then it reduces either the parent contribution or the Bowdoin Grant, depending on what federal regulations require.

## When are outside scholarships usually applied to the student's financial aid package?

- Bowdoin does not generally add outside scholarships to a student's financial aid package until the Bursar's Office receives payment from the organization providing the scholarship.
- If you know you are receiving an outside scholarship, complete the Student Payment Survey for the Bursar's Office.
- Doing so will reduce the amount your family owes by the payment due date.
- The link to this survey is distributed with each semester's bill.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** If an outside scholarship does not materialize, your family will be required to pay the Bursar's Office the amount that you anticipated for the scholarship.

## Are tuition benefits considered outside scholarships?

No, tuition benefits from a parent's employer are considered to be a family resource and are a dollar-for-dollar replacement of the student's Bowdoin Grant.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Never pay a fee to find or apply for outside scholarships. Consult these resources to avoid scholarship scams:  
[Better Business Bureau](#)  
[College Board](#)  
[Federal Student Aid](#)

Diversify your scholarship search. Outside scholarships exist on multiple levels:

Local • State • Regional  
National • International

### Recommended resources for finding outside scholarships:

- High school guidance counselor
- Your organization affiliations
- Free scholarship search engines:  
[FastWeb](#)  
[Big Future](#) by the College Board  
[Going Merry](#)



If you still have questions or would like to discuss your specific circumstances, contact the Student Aid Office at [sao@bowdoin.edu](mailto:sao@bowdoin.edu), (207) 725-3144, or drop by Ashby House at 254 Maine Street.

Bowdoin College • Office of Student Aid  
Brunswick, Maine • [bowdoin.edu/student-aid](http://bowdoin.edu/student-aid)