



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

14 Questions and Answers about Investing in Your Education





AFFORDABILITY

Southwestern University: It's Your Kind of Place.

A rigorous but flexible curriculum.

Transformative experiences such as internships, student-led research, study abroad, and community engagement.

A tight-knit community of supportive faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

These are just some of the reasons Southwestern University is your kind of place. Our alumni will tell you that the *Southwestern Experience* prepared them to make groundbreaking contributions in a range of industries, from completing graduate degrees at Harvard, Duke, and MIT to working at the Smithsonian Institution and the U.N. Security Council. SU equips you with the ability to think creatively, make connections, and solve problems across multiple perspectives, which is why our graduates go on to become leaders and innovators throughout their lives.

Our alumni have demonstrated that the cost of attendance is not simply a four-year expense but rather a sound investment in your future. We also understand that most students need financial assistance in order to attend college.



“For me, Southwestern has given me countless opportunities to craft my education and my future into something of my own making, and it was worth every penny.”

—JASPER STONE '19

At Southwestern, we are committed to making our nationally ranked liberal arts and sciences education affordable for you and your family. We offer many financial-aid options for students, including both merit- and need-based aid, and our professional staff of admission and financial-aid counselors are ready to work closely with you to simplify the process, providing clear and honest information every step of the way.

This guide is designed to help answer some of your questions, but we invite you to reach out for more personalized guidance. To speak to one of our counselors, please call 1.800.252.3166, or email us at admission@southwestern.edu.

We look forward to helping you make Southwestern University *your* reality!

Tom Delahunt
Vice President for Strategic
Recruitment and Enrollment

 southwestern.edu

 facebook.com/southwesternuniversity

 [@SouthwesternU](https://twitter.com/SouthwesternU)

 [@SouthwesternU](https://www.instagram.com/SouthwesternU)



QUESTION 1

What are the overall costs for SU's current academic year?

Tuition & Fees	\$ 45,120
Room & Board	11,760
Books, Transportation, and Personal Expenses	2,700
Total	\$ 59,580

Southwestern's cost is comprehensive and includes

- Tuition for fall and spring semesters
- Access to our Center for Academic Success, mentoring, and our top-ranked Center for Career and Professional Development
- Admittance to athletic events and use of athletic facilities
- Tickets to fine-arts events, lectures, and concerts
- Guidance and advice in the Writing Center
- Cable TV, WiFi, and print services
- Weekly concerts, comedy shows, and movies
- Support for campus-wide green initiatives
- 100+ student organizations
- Library and research services
- 24-hour police protection

QUESTION 2

What makes the Southwestern Experience so different?

Recent events have taught us that we must be resilient and prepared for whatever may come. At Southwestern, you'll learn to adapt and solve complex problems while discussing fascinating topics with engaging, supportive professors. Living on our beautiful historic campus in Georgetown, just north of the Texas capital and the 11th largest city in the nation, you will apply classroom learning to real-world situations through dynamic internships. Moreover, our wide range of student organizations and volunteer opportunities will empower you to develop connections with people, between ideas, and across multiple perspectives.

These skills will make you competitive for top-tier graduate schools and employers. They will equip you to overcome the challenges of the future. And they will prepare you for meaningful engagement and achievement throughout your careers and life.



QUESTION 3

What is a merit scholarship, and how do I apply?

Merit scholarships are awarded to qualified students based on multiple facets presented in a student's application. Southwestern recognizes these students through a holistic review process, with considerations such as academic performance, rigor of classes, SAT or ACT scores, a personal essay, leadership, extracurricular activities, volunteer service, and other components that help us get to know you better.

For your convenience, your application for admission also serves as your application for our general merit-based scholarships. No extra forms or essays needed!

Merit scholarships are typically awarded electronically within 72 hours of a student's offer of admission and can be found by visiting the student's Personal Admission Portal at southwestern.edu/myapplication.

QUESTION 4

What are Southwestern's competitive scholarships?

The Brown Scholarship (valued at \$33,000 per year) is Southwestern's most prestigious and competitive award. Candidates must rank minimally in the top 5% of their high-school class or—if their high school does not assign class rankings—have the equivalent of a 3.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale. No SAT or ACT scores are required in the 2021 application cycle. All candidates must interview by February 1, and finalists must participate in our scholarship weekend March 7–8, 2021.

The Bishop T. Dixon Jr. Scholarship (starting at \$2,000 per year) is a competitive supplemental scholarship program benefiting high-achieving African-American, Hispanic, and Native-American students. Scholarship amounts are added to existing merit scholarships. Applicants must rank minimally in the top 10% of their high-school class or—if their high school does not rank—have the equivalent of a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale. All candidates must interview by February 1, and finalists must participate in our scholarship weekend March 7–8, 2021.

The Garey Scholarship program recognizes academic excellence and awards students up to \$5,000 for two high-impact experiences (e.g., study abroad,



internship, collaborative research, or civic engagement) during their Southwestern career. Candidates must rank in the top 10% of their high-school class or—if their high school does not rank—have the equivalent of a 3.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale. No SAT or ACT scores are required in the 2021 application cycle. All candidates must interview by February 1, and finalists must participate in our scholarship weekend March 7–8, 2021.

“My decision to attend Southwestern was not easy due to the distance from home and the cost of attendance. However, scholarships have allowed me to pursue my goals, study abroad, and earn an amazing education without having to place a financial burden on my family.”

—JOSE MELENDEZ, CLASS OF 2020

QUESTION 5

What is need-based financial aid, and are there any tools to help me get an estimate of what I can qualify for?

We understand that some families will be unable to meet the cost of a Southwestern education without additional resources and strongly encourage you to apply for need-based assistance. Need-based financing options include

- Federal options, such as Pell Grants and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOGs)
- Options for Texas residents, such as the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
- Southwestern need-based grants
- Work-study
- Stafford Loans and PLUS Loans for Parents

We encourage you to use our online Net Price Calculator to get a preliminary estimate of the financial assistance you may receive at Southwestern. You can find it at southwestern.edu/aidcalculator.





QUESTION 6

How do I apply for need-based financial aid?

Beginning October 1, you may submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.gov. Based on the family income and asset information provided on the form, Southwestern will assess your eligibility for need-based aid and calculate a financial aid package for you. Southwestern's FAFSA school code is **003620**.

Our Financial Aid office will begin electronically releasing need-based awards in mid-November through the student's Personal Admission Portal following an offer of admission.



QUESTION 7

What are the key FAFSA deadlines and release dates for the current year?

Application Deadline	FAFSA Submission Deadline	Aid Award Release Begins*	Deposit Deadline
Early Decision	December 2	November 15	January 1
Early Action	March 2	December 15	May 1
Regular Decision	March 2	January 15	May 1

**Pending admission to Southwestern University*

“We feel that the four years our son went to Southwestern were a great investment. Not only is he gainfully employed in his field, but his four years on campus enriched his life in ways that can’t be economically quantified.”

—NANCY STRONG, PARENT OF A 2018 SU GRADUATE

QUESTION 8

Does Southwestern participate in any veterans education programs?

In accordance with the Principles of Excellence outlined in Executive Order 13607, Southwestern University is proud to offer options to service members, veteran students, and their dependents.

Southwestern participates in both the Post-9/11 GI Bill* and the Yellow Ribbon Program. Visit southwestern.edu/aid/veterans for more information.

** GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by the VA is available at the official U.S. government website at benefits.va.gov/gibill.*

QUESTION 9

Can you give me information about the Class of 2020's average loan amount?

The average amount borrowed by Southwestern's class of 2020 was **\$31,832**.
The national average student loan debt is **\$32,731**.*



*Forbes





QUESTION 10

*How successful are Southwestern graduates
in paying back their student loans?*

The student loan default rate among Southwestern graduates is 3.7%. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the national federal student loan default rate (for fiscal year 2016, the latest information available) was 10.1%. This means that **96.3%** of Southwestern alumni are graduating with smaller amounts of debt and are successfully landing jobs after graduation that enable them to pay off their loans.

“My son flourished at Southwestern. It was the best thing ever for him because he got to work academically but still play DIII soccer and play music with the orchestra. It’s wonderful Southwestern allowed him to do all the things he wanted to do, not only scholastically... He’s now finishing his third year of medical school, is about to start his first year of an M.B.A., and then he’ll finish his fourth year of med school. We love Southwestern.”

—MARY BETH LIGHT, PARENT OF A 2017 SU GRADUATE

QUESTION 11

Of the students who graduate from Southwestern, what percentage of students do so in four years?



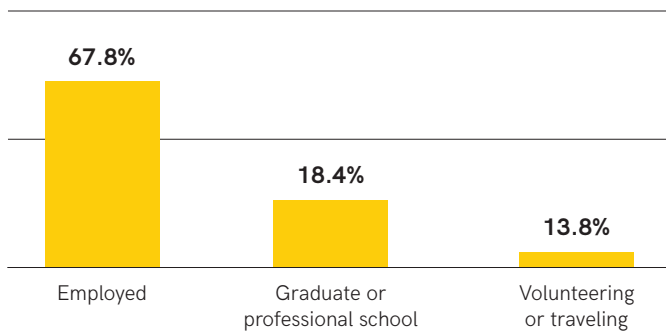
Among students who received a degree from SU, our four-year graduation rate was **90%**.

QUESTION 12

Can you tell me a little bit about previous class outcomes?

We know you're thinking about your return on investment, as you should. College is a significant expenditure, and you want to know that you're making a solid, worthwhile investment in your future.

Class of 2019 outcomes



“Emily has had a wonderful experience at SU. To say that SU has changed her life for the better is not an understatement. She is a better learner, thinker, and writer having attended SU. ...It's hard to put a price tag on an experience for your child that is so life changing. She has a broad background and is well prepared to attend graduate school. We are very pleased with her academic experience.”

—JENNIFER CAMPBELL, PARENT OF A 2020 SU GRADUATE

QUESTION 13

What if my financial circumstances have been affected by COVID-19 or other major life events?

Southwestern offers an Emergency Scholarship to assist families who have been impacted by a major life event, including the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, if your financial circumstances are negatively affected by a job loss, major medical expenses, the death of loved one who is contributing to paying for your education, or other significant experiences at any time during your undergraduate career, we are more than happy to reevaluate your financial-aid eligibility. To be considered for either of these opportunities, please contact the Office of Financial Aid, and we will be happy to assist you.



QUESTION 14

OK, all this information is helpful, but I still have questions about the process. Is there someone at Southwestern who can help?

Definitely! We have a dedicated staff ready to help you navigate the process and make your dream a reality. We're happy to talk with you over the phone, in person, or via email so that you feel comfortable with the financial aid process and your options.

Contact us directly at **1.800.252.3166** or **admission@southwestern.edu**. We look forward to working with you and your family!



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

1001 East University Avenue
Georgetown, Texas 78626

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN TX
PERMIT NO 25

TO THE FAMILY OF

 FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

14 Questions & Answers about Investing in Your Education