

Financial Aid from the State of Ohio

For the 2017-18 academic year, Ohio offers to its residents a simple palette of financial aid programs much reduced from previous years, the result of policy decisions in 2007 and 2009 to support institutional subsidies and a cap on tuition increases at public colleges and universities over financial aid directed to students. The state now offers a single need-based financial aid program to students in the public, independent, and for-profit sectors. Four grant programs offer awards to students in certain specific categories for varied public purposes. All state aid programs are intended to cover tuition costs only, unlike federal aid that can be used to cover room, board, books, and other expenses beyond tuition.

Need-based Aid

The **Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)**, which gave its first awards in the fall of 2006, is the state's need-based student aid program. A student whose family earns less than \$96,000 annually and whose estimated family contribution, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Education, is less than \$2,190 is eligible for an award. Current policies on this aid program include:

- Students who attend a public, nonprofit, or for-profit college are eligible;
- A student whose Pell grant completely covers tuition, books, and transportation costs does not receive an OCOG award, unless in a summer term Pell eligibility is exhausted;
- Awards for all eligible students in each sector are the same: at nearly all independent colleges, a full-time student in 2017-18 receives \$3,072 for two semesters or three quarters of study; and part-time students receive pro-rated amounts depending on their course loads.

OCOG replaced the Ohio Instructional Grant, the state's first need-based student aid program.

Merit-based Aid

The **Ohio Academic Scholarship** completed its phase-out in the 2015-16 academic year.

Aid Based on Neither Need nor Merit

The **Choose Ohio First Scholarship** is designed to encourage study and degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Awards for undergraduate study at participating public and independent colleges range from \$1,500 to about \$5,000.

Categorical grants include the **Ohio War Orphans Scholarship**, the **Ohio Safety Officers Memorial Fund**, and the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship**. War Orphans and Safety Officers grants go to the survivors of police officers, firefighters, soldiers and others who die in the line of duty. National Guard scholarships serve as an incentive for enlistment. The awards are equal to the total amount of public college tuition and fees, or an equivalent dollar amount at an independent college.

Repealed by the 2009 budget law was the **Student Choice Grant**, which for nearly a quarter century had offered incentive grants to Ohio-resident students attending private nonprofit colleges to stay in their home state for their education.

OHIO STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Fiscal Years 2014-2017, Corresponding to Academic Years 2013-14 through 2016-17

Source: Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio General Assembly

Program	Fiscal Year 2014 Expenditures	Fiscal Year 2015 Expenditures	Fiscal Year 2016 Expenditures	Fiscal Year 2017 Expenditures
Ohio College Opportunity Grant	\$80,855,553	\$89,035,728	\$93,472,188	\$94,431,659
Ohio Academic Scholarship	5,744	3,000	—	—
Ohio War Orphans Scholarship	5,888,674	5,057,523	6,880,794	7,081,153
Ohio Safety Officers Memorial Fund	323,716	320,554	324,457	277,586
Ohio National Guard Scholarships	18,405,529	17,750,671	19,079,011	19,173,596
Choose Ohio First Scholarships	14,538,533	14,949,885	11,517,229	10,997,963

Note: The Ohio Academic Scholarship phaseout was supported by funds appropriated for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant. The Safety Officers Memorial Fund has no dedicated appropriation and is funded from other line items.

NEED-BASED OHIO FINANCIAL AID EXPENDITURES BY SECTOR

Fiscal Years 2009 and 2011-2016, Corresponding to Academic Years 2008-09 and 2010-11 through 2016-17

Source: Office of Financial Aid, Ohio Department of Higher Education

Sector	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2017
	TOTAL Ohio Need- Based Aid	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	Ohio College Opportunity Grant
4-Year Public	\$67,884,091	\$39,294,012	\$29,559,972	\$36,648,252	\$36,811,962	\$39,822,807	\$46,648,086	\$48,521,332
2-Year Public	57,007,625	18,557	33,124	38,306	31,050	41,268	1,023,084	779,222
Independent Nonprofit	43,504,966	34,290,785	35,576,669	42,880,110	36,350,279	41,598,681	39,091,724	40,406,171
For-Profit	56,142,631	0	9,253,840	6,018,183	7,230,641	7,150,565	6,336,431	4,333,416
Pennsylvania (reciprocity)	346,749	474,470	506,950	463,353	431,621	422,407	372,864	391,518
TOTAL	\$224,886,062	\$74,077,823	\$74,930,555	\$86,048,204	\$80,855,553	\$89,035,728	\$93,472,188	\$94,431,659

Note: From FY 2006 through 2009, a separate need-based student aid program was phased out and replaced with the Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

