

# M1 Student Checklist

Things to do before beginning classes in August!

---

## Apply for financial aid:

March 1, 2026 priority consideration deadline for need-based aid

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Complete and submit the [Financial Aid Request Form](#)

\*If applying for need-based aid:

- Complete and submit the [CSS Profile](#)
  - For divorced/separated parents: submit a separate [Non Custodial CSS Profile](#)
- Submit signed copies of 2024 Federal Taxes (you, your spouse, and your parents):
  - 1040 Tax Return
  - All Schedules
  - W2s
- Didn't file taxes? [Complete the Non-Filing statement](#)
  - Request the [IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter](#)
  - Does your [parent need to file a non-filing form?](#)
- Monitor your financial aid eligibility requirements on GWeb for missing or incomplete items

**\*Complete this list at least four weeks before classes start**

Applying for private loans (more information will be provided in April 2026)

- Determine amount of loan up to cost of attendance less other aid
- Choose a lender and apply at least four weeks in advance of the first day of classes

## Once you receive your financial aid offer:

- Accept, reduce or decline your offer on the student [portal](#), GWeb.

Review [Cost of Attendance](#), August 2026 to May 2027 (published in March):

- Consider Summer 2027 cost outside of the budget

- Complete Entrance Counseling online at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Complete a [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#)

## Final Steps:

- Schedule a one-on-one counseling session with a financial aid advisor
  - \*must be completed by the end of the fall semester. An **email will be sent in July** inviting you to make appointments.

If you have accepted more than the cost of tuition:

- Setup direct deposit for refunds via BankMobile
- Complete [online student authorizations](#) through the student portal<sup>2</sup>. Read these carefully.
- If you have your own health insurance, submit [Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\) waiver](#) by deadline<sup>3</sup>
- If you have a requirement on your portal to submit the [Sibling Verification](#), please do so by October 1

<sup>1</sup> Student account eBill's are administered by the GW Student Accounts Office: [sao@gwu.edu](mailto:sao@gwu.edu), or 202-994-7350

<sup>2</sup> Online Authorizations are administered by the GW Student Accounts Office

<sup>3</sup> SHIP is administered through the GW Colonial Health Center, <https://healthcenter.gwu.edu/health-insurance>