QuestBridge National Match

Grinnell College
Office of Financial Aid

Students admitted to Grinnell through the QuestBridge National Match (QBNM) are a vital part of our campus community and are guaranteed to have a $0 parent contribution for all eight semesters of enrollment.

What does financial aid look like for QBNM Scholars?

Grinnell meets the full demonstrated need of all students, including QBNM Scholars. This means Grinnell meets the difference between the cost of attendance and your family contribution with financial aid. These terms are explained below.

Cost of Attendance
The cost of attendance refers to the cost of one year at Grinnell, including direct and indirect expenses. Direct expenses appear on the billing statements from Grinnell. These typically include tuition, fees, housing, and food (meal plan). Books and essential course materials are included in the cost of tuition. Indirect expenses do not appear on the bills from Grinnell, and they include transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses. You may spend more or less than the estimated indirect expenses included in the cost of attendance.

Family Contribution
The family contribution comprises two parts: parent contribution and student contribution. Being a QBNM Scholar guarantees a $0 parent contribution for all four years at Grinnell. However, all QBNM Scholars have a student contribution of at least $2,500 annually. Your student contribution could be higher if you have assets such as savings, investments, or retirement accounts. It is meant to be paid with earnings saved from a summer job, but it can be covered by student savings, family savings, outside scholarships, loans, or other resources.

Financial Aid
The difference between the cost of attendance and your family contribution is covered as follows:

- $3,100 student employment for new students and $3,300 student employment for returning students
- The remainder is covered by grants from the federal government, state government, Grinnell College, and/or private sources

Grants and scholarships are gift funds that do not need to be repaid.

Who pays for the QBNM Scholarship program?

Grinnell College funds the Grinnell Grant for QuestBridge that meets remaining need after federal and state funds (if applicable).

Do I have to reapply for financial aid annually?

Yes, the reapplication process opens October 1 each year. You will receive instructions for how to reapply for financial aid, and the deadline to do so is in the spring. More information about reapplying is also available on the Grinnell College website.

A Note about Health Insurance

All Grinnell College students are required to have U.S.-based health insurance that complies with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) while they are enrolled. As such, Grinnell offers a health insurance policy for students who are not otherwise covered. All students see a charge for the health insurance policy on the fall semester bill annually. You have two options:

1. If you are already covered by an ACA-compliant family health insurance policy that provides in-network benefits in Iowa, you can waive the Grinnell health insurance in the summer, and the charge will be removed from your bill.
2. If you are covered by a non-compliant policy (including out-of-state Medicaid) or do not have health insurance, you will be required to enroll in the College's health insurance.

If you are required to enroll in the College's health insurance policy, you can request financial assistance to cover the cost of the insurance. This process opens annually in the summer. More information is on the Student Health Insurance Assistance page in the online financial aid office (student login required).

Do QBNM Scholars receive a "full ride?"

No. All students have a student contribution of at least $2,500. In addition to your student contribution, your financial aid includes at least $3,100 in student employment, which must be earned by working on campus. In total, a QBNM Scholar is expected to contribute at least $5,600 toward their education annually through a combination of summer and school year earnings. You may choose to use other resources, such as personal savings, assistance from family members, outside scholarships, or loans, if you do not plan to use earnings from work to pay for educational expenses.

Will I owe a balance on my semester billing statements?

Unless you receive significant outside scholarships, you will owe something each semester. You can estimate your balance due as follows: direct expenses minus grants and scholarships equals estimated balance due.

Student employment does not appear on the bill since you must choose how many hours to work on campus, if at all. All student employees are paid an hourly wage bi-weekly based on hours worked. Earnings can be direct deposited into a personal bank account, applied toward the student bill, or a combination of both. More information is on the Student Employment page on GrinnellShare (student login required). Students with student employment in their financial aid who plan to work can carry a balance due in the amount of their student employment expectation for the semester. You must make regular payments toward this balance throughout the semester, and the balance must be paid off by the end of the semester. Students who want to use this option must submit the Student Intent to Work form and are encouraged to set up payroll deduction. Email the Office of Student Accounts after you receive your bill if you are interested in this option and have questions.

Grinnell College bills by semester. Most direct expenses for the year are charged half in the fall and half in the spring. One exception is health insurance, which is typically charged in the fall semester only. The fall semester bill is issued in June and due in July, and the spring semester bill is issued in November and due in December.

Will my financial aid cover my transportation and other expenses that do not appear on the bill from Grinnell?

No. You should have a plan in place to pay for all indirect expenses, including transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses. Summer earnings may be the best resource for these expenses. If you receive significant outside scholarships, it is possible that part of those funds could cover some indirect costs.

Who should I contact if I need help making a plan to pay for college?

The Office of Financial Aid is happy to help you. You can call 641-269-3250 or email us.

If you need assistance with budgeting your earnings and thinking about ways to save money on indirect expenses, reviewing the Budgeting Tip Sheet (PDF) may be helpful.