



Hi, Welcome to A. P. U. S. I'm Jodi, and I'm here to help you learn more about financing your education. You've already made a wise investment in your future by deciding to enroll in college, because it's a well-known fact that the further you go with your education, the more you can earn. So, let's get started.

When considering how to pay for college, you should *always* investigate the interest-free options first; for example, military tuition assistance, veterans benefits, employer tuition assistance, scholarships and payment plans. Click the boxes to my left or right for more information on each of these options.

If these options don't cover your educational expenses, you may qualify for *federal student aid*. In fact, 19 million students* used federal grants and loans to pay for their education last year. (*Source: National Center for Education Statistics)

American Public University System may provide federal student aid to students who pursue degree programs at APUS, with a few exceptions. Students who enroll in APUS programs that are eligible for federal student aid must meet other requirements for receipt of federal student aid as well. If you have questions about your eligibility for federal student aid, please click the help box for assistance.

The federal student aid process can be a bit overwhelming, but we're here to make the process easier by walking you through the types of aid available. And if you choose to apply for federal student aid, our virtual financial aid office will guide you through the entire application process.

Most federal student aid is administered by the United States Department of Education. Let's talk briefly about that first.

Federal grants are amounts the U.S. government *gives* to undergraduate students who qualify to help them pay for their education. This means that, except in rare cases, these amounts do not have to be paid back. Another way of thinking about it is: This is the portion of your education costs that the government *pays for you*.

Federal loans are amounts banks and other financial institutions, with assistance from the U.S. government, *lend* to students to help pay for their education. As a general rule, no payments are required on these loans while you're in school, and

repayment typically begins six months after you leave school, *whether you complete your course of study or not*. Federal loans are low-interest-rate, long-term loans that are repaid over 10 years or more beginning six months after you leave school.

Two types of federal loans are available: *subsidized* and *unsubsidized*. Depending on your circumstances, you may need both types of loans for each academic year. The main difference between the two types of loans is that *subsidized* loans don't accrue (or charge) interest until you begin repayment, while *unsubsidized* loans begin accruing interest from the time the school receives the loan proceeds on your behalf. And even though interest is being charged on an unsubsidized loan, as a general rule, no payments are due until you have stopped attending school for six months. The accrued interest is added to the amount you borrowed, unless you decide to pay the interest while you're in school.

If you already have federal student loans from another school, we may be able to help you apply for an in-school deferment, effectively postponing your payments until after you leave us. Simply contact your lender for an in-school deferment form and forward the completed form to us.

Because our tuition rates are very reasonable, *100 percent of the cost of our programs* can typically be covered by U.S. government loans! But remember, you can use *either* federal student aid *or* other resources – *or a combination of them* -to pay for your education. It's your choice.

Remember, federal student aid is available to those who qualify, and the type and amount of aid may vary, based on your individual circumstances and program of study.

So are you ready to find out how much federal student aid you might qualify for?

Okay, just click the Financial Aid Estimator icon, below. We'll see you in class!

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