



MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE

funding guide



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 4
FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

SECTION 2 6
GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS
LOAN FAQs

SECTION 3 11
FINANCIAL AID FOR APPRENTICES

SECTION 4 12
MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

SECTION 1: FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

For most students, attending college provides new opportunities. It also brings new expenses such as tuition, books, special supplies, additional costs related to practicum, work terms and certifications as well as accommodations, transportation, food and day to day living costs. The goal of Medicine Hat College is to assist you to plan realistically for these expenses and to make you aware of various funding options so that these expenses do not become barriers to your academic success and career goals.

Medicine Hat College Student Financial Aid is committed to assist you by providing awareness of the options and alternative programs available to finance your education (finaidinfo@mhc.ab.ca) or 403.504.3594.

PLAN AHEAD

When you are considering entering a program at Medicine Hat College, it is important to plan ahead, as many potential sources of financial support require application processes that take six to eight weeks from the time you first apply until you actually have money in your bank account. These processes often require that you provide detailed information about school, living expenses, sources of income support and personal resources.

FUNDING SOURCES

While it is not always possible, it is preferable to find ways of funding your education without accumulating debt. When starting with this as a goal, it is critical to explore all funding possibilities.

Personal Resources

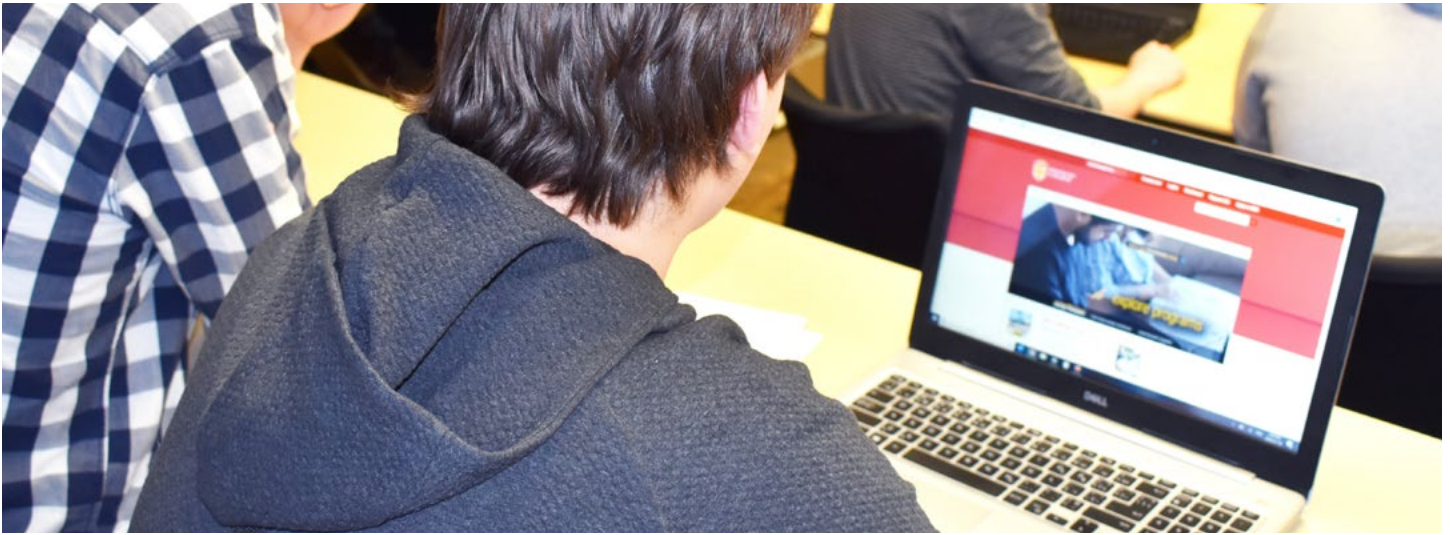
Personal resources include working income, savings or investments. It is important to note that many students work while attending classes; however, this potential source of income must be realistically balanced with the academic demands of your program and the amount of studying you need to do to be successful.

Contributions of Friends and Family

Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP)

Employer Plans

Employers may have a plan that supports or subsidizes higher education for their employees or the children of employees.



Sponsorships

If you are a student that will be sponsored it is important to let Financial Aid know as soon as possible. We require the student to complete consent forms so we are able to release information to the sponsor regarding tuition, fees, books, and any other fees the sponsor may be covering.

Student Loans

If government student loans are your choice, **make no assumptions about eligibility**. Many students are misinformed and fail to take advantage of loans when they are indeed eligible.

Chartered Banks

A student line of credit may be available from your chartered bank. You will need to contact your bank directly for information regarding its services and options.

Government Grants

For some programs, non-repayable funding is available. This funding, typically, is available to upgrading/college prep, EAP, and ESL. If you think you may be eligible for this type of funding, contact the Learner Income Support Office in Edmonton at 780.427.3722 or toll free at 1.800.282.6485.

You may also book an appointment with our advisor by calling 403.529.3819.

SECTION 2: GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS



Students attending a post-secondary institution can apply for a student loan through their provincial government. For Alberta loans, applications are available in June and are available online at studentaid.alberta.ca.

You must complete an application for the province in which you are a resident of, or the province in which you resided in twelve months prior to attending college. Check your province's website (a list of provincial student loan websites is provided in this guide) to determine which application is applicable to you. Do not delay funding by completing the wrong application.

We recommend you apply at least two months prior to the start of your classes.

Contact information is available on most provincial student loan websites.

It is important to note that provinces generally consider you to be dependent on your parents and ask you to include their financial information on government student loan applications unless you are one of the following (individual provinces may differ slightly):

- You are 23 years of age or older
- You have been out of high school for more than 4 years
- You have been available for full-time work for two or more years since leaving high school
- You are married or in a common law relationship
- You are divorced, separated, or widowed
- You are a parent

Apply by June 30th to ensure funding is in place by September. Funds are not actually transferred to your account until after classes have begun so ensure you have a plan in place to pay for textbooks.

If your loan funding is likely to be late, speak to us in Student Financial Aid about options available to you. If you apply late (after August 1st for Alberta and July 15th for most other provinces) the time from application to actually receiving funds is longer because of the volume of applications being processed by governments later in their cycle.

We strongly suggest you put interim or short term financing in place until your government loan funding arrives. We may be able to provide a deferral of your tuition costs. We are unable, however, to provide for the larger expenses such as accommodation, living and book costs.

GETTING YOUR STUDENT LOAN IS EASY!

Step 1: Know which institution and specific program you are applying for

The program you have applied for must match the program you are registered in or we cannot confirm your loan. You cannot transfer an approved loan from one institution to another. You may not be able to use funds approved for one program of study for another, depending on your province. If you change your mind about academic institutions or programs once you have been approved for a student loan, you may need to cancel your loan and re-apply. This can significantly delay the timing of approved funding and when it will be available to you.

Step 2: Processing (cashing) Your Alberta and Canada Student Loans

Once you have applied for a student loan and the application has been assessed by Alberta Student Aid, you will receive a "Notice of Assessment" (NOA) by email. This will detail the total funds you are receiving and when they will be released. Please keep this notice and read carefully as you may require it to assist you in budgeting your finances.

You will also receive a Canada Master Student Financial Assistance Agreements (MSFAA) - and an Alberta Student Aid Agreement. Dependent or married students may also receive a Consent and Declaration (C&D) form. Please note the MSFAA, the AB Agreement and C&D forms are typically only required the first time the student applies.

Alberta Student Aid Agreements must be completed electronically. Login to your Student Aid account and check your inbox for a letter with instructions for this process. Canada MSFAAs must be completed electronically. Login to your Student Aid account and check your inbox for a letter with instructions for this process.

It is important to check your email for information from both Alberta and Canada Student Loans and to follow the instructions in your email in order to process your student loans. If you miss the emails and do not complete the requirements your loan money will not be disbursed and you may be responsible to pay any tuition balance owing upfront and out of pocket.

Correcting Information on a Loan Agreement

If your name, date of birth, or Social Insurance Number, are incorrect on your loan agreement, you need to contact the Alberta Student Aid Service Centre to determine how to correct your information and request new loan agreements.

Step 3: Setting up your Federal and Provincial Loan Accounts

It is very important to set up accounts for both your Federal and Provincial loans as soon as you have received your loans.

These accounts enable you to:

- track loan balances
- track interest amounts and rates
- track any loan payments you have made
- receive important email updates from the government regarding your loan
- fill out interest free status forms
- change personal information

CANADA STUDENT LOANS:

www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca/

1-888-815-4514

ALBERTA STUDENT LOANS:

www.myloan.studentaid.alberta.ca

1-855-606-2096

PART-TIME STUDENT LOANS

Part time loans are available for students in post-secondary that are enrolled in 20-59% of a full-time course load (less than 9 credits or less than 6 credits for students registered with a disability). The loan application can be found on the Alberta Student Aid website (studentaid.alberta.ca) however it cannot be submitted electronically; a paper copy must be brought to Student Financial Aid. Please stop by our desk for questions regarding this process.

Once your loan has been assessed you will receive a “Notice of Assessment” (NOA) by email which will detail the total funds you are receiving. You will also receive a Canada Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) by email. Please ensure to follow the instructions included in the email to process your loan or your funds will not be released.

Check with Financial Aid before paying your tuition and fees.

GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOAN WEBSITES

Alberta	www.studentaid.alberta.ca	1.855.606.2096
B.C.	www.studentaidbc.ca	1.800.561.1818
Saskatchewan	www.saskatchewan.ca	1.800.597.8278
Manitoba	www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa	1.800.204.1685
Ontario	www.osap.gov.on.ca	1.807.343.7260
Quebec	www.afe.gouv.qc.ca	1.888.345.4505
New Brunswick	www.studentaid.gnb.ca	1.800.667.5626
Newfoundland & Labrador	www.gov.nl.ca/aesl/studentaid	1.888.657.0800
Nova Scotia	www.novascotia.ca/studentassistance	1.800.565.8420
Prince Edward Island	www.studentloan.pe.ca	1.902.368.4640
Northwest Territories	www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca	1.800.661.0793
Nunavut	www.gov.nu.ca/education	1.867.975.5600
Yukon	www.education.gov.yk.ca	1.867.667.5929
National Student Loan Service Centre	www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca	1.888.815.4514

OUT OF PROVINCE STUDENT LOANS

If you are a student coming from outside of Alberta you will be required to apply to the province or territory of which you are a resident.

Each province/territory have jurisdiction over their student loan programs and therefore have different applications, timelines, and requirements. Please ensure to apply early enough to leave adequate time for processing your loan. While we can advise for Alberta and Federal Student Loans we are not experts for other provincial programs so encourage you to contact them directly if you have questions. We have included the websites for each province and territory in this guide.

Application Deadline:

Your loan agreement must be received and processed by your loan provider before your study period end date. To allow for processing time, complete your loan agreement at least one month before your study end dates. If your loan agreement is not processed before your end date, funding will be cancelled.

Check with Financial Aid Before paying Tuition and Fees:

Whenever possible we will try to request your tuition and fees directly from your loan however in some circumstances we are not able to. Check with Financial Aid prior to the payment deadline to ensure what your payment status is. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure that tuition is paid by the payment deadline as listed in the College Calendar.

Do not pay prior to checking with Financial Aid as you may be paying twice! Refunds can take up to a month to process leaving your short of funds in the meantime so it pays to ask first.

If you previously had a student loan but do not want a loan for the current year:

If you are a full-time student and have had loans in the past, you can keep your loan in Interest Free Status by filling out Confirmation of Enrolment forms. If you are a part-time student you may not be able to remain interest free and will still be required to make payments on your existing student loans. Please contact Financial Aid to see if you will be required to fill out additional forms specific to your circumstance.



BEFORE APPLYING, WATCH OUR APPLICATION TUTORIAL:
WWW.MHC.AB.CA/SERVICES/FINANCIALAID/STUDENT-LOANS

GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS: FAQs

What if I am late applying for or receiving loan funding?

You will need to put short-term financing in place for such things as tuition, fees, books, supplies, accommodations and general living expenses until your loan funding is in your possession. Contact the Financial Aid Department about options if you anticipate difficulty securing short-term funding.

Why do I have to be registered for classes before my loan can be approved?

Before your full time loan can be processed by the government we must confirm that you are eligible for funding. You must be registered in post-secondary classes with a minimum of 9 credits or 6 credits with a permanent disability to be considered full time. We also confirm the program start and end dates are correct. If any of these conditions are not met, we cannot confirm your loan which could cause delays or possible cancellation of your loan.

Do I have to apply for students loans each year?

Yes, you have to apply each year for the current academic period. If you have a spring semester check with Financial Aid to see if you should apply for it separately as each province is different.

Can someone else apply for a loan on my behalf?

No. Student loans are a legal binding contract between you and the government so only you can fill out any required information. You cannot designate anyone to do this on your behalf.

Do I need to apply for Federal and Provincial Loans separately?

No. Only one application is required to be considered for Federal loans, Provincial loans, Federal grants and Provincial grants.

Contact information for Medicine Hat College Financial Aid Department:

Medicine Hat Campus

Email: finaidinfo@mhc.ab.ca

Tel: 403.504.3594 or 403.529.3996

Fax: 403.529.4822

Toll Free: 1.866.282.8394

Brooks Campus

Tel: 403.362.1686 or 403.362.1688

Fax: 403.362.1474



SECTION 3: FINANCIAL AID FOR APPRENTICES

APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS:

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant – (AIG) (maximum of \$2000/person)

A \$1000 grant/year is available for students up to a lifetime maximum of \$2000/person.

Apprenticeship Completion Grant – (ACG) (maximum \$2000/person)

A \$2000 grant is available for students that have completed the final year of their program.

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women – (maximum of \$6000/person)

A grant of \$3000/year up to a maximum of \$6000 per person.

Further information and online applications can be found at www.canada.ca/apprentice.

APPRENTICESHIP LOANS:

Canada Apprentice Loan

Apprentices registered in a Red Seal trade apprenticeship will be able to apply for interest-free loans of up to \$4,000 per period of technical training.

For details and to apply online visit: www.canada.ca/apprentice.

Alberta Student Loan

You may apply for an Alberta student loan for your apprenticeship period as well as for Pre-Employment training. The application will include assessment for a provincial loan as well as any grants you may be eligible for.

For further information and to apply online visit: www.studentaid.alberta.ca.

APPRENTICESHIP SCHOLARSHIPS:

AIT Scholarships

Various scholarships are available for Apprenticeship and Industry Training. For further information, visit: www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca.

MHC Scholarships

All MHC Apprentice scholarships are faculty selected based on donor criteria. You do not need to apply for these awards.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact our Medicine Hat or Brooks Campus by:

Email: finaidinfo@mhc.ab.ca

Tel: 403.504.2299

Toll Free: 1.866.282.8394

SECTION 4: MHC SCHOLARSHIPS

Medicine Hat College students receive on average over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and bursaries each year.

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Medicine Hat College Foundation, together with our alumni and supporters, has developed and administers a number of scholarships, awards and bursaries to assist you with funding your education at Medicine Hat College. These awards reflect the tremendous generosity and commitment to higher education of these individuals, associations, corporations, and the Medicine Hat College Board of Governors. Each year these funds are distributed according to the criteria stipulated by the donors.

It's easy to apply by simply filling out our online awards application form on our website:

www.mhc.ab.ca/scholarships

Scholarship applications open March 1st and close June 1st. When you complete our awards application, you are automatically considered for every award for which you may be eligible based on the individual award criteria.

Scholarships, awards and bursaries donors stipulate the criteria according to which the funds will be distributed. This could include a broad range of criteria such as academics, financial need, volunteerism, or any other criteria specified by the donor.

When completing the application, be sure to include all the requested information, as it may increase your chances of receiving a scholarship, award, or bursary.

Most scholarships, awards and bursary criteria require that you be registered as a full time credit student in a post-secondary program at the college for the year the funds are given.

Scholarships require a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (75%) and bursaries require a minimum GPA of 2.0 (60%).

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Three types of athletic scholarships are available to student athletes:

1. Government of Alberta Scholarships
2. College scholarships which are funded by MHC
3. MHC Foundation scholarships which are funded by various donors

Regardless of the funding source, athletic scholarships are awarded on a semester basis and adhere to the rules of the Alberta Government's Scholarship Program, ACAC Regulations as well as MHC Scholarship Policy.

All Rattlers scholarships are administered through the Student Financial Aid office. Information on the scholarship program can be requested through the Student Financial Aid office at 403.504.2299.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund has a number of scholarships they award each year. Some require a direct application from you as a student and others are done on the recommendation/nomination of Medicine Hat College. Those requiring our recommendation/nomination will be processed through our scholarship office according to the criteria and deadlines set by Alberta Heritage.

We suggest you visit their website as some of the application deadlines and amounts awarded change from year to year (www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships).

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY RESOURCES

Many other scholarships, awards and bursaries are available through sources such as local service clubs and agencies as well as personal or parental employer scholarship programs. You may find many of these on the internet. Additionally, we have included some external scholarship links on our website scholarship page. Be resourceful and persistent in your pursuit of funding options.

INTERNET RESOURCES

We suggest you invest some time to search through the Internet for scholarships, awards and bursaries. There is a vast amount of potential funding available to students. It does however require that you invest some of your time and creativity. We have listed a few sites that may offer additional information and scholarship opportunities.



SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES:

WWW.ALIS.ALBERTA.CA

WWW.STUDENTAWARDS.COM

WWW.SCHOLARSHIPSCANADA.COM

WWW.STUDENTSCHOLARSHIPS.ORG

WWW.SCHOOLFINDER.COM

WWW.YCONIC.COM

2020-2021

Medicine Hat College Funding Guide

ADVISING OFFICE	403.529.3819
BROOKS CAMPUS	403.362.1677
CAMPUS VISIT	403.529.3819
MEDICINE HAT CAMPUS	403.529.3811
STUDENT RESIDENCE	403.529.3820
TOLL FREE	1.866.282.8394

info@mhc.ab.ca
WWW.MHC.AB.CA

Medicine Hat College
299 College Drive SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 3Y6