



ABS N Financial Aid Guide



Visit absn.brenau.edu or call 470.823.8099.

Investing in your future

Congratulations on your decision to pursue an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) with the Mary Inez Grindle School of Nursing at Brenau University! You are making an investment in your future that will benefit you and the patients that you will one day serve.

Our commitment to you:

Everyone at Brenau University is dedicated to providing you an exceptional education and a positive and supportive experience on your way to achieving your goal of becoming a nurse.

The **benefits** of attending Brenau:

- Small class sizes.
- Personalized attention.
- Faculty commitment to your success.
- Modern nursing simulation facilities.

We understand that financial aid may seem complicated, but we are here to help you through the process. This financial aid guide will provide you with a starting point and a general overview of:

- How financial aid can help you.
- Understanding the cost of your degree.
- What to do before applying for financial aid.
- Financial aid options and resources.
- Applying for financial aid.

Please keep in mind that this guide is not to be considered comprehensive financial advice and that financial aid regulations, restrictions and availability are subject to change. If you have questions, please speak with the Financial Aid Office at 770.534.6152.

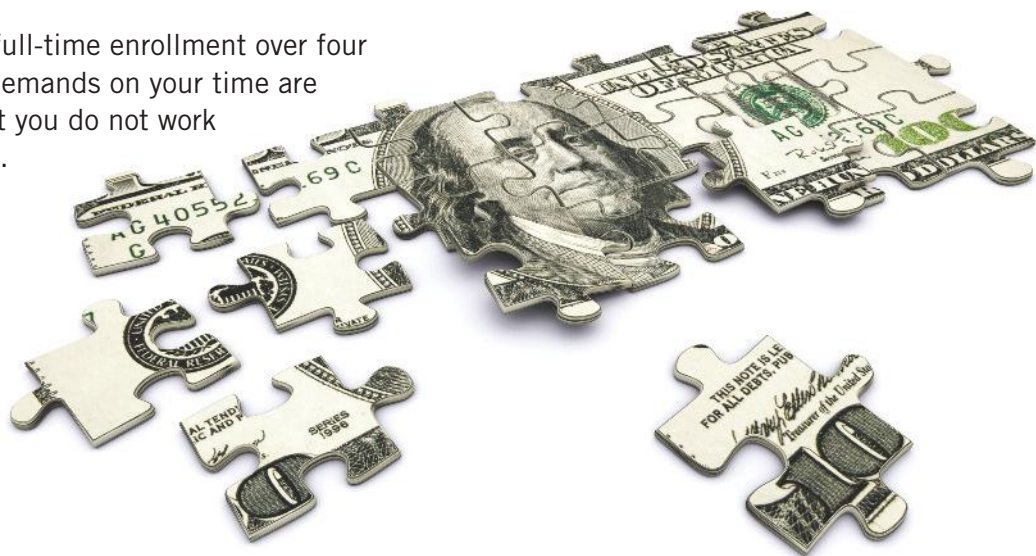


We're here to assist you.

How financial aid can help you:

The ABSN program requires full-time enrollment over four consecutive semesters. The demands on your time are such that we recommend that you do not work while enrolled in the program.

This requires you to have the ability to provide for the cost of your education. For many, financial aid is the only way to fund their education. Financial aid can assist with the costs associated with tuition, fees, books, etc.



Understanding the cost of your degree:

The purpose of financial aid is to fund your education. You should only apply for the amount of aid you need to help with your educational costs. Costs below are based on 2023-2024 rates:

Please keep in mind that these are estimated costs. There may be other fees and costs associated with your education including loan fees and interest, transportation expenses, incidentals, etc. Tuition and fee rates are subject to increases with the onset of each new academic year (*generally starting in August with the fall semester*). Interest rates and other costs are also subject to change.

Application Fee:	\$0
Admissions Testing Fee:	\$99
Program Deposit Fee:	\$300 (this will be applied to your tuition)
Tuition:	\$46,380 (60-credit program at \$773 per credit hour)
Books:	\$1,200 (estimated)
Liability insurance, testing, lab supplies and learning resources fees:	\$2,807
Institutional & Instructional Development Fee:	\$450
University Services Fee:	\$840 (\$210 per semester)
Estimated total:	\$52,076

What to do before applying for financial aid:

- 1 Determine how much money you will need for your education.**

Ask yourself how much money you have to cover your current obligations and then determine how much more you will need to fund your education. Do you have savings or investments that you can use to defray the direct and indirect costs of your education? Since you will not be working, you will need a complete picture of your financial situation to determine how much financial aid is necessary.

While you may be eligible for more financial aid funding than you actually need, it cannot be stressed enough: Only apply for the amount of financial aid you need to assist with funding your education. Financial aid should not be used for anything other than your education.
- 2 Confirm your acceptance.**

Before you begin the financial aid application process, make sure you contact the Admissions Office to apply for admission to the ASBN program. You may apply for financial aid while waiting for acceptance, but you must be accepted for admission before financial aid can be awarded.
- 3 Be aware of deadlines.**

Whether you are applying for loans from Brenau or for outside grants, scholarships or loans, be sure to be aware of application deadlines, qualification requirements and disbursement timing.
- 4 Explore your financial aid options.**

There are many different types of financial aid available, including grants, scholarships and loans from Brenau. Based on your specific situation you may be eligible for one or more of these options. Taking the time to discover funding options may save you money in the long run.
- 5 Obtain more financial aid information.**

Visit: www.brenau.edu/admissions/financialaid/apply/
This Brenau financial aid site provides valuable and detailed information about the financial aid process, answers to frequently answered questions, financial aid forms, financial aid links and more.
- 6 Do your career homework.**

Be realistic about how much money you will earn starting out as a nurse. Do research ahead of time on annual salaries in the markets you expect to work in and the type of institutions at which you may gain employment. By knowing your expected salary and your total monthly obligations, you can estimate your ability to make loan payments each month. Loans involve interest accruals and the costs of your loan can increase significantly based on how fast you are able to pay your loan(s) back; this is important to consider as loan payments may affect you financially for years.

Financial aid options and resources

Grants and scholarships

Grants and scholarships are nonrepayable sources of financial aid that are often available through higher education institutions, private foundations or state and federal governments. Spending a little time doing internet research will reveal numerous options that could help fund your education.

A grant specifically for Georgia residents is the Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG). Georgia TEG is available to students who meet Georgia residency requirements and enroll full time (*12 or more hours*) in an undergraduate program.

- If a student completed all or a portion of his/her previous undergraduate work at a Georgia private college or university, he/she may have already received funds for the maximum number of hours available in the program (*127 hours*).
- The Georgia TEG is currently valued at \$425 per full-time semester.
- To qualify, a student must be a resident of Georgia for 12 to 24 months prior to the semester for which the grant is requested, depending on whether he/she graduated from high school in Georgia.
- Military students stationed in Georgia, or those stationed elsewhere whose military record indicates Georgia as the home state of record, may qualify.

Note: No ABSN student will qualify for the Federal Pell Grant, per regulations that limit Pell Grants to the first bachelor's degree.

You may also find information about nursing grants and scholarships here:*

- **The American Association of Colleges of Nursing:** <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Students/Financial-Aid>
- **Nurse Journal:** <https://nursejournal.org/articles/nursing-scholarships-grants>
- **CollegeGrants.org:** www.collegegrants.org/nursing-college-grants.html
- **The American Association of Colleges of Nursing:** <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Students/Financial-Aid>
- **CollegeScholarships.org:** www.collegescholarships.org/nursing.htm
- **Community or professional scholarships:** www.scholarships4students.com
- **HRSA Health Workforce Nurse Corps Scholarship Program:** <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/nursecorps/scholarship>
- **Johnson & Johnson:** www.discovernursing.com/scholarships
- **Nursing.org:** www.nursing.org/scholarships
- **Scholarship search engine:** www.fastweb.com
- **U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool:** www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx

Note: No ABSN student will qualify for Georgia's HOPE Scholarship, per regulation that limits HOPE to the first bachelor's degree.

* Website listings do not constitute or imply an endorsement by Brenau University.

Financial aid options and resources *(cont.)*

Loans

Federal Direct Loans are the most common type of educational loans and they are funded by the federal government. Federal Direct Loans typically offer lower interest rates than private loans and can be either Direct Subsidized Loans or Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans

- Issued based on financial need.
- School determines the amount you may borrow based on school cost and other aid you may receive.
- Must be enrolled at least half time, six or more semester hours.
- Interest accrues after graduation or withdrawal.
- Six-month grace period before repayment begins.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- No requirement for financial need.
- School determines the amount you may borrow based on school cost and other aid you may receive.
- Interest accrues as soon as the loan is issued.
- You may choose not to pay interest while in school, but the interest will accrue during that time.

Each student should review his/her borrowing history and current loan statuses online at <https://nslds.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> and/or <https://studentaid.gov/>. It is important that students be aware of their cumulative loan debt and that they take appropriate actions to avoid default.

Aggregate Loan Limits: Students borrowing a Federal Direct Student Loan are subject to maximum allowable loan limits. The maximum Aggregate Loan Limit restricts the amount of Federal Student Loans that may be borrowed over a student's college career.

Aggregate Loan Limits – Federal Student Loans

Dependent Undergraduate Students	\$31,000 * No more than \$23,000 can be in subsidized loans.
Independent Undergraduate Students (and dependent students whose parents were denied a parent PLUS loan)	\$57,500 * No more than \$23,000 can be in subsidized loans.
Graduate Students	\$138,500 * The graduate aggregate limit includes undergraduate loans.

For more information about Federal Student Loans, including information on Aggregate Loan Limits, interest rates and more please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/>.

Financial aid options and resources *(cont.)*

Loans

Private education loans may be obtained at national or local banks, credit unions, state agencies or academic institutions and are often used to supplement Federal loans.

Brenau's private education loan platform

is hosted by Great Lakes Higher Education, and information can be found here: <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/155600/1>. Brenau's historical lenders and loan products are displayed on this site, but you are not required to use these specific lenders or products. Should you decide to use one of these lenders, be aware that:

- Loans are credit-based; students must meet credit requirements or have a credit-worthy cosigner.
- The Financial Aid Office is notified of loans awaiting certification.
- There is a typical 10-day delay on release of funds from Great Lakes disbursing system to Brenau to allow the student time to rescind the loan if desired.

Georgia Student Access Loan (SAL) is a low-interest loan of last resort for qualifying Georgia residents enrolled in an undergraduate program.

- SAL applicants must meet Georgia residency requirements.
- SAL applicants must file an annual FAFSA online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa> and demonstrate remaining financial need after agreeing to accept all available forms of financial aid (*except private education loans or Parent PLUS loans*).

- Eligible applicants are not guaranteed to be selected to receive SAL, as funds are limited, and applications are selected randomly throughout the annual application cycle, which typically begins around June 1.
- The Brenau Financial Aid Office will review and approve/decline all applications selected for Brenau students in accordance with program regulations.
- Loans can be certified for remaining need only, with the maximum annual loan being \$8,000 and the maximum semester loan being \$4,000.
- A monthly Keep In Touch (KIT) Payment of \$10 is required approximately 60 days after the first disbursement is received. The monthly KIT Payment is required while in school and while in grace period.

Military and veteran benefits

- Veterans Affairs education benefits, including Post-9/11 GI Bill: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>.
- Reduced tuition rate of \$250 per credit hour for active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserves.*
- Brenau offers a 10% discount on all courses to veterans, retirees and dependents of active duty personnel.*

* *Students must complete Brenau's Military Status Affidavit and provide supporting documentation.*

Applying for financial aid

Now that you have gained an understanding of your educational costs, obtained more information and explored your funding options, you are ready to apply for financial aid. Here are the things you need to do next:

1

Acquire a Federal Student Aid ID (FSAID).

Fill out the information requested at <https://studentaid.gov/> and you will receive a FSA Identification Number that you will need for your financial aid documents.

2

File your FAFSA.

Each student is encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. The information will be used to determine your financial aid eligibility. Brenau University needs this information on file, along with any supporting documents required for verification of the FAFSA, if applicable.

Brenau's school code for FAFSA is 001556.

3

Speak with a financial aid counselor at Brenau (recommended).

Understanding financial aid can be daunting, but we are here to provide you with helpful information and guide you through the process. **The Financial Aid Office can be reached at 770.534.6152 or financialaid@brenau.edu.**

Your nursing career starts here.



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