TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
NURSING

ABSN FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Congratulations *on your decision to pursue an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) with Texas Lutheran University! You are making an investment in your future that will benefit you and your future patients.*

Our commitment to you:

Everyone at TLU 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 TLU:

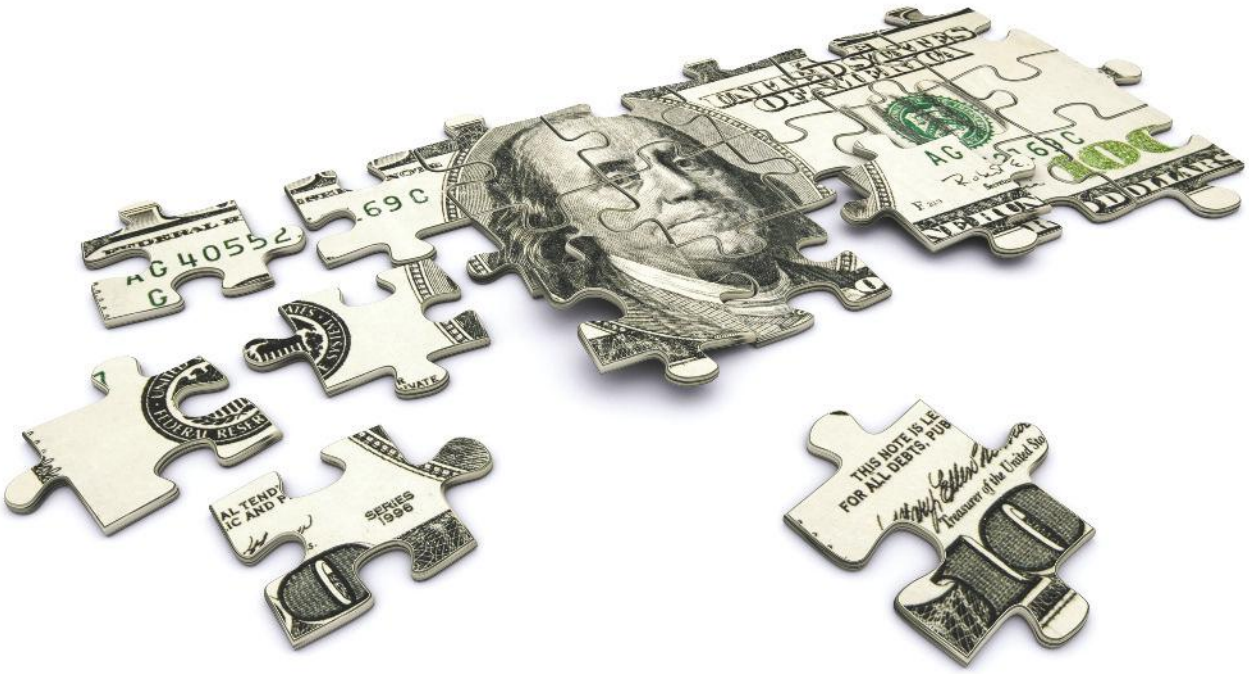
- Exceptional clinical preparation
  - Over 90% NCLEX pass rate
  - Over 95% job placement within 6 months of graduation
- Faculty mentorship and support
- Proven success in preparing nurses
- Small class sizes

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 contact your admission counselor at (833) 588-3777. After admission to the ABSN program, please contact Student Financial Services at (830) 372-8010 or StudentFinancialServices@tlu.edu***.

WE'RE HERE TO ASSIST YOU



How financial aid can help you:

Financial aid is a way to help you fund the cost of your education such as tuition, fees, books, etc. This can come from scholarships or loans. When borrowing, we encourage you to not borrow more than you need to pay your educational costs.

Understanding the cost of your degree:

Costs listed on the right are based on 2025-2026 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. Interest rates and other costs are also subject to change.

Tuition:	$54,000 *(60-credit program at $900 per credit hour)*
Student Services Fee:	$840 *($210 per semester)*
ATI Exam Fee:	$3,025 *($756.25 per semester)*
Books:	$3,000 *(estimated)*
Technology Fee:	$420 *($105 per semester)*
CPR Training:	$92
Castle Branch Fee:	$140 *(Houston)*, $130 *(NB)*
Background Check:	$45
Exam Soft:	$152 *($38 per semester)*
NCLEX Exam:	$375
Nurse Kit & Stethoscope:	$185
TEAS Test:	$115 *(per test)*
Total Estimated Cost:	**$62,389***

**Costs are estimates only.*

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 must 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 assist in 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: Borrow only what you need to assist with funding your education. Financial aid should not be used for anything other than your education.

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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 offered to you.

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3 ***Be aware of deadlines***

Regardless of the type or source of the aid for which you are applying, be aware of application deadlines, documentation requirements, and the timing of disbursements.

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4 ***Explore your financial aid options***

Students who have remaining Federal Direct Loan eligibility may borrow through the Direct Loan program at the annual Junior/Senior loan limits of up to $5,500 in Subsidized and $2,000 (dependent) or $7,000 (independent) Unsubsidized. No federal, state, or institutional grants are available for this program. Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships from external agencies. Links to free scholarship search engines are available on the next page.

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5 ***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 & RESOURCES

Grants and scholarships

Grants and scholarships are often available through local organizations and private foundations and are not required to be repaid. Spending a little time doing internet research will reveal numerous options that could help fund your education.

Options to explore include:

Parents of students considered dependent based on the FAFSA may apply for the Federal Parent PLUS loan at **studentloans.gov**.

Any student may apply for private/alternative loans. Some lenders who offer these loans are available at **https://beta.elmselect.com/?schoolid=358#/schoolLanding**.

Outside scholarships can be found by using free scholarship search services such as **fastweb.com**, **scholarships.com**, and **thescholarshipsystem.com** among many others. Be sure when looking for scholarships that you mention you are working toward a second bachelor's degree and your major is nursing.

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

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

FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS & 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

- Offered based on financial need.
- The government pays the interest on this loan for you while you are enrolled at least 6 credit hours (half-time).
- Eligibility is determined by your Cost of Attendance less your FAFSA Expected Family Contribution less any other scholarships/grants you receive. You may receive up to $5,500 per academic year or the amount of your need, whichever is less.
- Requires you to be enrolled at least half-time (6 or more credit hours) to be eligible to receive.
- Six-month grace period before repayment begins.
- Interest begins accruing 6 months after graduation, dropping below half-time, or withdrawing from all classes. i.e. after grace period is used.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Not based on financial need.
- Eligibility is determined by your Cost of Attendance less the Subsidized Loan offered and any scholarships or grants offered up to an academic year total Direct Loan (subsidized + unsubsidized) of $7,500 for dependent student or $12,500 for independent students.
- Interest accrues as soon as the loan is issued.
- You may defer 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 **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**

For more information about Federal Student Loans, including information on Aggregate Loan Limits, interest rates, repayment options and more please visit: **studentaid.gov.**

FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS & 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. For a list of potential lenders, visit **https://beta.elmselect.com/?schoolid=358#/schoolLanding**

Military & Veteran Benefits

- Veterans Affairs education benefits, including Post-9/11 GI Bill: **www.va.gov/education**

* *Students must complete TLUs 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 (FSA ID)*

Click on the Apply For Aid tab on **studentaid.gov** then Complete the FAFSA. If you don't have an FSA ID, click Start Here to create your FSA ID and password. You will use your FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA and complete Direct Loan applications, promissory notes, and entrance counseling.

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2 *File your FAFSA*

Each student is encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at **studentaid.gov**. The information will be used to determine your eligibility for federal student loans. TLU needs this information on file, along with any supporting documents required for verification of the FAFSA, if applicable.

TLU's school code for FAFSA is 003641

Once TLU has received your FAFSA, you will receive an email letting you know if we need additional documents from you. Once aid has been offered, you will receive an email letter letting you know that you can view your aid offer on *MyTLU.*

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3 *Have Questions?*

If you have not yet been admitted to the ABSN program, please contact your admission counselor at (833) 588-3777. Once you have been admitted to the ABSN program, please contact TLU's Student Financial Services at **StudentFinancialServices@tlu.edu** or (830) 372-8010.

Make a difference as a nurse

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NURSING

Visit acceleratednursing.tlu.edu or call (833) 588-3777