

FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION



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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. Our Student Financial Aid Office 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 assets that you can liquidate. 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

Friends and family may be resources to assist you. It is important to note that provinces generally consider you to be dependent on your parents and ask you to include financial information on government student loan applications unless you are (individual provinces may differ slightly):

- Out of high school for four years (or)
- Available to the full-time work force for two consecutive 12 month periods
- A parent
- Married

Employer Plans

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

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.
- Apply early to ensure funding is in place by September. Contact Student Financial Aid regarding application open date for current year.

- 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.

Provincial Government Student Loan Websites

Alberta	studentaid.alberta.ca
British Columbia	studentaidbc.ca
Saskatchewan	student-loans.sk.ca
Manitoba	studentaid.gov.mb.ca
Ontario	osap.gov.on.ca
Quebec	afe.gouv.qc.ca
New Brunswick	studentaid.gnb.ca
Newfoundland	aes.gov.nf.ca/studentaid/
Northwest Territories	ece.gov.nt.ca
Nova Scotia	studentloans.ednet.ns.ca
Nunavut Territory	edu.gov.nu.ca
Prince Edward Island	studentloan.pe.ca
Yukon	education.gov.yk.ca

Government Grants

For some programs, non-repayable funding is available. This funding, typically, is available to upgrading, apprenticeship programs 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.

Apprentices please contact the Student Financial Aid Office for further information on government grants at 403.504.3594.

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.

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Scholarship and Bursary Resources

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 of the College. Those requiring our recommendation/nomination will be done directly 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).

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. Many of these funds are not awarded each year because the individuals and organizations do not receive applications from individuals.

The sites listed are typical of commercial scholarship sites and are primarily intended for your awareness.

Scholarship Websites

- schoolfinder.com
- canlearn.ca
- yconic.com
- alis.alberta.ca
- scholarshipscanada.com

Medicine Hat College Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries

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.

How to Apply

Our scholarships, awards and bursaries applications are available through an on-line process on the Medicine Hat College website. To find the application, go to www.mhc.ab.ca/scholarships. The application deadlines are posted on the scholarship information page for your convenience. When you apply online, your application automatically enters you for every award you may be eligible for based on donor criteria.

Most scholarships, awards and bursary criteria require that you be registered as a full time credit student (taking at least nine credits each semester) at the college for the year the funds are given.

Scholarship, awards and bursaries donors stipulate the criteria according to which the funds will be distributed. These criteria include excellence in a number of areas, such as academics and volunteerism; demographic criteria, including ethnicity, home city/county and schools attended; and clubs and associations involvement, including Big Brothers and Sisters, Kiwanis and 4-H, among others. 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.

Athletic Scholarships

Three types of athletic scholarships are available to student athletes:

1. Jimmie Condon Scholarship which is funded by the Government of Alberta
2. College scholarships which are funded by the college
3. Private 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. 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.