

 Outlook

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## Your Journey to Jax State: Managing College Costs

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Hello Ug,

Welcome to another edition of Your Journey to Jax State! We're thrilled to see you on your way to becoming #JaxStateBound! Starting college can sometimes feel like learning a new language, so we've got you covered. Bookmark this link to navigate the common terms you'll hear throughout your college journey: [College Terms](#).

This week, we're diving into ways to manage college costs, from scholarships to financial aid options. Let's make sure you're set up for success!

## **Spotlight – Scholarships & Financial Aid**



**Merit-Based Scholarships:** At Jax State, these scholarships are automatically awarded to accepted freshmen based on their highest cumulative high school GPA, with no additional application needed—just one of the ways we make the process easier for you. Students who have a composite ACT or SAT score on file may qualify for a higher-valued scholarship, and updated test scores can be submitted until May 1 for reconsideration.

Test scores will not have the ability to lower your scholarship amount, only improve it. If you have any questions about your merit-based scholarship offer, we're here to help!

### Freshman Merit-Based Scholarship Structure »

**Competitive Scholarships:** The key to remembering these scholarships is that you need to "compete" for them by completing an application. There are several types of competitive scholarships:

1. **Leadership and Honors Scholarships:** These are exclusively for incoming freshmen, and each has its own set of criteria for students to apply.
2. **Performance Scholarships:** Available to both incoming and current Jax State students, these include scholarships in Theatre and Film, as well as Music & Band. Students interested in majoring in music at Jax State must audition for admission to the Dr. David L. Walters Department of Music. Your audition for a music scholarship (band, piano, vocal, or jazz) will also serve as your audition for the department.
3. **JAX App:** This is a simple, all-in-one application that allows both incoming and current students to apply for over 250 competitive scholarships. For example, an incoming freshman can apply for the Leadership Scholarship and also complete the JAX App to be considered for additional opportunities.

Each of these scholarships has its own application process, so be sure to review the requirements carefully below!

## Competitive Foundation Scholarship Info »

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®):** The 2025-2026 FAFSA, which all students starting in Fall 2025 need to complete, opens on December 1, 2024. Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA ® to determine your eligibility for financial aid, including grants, need-based scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

You must submit the FAFSA ® each year, but don't worry—with the right information, it's a simple process! Check out [this short video](#) that explains what the FAFSA is: FAFSA ® Explained. Jax State encourages all admitted students to complete the FAFSA ® . First-time freshmen who submit their FAFSA to Jax State by April 1, 2025, and have a Student Aid Index (SAI) of \$15,000 or less, as calculated by the FAFSA ® , will receive a \$750 FAFSA Completion Grant.

How can you prepare for the FAFSA ® opening on Dec. 1? Make sure you have everything you need, like creating a StudentAid.gov account, by visiting [this helpful page](#).

We'll send a reminder when the FAFSA ® opens and follow up with digital and mailed communication letting you know how much aid you've been offered, including federal financial aid and Jax State scholarships. This way, you'll have a clearer idea of your costs after your FAFSA ® is received and processed.

## FAFSA® Info from Jax State »

## Event Opportunities

### Admitted Student Days

Get an inside look at life at Jax State through this exclusive and in-depth event just for admitted students! During Admitted Student Day, you will get an overview of next steps and spend time in your academic department. You will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Financial Aid, sit in on an honors class, and tour housing and other hotspots on campus. Plus, if you attend one of the first two Admitted Student Days, you'll get early access to Gamecock Orientation registration. A school excuse will be provided, and students may bring one guest.

**Student Story from Samatha Cotton:** *' In my senior year of high school, I had attended admitted students day alone. I was genuinely the most nervous I had been in my life; however, as I made my way around the UREC gymnasium, looking to each booth with uncertainty, I was greeted with smiles all around. I recall a conversation I had with a nursing student, and it pushed me to reach a level of confidence within myself that furthermore encouraged me to not only attend Jax State for my career, but to hopefully leave a similar impact on students, and ensure they felt welcomed with open arms.'*

## Admitted Student Day Info »

### Gamecocks on the Go! #JaxStateBound Gatherings

Can't make it to campus? We're bringing Jax State to you! Meet Jax State staff, students, and alumni in a casual setting to learn more about your future university and even take next steps. These events will be held in cities across Alabama and Georgia. See all the dates and register below!

[Gamecocks on the Go Info »](#)

## What's Coming Next...

Next time, as the weather cools down, we'll share all the details on what campus life is like during the fall at Jax State. You won't want to miss it!

Go Gamecocks!  
Jax State Admissions

*Missed a 'Your Journey to Jax State' message? Check them all out [here!](#)*

