ALMA COLLEGE

Alma College Financial Aid Programs 2026 - 2027

These programs including eligibility, amounts, and renewal information are effective for students who will start attending at Alma College during FA2026, WI2027, or SP2027. These are subject to change with appropriate notice.

MERIT AWARDS

Alma merit scholarships are based upon the students' cumulative GPA on transcript received as of mid-January 2026. The amount awarded as a freshman is the amount renewed annually.

Presidential Scholarship	$36,000	3.80 +
Trustee Scholarship	$34,000	3.60-3.79
Dean's Scholarship	$32,000	3.30-3.59
Tartan Award	$30,000	3.00-3.29
Alma Award	$28,000	<3.0

Merit Award Scholarship Renewal

1. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student.
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount **unless** you are not living on campus and/or are not on a meal plan. Please refer to the policy regarding off campus aid adjustments at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/.
5. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

FULL TUITION AWARD

Distinguished Presidential Scholarship – Full Tuition *Separate Application Required*

The Distinguished Presidential Scholarship will offer up to 15 four-year, full-tuition scholarships annually to graduating high school seniors or international students who have a 3.8 or higher cumulative GPA. The Distinguished Presidential Scholarship replaces all other Alma aid but students are able to use their federal and state aid towards housing and meal plan. This award covers the tuition cost for up to 17 credits per semester along with only for 2 spring terms Funding through the Alma Venture Program is limited to $1,000.

This scholarship requires additional steps for application. Selection criteria will be letters of support, campus interview, application essay and academic record.

Renewal Requirements for Distinguished Presidential Scholarship *(full tuition)*

1. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student. (Tuition Overload Fee if enrolled in over 17 credits for a semester is not covered.)
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. Live on campus. (Students approved to move off campus would lose a portion of their Distinguished Presidential Scholarship per the off-campus policy located at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/)
5. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/
6. Must file the FAFSA every year prior to March 1st.

GEOGRAPHIC AWARDS

Detroit Futures Scholarship **Amount varies – based on need ***

Alma College offers up to 15 Detroit Future Scholarships each year to qualified students who live or attend high school in Wayne County and whose household income is $85,000 or less. The Detroit Future Scholarship assists substantially with financial need making a private education affordable with minimal out-of-pocket expense. Scholarship amount varies depending on financial need — Alma College will maximize the dollar amount you can receive.

** Amount can change each academic year as it is based on need and a FAFSA must be filed to qualify.*

Tartan Edge

The Alma College Tartan Edge initiative was created to offer new first-year and transfer students who reside in or graduate from high schools located in **Gratiot, Isabella, and Montcalm counties,** as well as home-schooled students who reside in these counties the opportunity to pursue a life-changing, liberal arts education. The initiative will start in the Fall 2026 Semester for new, incoming students. Students are eligible as long as they meet the admissions requirements at Alma College. Transfer students are eligible if they graduated from a high school in one of the three counties.

The initiative will have a set price for tuition, room and meals, so that students will know their cost. The cost for the initiative is $17,000 yearly, whether students live on- or off-campus. There will be a flat $1,500 yearly increase. Students can use their state and /or federal aid toward the cost. The Tartan Edge replaces all other Alma aid. This award covers the tuition cost only for 2 spring terms. Funding through the Alma Venture Program is limited to $1,000.

Conditions

- Students must reside in or graduate from a high school in Gratiot, Montcalm, or Isabella counties. This applies to freshman and transfer students
- Students are ineligible for all other Alma-awarded scholarships
- Students who live on-campus must live in standard double room accommodation.
- This initiative covers up to 17 credits per semester along with two spring terms (tuition only). Any additional (overload) course tuition and fees will be paid by the student. Students must enroll at least full time each semester (12 credits).
- Students who require health insurance will pay that extra cost above their rate
- Students will pay any required fees, including the Orientation fee, student organization fee and individual course fees
- Students must maintain continuous enrollment in fall and winter semesters
- Students must file the FAFSA for their entering year

Renewal Requirements for Tartan Edge

1. Must be enrolled full time (12-17 credits) each semester as a degree seeking student. (Tuition Overload Fee if enrolled in over 17 credits for a semester is not covered.)
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first. Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/
5. Students must file the FAFSA annually.

TRANSFER SPECIFIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS / AWARDS

Merit Scholarship

Alma merit scholarships are based upon the students' cumulative GPA from all previous institutions attended. The amount awarded upon acceptance to the College is the amount renewed annually.

Average GPA	Amount
3.50 +	$32,000/year
3.25 - 3.49	$30,000/year
3.00 - 3.24	$28,000/year
<3.00	$26,000/year

Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship **$2,000/year**

Awarded to transfer students who have been selected as Phi Theta Kappa Scholars at their current institutions. Students must submit their Phi Theta Kappa membership certificate to receive the award.

Transfer students also qualify for the following programs, please see the eligibility and renewal information found elsewhere in this document.

- Alma College Community Engagement Scholarship (ACE)
- Performance Arts Scholarship
- Legacy Scholarship
- Scottish Hospitality Scholarship
- FAFSA Filing Scholarship
- Detroit Promise, Kalamazoo Promise, and Bearcat Advantage

Transfer Specific Scholarship/grant/awards Renewal

1. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student.
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount.
5. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Performance scholarships are available to talented students in art, dance, music (both vocal and instrumental), and Scottish Arts. Students demonstrating exemplary performance in any of these areas may be eligible for distinguished awards, starting at $2,000. All funds are awarded at the discretion of the Fine and Performing Arts faculty, and students' intended major or minor is not a consideration. The amount awarded as a freshman will follow the student to future years.

Students interested in auditioning can contact the Admissions Office at admissions@alma.edu or 1-800-321-ALMA.

Students are only eligible to receive one scholarship per year in the performance scholarships.

- If students are offered an award from more than one department, they must select one.
- Students may continue to participate in multiple areas regardless of their scholarship selection.
- If offered a distinguished award it will replace standard performance awards previously offered.
- Please refer to the website for current renewal requirements set by the department at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/.

Art and Design
$1,500/year. The Department of Art & Design awards scholarships to talented artists in any medium via portfolio submission.

Dance
$1,500/year. The Dance Department awards scholarships to talented dancers through a group or individual audition process.

Dance Team
$1,500/year. Awarded upon acceptance to incoming students (first year & transfer) who compete on the dance team. Interested students should complete the
Dance For Alma Form and/or contact Coach Tracy Burton at burtonte@alma.edu.

Music
$1,500/year. The Music Department awards scholarships both instrumentalists and vocalists through an audition process. Auditions are scheduled on an individual basis; for details, see the department's audition and scholarship information.

Scottish Arts Scholarship
$1,500/year. For students demonstrating a high level of accomplishment in Highland dancing or piping (regardless of intended major).

E-Sports Scholarship
$1,500/year. Awarded upon acceptance to incoming students (first year and transfer) who compete on the E-sports team.

Performance Scholarship Renewal

1. Must be meeting the requirements of the department for which they hold a scholarship (class registration, participation, etc.). Rosters are sent to departments in February and September to confirm requirements are met for renewal.
2. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeing student.
3. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
4. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
5. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount.
6. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

OTHER ALMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Available for students meeting specific criteria or those interested in specific areas of study. Please note that some of these scholarships are automatically awarded based on set criteria, while others require an application and have a deadline. Many of these are only awarded to incoming freshman and transfer students. Most of these awards are renewable in future years if all scholarship, award, or grant requirements are still being met.

Scottish Hospitality Scholarship **$3,000/year**

Just by visiting campus, you will earn a $3,000 scholarship. (***Excludes College Game Day Saturday Visits and while multiple visits are encouraged, you can only be awarded one scholarship.)***

FAFSA Filing Scholarship **$1,000/year**

File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the deadline and earn $1,000 per year.

Legacy Scholarship **$1,500/year**

A student whose grandparent, parent, sibling, or spouse are Alma College alumni receive the Alma College Legacy Scholarship, which provides $1,500 per year.

Highland Award **$1,000/year**

A student who is a non-Michigan resident receives the Alma College Highland Award which provides $1,000 per year.

Academic Discovery Day Scholarship **$2,000/year**

Students who meet the eligibility requirements and participate in one of the Academic Discovery Day events will receive this renewable scholarship.

Provost Scholarship **$2,000/year**

Students who participated in the Distinguished Presidential Scholarship process but were ultimately not selected to receive a full tuition award will receive this renewable scholarship.

Other Alma Scholarships Renewal (Section **Does Not** Apply to Heritage Need Based Scholarship)

1. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student.
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount.
5. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

NEED BASED AID

Heritage Need Based Scholarship **Amount varies – based on need ***

** Amount can change each academic year as it is based on need and a FAFSA must be filed to qualify.*

Awarded to students with demonstrated financial need. If a student's need decreases substantially in future years, they may no longer be eligible for the award or it may be a reduced amount. If a student's need increases, the Financial Aid Office will recalculate and may increase or add a grant based on this change.

Renewal Requirements for Heritage Need Based Grant

1. Must demonstrate need (based on FAFSA) and must file the FAFSA annually.
2. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student.
3. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
4. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
5. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount as long as a student still has need based on the current year FAFSA.
6. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

Promise Zone Scholarships

Detroit Promise Scholarship **Amount varies – based on need ***

Students should visit http://www.detroitchamber.com/econdev/education-and-talent/detroit-promise/ for more information on eligibility and awarding.

Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship **Amount varies – Determined by Kalamazoo Promise Foundation**

Students should visit https://www.kalamazoopromise.com/ for more information on eligibility and awarding.

Bearcat Advantage Scholarship **Amount varies – Determined by Battle Creek Community Foundation**

Students should visit https://www.battlecreekpublicschools.org/bearcatadvantage for more information on eligibility and awarding.

INTERNATIONAL SPECIFIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS / AWARDS

Merit Scholarship

Consideration for academic scholarships, which range up to $36,000 per year (Winter 2025 and later), are based on documentation provided as a part of the application process. Grade point averages are converted to a U.S. 4.0 scale. The amount awarded upon acceptance to the College is the amount renewed annually.

GPA	Scholarship Amount
3.80 +	$36,000/year
3.60 - 3.79	$34,000/year
3.30 - 3.59	$32,000/year
3.00 - 3.29	$30,000/year
<3.00	$28,000/year

Heritage Need Based Scholarship International **Amount varies – based on need ***

We will consider your family's financial situation to determine qualification for need-based financial aid from Alma College. Must complete the International Student Application for Need Based Assistance. Any amount awarded is renewed at the same amount annually. This award does not adjust.

International Specific Scholarship/grant/awards Renewal

1. Must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more) each semester as a degree seeking student.
2. The annual amount above is split in half between fall and winter semesters.
3. This award is renewable for three years (6 semesters total) or to the point where the student has completed degree requirements for their first bachelor's degree; whichever comes first**.** Undergraduate students who graduate in less than 8 semesters forfeit their remaining scholarship eligibility.
4. The scholarship renews at the originally awarded amount **unless** you are not living on campus and/or are not on a meal plan. Please refer to the policy regarding off campus aid reductions at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/.
5. Must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA and completion rate requirements found in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy found at https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/policies-forms-and-resources/

International students also qualify for the following programs please see the eligibility and renewal information found earlier in this document.

- Performance Arts Scholarship
- Legacy Scholarship
- Scottish Hospitality Scholarship

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

International and Off-Campus Study

Alma College grants, scholarships, and awards **cannot** be used for international and off campus study programs unless otherwise specified. https://www.alma.edu/about/offices-services/center-for-college-and-community-engagement/international-and-off-campus-study/

- *Exchange programs and World Languages and Cultures majors* may be able to use Alma College aid if you meet the eligibility criteria. This is determined upon submission of a cost estimate form to the financial aid office.

Spring and Summer Term

Standard Alma College grants, scholarships, and awards **cannot** be used towards the cost of spring and summer terms. There are some specific programs that may be used for these terms. They are found at the following link under "Current Student Scholarships": https://www.alma.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/

Conditions of Financial Aid Disclaimer

Effective immediately, the enrollment requirement for financial aid eligibility has been adjusted to **12–17 credit hours** per semester. This range supersedes the **13–18 credit hour** requirement outlined in the Conditions of Financial Aid for previous academic years. Students must adhere to this updated range to maintain full eligibility for Alma College funding.