



United States Merchant Marine Academy
Office of Financial Aid
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
T 516.726.5638
E DAmbra1@usmma.edu
F 516.773.5390

Class of 2030 Financial Aid Introduction
2026-2027 Academic Year

Plebe Candidates and Parent/Guardian,

The goal of the Office of Financial Aid is that every student accepted is able to attend the Academy, regardless of their financial circumstance. Every accommodation will be made to ensure that financial obligations will not be a deterrent to attend.

USMMA participates in the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Program and is authorized to disburse FSA Pell Grants and Direct Loans to all eligible students. Federal Student Aid can be used to help defray the cost of any expenses related to attendance at the Academy. In addition, Students are encouraged to utilize any state aid, outside award scholarship(s) or a College 529 Savings Plan to which they may be eligible.

Plebe Candidates/Midshipmen are provided tuition, room and board, uniforms and books by the federal government. However, you are required to furnish at your own expense a number of educational materials and personal services. Expenses such as medical insurance, document fees (TWIC and US Passport), computer package, Plebe/Educational kits, as well as transportation costs during liberty/holiday leave are the responsibility of the Midshipmen.

The **2026-2027** Midshipman Academy Fee will be billed directly by the Academy. This fee may be deferred until your financial aid disburses provided you have a fully executed financial aid file.

A FAFSA must be filed every academic year - completing a FAFSA does not obligate you to accept Financial Aid

Eligibility:

All students, regardless of family income, are eligible to receive Federal Student Aid. The Student Aid Index (SAI) is calculated based on a variety of factors. Pell Grants are awarded based upon the SAI, the cost of attendance of your specific class year and status as a full-time student.

Please complete the attached forms and return to the Office of Financial Aid in the envelope provided with your Logging In packet. This will alert the Office of Financial Aid that you are interested in receiving a financial aid award package.

What happens next:

Once your completed forms are received your FAFSA information will be reviewed, and an award package will be generated. The award letter will detail the amount of aid you are entitled to receive, as well as instructions on how to accept or decline your financial aid package.

The accept/decline form will be sent as an attachment to your financial aid award package – if the form is not completed and returned (direct loans only), your loan will be cancelled

Should you accept the aid awarded, funds will be disbursed to you in three (3) installments throughout the academic year.

First-time direct loan borrowers must complete entrance counseling and sign the master promissory note (www.studentaid.gov). If these steps are not completed, your loan will not disburse.

Plebe Candidates have a 30-day waiting period from the start of classes before aid is disbursed.

The Office of Academy Financial Management (OAFM) will transfer financial aid and any scholarship funds you may receive into your personal bank account on file. Once your financial aid or scholarship funds have been deposited into your personal bank account, the funds can be used to reimburse any out of pocket expenses you may have incurred.

Verification:

The Department of Education (DOE) randomly selects FAFSA applicants to submit additional documentation to verify their FAFSA data. Verification is simply an additional step in the Financial Aid process. Applicants selected for verification will receive a self-reporting verification worksheet to complete and will be required to verify their tax information if the Direct Data Exchange (DDX was not used). You will be notified via email if your FAFSA was selected for verification.

Types of Federal Financial Aid Available:

Pell Grant

This is a grant awarded by the federal government that does not have to be paid back upon graduation. Pell Grants are an automatic accept, and no further action is required. Maximum amount for the 2026/2027 academic year is \$7395.00

- **Eligibility:** Determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It is primarily for undergraduate students.
- **Amount:** The amount awarded depends on financial need, measured by the Student Aid Index/SAI, cost of attendance, and enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
- **Usage:** Funds can be used for tuition, fees, and living expenses
- **Lifetime Limit:** Students can receive Pell Grants for a maximum of 12 terms, or roughly six years.

Subsidized Direct Loan

- **No Interest in School:** The government pays interest while you are in school.
- **Grace Period Coverage:** The government pays interest for 6 months after you graduate or leave school.
- **When it Starts:** Interest begins to accrue daily once you enter repayment (after the 6-month grace period).

Unsubsidized Direct Loan

- **Continuous Accrual:** Unlike subsidized loans, interest on unsubsidized loans is your responsibility from the moment the loan is disbursed.
- **Daily Calculation:** Interest is calculated daily based on the loan amount.
- **Capitalization:** If you do not pay the interest as it accrues, it is added to your original loan principal (capitalized) when you enter repayment, meaning you will then pay interest on the interest that has already accumulated.
- **Payment Options:** You may choose to pay the interest while in school to avoid it being added to the principal later.
- **Fixed Rates:** Unsubsidized loans have fixed interest rates, meaning the rate does not change over the life of the loan.
Current Rate is 6.39%

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) must be met each trimester. Minimum GPA: 2.0 For further information on SAP, please refer to the student handbook.

Outside Award Scholarships and College Savings Programs:

If you are a 529 College Savings Plan participant, you are encouraged to consult your fund manager for details.

USMMA does not offer institutional aid, but welcomes and encourages outside scholarships and grants to offset the cost of attendance. Scholarship award checks should be made payable to The United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) and sent to the attention of Lauri D'Ambra in the Office of Financial Aid.

Scholarship checks are deposited *after* the start of classes and cannot be used to offset the cost of the MIDN Academy Fee

Scholarship Checks should be made payable to:

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)

Scholarship Mailing Address – It is the responsibility of the student to alert the scholarship foundation

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

300 Steamboat Road

Kings Point, New York 11024

Attn: Lauri D'Ambra - Office of Financial Aid

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Office of Financial Aid Contact Information

Lauri D'Ambra

Telephone: 516.726.5638

DAmbraL@usmma.edu

Phone Inquiry Hours Monday – Thursday 0800 – 1600

Friday – Closed



Due to the unique nature of USMMA, the Cost of Attendance (COA) will vary by student. In calculating COA, the Academy considers two types of expenses, Billed and Personal Out of Pocket expenses.

2026-2027 Academic Year

Expenses - Billed	AY 2026-2027 by Class Year and Split					
	2030	2029 A/B/C	2028 A/B	2028 C	2027 A/B	2027 C
Laundry Service	\$588.00	\$392.00	\$196.00	\$392.00	\$588.00	\$392.00
Tailor/Seamstress	\$324.00	\$216.00	\$108.00	\$216.00	\$324.00	\$216.00
Midshipman Fees (Payable to USMMA)	\$912.00	\$608.00	\$304.00	\$608.00	\$912.00	\$608.00

The above, required fees will be incurred by every student at the beginning of the academic year.

Expenses – Personal Out of Pocket	AY 2026-2027 by Class Year and Split					
	2030	2029 A/B/C	2028 A/B	2028 C	2027 A/B	2027 C
Computer Package**	\$2,829.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Package (Optional Items)*	\$265.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Plebe and Educational Kits**	\$965.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TWIC Application Fee**	\$124.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Passport Fee***	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Estimated Out of Pocket Expenses	\$4,313.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

*The above, personal out of pocket fee(s) are optional.

**The above, personal out of pocket fee(s) will be incurred by every plebe candidate.

***The above, personal out of pocket fee(s) will be incurred, as required for a passport/passport renewal.

Expenses – Indirect, Personal Out of Pocket	AY 2026-2027 by Class Year and Split					
	2030	2029 A/B/C	2028 A/B	2028 C	2027 A/B	2027 C
Transportation	\$1,950.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,600.00
General Supplies	\$999.00	\$999.00	\$999.00	\$999.00	\$999.00	\$999.00
Student Health Insurance Plan (2026)	\$2058.00	\$2,058.00	\$2,058.00	\$2,058.00	\$1,052.00	\$1,052.00
Ancillary Cost Allowances	\$5,007.00	\$4,657.00	\$4,307.00	\$4,657.00	\$4,001.00	\$3,651.00

The above, indirect, personal out of pocket fee(s) are estimated and may be incurred by plebes / midshipmen, as required and may be

utilized to represent allowable educational costs for financial aid eligibility purposes.

Total Estimate Expenses – Billed and Personal Out of Pocket	AY 2026-2027 by Class Year and Split					
	2030	2029 A/B/C	2028 A/B	2028 C	2027 A/B	2027 C
Combined Total Cost of Attendance for Financial Aid Eligibility~	\$10,232.00	\$5,265.00	\$4,611.00	\$5,265.00	\$4,913.00	\$4,259.00

~USMMA's combined total cost of attendance represents allowable educational costs for financial aid eligibility purposes. As stated, only required fees and supplies will be incurred by every student at the beginning of the academic year. Other reported expenses include allowances for general supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses, and are at the discretion of the student. Federal Student Aid can be used to help defray the cost of any expenses related to attendance at the Academy.



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Financial Aid Interest Form
2026-2027 Academic Year
Class of 2030

Financial Aid Interest Questionnaire – Incoming Plebe Candidate

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Academic Year 2026-2027

Have you filed your FAFSA? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you interested in receiving a financial aid award package? _____ Yes _____ No

Be sure you added USMMA's School Code 002892 to your FAFSA – simply click the correction button of 2026-2027 FAFSA form

Pell Grants (Need-based, no repayment, automatic accept)

Student Loans (Repayment required, must accept or decline the loan)

- Subsidized Direct Loan
- Unsubsidized Direct Loan

Notes or Special Circumstances:



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Financial Aid Release Consent Form
 2026-2027 Academic Year

Student Information

Name: _____ **Class Year:** _____

Academy ID #: _____

Policy: The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and Higher Education Act (HEA) are federal laws designed to protect the privacy of a student’s education records. FERPA generally prohibits schools from releasing education records or certain information contained in such record, such as grades, billing, payment records, and financial aid awards to third parties. Federal law limits how FAFSA/Financial Aid information may be used. However, with the student’s written consent, FAFSA/financial aid information may be shared with a scholarship-granting foundation or parent/guardian.

Instructions: To grant the Office of Financial Aid permission to release your financial aid package information to a scholarship-granting foundation or parent, identify each individual and/or organization to whom this information may be released. The information will then be made available only if it is specifically requested by the authorized party.

This office will not release information related to educational grades or medical records

Authorized Individual or Organization	City/State/Telephone	Relationship to Student

With my signature, I authorize the Office of Financial Aid at the United States Merchant Marine Academy to release my financial aid information as described on this form to the parties I have indicated above.

I understand I may revoke this consent by providing written notice to the Office of Financial Aid. Until this revocation is made, this consent shall remain in effect and my Financial Aid records will continue to be provided to the person(s) listed.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Cell Phone: _____