

Ed.D. Financial Aid Guide



Investing in your future

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) with Brenau University's College of Education. You are making an investment in your future that will benefit you and the education profession.

Our commitment to you:

Everyone at Brenau University is dedicated to providing you an exceptional education and a positive and supportive experience on your way to achieving your goal of earning your Ed.D.

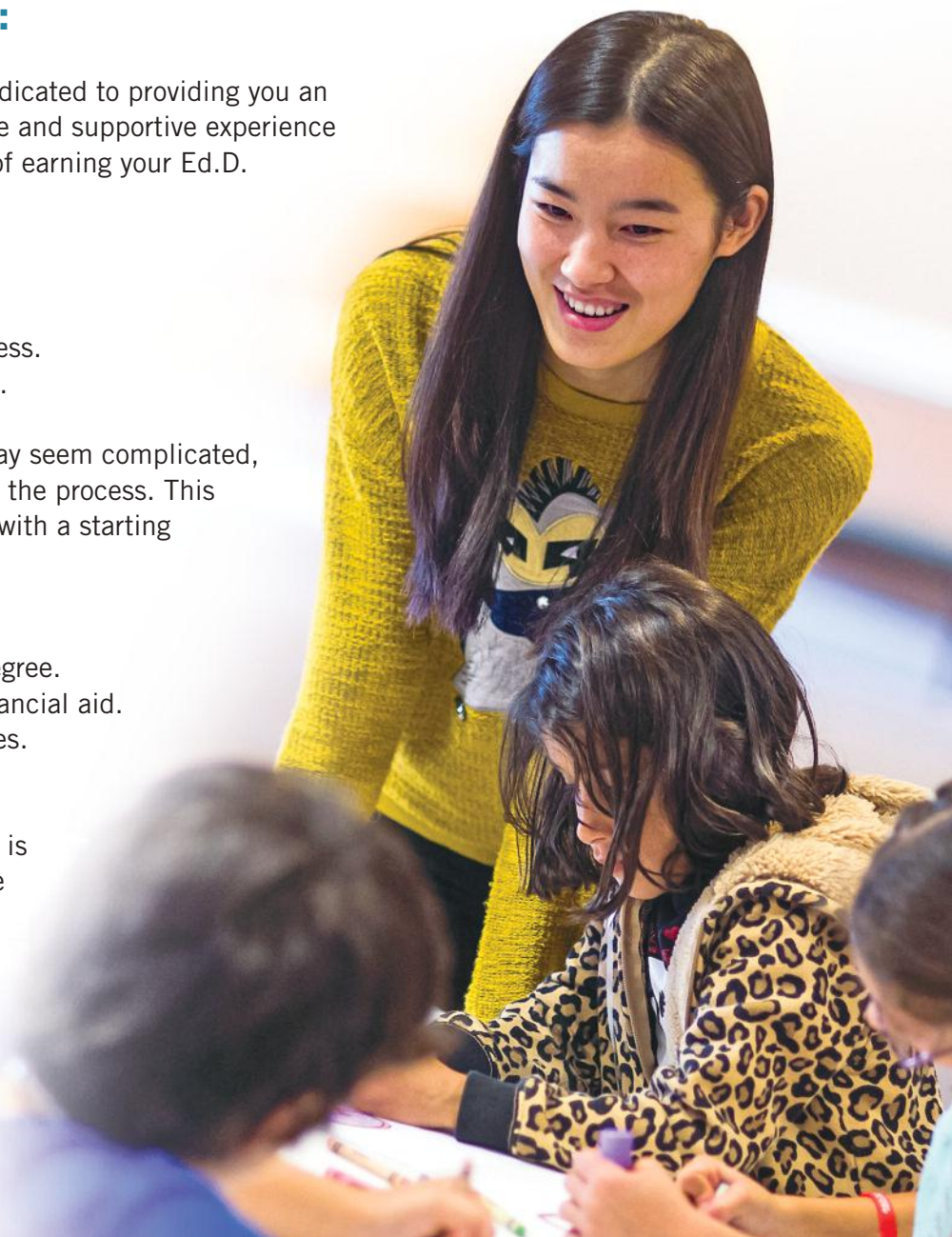
The **benefits** of attending Brenau:

- Small class sizes.
- Personalized attention.
- Faculty commitment to your success.
- Dissertation support from day one.

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 speak with the Financial Aid Office at 770.534.6152.



We're here to assist you.

How financial aid can help you:

For many, financial aid is the primary way to fund the goal of earning an Ed.D. Financial aid can assist with the costs associated with tuition, fees, books, etc.

Understanding the cost of your degree:

The purpose of financial aid is to fund your education. You should only apply for the amount of aid you need to help with your educational costs. Costs below are based on 2024-2025 rates:



COST OF ED.D. DEGREE PROGRAM

Application Fee:	\$0
Tuition:	\$58,860 (54-credit program at \$1,090 per credit hour)
Institutional & Instructional Development Fee:	\$486
University Services Fee:	\$1,470 - \$1,680 (\$210 per semester; total depends on cohort start)

Estimated total: **\$60,816 - \$61,026***

**This does not include the cost of books.*

COST OF ABD STATUS OPTION

Application Fee:	\$0
Tuition:	\$29,430 (27-credit program at \$1,090 per credit hour)
Institutional & Instructional Development Fee:	\$486
University Services Fee:	\$1,470 - \$1,680 (\$210 per semester; total depends on cohort start)

Estimated total: **\$31,386 - \$31,596***

**This does not include the cost of books.*

Please keep in mind that these are estimated costs. There may be other fees and costs associated with your education including books, loan fees and interest, transportation expenses, incidentals, etc. Tuition and fee rates are subject to increases with the onset of each new academic year (generally starting in August with the fall semester). Interest rates and other costs are also subject to change.

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 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 defray the direct and indirect costs of your education?

While you may be eligible for more financial aid funding than you actually need, it cannot be stressed enough: Only apply for the amount you need to assist with funding your education. Financial aid should not be used for anything other than your education.
- 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 Ed.D. program. You may apply for financial aid while waiting for acceptance, but you must be accepted for admission before financial aid can be awarded.
- 3 Be aware of deadlines.**

Whether you are applying for loans from Brenau or for outside grants, scholarships or loans, be sure to be aware of application deadlines, qualification requirements and disbursement timing.
- 4 Explore your financial aid options.**

Only student loans are offered by Brenau for the Ed.D. program. You may want to explore grants and scholarships from private and non-profit institutions as well. Taking the time to discover funding options may save you money in the long run.
- 5 Obtain more financial aid information.**

Visit: www.brenau.edu/admissions/financialaid/apply/

This Brenau financial aid site provides valuable and detailed information about the financial aid process, answers to frequently answered questions, financial aid forms, financial aid links and more.
- 6 Do your career homework.**

Be realistic about how much money you will earn with an Ed.D. 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 and resources

Grants and scholarships

Grants and scholarships are nonrepayable sources of financial aid that are often available through higher education institutions, private foundations or state and federal governments. Spending a little time doing internet research for scholarships and grants for teachers and graduate studies will reveal numerous options that could help fund your education. You may also find information about grants and scholarships here:*

- **CollegeScholarships.org:**
www.collegescholarships.org/grants/doctoral
- **Community or professional scholarships:**
www.scholarships4students.com

- **GreatCollegeDeals.net:**
www.greatcollegedeals.net/scholarships/doctoral-grants-for-teachers-and-doctoral-grants-for-education
- **Scholarships.com:**
www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-major/education-scholarships
- **Scholarship search engine:**
www.fastweb.com
- **StudentGrants.org:**
www.studentgrants.org/doctoral-students
- **TeachTomorrow.org:**
www.teachtomorrow.org/scholarships
- **U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool:** www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx

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



Financial aid options and 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. Graduate students are eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- No requirement for financial need.
- School determines the amount you may borrow based on school cost and other aid you may receive; the maximum annual amount is \$20,500.
- Interest accrues as soon as the loan is issued.
- You may choose not to pay interest while in school, but the interest will accrue during that time.
- You must be enrolled at least half time, three or more semester hours.
- Six-month grace period before repayment begins.

Each student should review his/her borrowing history and current loan statuses online at <https://nslds.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> and/or <https://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 Direct Loans that may be borrowed over a student's college career.

Aggregate Loan Limits – Federal Direct Loans

Graduate and Professional Students

\$138,500 *This includes undergraduate loans.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans are credit-based loans that graduate or professional students can use to help pay for college or career school. Graduate PLUS loans can be used in addition to Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

- The U.S. Department of Education is the lender.
- A credit check is required and borrowers who have an adverse credit history must meet additional requirements to qualify.
- The maximum loan amount is the cost of attendance (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received.
- An origination fee of approximately 4.2 percent is deducted from each disbursement by the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information about Federal Direct Loans visit: <https://studentaid.gov/> or contact the Financial Aid Office at 770.534.6152.

Financial aid options and 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.

Brenau's private education loan platform

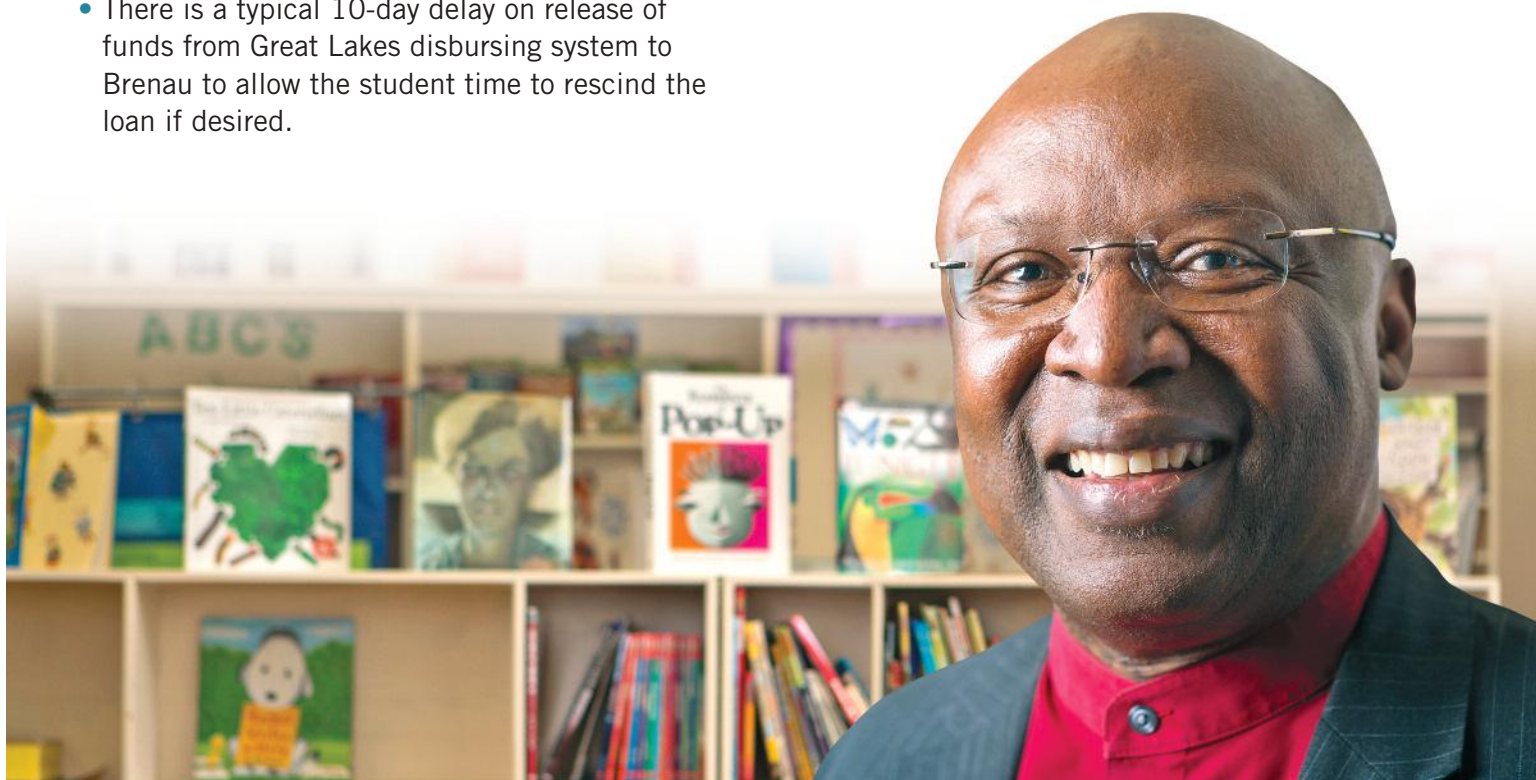
is hosted by Great Lakes Higher Education, and information can be found here: <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/155600/1>. Brenau's historical lenders and loan products are displayed on this site, but you are not required to use these specific lenders or products. Should you decide to use one of these lenders, be aware that:

- Loans are credit-based; students must meet credit requirements or have a credit-worthy cosigner.
- The Financial Aid Office is notified of loans awaiting certification.
- There is a typical 10-day delay on release of funds from Great Lakes disbursing system to Brenau to allow the student time to rescind the loan if desired.

Military and veteran benefits

- Veterans Affairs education benefits, including Post-9/11 GI Bill: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>.
- Reduced tuition rate of \$250 per credit hour for active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserves.*
- Brenau offers a 10% discount on all courses to veterans, retirees and dependents of active duty personnel.*

** Students must complete Brenau's 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 (FSAID).

Fill out the information requested at <https://studentaid.gov/> and you will receive a FSA Identification Number that you will need for your financial aid documents.

2

File your FAFSA.

Each student is encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. The information will be used to determine your financial aid eligibility. Brenau University needs this information on file, along with any supporting documents required for verification of the FAFSA, if applicable.

Brenau's school code for FAFSA is 001556.

3

Speak with a financial aid counselor at Brenau (recommended).

Understanding financial aid can be daunting, but we are here to provide you with helpful information and guide you through the process. **The Financial Aid Office can be reached at 770.534.6152 or financialaid@brenau.edu.**

Reimagining education starts here.



Visit edd.brenau.edu or call 844.805.4876.