

RECIPIENTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Must be an undergraduate degree-seeking freshman or transfer admitted to CMU's main campus
- Must be a Michigan resident
- Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$0 - \$50,000, as reported on the FAFSA
- Family Assets of \$50,000 or less, as reported on the FAFSA
- Must be enrolled full-time (at least 12 hours or more each semester)

Renewable for an additional three years (freshman) and an additional 2 years (transfers) or until first bachelor's degree is earned, if students meet the renewal criteria:

- Must complete 30 CMU credit hours in the 21-22 academic year (fall/spring/summer)
- Must maintain [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- Must file a FAFSA annually
- Must continue to meet family AGI and asset requirements as outlined above

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the CMU Traditions Program?

The CMU Tradition Program is a continuation of CMU's history of making a first-class education and career opportunities accessible to Michigan families. This financial aid offer, using a combination of federal, state and institutional aid, provides free eligible tuition and mandatory fees for incoming first-time college students or transfer students who are Michigan residents, have a combined student and family adjusted gross income of \$50,000 **and** have family assets of \$50,000 or less and meet the eligibility requirements.

The CMU Traditions Program covers eligible tuition and student service fees for new first-time college students for up to four (4) continuous years (8 semesters) or through completion of the student's first bachelor's degree, whichever is sooner. For Transfer students, the CMU Traditions Program covers eligible tuition and student service fees for transfer students for up to three (3) continuous years (6 semesters) or through completion of the student's first bachelor's degree, whichever is sooner.

What is covered?

The CMU Tradition guarantees that you will have a combination of federal and institutional gift and grant aid that at least covers the following:

- Students will receive awards that will cover the equivalent of 30 credit hours (15 credit hours in fall 21 and 15 credit hours in spring 22).

If you qualify for aid more than tuition, you can use those funds to cover your other costs (i.e. books, housing, dining, parking permit, other educational expenses).

What expenses does the program not cover?

The CMU Tradition Program only covers tuition and the student services fee. You are responsible for additional costs such as room and board, books, course-specific fees, transportation expenses, study abroad, or other miscellaneous student expenses. It also does not cover forfeiture fees related to courses that are dropped.

How is the adjusted gross income determined?

We will use information as it is reported on the [FAFSA](#). The total adjusted gross income (AGI) for both the parent(s) and student will be combined to determine eligibility. You may be selected to submit documentation to verify that the information reported on your FAFSA is accurate. The most simple way to ensure this is by utilizing the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#) that is built in to the FAFSA application.

What assets are considered?

We will use asset information as it is reported on the [FAFSA](#). The asset information that is reported is as follows:

- Total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments
- Net worth of your current businesses and/or investment farms

For more information on this, please visit the [Federal Student Aid website](#). **Total assets for both the parent(s) and the student will be combined to determine eligibility for the program.**

How do I know if I qualify for the CMU Traditions Program?

You will receive an email notification if you are eligible for the CMU Traditions Award. You can also determine this once you receive your CMU financial aid offer by looking at the total amount of grants and scholarships and seeing that it meets or exceeds the total amount of tuition listed.

Does the CMU Traditions Program get automatically renewed each year?

Federal and institutional gift and grant aid will automatically be renewed for students who continue to qualify. To meet the requirements for renewal you must:

1. Complete the FAFSA each academic year you attend to show that you continue to meet income and asset requirements, and
2. Maintain [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
3. Successfully complete a minimum of 30 credit hours, at CMU, in the academic year (fall, spring and summer).

The income I reported on the FAFSA is no longer accurate, what can I do?

We have a Special Circumstances process in place to review changes in household income, divorce, death of a parent, etc. For more information, please contact the CMU Financial Aid Office.

Are second bachelor's degree seeking students eligible? Are graduate students eligible?

No. Only students seeking first bachelor's degrees qualify.

Are Global Campus students eligible?

No. Only undergraduate degree-seeking freshman and transfers (beginning with Fall 2021) admitted to CMU's main campus are eligible for the program.

Will I qualify if I am planning to enroll less than full-time?

No, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits, each fall and spring, to qualify for the CMU Traditions Award.

Does the CMU Traditions Award cover tuition in the summer semester?

No. This program is only available for the fall and spring semesters.

I am transferring from another college. Will I be considered?

Yes. New transfer students admitted to CMU's main campus, beginning in the fall 2021 semester, are eligible for the program.

Will my outside scholarships impact my other aid?

Your total financial aid award and outside resources may not exceed your total cost of attendance. If you are awarded up to the cost of attendance, your outside scholarship award(s) will be used to reduce or eliminate your student loan awards before any adjustments to other awards are made.

Am I required to live on-campus to qualify for the CMU Traditions Program?

All first-time college students are required to live on campus their freshman and sophomore years at CMU. If you continue to qualify for the award in your junior and senior year, there is no on-campus housing requirement included with the CMU Traditions program. Transfer students have the option of living on-campus or off-campus.