



TOP 10

WAYS TO FUND YOUR EDUCATION



Dedicating Heart and Mind to God

EARNING YOUR DEGREE IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST FINANCIAL MOVES YOU CAN MAKE.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, people with a bachelor's degree earn 84% more than those with only a high school diploma. If you go on to complete a graduate degree, you could increase your yearly income even more.



Because it's such an important investment in your future, there are lots of options to help you pay for your degree. Over 90% of Corban's graduate and professional studies students use some form of financial aid to finance their education. This e-book lists some of the top resources they use.

But before you begin this financial journey, take some time to pray about your options. Sometimes the Lord provides in an epic manner, but most often He uses wisdom, planning and prayer support to guide you to the right resources.

Develop a prayer team of family, friends and fellow believers to pray with you and for you. Having people seek the Lord on your behalf for wisdom and financial management is essential. You may be surprised at how valuable this step can be.

1 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT: Many companies believe in personal and professional development and are willing to offer financial assistance to their employees, especially if the courses are related to your job and will help you engage further in your profession.

Ask your employer if you qualify. You could be eligible for as much as 100% reimbursement on your college tuition.

2 FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID: Many people try to avoid loans, but if used prayerfully and wisely, they can help round off your financial aid profile. To keep your loans to a minimum, first make the most of scholarships, savings, work, family, church, etc. Then look to loans to make up the difference. Most students who apply for federal financial aid qualify!

Bachelor's degree students can receive up to \$12,500 per year in Stafford Student Loans. You may also qualify for government grants.

Graduate students can receive up to \$20,500 annually in Stafford Student Loans.

To find out if you qualify, start by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov**. Corban's FAFSA ID number is **001339**.



3 OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS: Finding scholarships can seem like an overwhelming process, but it's well worth the time and effort to fund your education. You may need to sift through many scholarships that you won't qualify for, but keep looking and spend some time applying. You never know what you may receive unless you give it a try!

Many scholarships have very specific criteria – ie., scholarships for women, for single moms, for adult students. Check all the categories that apply to you, and don't forget to browse through the “unusual scholarships” and local scholarships offered by organizations such as Rotary. You could find a scholarship that is perfect for you.

Here are some trusted scholarship websites to start your search:

- [FastWeb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [SchoolSoup.com](https://www.schoolsoup.com)
- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [CollegeNet.com](https://www.collegenet.com)



QUICK TIPS

1. Set aside some time in your schedule to devote to this research.
2. Don't trust sites that ask you to pay for scholarship searches.
3. Proofread your personal information. Auto correct isn't always right.
4. If an essay is required, don't write it in one sitting. Make several drafts and be sure to edit.
5. Follow directions carefully.

4 MILITARY EDUCATION BENEFITS: If you have served in the military, there may be financial assistance waiting for you! If you are currently in the military, ask your education officer about tuition assistance.



If you are a veteran, visit [military.com/education](https://www.military.com/education) for information about how to use your benefits and other resources. You can also apply for benefits using VONAPP, the Veterans Online Application, at [ebenefits.va.gov](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

Corban also participates in the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#), which means you could qualify for additional tuition benefits.

Corban University is designated as a Military Friendly School®, one of the top 20% of schools nationwide that deliver the best experience for military students. We're here to help you make the most of your education benefits. GI Bill programs may expire 10-15 years after you leave active duty, so don't miss out!

5 PAYMENT PLANS: Whether you can pay for your entire tuition up front or can afford to pay a small amount each month, payment plans are a great way to limit the amount of student loans you need. Corban's [Student Financial Services](#) can work with you to set up a payment plan that works for you and your budget.

6 TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS: Tax credits can help you recoup some of your education expenses when you file your tax return. You may qualify for the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit (up to \$2,000), American Opportunity Tax Credit (up to \$2,500), or Tuition & Fees Deduction. Find out more at the [IRS website](#) or ask your tax advisor.

7 GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS: Corban University offers a limited number of Graduate Assistant opportunities for students enrolled in a graduate program at Corban. You'll get hands-on work experience and financial assistance toward your tuition. Visit [Corban's website](#) for information on available positions.



8 CHURCH MATCHING SCHOLARSHIP: Corban will match 50% of scholarship money contributed toward your tuition from a church or parachurch organization, up to \$500 per year for certificate and master's students or \$800 per residency for doctoral students.



Available only to School of Ministry students taking nine or more credits per semester in a graduate degree program. Visit grad.corban.edu/ministry for an application.

9 SAVINGS: In addition to your personal savings account, there are a few other savings sources you may want to consider tapping into.

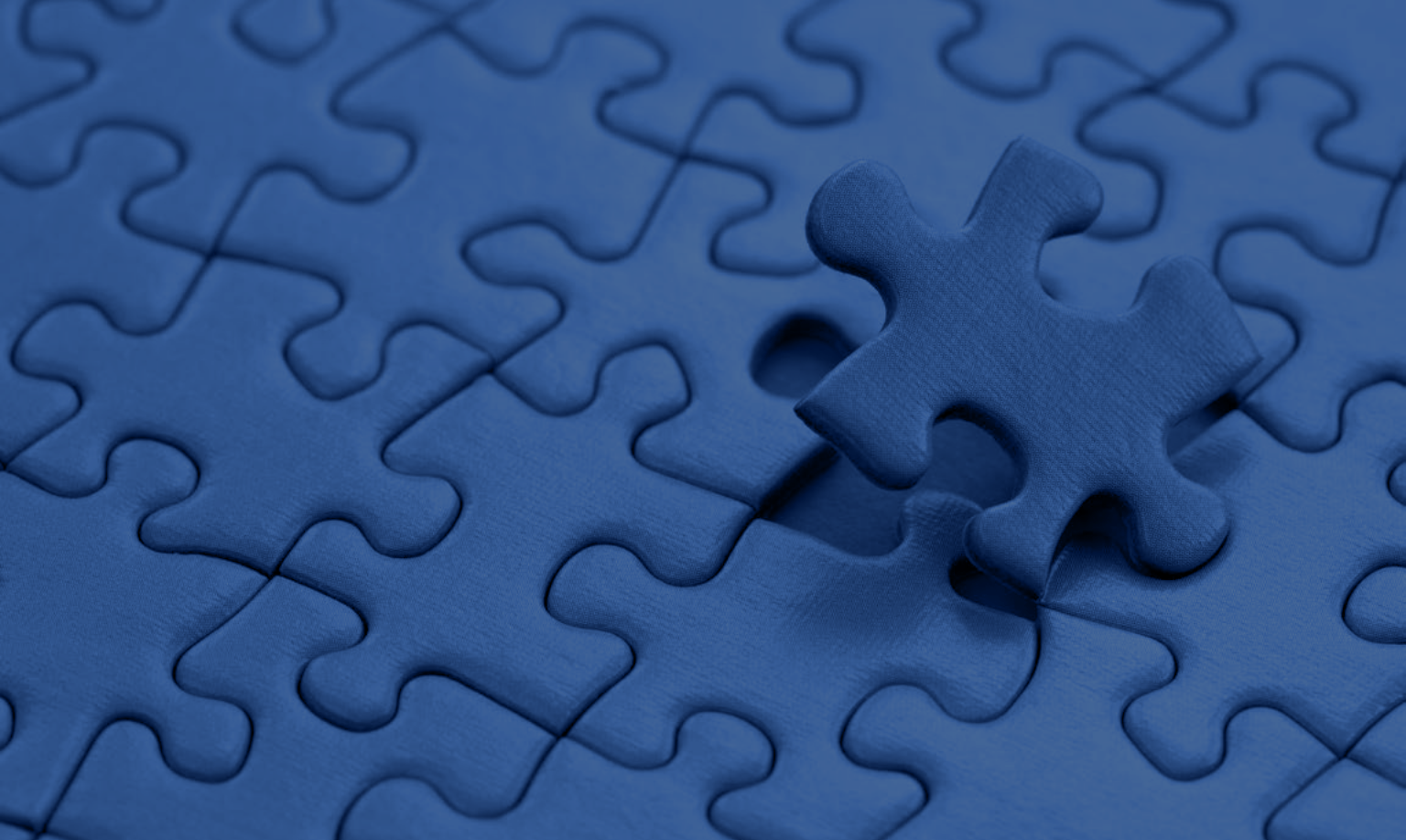
The [Oregon College Savings Plan](#) isn't just for minors. There is no age limit, you can open an account for yourself, and there may be tax benefits. Depending on how soon you plan to start your degree program, this could be a good option for you.

When used for education purposes, the IRS allows you to withdraw from certain types of accounts without a penalty. This includes taking an [early withdrawal from your IRA account without penalty](#) and cashing in savings bonds tax free. Talk with your tax advisor or visit [the IRS website](#) to determine if this is an option for you.

10 PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS: Federal Student Loans are typically enough to cover 100% of costs for all of Corban's graduate and professional studies programs. However, if needed, private loans can fill in the gap after you've exhausted all other options. They typically have higher interest rates, more fees and fewer repayment options than Federal Stafford Loans, but they are available from a wide range of banks, credit unions and other financial institutions.

[ELMSelect](#) is a great resource to help you find the right loan for you.





FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION is rather like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. It takes many pieces and patience to fill in the big picture. Take your time researching, and call your admission counselor anytime if you have questions.



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