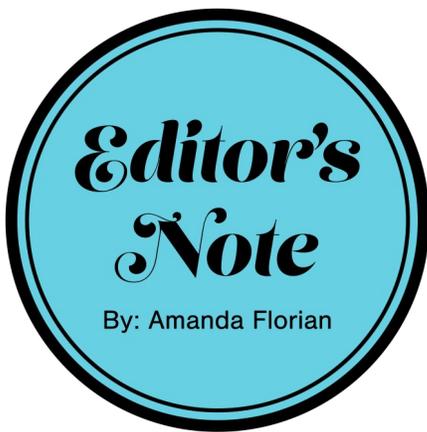


STAMPEDE

WWW.MILLIGANSTAMPEDE.COM

VOLUME 81, NO. 9 APRIL 28, 2016





Dear, Milligan College—

I love you, but...you're giving me mixed signals.

Encouraging students to study abroad and then allowing only five (yes, five) students to do so is a tease; a joke—but I'm not laughing. I want to study abroad, specifically in New York

City (the NYC journalism program is still in the United States, but nonetheless included on Milligan's study abroad program list) so I can put the skills I've honed at Milligan to the test. As a communications major with a double concentration in journalism and film, I feel I need more hands-on experience. One internship isn't good enough for me. I want more. And maybe this desire is a bit selfish, but, shouldn't we always be striving for more, as the great philosopher Kierkegaard once said? Shouldn't learning and growing be a nonstop process?

I'm blessed to attend a college that has allowed me to explore the world of journalism. My senior year is approaching, and I'm wholeheartedly thankful for the opportunities I've already had that have either happened on campus or off-campus because of networking through Milligan.

I realized I wanted to become a journalist upon waking up one morning to a soundtrack of birds chirping as a TV news show hummed in the background. I had a copy of The New York Times on my bedside and I, blurry-eyed and caffeine-deprived,

picked up the paper, held it close to my chest and thought, "Ah, alas! This is what I should do with the rest of my life: journalism."

OK, that's not exactly what happened. In fact, I truly didn't discover my passion for journalism until taking my first news-writing class at Milligan. I probably would not have been exposed to some of the great ins and outs of the news industry if I had attended college elsewhere. Maybe I'm wrong, but I think having the flexibility and freedom to personally craft a newspaper alongside a dedicated, lovely, creative team is setting me up for success, as is taking a variety of liberal arts, reporting, writing, and film classes at Milligan. I think working with professors who know my name, who invest in me and each one of their students, helps. At a college that emphasizes

the liberal arts and Humanities and asks us to reflect on what it "means to be human," I feel we should not be limited to one structure or location, especially as we continue to learn and grow.

Twelve off-campus programs, eight countries and only five student slots. Even if a student is accepted into their program of choice by the organization (Best Semester, Disney, etc.) this one restriction placed by the college stands in the way.

So, please reconsider the number of slots for students who wish to study abroad. But, don't just do it for me—do it for the future students; the ones who seek adventure. Do it for the ones who strive for more in life. Do it for the dreamers.



Editor-in-Chief Amanda Florian
Photo by Caleb Nix

Sincerely,

Amanda Florian
Editor-in-Chief, The Stampede

Want to read more about studying abroad? Konnor Donahue has the story on milliganstampede.com

Contributors:

- Connor Brown
- Nathan Dickerson
- Konnor Donahue
- Tori Duncan
- Amanda Florian
- Megan Gaylor
- Jordyn Morel
- Jacob Smith
- Kelley Sorenson

Cover Photo by
Megan Gaylor

Editor in Chief:
Amanda Florian

Stampede Advisor:
Professor Jim
Dahlman



The Milligan Stampede



@MCStampede



@MCStampede



@MilliganStampede

STUDENTS REACT TO TUITION INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT

By: Jordyn Morel



Saving Money
Photo via Freepik.com

President Bill Greer notified students and faculty of a 5 percent tuition increase for the upcoming 2016-17 school year via email on March 15. The increase, he states, is due to “economic realities of increased operational costs, insurance, utilities, etc.”

This announcement was met with a variety of responses from students.

“When I saw the increase, I immediately started looking for more scholarships,” freshman Cara Clark said.

Clark, a communications major, found out about the tuition increase from Greer’s email. She said that she was not previously aware that tuition was “that much” to begin with, though she noted that it is still lower than many private colleges.

Emily Williams, a senior theater major, also read about the increase in Greer’s



Senior Emily Williams
Photo by Jordyn Morel

email. She said that she disregarded the email for the most part, since she is a senior and will graduate before the increase goes into effect.

“I already feel that tuition was expensive enough—a lot of people already can’t afford it,” she said. “I feel like maybe not as many people will be able to come.”

Lexi Weddle and Taylor Freeman seemed worried about the increase in tuition. The students wished Milligan allowed off-campus living because they believe that would be a more affordable option.

“My family has four kids and two of them are already in college, so this will only make it harder for us to afford it,” Freeman said.

Weddler said she is barely able to pay for college now and will be greatly affected by the increase.

But some students said the tuition increase simply means making some minor adjustments in how they spend their money.

Noah Evans, a junior Bible and humanities major, said he had assumed the tuition rate would go up, “because it always does.” He said he has a summer job that will help him pay for tuition.

Sophomore communications major Taylor Martin wondered what the extra 5 percent was going toward, but was resigned to the increase, saying she

“probably shouldn’t go eat Taco Bell as much anymore.”

“I feel like the cost is worth it now, because of the experiences I get while here,” she said. “I think God will provide the opportunities and/or resources for me to take care of my finances.”



Freshman Cara Clark
Photo by Jordyn Morel

Room & Board

By: Konnor Donahue



Home Sweet Home
Photo via Freepik.com

With increasing prices for the upcoming school year, Milligan students are seeking ways to cut costs in the most effective ways possible. While room and board are among the major costs at Milligan, administrators say they don't have plans to change the room and board policies.

Milligan College is a residential community, so the majority of undergraduates live on campus. Jacqui Steadman, vice president for business and finance, believes it boosts the community experience at Milligan.

"This issue has been raised by the students and discussed by administration over the years, but we strongly believe in the community experience and the benefit to first- and second-year students by having upperclassmen in dorms and in the cafeteria," said Steadman. "Our housing costs are lower than many institutions, even with the recent increases. We strive to keep housing affordable for all students."

Freshman Bethany Witherspoon decided to write a paper for her Composition 211 class on the dissatisfaction she noticed from students about the meal plan. For her paper, she created and sent a survey to the student body to gauge the satisfaction level.

"Something that I did not find surprising in my survey was the extreme dissatisfaction with the amount of options that the cafeteria provides us with," Witherspoon said. "Forty-nine percent of student residents (who took the survey) are not satisfied with the variety of options as well as 23 percent being extremely unsatisfied."

Steadman noted that the meal plan is required, but added that the administration's goal is to keep the prices at a reasonable level to help students as much as possible.

"Yes, the meal plan is currently required for students who live in the dorms. We have had minimal increases in meal-plan charges to help keep this cost reasonable for students," said Steadman. "Other schools recognize the value of residential students eating together. As you may recall, ETSU recently announced required board plans for their residential students."

TUITION RATE ANNOUNCED FOR 2016-2017

By: Caleb Perhne

The total cost of attending Milligan will increase 5 percent, or \$1,820, next year, according to an email from President Bill Greer. That increase includes tuition, fees, room and board.

Jacqui Steadman, vice president for business and finance, said the "main drivers of the increase" were increases to contracts, such as insurance, security and food services, and a pay raise for all faculty and staff. Faculty and staff have not received a pay raise in two years, Steadman said.

The addition of Milligan's new engineering and physician assistant programs was not a factor in the increase, Steadman said. The costs of those programs were covered by restricted gifts given specifically for those programs. Tuition from those new students will cover the salaries for the additional professors.

Steadman said Milligan is reducing costs through a new energy saving project next year. The program will save 6.8 percent on the physical plant budget in 2016-17. Small cuts have also been made across the budget, such as a reduction in travel and training costs.

This year's increase is larger than last year's, however, the annual increase from 2013-14 to the present has been less than in previous years. Recent increases have been about 3 or 4 percent while increases were about 5.3 to 6.6 percent between 2006-07 and 2012-13. Steadman said reducing cost increases has been a priority for Greer.

Milligan's cost has increased 65 percent between 2005 and 2015, while the inflation rate was 21 percent during the same period. Steadman said the increase is due to the addition of new programs and services over the past decade. Unlike with the engineering and physician assistant programs, Milligan did not receive restricted gifts to start new majors in the past.

On average, according to the College Board, private four-year institutions in the South increased 56 percent over the past decade. Public institutions increased 97 percent.

Budget Information and Statistics

Physical Plant Budget		
2015-16	\$2,370,498	
2016-17	\$2,208,545	
Change	-\$161,953	
% of Change	-6.8%	
Data from Milligan 2016-17 budget summary		
Total Cost of Attendance (2005-2017)		
Year	Cost	% Increase
2005-06	\$21,990	
2006-07	\$23,350	6.2%
2007-08	\$24,900	6.6%
2008-09	\$26,210	5.3%
2009-10	\$27,510	5.0%
2010-11	\$29,170	6.0%
2011-12	\$30,910	6.0%
2012-13	\$32,610	5.5%
2013-14	\$33,915	4.0%
2014-15	\$34,980	3.1%
2015-16	\$36,330	3.9%
2016-17	\$38,150	5.0%
Data from Milligan College catalogs and business office		
Average College Rate Increases (2005-2015)		
Milligan		65%
National		
Public 4-Year		71%

Milligan Tuition to Rise Again, Athletes Choose to Stay

By: Jacob Smith

The track and field coaches announced in early April that they were bringing in the second-largest recruiting class of all time. Two days later, they announced the signing of three more scholarship runners.

Despite rising tuition costs, the vast majority of the athletes have made clear their plans to return to Milligan in the fall of 2016. Some athletes say that the school's good reputation is the reason they're staying.

"Tuition is bound to rise, and even though I'm paying an extensive amount, I feel like it's worth it," said sophomore dancer Maria Barnes. "The school offers a lot of opportunities."

Despite choosing to stay at Milligan, many athletes are unhappy but accepting of the rising costs.

"To be honest, one of the main reasons I'm not transferring is because I don't want to deal with a transition," said junior volley

ball player Nathan Gibson. "Yeah, the tuition increase isn't ideal, but I don't want to try the 'new college thing' again."

Every year the school sends out an email to the students explaining tuition increases as well as a chart that details where the money is going. The emphasis is on the fact that Milligan's cost is well below the national average for private schools.

"I'm kind of tired of that email," said Gibson. "They tell us it's still cheaper to go here than other places. Like, I know there are more expensive schools out there, but this one is still really expensive."

Prices obviously haven't risen too high to drive off the athletic recruits, at least not this year. National Tuition Statistics.

Where does Milligan stack up?

By: Kelley Sorenson

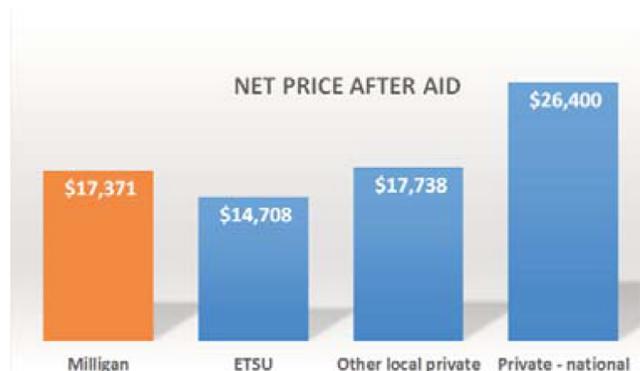
On average, private university tuition has increased 321 percent in the past 40 years (1975-2015), and 271 percent including room and board.

The cost of tuition, room and board has increased 10 percent in the past five years alone.

Milligan's tuition is 8 percent lower than the national average for private universities, and the room and board fees are 44 percent lower.

Overall, Milligan's cost is 17 percent (\$7,591) lower than the national average for private universities. (2015/16) Including financial aid, Milligan falls 12 percent below the average cost of private schools in the state of Tennessee.

SOURCE: The College Board Annual Survey of Colleges



Net Price after Aid Graph
Photo via Milligan College

5 Scholarships You Can Get While Still in College

By: Tori Duncan

Good news—if you're looking for money to get you through the remaining years of college, there are many scholarships available! Here are five scholarships you can score while still in college.

1. Fastweb

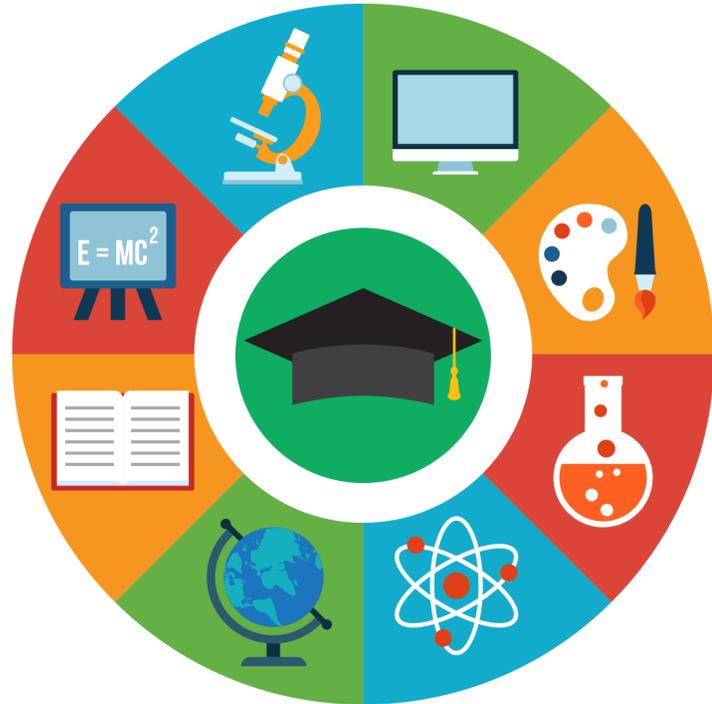
Fastweb offers a scholarship search tool that allows students to find different types of scholarships. The different types include both essay and non-essay scholarships that range in amount awarded. These scholarships may be from different organizations. Fastweb also offers career, college and scholarship advice.

2. The Live Mas Scholarship

While this scholarship is pretty competitive, it offers a large sum of scholarship money. This specific scholarship requires students to submit a video (two minutes or less) about one of their passions. The film is not judged on the filmmaking skills. Rather, judges will be looking for the students who craft a compelling argument. Scholarship amounts range from \$2,500-\$25,000.

3. Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway

The Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway is open to students between the ages of 18-24. The scholarship amounts range from \$5,000-\$100,000. To enter for a chance to win, go to the Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway website. Students may submit a "one of a kind" goal to be entered. Becoming a finalist means more scholarship money.



Affording College

Photo via Freepik.com



designed by freepik.com

Attending School
Photo via Freepik.com

4. Hispanic Scholarship Fund

This is one of many foundations that work to fund different minorities and ethnicities. This specific organization works with Hispanic families who strive for higher education and support them through the process. They offer different programs and scholarships such as the HSF General Scholarship, which is open to any college students. This particular scholarship gives students a chance to score \$500-\$5000.

5. Chegg.com

Most students live by Chegg for their book rentals. The site, however, is also a great resource for finding scholarships. Under the college tab is a section for scholarship searches. Chegg has a search engine available for those looking for more college scholarship money. This feature, among others, makes Chegg an all-around great site to bookmark. It offers students the chance to find tutors, get study tips and even search for internships.

AVOIDING OUR FINANCIAL DEMISE

By: Nathan Dickerson

What are you doing after college? Do you have a job lined up? Are you going to live at home for the summer? Are you ready for your loan debt to kick in?

If you are like me, you've heard some of these questions over the past year, and especially this semester.

May 7, the day we've been working towards for years, is right around the corner. Soon, we will be college graduates. That feels a little crazy to me!

Yet, with the excitement of entering the next stage of our lives, there are also many new financial responsibilities. Which sounds super fun, right?

I recently conducted a short survey among our senior class, to see where a majority of us may soon find ourselves financially. Out of the 162 of us graduating next month, 89 completed the survey.

Some highlights of the survey results are as follows:

- 31 percent of surveyed seniors will be graduating with more than \$20,000 in college debt.
- 58 percent of those seniors will begin paying off their debt by the six-month grace period.
- Of the other 42 percent (37 responses), 22 students plan to attend a graduate school and 15 will graduate debt free.
- 80 percent of the surveyed seniors plan to begin paying housing fees after graduating.
- About half (51 percent) of surveyed seniors have a full-time job waiting for them after graduation, but 19 percent will graduate without having any job lined up.

10 TIPS FOR POST-GRADUATE FINANCIAL SUCCESS

1

Develop personal and financial goals.

The more you define and refine your goals, the easier it should be to establish a plan for achievement.

2

Create a budget and stick to it.

There are plenty of online tools out there (MINT, Level Money) to help you with budgeting in a way that you can carry with you. "If you find you continually overspend each month, you should revisit your budget and make adjustments," Vaccaro says.

3

Do your research.

When it comes to buying a car, shopping for insurance, investing in your future, and doing other things financial – always do your research. Make sure you are acquiring information from reputable resources to make informed decisions.

4

Start building credit.

Do this little by little. An easy way to build credit is to pay off student loans on time. You do not have to use a credit card to build credit.

5

Invest in retirement immediately.

The beauty of compound interest is on your side the earlier you start to invest. Most employers offer programs that take contributions from your paycheck and invest it automatically into a retirement account.

6

Make the most of your grace period.

If you have student loans, you have a grace period of six months after graduation before you must start paying them back. Take this time to research approximately how much your monthly payments will be and

7

Get a roommate.

Find someone you can share life and expenses with. This will take some of the financial load off you, especially as you are starting out.

8

Get renter's insurance.

This is a relatively inexpensive way to insure your personal property against theft and damage. Your landlord should have insurance but it will cover only the building, not your personal belongings.

9

Create a slush fund.

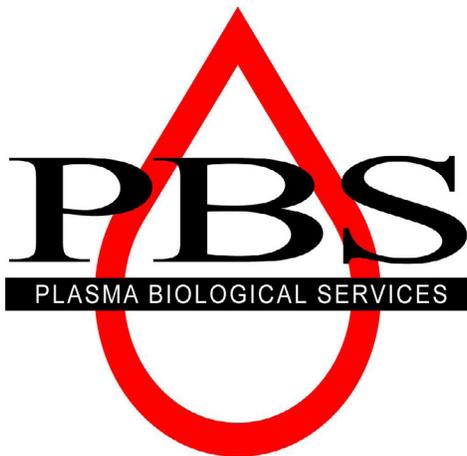
Life is meant to be lived, not just survived. Make sure to work into your budget some money for fun.

10

Live within your means.

Know your limitations, personally and financially. Do not compare your situation to your neighbor (or your parents). It is going to take time to build financial stability.

Read the full story on milliganstampede.com



New Donors Earn \$250 With Only 5 Donations

**Newly
Automated
for faster
donations
and plenty of
parking**

Why Donate?

Your donation will help aid patients of:

- Bleeding disorders
- Immune system deficiencies
- Genetic lung disorders
- Burns, Shock, Trauma
- Major surgery
- Rh incompatibility
- Cardiopulmonary needs
- Recipients of transplants
- Pediatric HIV
- Hepatitis
- Serious liver conditions
- Animal bites (in the prevention of rabies)

404 Ashe Street
Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: 423.926.3169
Interstatebloodbank.com