

Federal Tax Benefits at a Glance

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

You may be able to take advantage of a number of federal tax benefits, including credits, deductions and savings incentives, to offset your costs for college or career training. You will find details on all the tax benefits at the Internal Revenue Service Web sites listed at right. You can also check out EdFUND's *Guide to Federal Tax Benefits* at www.edfund.org. In any case, we highly recommend you consult a professional tax advisor or attorney.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
www.irs.gov/faqs/faq-kw52.html

Form 8863 and Instructions, *Education Credits*
www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8863.pdf

Publication 970, *Tax Benefits for Higher Education* (as of December 27, 2007, the 2007 edition had not been posted)
www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html



	HOPE TAX CREDIT	LIFETIME LEARNING TAX CREDIT	STUDENT LOAN INTEREST DEDUCTION	TUITION AND FEE DEDUCTION	COVERDELL EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT	529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS (QUALIFIED TUITION PLANS)
WHAT IS IT?	A tax credit for the first two years of postsecondary education. You can subtract up to \$1,650 a year in tuition and qualified college costs from the taxes you owe when you file your federal tax return.	A tax credit for tuition and qualified expenses for higher education or career training. You can subtract up to \$2,000 a year in tuition and qualified college costs from the taxes you owe when you file your federal tax return.	A tax deduction of up to \$2,500 of the interest you pay on your student loan each year, or the interest you pay on loans you received for your spouse's or child's education. The deduction will reduce the amount of your income that may be taxed by up to \$2,500. You can claim this deduction even if you do not itemize deductions on your federal tax return.	A tax deduction of up to \$4,000 for 2007 for tuition and fees from your taxable income if you are not eligible for the Hope or Lifetime Learning tax credits. You do not have to itemize to take advantage of this tax benefit but you must file Form 1040 or 1040A.	A savings account that is set up to pay qualified education expenses for a designated beneficiary. The beneficiary must be under the age of 18 or a special needs beneficiary.	An account that is set up to let you save for or prepay your or another beneficiary's college costs. Contributions grow tax-free and you pay no federal taxes on the money you withdraw for qualified education expenses. Each plan has its own annual and total contribution limits
INCOME LIMITS	Taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of less than \$57,000 (less than \$114,000 if married and filing jointly). The credit is gradually reduced for those with incomes between \$47,000 - \$57,000 (\$94,000 - \$114,000 if married and filing jointly).	Taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of less than \$57,000 (less than \$114,000 if married and filing jointly). The credit is gradually reduced for those with incomes between \$47,000 - \$57,000 (\$94,000 - \$114,000 if married and filing jointly).	Taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income less than \$65,000 (less than \$135,000 if married and filing jointly). The credit is gradually reduced for those with incomes between \$50,000 - \$65,000 (\$105,000 - \$135,000 if filing jointly).	Taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of no more than \$65,000 (no more than \$130,000 if married and filing jointly) may deduct up to \$4,000. Those with incomes of more than \$65,000 (more than \$130,000 if married and filing jointly) but not more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 if married and filing jointly) may deduct up to \$2,000.	Taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of less than \$110,000 (less than \$220,000 if married and filing jointly) can contribute to a Coverdell account.	There are no income limits.
ENROLLMENT STATUS	You must be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program leading to a degree or certificate.	You may be enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution, or in any course of instruction at an eligible school to improve or acquire job skills. You do not need to be pursuing a degree or other recognized education credential.	You must have been enrolled at least half time in a degree program during the time of the loan.	You must be enrolled in at least one course at an eligible postsecondary institution.	You can make tax-free withdrawals for qualified higher education expenses when the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible postsecondary school.	The beneficiary must be taking at least one course at an eligible postsecondary institution to take tax-free withdrawals.
BENEFITS	Up to \$1,650 a year of your—or your spouse's or your child's—college costs (100 percent of the first \$1,100 you pay for tuition and qualified expenses, and 50 percent of the next \$1,100, for each student).	Up to \$2,000 a year of your qualified education expenses, or those of your spouse or child (20 percent of qualified costs up to \$10,000). No limit on the number of years the credit can be claimed. If you qualify for both the Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits, you may claim only one.	The maximum deduction is \$2,500.	Depending on your income, you may deduct up to \$4,000 of your tuition and fees (if you are not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer) or those you paid for your child's or spouse's education.	Total contributions for the beneficiary in any year cannot be more than \$2,000. The amount of withdrawals you may make in a year cannot be more than actual qualified college costs.	Contributions and earnings grow tax-free and you pay no federal taxes when you withdraw money for qualified education expenses.