



# **Student Financing Handbook**



**We want our students to be able to focus on class, not costs. That's why we offer a wide range of flexible payment options, financing plans, and scholarships and grants for all of our programs. Take a look through this guide to find the best choice for you, and if you're still unsure, our team is always ready to talk through your options.**





## Payment Plans

We have payment plan options available for students interested in paying for their program in multiple installments. To aid in your decision making, we created a guide to help you determine which of our options best meets your needs.

1. Apply for the General Assembly program that you're interested in and go through the Admissions process with one of our representatives. Let them know which payment plan option you're interested in! (If you've already done this, skip to step 2.)
2. Use the chart below to decide which of our options is best for you.
3. If you've already been accepted into a program, you'll receive an invoice and enrollment agreement where you'll need to check off your payment plan option of choice.

Payment Options	Option 1 * Full payment	Option 2 Pay in quarters	Option 3 † Pay in thirds	Option 4 ‡ Installment option
	Collected before program start date	Pay in quarters	Pay in thirds	for Circuits and in-person programs less than 10 weeks in length
Deposit	\$250 deposit within 24 hours of enrollment.	1/4 of the total tuition with 24 hours of enrollment.	\$250 deposit within 24 hours of enrollment.	\$250 deposit within 24 hours of enrollment.
Payment Schedule	Students pay balance of charges at least 7 days prior to the course start date.	1/4 due 7 days after course start date	1/3 due 7 days before course start date	1/2 due 7 days after course start date
		1/4 due 30 days after course start date	1/3 due 30 days after course start date	1/2 due 30 days after course start date
		1/4 due 60 days after course start date	1/3 due 60 days after course start date	
Fees	Student will incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions.	<p>If student holds an outstanding balance after the course end date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a one-time \$75 late fee will be applied and</li> <li>• a 1.5% interest charge on the total due will be applied each month thereafter.</li> </ul> <p>Student will incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions.</p>	<p>If student holds an outstanding balance after the course end date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a one-time \$75 late fee will be applied and</li> <li>• a 1.5% interest charge on the total due will be applied each month thereafter.</li> </ul> <p>Student will incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions.</p>	<p>If student holds an outstanding balance after the course end date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a one-time \$75 late fee will be applied and</li> <li>• a 1.5% interest charge on the total due will be applied each month thereafter.</li> </ul> <p>Student will incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions.</p>

\* † Option 1 and Option 3 are not available for students based in Washington, D.C.

\* Option 1 is not available for students based in Singapore.

‡ Option 4 is not available for 1 week programs. Students enrolled in 1 week programs must use Option 1.



## FAQ

### Employer Pay

Does General Assembly accept employer sponsorship for part-time courses, Immersive programs, and workshops/bootcamps?

Yes. If you are an individual student, just follow our regular admissions process. You will be able to pay using a corporate credit card, or with your own credit card to receive reimbursement from your employer at a later date. For groups or teams, we encourage you to [connect with our Enterprise division](#) to discuss both course options and payment.

What is the enrollment process with the employer sponsorship program?

1. Complete a course application.
2. Speak with our Admissions team and find the program that's right for your goals.
3. Download our informational [PDF](#) about employer sponsorship to share with your manager.

I'm interested in taking a General Assembly course. How do I find out if my company can help pay for it?

Whether or not your workplace offers an official professional development program, there are several paths to receiving full or partial employer sponsorship:

- Speak with your HR team. Your company may have an employee education budget. Ask whether your employer will pay for your education up front or with tuition reimbursement, and find out any criteria you need to meet to receive assistance.
- Speak with your manager. Talk about how learning new in-demand skills will make a positive impact on your role in the company. To help start the conversation, we've created an informational PDF to answer your manager's questions.
- Speak with our Admissions team. They'll help you as you complete the standard application process, and answer any questions that come up.

For tips on how to get the conversation started, [download our PDF](#) of talking points to make your case.

How do I pay for the course?

After getting approval from your employer, we encourage you to either:

- Pay for your program and get reimbursed directly through your employer. You can choose to either pay in full or sign up for one of our payment plan options that break your payments up into installments.
- Pay for your program using a corporate credit card.

My company only funds accredited programs. Is General Assembly accredited?

While we strive to provide a top-notch educational experience for you with excellent instructors and an enthusiastic and involved community, General Assembly is not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting body. This means that federal student loan aid cannot be used in conjunction with our course.

However, our team can provide course curriculum that you can share with your HR department or manager for review. In many cases, employers have offered tuition assistance upon reviewing our program curriculum in depth. We are also available to speak to representatives at your company if they prefer to discuss the program with someone at General Assembly.



What are your academic policies?

General Assembly measures student progress through regular homework assignments and in-depth projects. Students are graded on a pass/fail basis. To receive a passing grade, students must:

- Receive a passing grade on 80% of all homework assignments. Homework is graded on the basis of completion. To receive a passing grade on a homework assignment, students must complete 100% of the minimum tasks specified in that assignment.
- Maintain consistent attendance. A passing grade in attendance will be given to students with no more than the allowed absences, depending on the program.
- Receive a passing grade on all course projects. General Assembly does not have a cumulative final test or examination required for the completion of any of the courses. A statement will be furnished to students regarding satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress.
- Tuition must be paid in full by the end of the course to receive a letter of completion unless other arrangements have been made with your Admissions Producer before the course starts.

I'm an employer and I want to send multiple employees to General Assembly. Can I do that?

Of course! Please reach out to our Enterprise team to discuss group and team options.

## Financing Options

We have two options available for students interested in financing the cost of their program. Both of our financing partners are high-quality lenders who offer affordable rates to our community members. To aid in your decision making, we created a guide to help you determine which of our options best meets your needs.

Before you get started, check your credit score.

If you already know it, skip to step 2!

If you don't, Credit Karma provides free (and instant!) credit scores.

- Use chart below to decide which of our partners is best for you.
- Prepare all possible documents that a lender might ask for (see right) to expedite your application process.
- Apply for the 1-2 options that best meet your needs.
- Apply for the General Assembly program that you're interested in and go through the Admissions process with one of our representatives. Let them know if you've already applied for financing or are interested in financing your program but have not yet applied!
- Once you receive a decision from a lender, let your Admissions representative know!

### Documents a Lender Might Ask For

- Income verification (offer letters, pay stubs) for themselves and/or their co-borrower (with Climb)
- Account statements for bank accounts
- Valid color government issued photo ID
- Residency verification (utilities bill, lease)
- Proof of housing payments
- Proof of payment on certain debts (car payments, mortgage, etc)
- Any information to explain past missed payments



## FINANCING OPTIONS (CONT.)

	<u>Climb</u>	<u>Pave</u>
Immersive lender	✓	✓
Part-Time program lender	✓	✓
WDI Remote lender	✓	✓
Cost of living expense lender *	✓	✓
Loan term length	3 - year loan term	2 or 3 - year loan terms
Deferral period	No. Students make (small) interest payments while enrolled in their programs. Full payments commence one month after the program ends.	Yes. <b>For Immersive students:</b> 4 months from the time that funds are disbursed to GA
Interest rates	5 - 12 %	6.5 - 18 %
Fees	5 % of loan amount	3 % of loan amount
Who should apply	Students with a co-borrower who has great credit will have higher likelihood of being approved and securing a good rate. Students who wish to borrow <b>less than \$3,000</b> in cost of living expenses should also apply.	Students with average–excellent credit. Students interested in borrowing more than \$3,000 in cost of living expenses should also apply.

\* Financing partners only provide a supplementary cost of living stipend for students who have financed the full tuition amount.

## FAQ

**Opportunity Fund**

## What is Opportunity Fund?

General Assembly's social impact programs promote diversity, access, and socioeconomic mobility. The Opportunity Fund provides 100% fully-funded scholarships to our Immersive courses in web development, user experience design, and Android development for low-income individuals, with a special focus on underrepresented communities in tech (women, people of color, LGBTQ + individuals, and veterans).

## What is the application process like?

Interested students should speak to our [Admissions team](#) about the Immersive program they are interested in and ask about the Opportunity Fund. In addition to applying to the Immersive program, students will complete an additional application highlighting eligibility and need for the scholarship.

## Who qualifies for an Opportunity Fund scholarship?

Students must be unemployed or low-income (maximum annual household income of \$30,000), and preference is given to members of underrepresented communities in tech (including, but not limited to, women, people of color, LGBTQ + individuals, veterans, people with disabilities). Preference is given to students who have faced barriers to education and employment. To date, 100% of scholarship recipients are unemployed or make less than \$30,000 per year; 55% of scholarship recipients are women, 55% are Black or Latino, and 12% are veterans.





How do I apply?

Students interested in Opportunity Fund should:

- Speak to Admissions about a General Assembly Immersive program that interests them, and express interest in Opportunity Fund.
- Interested students will submit a brief application that determines eligibility.
- Students who meet the criteria will go through the standard admissions process.
- Once admitted to the course, applicants will complete a final, in-depth application that includes a statement on why they should receive the scholarship.

NOTE: All Opportunity Fund candidates must have work authorization in their country of study. Additionally, all students who apply for Opportunity Fund must also apply for a loan. Loan eligibility will not disqualify an applicant from receiving Opportunity Fund, but is one of many important data points used by the committee.

How long does the application process take?

Students will receive a decision on eligibility within one week of submitting the pre-application, and a final decision within two weeks of submitting the final application.

Who is involved in the decision-making process?

Team members from the General Assembly staff who are responsible for the Opportunity Fund and social impact programs will review applications and make final decisions.

I need cost of living assistance. Are there funds available?

In some cases, cost of living funds are available. Scholarships that are funded by corporate partners may come with living stipends. However, the majority of scholarships do not have additional stipends attached.

Will I receive career support and guidance?

Yes. Students enrolled in General Assembly's full-time Immersive programs get access to our Outcomes program, which provides career coaching, job search support, Alumni meetups, events with hiring partners, and Profiles, our online hiring platform.