

# **STUDENT FINANCING HANDBOOK**

**Updated March 2024**



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# INTRODUCTION

At General Assembly, we pride ourselves on being the most affordable, accessible, and high-return pathway to a career in tech for anyone who is committed to making the transition.

More than half of all GA students take advantage of financial assistance. We've helped 78,000+ students meaningfully invest in their careers through targeted, industry-aligned education and believe that expanding access to our courses will lead to more diverse classrooms — and a more diverse workforce. Plus, removing financial barriers isn't just a social impact goal, it's core to GA's brand mission. We stand behind our education and student outcomes. When you're successful, we're successful.

We know that investing in your education can be a big decision. We also know that there's no one-size-fits-all solution to financing. That's why we've crafted an array of options to match every student goal, starting point, and financial situation — from deferred payments to zero-interest loans.

In addition to payment plans, income share loans (ISLs), and private loans, we also have specific programs for underrepresented communities and veterans and can help you to secure funding through your employer.

All of our financing options are vetted, high-quality, and created explicitly for GA students. We work directly with partners to ensure student-friendly terms and seamless customer service.

As we invest more in our global growth, new learning products, comprehensive supportive services for our students, and best-in-class instructors, we've also officially made the difficult decision to reduce our physical campus footprint and not reopen our spaces in many of our U.S. markets, however our New York campus will remain open. At several points throughout the pandemic we thought that we would eventually see a "return to normal" — but it's clear that the ways that we live, work, and learn are forever altered. We live in a changed world, and General Assembly is changing with it.





# HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

We want our learners to be able to focus on class, not costs.

We understand that different people have varying priorities and circumstances, which makes some financing options more suitable than others. It's our hope that the breadth of financing options we offer will promote access to our life-changing programs and meet the needs of the majority of prospective students.

Your choices will depend on your own unique situation and needs. Ask yourself:

- What will my budget be for my time during the program? Will I have the resources to support myself (and others) financially?
- What will my debt-to-income ratio look like? How will my monthly payments fit into this?
- Is it more important to have smaller monthly payments or to pay my balance off faster?

We've compiled this handbook to help you find the answers.

Financing options for our programs have been broken out between our Bootcamp and short course programs. Each state has specific rules and regulations that may not be represented here. Refer to our formal [Course Catalog](#) for full details.

While this handbook can serve as a jumping-off point for considering how to finance your GA education, it should not replace the guidance of a financial planner. We recommend discussing these options with a trusted advisor before making any decisions.

If you have any questions about General Assembly or the contents of this handbook, our Admissions team is here to help. Drop us a note at [admissions@generalassemb.ly](mailto:admissions@generalassemb.ly).

See you in class,

Cristina Rodriguez (she/her)  
Director, Consumer Finance  
General Assembly





# GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

<b>BOOTCAMP</b> Designed to get you hired — launch a new career in as little as 12 weeks.		On-Campus at GA NYC	Remote
<a href="#">Data Analytics Bootcamp</a>			X
<a href="#">Data Science Bootcamp</a>			X
<a href="#">Software Engineering Bootcamp</a>		X	X
<a href="#">User Experience Design Bootcamp</a>		X	X
CURRENT FINANCING OPTIONS			
<a href="#">Payment Plans</a>		<a href="#">EdAid Payment Plans</a>	
<a href="#">Private Loans</a>		<a href="#">Income Share Loans*</a>	
<a href="#">24-Month 0% Interest Pathway Payments</a>		<a href="#">GI Bill® Benefit†</a>	
<a href="#">36-Month 0% Interest Fully Deferred Grace Plan</a>			
<b>SHORT COURSE</b> Project-based skill-building — ideal for working professionals.			Remote
<a href="#">Data Analytics</a>			X
<a href="#">Data Science</a>			X
<a href="#">Digital Marketing</a>			X
<a href="#">Front-End Web Development</a>			X
<a href="#">JavaScript Development</a>			X
<a href="#">Product Management</a>			X
<a href="#">Python Programming</a>			X
<a href="#">React Development</a>			X
<a href="#">User Experience Design</a>			X
<a href="#">Visual Design</a>			X
FINANCING OPTIONS			
<a href="#">Payment Plans</a>		<a href="#">Private Loans</a>	

\*ISLs are currently not available for Data Analytics Bootcamp.

†Please see GI Bill page for details on eligibility requirements.

Loans may be issued by Stride Funding, Inc or FinWise Bank, a Utah-chartered bank, Member FDIC. All loans are subject to individual approval and adherence to underwriting guidelines. Program restrictions, other terms, and conditions apply.

# PAYMENT PLANS

## WHAT ARE PAYMENT PLANS?

Payment plans allow students at GA to spread out their tuition cost over a limited number of installments while they are actively attending class. These plans are a form of self-payment and don't have any associated fees or interest when paid off prior to the end of the course.

All students make an upfront payment within 24 hours of enrollment, covering the registration fee and tuition deposit. They can then split their tuition into two, three, or four installments due prior to the date of completion.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Let your Admissions Producer know about your payment plan of interest.
3. Your Admissions Producer will process your enrollment.
4. Keep an eye out for an invoice for your initial upfront payment that's due within 24 hours.

PAYMENT PLAN OPTIONS		
1/2 Payment Option	1/3 Payment Option	1/4 Payment Option
\$250 due upfront.	\$250 due upfront.	First installment of tuition due upfront.
First installment due seven days before the course starts.	First installment due seven days before the course starts.	Second installment due seven days after the course starts.
Second half due one month after that.	Second installment due one month after that.	Third installment due three weeks after that.
N/A	Third installment due one month after that.	Fourth installment due three weeks after that.

## THE FINE PRINT

Timing of payments will vary based on the place of residency and the date of the previous invoice. For example, for students based in Washington, D.C., the first payment is due seven days after the course start date instead of seven days before. Enrolling after the initial installment due date will require full payment at the time of enrollment. Be sure to consult our [Course Catalog](#) for full details.

When taking on a payment plan, we recommend budgeting for both a three-month course at GA and an additional three-month window for job searching.

If a student holds an outstanding balance after the course's end date, a one-time \$75 late fee will be applied and a 1.5% interest charge on the total due will be accrued each month thereafter. Students will also incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions or returned checks.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

Payment plans are a good option if you want to pay tuition back quickly to avoid additional interest or fees. They are best suited to students who have the funds available to pay for living expenses, including rent and groceries.

# LOANS

## WHAT ARE PARTNER LOANS?

Partner loans send money directly to GA on a student's behalf, which you'll pay back with interest over a specified period of time. In the United States, loans for all Bootcamp programs are available via our partners at [Ascent](#), [Climb](#), and [Meritize](#). Apply for as low as \$1,000 up to the full cost of tuition and up to \$7,000 in living expenses.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Complete a loan application directly via the partner's site.
3. Select the repayment plan that works best for you.
4. Upon approval of the loan, your Admissions producer will enroll you in the program.

AT A GLANCE		
Cost of Living Financing	Loan Term	Interest Rate
✓	3–10 years	6.5–15%

On average, this entire process takes one to two days to complete.

## THE FINE PRINT

GA's loan partners determine approval based on financial criteria such as credit score and income-to-debt ratio. Students with poor financial histories may be denied access to a loan.

Students can be pre-approved for a loan without impacting their credit score, as partners use a soft pull as part of their decision-making process. We recommend that students review their credit report prior to applying to see where they stand, make sure there are no inaccuracies, and determine if they should consider finding a co-borrower.

Ascent, Climb, and Meritize offer loans to students with U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. However, a foreign student can apply for the loan as long as they have a co-borrower who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

There is no penalty for early repayment.



### THE BOTTOM LINE

Student loans are a good option for people who want to pay for their course with smaller monthly installments rather than larger payments or all upfront. Because loans come with an interest rate, you'll ultimately pay more than the tuition amount. Student loans are best for students with good to excellent credit who want to know the amount they'll pay each month or who need funds throughout the duration of the course.

# 24-MONTH 0% INTEREST PATHWAY PAYMENTS

## WHAT ARE 24-MONTH PAYMENT PLANS?

These extended payment plans allow students at GA to spread out their tuition costs.

### THE APPLICATION PROCESS

This 24-month payment plan is available through [Climb Credit](#).

AT A GLANCE		
24	0	0%
-month repayment period	fees	interest

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Complete a loan application with Climb.
3. Select the 0% interest rate option as your preferred financing option.
4. Your Admissions producer will formally enroll you in the program and send an invoice for your initial upfront payment, due within 24 hours.

### THE FINE PRINT

This payment plan is only available to students who have been accepted to a General Assembly program. All students pay an upfront payment to General Assembly within 24 hours of enrollment, which covers the registration fee and tuition deposit. The remaining balance is paid via 24 monthly installments made via the Climb platform on the first of each month following your first day of class.

This payment plan does not include funding for cost of living or program materials, only the tuition of a Bootcamp program.

There is no penalty for early repayment.



### THE BOTTOM LINE

A 24-month payment plan removes upfront barriers that too often prevent people from pursuing education and training. This payment option is great for students who want to pay a low overall cost but may not want or need a 3+ year loan.





# 36-MONTH 0% INTEREST FULLY DEFERRED GRACE PLAN

## WHAT ARE 36-MONTH PAYMENT PLANS?

These extended payment plans allow students at GA to spread out their tuition costs.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

This 36-month payment plan is available through Climb Credit.

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Complete a loan application with Climb.
3. Select the 0% interest rate option as your preferred financing option.
4. Your Admissions producer will formally enroll you in the program and send an invoice for your initial upfront payment, due within 24 hours.

## THE FINE PRINT

This payment plan is only available to students who have been accepted to a General assembly program. All students pay a \$500 upfront payment to General Assembly within 24 hours of enrollment, which covers the registration fee and tuition deposit. The remaining balance is paid via 36 monthly installments made via the Climb platform. No payments are owed for the first 12 months after your loan is funded.

This payment plan does not include funding for cost of living or program materials, only the tuition of a Bootcamp program. There is no penalty for early repayment.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

A 36-month payment plan removes upfront barriers that too often prevent people from pursuing education and training. This payment option is great for students who want to pay a low overall cost but may not want or need a 3+ year loan.



## **36-MONTH 0% INTEREST INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN (DAI AND FLEX PROGRAMS)**

### **WHAT ARE 36-MONTH PAYMENT PLANS?**

These extended payment plans allow students at GA to spread out their tuition costs.

### **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

This 36-month payment plan is available through EdAid.

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Complete a payment plan application with EdAid.
3. Select the 0% interest rate option as your preferred financing option.
4. Your Admissions producer will formally enroll you in the program and send an invoice for your initial upfront payment, due within 24 hours.

### **THE FINE PRINT**

This payment plan is only available to students who have been accepted to a General assembly program. All students pay an upfront payment to General Assembly within 24 hours of enrollment, which covers the registration fee and tuition deposit. The remaining balance is paid via 36 monthly installments made via the EdAid platform on the first of each month following your first day of class.

This payment plan does not include funding for cost of living or program materials, only the tuition of a Bootcamp program. There is no penalty for early repayment.



### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

A 36-month payment plan removes upfront barriers that too often prevent people from pursuing education and training. This payment option is great for students who want to pay a low overall cost but may not want or need a 3+ year loan.



## 24-MONTH 0% INTEREST DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN (DAI AND FLEX PROGRAMS)

### WHAT ARE 24-MONTH DEFERRED PAYMENT PLANS?

These extended payment plans allow students at GA to begin paying their tuition once earning the equivalent of \$3,333.33 (\$40,000/year) or higher.

### THE APPLICATION PROCESS

This 24-month payment plan is available through EdAid.

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your Bootcamp of choice.
2. Complete a loan application with Edaid.
3. Select the 0% interest rate option as your preferred financing option.
4. Your Admissions producer will formally enroll you in the program and send an invoice for your initial \$500 upfront payment, due within 24 hours.

### THE FINE PRINT

This payment plan is only available to students who have been accepted to a General assembly program. All students pay a \$500 upfront payment to General Assembly within 24 hours of enrollment, which covers the registration fee and tuition deposit. The remaining balance is paid via 24 monthly installments made via the EdAid platform on the first of each month after earning at least \$3,333.33/month (\$40,000/year).

This payment plan does not include funding for cost of living or program materials, only the tuition of a Bootcamp program. There is no penalty for early repayment.



### THE BOTTOM LINE

A 24-month payment plan removes upfront barriers that too often prevent people from pursuing education and training. This payment option is great for students who want to pay a low overall cost once they are earning over the minimum income threshold of \$3,333.33/month but may not want or need a 3+ year loan.

# INCOME SHARE LOANS

## WHAT ARE ISLs?

Income share loans (ISLs) are a form of income-based payment used by students at a growing number of higher education institutions and education providers. Under the terms of a typical ISL, students get all or a portion of their tuition paid upfront in exchange for a set percentage of their income after graduation over a set period of time.

The minimum loan amount you can apply for is \$2,500, and the maximum loan amount is \$16,200, through our [Catalyst program](#).

Stride Funding or FinWise Bank's loans are not endorsed by General Assembly.

Stride Funding and FinWise Bank are not affiliated with General Assembly.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

AT A GLANCE		
\$40,000 Minimum Income Threshold <sup>1</sup>	1.6-10% Income Share <sup>1</sup>	1.5X Maximum Payment Cap <sup>1</sup>
Repayment begins only once you secure a role earning at least \$40,000 per year. <sup>1</sup>	Pay back 1.6-10% percent of your monthly earned income over 48 months. <sup>1</sup>	Payments are maxed out at 1.5 times the initial cost of tuition. <sup>1</sup>

1. Complete an online loan application.
2. Work through 10–20 hours of pre-course work via myGA, General Assembly's online learning platform.
3. Meet the minimum score requirements on an automated readiness assessment.
4. Your Admissions producer will formally admit you to the program and you'll be eligible to

# INCOME SHARE LOANS

## THE FINE PRINT

Due to state regulations, as of March 2023, ISLs are no longer offered to residents of Colorado or West Virginia. A tuition deposit of \$250 is required of students upon enrollment.



### THE BOTTOM LINE

ISLs are a good option for people who prioritize peace of mind. They allow you to defer payments until you have a job, even if it means paying more overall. ISLs are best suited to students of all credit grades who will have the funds to pay for living expenses, such as rent and groceries, throughout the duration of the course.

1. The effective Income Share Percentage ("ISP") on your Income Share Loan ("ISL") is a fixed percentage of your monthly gross-income and will range between 1.60% and 10.00%, for a period of 48 months after the beginning of your payment term. Monthly payments are required and will vary greatly in amount because they depend on your specific ISP and your reported monthly gross-income. Monthly repayment amount is based on your designated ISP and monthly gross-income, not an Annual Percentage Rate ("APR"); the APR you actually pay will be dependent on your actual ISP and gross-income for the entire duration of the loan repayment period.

To illustrate how much you might pay on your ISL, assuming you are earning \$40,000.00 gross-income per year (\$3,333.33 per month), with an ISP of 10%, amount financed of \$16,200.00, 48 months repayment period, and 21 months until graduation plus three months grace period, you will be required to make 48 monthly payments of \$333.33 for total payments of \$15,999.84.

For this example, your total monthly payments would end after 48 months even though you would not have reached the Maximum Implied Annual Percentage Rate of 21%, because you have reached your required number of Maximum Monthly Payments first, assuming that you have no deferrals or other pauses to your payments. You may repay more or less than the amount you received, depending on your specific circumstances. Your loan has a maximum payment period (96 months) inclusive of any months where monthly payments are made as well as any months that are deferred months after you leave or graduate from your program.

# GI BILL® BENEFIT

## WHAT IS THE GI BILL® BENEFIT?

General Assembly proudly accepts GI Bill® funds for full-time programs offered at our NYC campus. Participating in the GI Bill® at General Assembly typically uses six to eight months of entitlement.

GA accepts the following chapters of veterans and military dependents:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)
- Montgomery GI Bill® (Chapter 30)
- Reserve Education Assistance Program (Chapter 1606 or 1607)

Our Admissions team will help you navigate each step of the process so that you're able to activate, certify, and receive your education benefits.



## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Apply for GI Bill® education benefits and confirm your eligibility.**  
To confirm your current or remaining education benefit entitlement, call the VA Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551. If this is your first time using your benefit, [apply to use your GI Bill® with the VA](#).
2. If you've used your GI Bill® education benefit previously, you'll need to **fill out the [VA Form 22-1995](#)** to have your benefit transferred for use at General Assembly. Be sure to designate "General Assembly" on the form.
3. Once you're approved, you'll **receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)**. For Post-9/11 GI Bill® students, your education enrollment status is available via [eBenefits](#) and can be used in place of the CoE.
4. **Submit your documents no later than three weeks prior** to your course start date.

Be sure you apply for GA's program and your VA benefits simultaneously, as each process can take up to a few weeks to complete.

## THE FINE PRINT

[Visit our website](#) for more details. Please confirm eligibility for Chapter 31/Vocational Rehabilitation. Veterans with further questions can email us at [gibill@generalassembly.ly](mailto:gibill@generalassembly.ly).

# PAYMENT PLANS

## WHAT ARE PAYMENT PLANS?

Payment plans allow students at GA to spread out their tuition cost over a limited number of installments while they are actively attending class. These plans are a form of self-payment and don't have any associated fees or interest.

All students make an upfront payment within 24 hours of enrollment, covering the registration fee and tuition deposit. They can then split their tuition into two, three, or four installments.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your program of choice.
2. Let your Admissions producer know about your payment plan of interest.
3. Your Admissions producer will process your enrollment.
4. Keep an eye out for an invoice for your initial upfront payment that's due within 24 hours.

PAYMENT PLAN OPTIONS		
1/2 Payment Option	1/3 Payment Option	1/4 Payment Option
\$250 due upfront.	\$250 due upfront.	First installment of tuition due upfront.
First installment due seven days before the course starts.	First installment due seven days before the course starts.	Second installment due seven days after the course starts.
Second half due one month after that.	Second installment due one month after that.	Third installment due three weeks after that.
N/A	Third installment due one month after that.	Fourth installment due three weeks after that.

\*One-week courses are not eligible for payment plans.

## THE FINE PRINT

Timing of payments will vary based on the place of residency and the date of the previous invoice. For example, for students based in Washington, D.C., the first payment is due seven days after the course start date instead of seven days before. Enrolling after the initial installment due date will require full payment at the time of enrollment. Be sure to consult our [Course Catalog](#) for full details.

If a student holds an outstanding balance after the course's end date, a one-time \$75 late fee will be applied and a 1.5% interest charge on the total due will be accrued each month thereafter. Students will also incur a \$25 fee for declined transactions or returned checks.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

Payment plans are a good option if you want to pay tuition back quickly to avoid additional interest or fees.

# LOANS

## WHAT ARE PARTNER LOANS?

Partner loans send money directly to GA on a student's behalf, which you'll pay back with interest over a specified period of time. In the United States, loans for short programs are available via our partners at [Climb](#) and [Meritize](#).

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your program of choice.
2. Complete a loan application directly via the partner's site.
3. Upon approval of the loan, your Admissions producer will enroll you in the program.

AT A GLANCE		
Loan Amount	Loan Term	Interest Rate
\$1,000–full tuition	3–10 years	5–15%
\$1,000–full tuition	18 months	0%*

On average, this entire process takes one to two days to complete.

## THE FINE PRINT

GA's loan partners determine approval based on financial criteria such as credit score and income-to-debt ratio. Students with poor financial histories may be denied access to a loan.

Students can be pre-approved for a loan without impacting their credit score, as partners use a soft pull as part of their decision-making process. We recommend that students review their credit report prior to applying to see where they stand, make sure there are no inaccuracies, and determine if they should consider finding a co-borrower.

Climb offers an 18-month 0%-interest loan to split the payments of a short course up over a year and a half — the only additional cost is an origination fee.

All of our partners offer loans to students with U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. However, a foreign student can apply for the loan as long as they have a co-borrower who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

Student loans are a good option for people who want to pay for their course with smaller monthly installments rather than larger payments or all upfront. Because loans come with an interest rate, you'll ultimately pay more with the loan partner of your choice than the tuition amount. Student loans are best for students with good to excellent credit who want to know the amount they'll pay each month, or for Flex students who need funds throughout the duration of the course.



# EMPLOYER SPONSORSHIP

## WHAT IS EMPLOYER SPONSORSHIP?

Some companies have a dedicated budget for employee development and education. Tuition can either be paid upfront directly by the employer or reimbursed to the employee after they successfully complete the program.

More than half of General Assembly's employed short students receive tuition reimbursement from their workplace. How? They simply ask. Speak with your manager about your goals and how new skills will help you achieve them. Plus, let them know that 81% of our employer-sponsored students immediately apply the skills they learn at GA on the job.

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

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply and gain acceptance to your program of choice.
2. Let your Admissions producer know that you're interested in employer sponsorship.

PATHS TO EMPLOYER SPONSORSHIP		
Speak With HR	Speak With Your Manager	Speak With Admissions
Ask if your company has an employee education budget.	Start a conversation with help from this <a href="#">handy PDF</a> .	Ask questions and get help with the application process.

3. Your producer will secure your enrollment and set up an invoice based on your company's payment process.

Upon approval from your employer, we encourage you to either:

- Pay for your program and get reimbursed directly. You can choose to either pay in full upfront or sign up for one of our payment plans, which break your tuition into installments.
- Pay for your program using a corporate credit card.
- Talk to your Admissions producer about third-party sponsorship.

## THE FINE PRINT

Some companies only fund accredited programs and, while we strive to provide a top-notch educational experience, General Assembly is not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized body. We are a licensed school in every U.S. state in which we operate.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

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