Educational Tax Benefits

This page is a resource for Anderson University students and their parents who may be eligible for education related tax benefits. Click on the links below for helpful information and resources. Please check the tax year on the PDF carefully, as some links may not yet be updated by the IRS.

- IRS Information on Educational Tax Benefits
  http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Benefits-for-Education:-Information-Center
- IRS Publication 970
- IRS Form 8863
- FAQ on Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement, provided by ECSI on behalf of Anderson University
  Link to pages 2-5 below
- Quick References/Useful Contacts
  Link to page 6 below

In accordance with IRS regulations, Anderson University does not provide personal tax advice. To determine your eligibility for a higher education tax credit, a student loan interest deduction or a deduction for qualified education expenses, please contact a personal tax advisor or the IRS.

To view some of this information you need Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer and properly configured for your web browser.
Educational Tax Benefits Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: 1098-T forms are mailed and/or emailed by ECSI on behalf of Anderson University. For questions about the 1098-T form, you may contact ECSI at 1-866-428-1098 or visit their website at www.ecsi.net/taxinfo.html.

- When are you mailing 1098-T forms?
  1098-T forms will be sent via U.S. Mail, or issued in electronic format if you selected this option, no later than January 31st. The 1098-T forms are issued by ECSI. Your student loan servicers will mail the 1098-E forms to you directly.

- What address is the 1098-T form mailed to?
  The 1098-T form is mailed to the home/permanent address listed on your Anderson University student record. You may “opt-in” to receive the 1098T form electronically by completing a consent form with ECSI at http://www.ecsi.net/gateway/1098t-signup.html?school=J8.

- What is a 1098-T?
  All eligible educational institutions are required by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to file an Annual Tuition Statement (IRS Form 1098-T) for each student who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident pursuing a degree, and for whom a reportable transaction is made. Form 1098-T reports amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses to the IRS for purposes of determining eligibility for the Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits. See the IRS web site at http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html for more information.

- Why does my form show zero payments?
  An institution may choose to report either payments received (box 1) or amounts billed (box 2) for qualified education expenses. Anderson University elects to report amounts billed for qualified tuition (box 2).

  The total amount of qualified charges (in box 2) less the amount of grants and scholarships (box 5) will provide you with an estimated amount to use as your total amount of qualified payments. If you paid more than this estimated total, then it is likely that your additional payments were applied towards unqualified charges, such as room, board, etc.

- What are qualified charges?
  Qualified charges include tuition and fees that are required for enrollment at an eligible educational institution. Amounts paid for any course or other education involving sports, games, or hobbies are not eligible for the credit unless the course or other education is part of the student’s degree program. Charges and fees associated with room, board, student activities, athletics, insurance, transportation, and similar personal, living, or family expenses are not qualified. You can find additional information at http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html.
• Why do you list ‘amounts billed for qualified tuition’ (Box 2) rather than ‘payments received for qualified tuition’ (Box 1)?
Educational institutions may choose to report either payments received or amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses, but not both. Since Anderson University has chosen to report amounts billed, only Box 2 will contain a dollar amount. Box 1 will be blank on all forms. Please refer to your cancelled checks and credit card statements or prior billing statements published in Self-Service to determine the amount paid during a calendar year. Anderson University will not recalculate 1098-T forms by the other payment method. You may print the calendar year billing statement published in your Self-Service account.

• What box on the 1098-T form should I use for my taxes?
The total amount of qualified charges (in box 1) less the amount of grants and scholarships (box 5) will provide you with an estimated amount to use as your total amount of qualified payments. If you paid more than this estimated total, then it is likely that your additional payments were applied to the unqualified charges, such as room, board, etc. Furthermore, any related qualified expenses for the American Opportunity Tax Credit need to be determined from records kept by the taxpayer. The University does not track these type of expenses on the 1098-T. You may view and print the prior year’s calendar billing statement from your Self-Service account. Please contact the IRS or your personal tax preparer for assistance or review the information at http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html.

• What is included in Box 5 for scholarships and grants on the 1098T?
Box 5 shows the total of all scholarships or grants administered and processed by Anderson University. The amount of scholarships or grants for the calendar year (including those not reported by the institution) may reduce the amount of the education credit you claim for the year.

• Can I get a duplicate copy of my 1098-T form for prior years?
Yes. For 1098-T forms issued after 2011, go to http://wwwesci.net/taxinfo.html and login to your account. For years during or prior to 2011, contact Anderson Central at Anderson University (andersoncentral@andersonuniversity.edu or 864-231-2070).

• Can a student and a parent both qualify for the tax credit?
No. Only one tax filer can claim the education tax benefit; however, if both the student and the parent are students and have qualified charges paid, then both may be eligible for education tax benefits. Please contact the IRS or your personal tax preparer if you have further questions.

• Can you mail my 1098-T to my parents for me?
If you would like your parents to receive a copy of your 1098-T form, please photocopy your 1098-T and mail to them directly. If you’ve misplaced your copy of the 1098-T, please contact ECSI at 1-866-498-1098 for a duplicate copy.

- Can you fax my 1098-T form directly to my tax preparer?
  Faxing 1098-T forms directly to tax preparers is not a service Anderson University offers.

- Who do I contact if there is an error on my 1098-T?
  Please read all of the information available here. If you still feel there is an error, please contact Anderson Central at andersoncentral@andersonuniversity.edu or 864-231-2070.

- What if my Social Security Number is incorrect on the 1098-T?
  Please contact Anderson Central for assistance. You will be asked to produce a copy of your social security card as verification.

- Where is the total for my tuition and fees coming from?
  It is a calculation from your total tuition and selected fees that go along with the enrollment for the summer, fall, and spring semesters during the calendar year (January – December).

- Where is the total for my grants and scholarships coming from?
  It is a calculation from your total grants and scholarships for the aid that was disbursed during the spring, summer, and fall semesters during the calendar year (January – December).

  Please note that spring charges and anticipated aid are applied to the student accounts during November so that statements may be published to self-service during December for the upcoming spring semester. However, the actual aid is disbursed to the students’ accounts after the start of the semester in January. Aid is disbursed as it is received from the respective agencies. Therefore, spring charges and spring aid will not be reported in the same year on the 1098T form.

- I purchased books and a computer at the University bookstore. Why are these charges not showing on my 1098-T?
  The information on this form is what is required by Anderson University to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. We do not report your expenditures on books. You may print prior semester statements from self-service to view book charges that were applied to student accounts and/or use receipts from bookstore purchases and consult your accountant, tax preparer, or the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov) about your book expenditures and how they relate to your tax preparation.

- Why doesn’t the room and meal charge count as qualified charges on my 1098-T since it is a mandatory fee?
Charges and fees associated with room, board, student activities, athletics, insurance, non-required equipment, transportation, and similar personal, living, or family expenses are not considered as qualified charges per IRS Publication 970.

- My student is a high school student (i.e., Post-Secondary Education Option, College in the Schools). Why did my student get a 1098-T form?
  If your student had qualified charges (box 2) during the calendar year, then Anderson University is required to send the 1098-T form. High School students are not precluded from these tax benefits.

- Does any of the information on the 1098-T correlate to any amounts I can claim on my tax return?
  Not necessarily! Only amounts billed and grants and scholarships awarded by the University are on the 1098-T form. Whenever a student (or parent) wants to claim the tax credit for educational expenses or any other tax benefits relating to higher education – they must determine the amount of qualified tuition actually paid during the calendar year. Furthermore, any related qualified expenses for the American Opportunity Tax Credit need to be determined from records kept by the taxpayer.

  Box #5 of the 1098-T constitutes grants and scholarships which are considered to be taxable income to the extent of Box #5 exceeds the actual amount PAID for tuition, books, required course fees, and required equipment. The taxpayer will need to figure the correct amount from their own records.

  Please contact the IRS or your personal tax preparer for assistance or review the information at http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html.
## Quick Reference Guide:
### Information on Education Tax Benefits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRS Phone Number</td>
<td>Check your income tax package for the local number or call 1-800-TAX-1040 (1-800-829-1040)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Higher Education</td>
<td>Call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) to order a copy or download the publication from the web at: <a href="http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html">http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS Form 8863, Education Credits (Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits)</td>
<td>Call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) to order a copy or download the publication from the web at: <a href="http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html">http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Accounts Receivable System</td>
<td>For information on tuition and required fee payments, go to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Login</td>
<td><a href="https://trojansweb.andersonuniversity.edu/selfservice/Home.aspx">https://trojansweb.andersonuniversity.edu/selfservice/Home.aspx</a></td>
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| Anderson Central Student Financial Services Office at Anderson University | 1-800-542-3594  
1-864-231-2070  
[andersoncentral@andersonuniversity.edu](mailto:andersoncentral@andersonuniversity.edu) |