

KNOW BEFORE *You Owe*

A GUIDE TO 2024-25 FINANCIAL AID OFFERS



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

unco.edu/financial-aid



OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Campus Commons, 1051 22nd St, Greeley, CO, 80639

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**Make an appointment and
meet with an advisor today!**

Office hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Virtual Appointment: unc.link/ofa-appointments-24



#UNCBEARS

 University of Northern Colorado

 unco.edu/inside-unc

 [unc_colorado](https://www.instagram.com/unc_colorado)



Did you know?

The UNC Tuition Promise covers the base cost of tuition plus standard fees for all eligible Colorado resident students with an adjusted gross income of \$65,000 or less, starting Fall 2024. See details at unc.link/Tuition-Promise or scan the QR code.

YOUR COLLEGE FUTURE

Choosing to attend the University of Northern Colorado is not only a good decision, it's an experience that is rewarding and affordable.

We understand that the financial investment in your college education can be intimidating. UNC's Office of Financial Aid is here to help you navigate the process of applying for financial assistance and managing the costs to attend college. This guide will help you plan for your college education and take advantage of the resources available to you. **It is important that you know before you owe.**

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ACTIVATING YOUR STUDENT PORTAL AND UNC EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Ursa is your student portal to access an array of information ranging from financial aid, university billing and scholarship information, to class registration and university updates.

BearMail is your university email that UNC uses to communicate important information regarding your student status, financial aid updates and class information from faculty.

IMPORTANT:

Activate your Ursa and BearMail accounts today to receive important financial and university updates.

ACTIVATING YOUR ACCOUNTS



Ursa is your student portal.
Activate at ursa.unco.edu



BearMail is your university email.
Activate at bearmail.unco.edu



COST OF ATTENDANCE

Below are the 2023-24 estimated undergraduate costs to attend UNC and live on-campus. Each student's costs vary. The examples provided reflect average attendance costs. Costs for 2024-25 are finalized in June and most likely will increase.

unco.edu/costs



COLORADO RESIDENT

WUERESIDENT*

NONRESIDENT/NON-WUE

Direct costs

TUITION

(14 credits/semester and \$380 for differential tuition and course fees)

\$9,296[^]

\$16,014

\$23,490

FEES

\$2,714

\$2,714

\$2,714

ESTIMATED MEAL PLAN

(250 meal plan) unco.edu/dining

\$7,946

\$7,946

\$7,946

ESTIMATED HOUSING

(Tier 3 housing) unco.edu/housing

\$7,284

\$7,284

\$7,284

Indirect costs

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

(Not part of UNC bill)

\$1,200

\$1,200

\$1,200

PERSONAL, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER COSTS

(Not part of UNC bill)

\$3,238

\$3,238

\$3,238



ESTIMATED COSTS

\$31,678

\$38,396

\$45,872

*Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program — WUE provides reduced tuition to students who are residents of one of the states participating in the WUE program (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY). Note: Students cannot qualify for in-state residency after attending UNC as a WUE student. One would need to decline WUE and pay nonresident tuition for one year before establishing in-state residency.

[^]This is what students pay after the College Opportunity Fund (COF) is applied to their bill. To be eligible for COF rates, Colorado resident students should apply at cof.college-assist.org

BUDGETING

Know all of your costs before you owe.

Make sure you know what your costs are before you owe more than you expect, and be sure you have enough financial support to cover your UNC tuition bill and fees. Creating a budget can help you manage your money and spending habits, as well as minimize how much you borrow.

You don't have to take the maximum amount of loans offered to you. If you decide to take out a student loan — and make your payments on time — it will help you establish and maintain a good credit rating once you graduate.

TO CREATE A BUDGET:



Track your spending and daily expenses for at least a month to develop a realistic budget based on actual spending habits.



Make a list of your income and expenses. For your income, include expected earnings from your work-study/job, scholarships and other financial aid. List your expenses in spending categories like housing, food, travel, entertainment and education expenses.



Calculate your expenses then add up your financial aid, family support and income. If your expenses exceed your income or if it looks like you may run out of money by the end of the semester, you'll need to find areas to reduce spending. Your budget will help you make decisions about what you can afford.

RESOURCES FOR CREATING YOUR BUDGET

Budgets include estimated figures for tuition and mandatory fees as well as estimated averages for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and personal (miscellaneous) expenses. The following web pages can help you create a realistic budget:

TUITION AND COSTS:
unco.edu/costs

STUDENT BUDGETS:
unco.edu/financial-aid/how-aid-works/student-budgets.aspx

ACADEMIC YEAR BUDGET WORKSHEET



apps.unco.edu/billestimatorUG

	Example of a Scenario	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
Enter Estimated Cost of College for the Academic Year			
Base College Tuition* (based on 14 credit hours per semester + course fees + differential tuition)	\$9,296* <i>(Colorado Resident)</i>		
Fees (include technology, administration and other fees, such as capital fees if applicable)	\$2,714		
Books and Supplies	\$1,200		
Meal Plan	\$7,946 <i>(250 meal plan)</i>		
Housing (based on the residence hall choice or where you're living off-campus)	\$7,284 <i>(Tier 3 housing)</i>		
1. Total Estimated Attendance Costs For the Academic Year	\$28,440		
Personal Expenses (include eating out, cell phone, movies, social activities, memberships, etc.)	\$1,610		
Travel or Commuting Expenses (include gas, airfare, etc.)	\$1,112		
Utilities (include cable, internet, electricity, etc.)	\$0 <i>(Included if living on campus)</i>		
Medical	\$450		
Other	\$66		
2. Total Living Expense Costs For the Academic Year	\$3,238		
Enter your available student aid and work-study or employment for the academic year			
Grants (Federal, State, and Institutional Aid)	\$2,500		
Scholarships	\$2,000		
Federal Student Loans	\$5,500		
Income: Work-Study and/or Employment	\$3,000		
3. Total Financial Aid Budgeted	\$13,000		
4. Subtract estimated financial aid budgeted from the total of estimated attendance costs and living expenses to determine your extra expenses for the academic year.	\$18,678		



INTERPRETING YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

You'll be able to view your financial aid offer through your Ursa account at ursa.unco.edu. The offer will detail the amounts and types of financial aid for which you're eligible. Offers are based on full-time attendance (12+ credits, degree required courses) at UNC as an undergraduate or part-time attendance (five credits) for graduate students.

The Office of Financial Aid begins sending online notification of aid offer availability in the spring, and includes instructions for accessing your award notice. All financial aid applicants may receive the following types of financial aid:



GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

(does not have to be repaid; scholarships may require a separate application)



WORK-STUDY

(part-time employment)



STUDENT LOANS

(must be repaid, includes government subsidized and unsubsidized)

AID REQUIREMENTS

Full-time enrollment is required for most grants and federal scholarships (Pell Grants are an exception).

- UNC undergraduates must enroll in at least 12 credit hours per semester to be considered full-time for each semester.
- At least six credit hours per semester are required for federal Direct Stafford Loans for undergraduate students.

Failing to attend classes may require that you immediately repay part or all of your financial aid.

- These funds include, but are not limited to, federal Pell Grant, federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and federal Direct Stafford Loans.

Depending on your program, you may need to fulfill special requirements before receiving your aid offer.

- Programs include the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). Contact the Office of Financial Aid for details regarding specific requirements of your program.

The Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to review, adjust or cancel aid at any time due to changes in student finances, residency or academic status, adjustment in federal or state regulations, funding, computation error or receipt of additional aid or scholarships.

Enrolling and completing **15 credits** a semester would allow you to **graduate in four years.**



ACCEPTING, REVIEWING AND/OR DECLINING YOUR AID

You'll also receive notification of a financial aid offer via BearMail.

To review and accept or decline your award after it's posted to your account, log into your Ursa account. Grants are automatically accepted. Follow these steps to accept your aid:

- 1 Log in to Ursa at ursa.unco.edu.
- 2 Select the **"Financial"** tab and click on **"View/Accept Award Offer"**.
 - Go to the **"Select Award Year"** drop-down menu at the top right of the page to select year.
- 3 Your financial aid offer is available **below** the Cost of Attendance on the **"Award Offer"**.
- 4 Select the **"Take Action"** column and pick from the **"Select"** drop-down menu to accept, decline or modify.
- 5 If you choose to modify, you may have the option to accept both or one of the terms, as well as change the amount to a lesser value.
- 6 Once you have accepted, declined or modified your aid, **confirm your selection by clicking either the "Submit" or "Confirm" button** at the bottom.
 - Click the **"I acknowledge these terms and conditions" button** at the very bottom of the Terms and Conditions. This will **turn the "Accept Award" button to blue**, and you will be able to click to **complete**.
- 7 Click the **"Home"** tab. **Any outstanding requirements will be listed on this tab.** Outstanding requirements will need to be completed prior to aid paying out.

DISBURSEMENT OF AID

If all requirements are met, financial aid will be applied to your bill the Friday before the semester begins. If requirements for loan disbursement (Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling) are not completed before the last day of classes, you may not be able to receive funds for that term unless...

- You are enrolled in subsequent terms at least half time
- You complete at least six credits as an undergraduate or five credits as a graduate
- You maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants and scholarships do not need to be repaid.

GRANTS

Example of grants include the federal Pell Grant, federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Colorado Student Grant (COSG*), UNC Need-Based Grant and/or the UNC 1889 Founder's Grant.

**COSG is restricted to Colorado residents and funded by the Colorado General Assembly.*

PRIVATE/EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are awarded by an outside agency to help pay for a student's educational expenses. The following policies pertain to private scholarships:

- Checks should be made payable to the University of Northern Colorado for the benefit of the student. Checks can be mailed to:
University of Northern Colorado
Cashier's Office
Campus Box 14
Greeley, CO 80639

FUN FACT: 89% of UNC's incoming students receive some form of financial assistance!

- Checks should be received in the Cashier's Office by **August 1** for Fall semester and by **January 1** for Spring semester.
- Students must be enrolled as required by the donor.
- All scholarship checks received for more than \$999.00 in the UNC Office of Financial Aid will be scheduled to pay in two equal disbursements (one for Fall and one for Spring semester), unless otherwise noted in writing by the donor.
- Unused scholarship funds are returned to the donor when students are not enrolled or transfer to another school.
- All funds awarded to students as scholarships, grants, awards, stipends and student loans are paid through the Office of Financial Aid.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Students are eligible to earn extra money to help pay their UNC bill or meet everyday expenses through on-campus student employment. All funds paid to students in exchange for work performed at the University are paid through the Payroll Office. unco.edu/payroll

Each fall UNC hosts the UNC Job Fair at the Campus Commons. The Job Fair gives you a chance to talk to employers in one convenient location. Employers take applications and/or hire that day for work-study and non-work-study student positions.



Handshake is a great resource for students to search for everything from student employment, part-time jobs, internships and other career opportunities. Work-study and non-work-study student positions are also posted on Handshake. Create a Handshake account at unco.joinhandshake.com.

NEED-BASED WORK-STUDY

Federal or state work-study programs offer part-time employment to students who work on campus for university employers or off campus in certain community service positions. Work-study is available to students who are eligible residents and nonresidents of Colorado who complete the FAFSA or CAFSA by the June 1 priority deadline.

NO-NEED WORK-STUDY

State of Colorado no-need work study program has different eligibility requirements. To apply you must complete the FAFSA and not qualify for need-based financial assistance. This award is only for undergraduate students who are Colorado residents. First priority is given to students who apply by the June 1 deadline and submit an online work-study wait list request.

ON-CAMPUS NON-WORK-STUDY EMPLOYMENT

Various departments offer part-time positions on campus for students. This is a good alternative for students who want to work but aren't awarded work-study.

LOAN BORROWER INFORMATION

If you decide to accept a loan to pay for your education, you'll need to repay the loan with interest:

- Interest rates can be found at **studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates**.
- Repayment of subsidized and unsubsidized loans begins six months after you stop attending at least half-time (six credits for undergraduates).

ACCEPTING FEDERAL DIRECT STUDENT LOANS

- If you're accepting a federal Direct Student Loan, you will need to complete entrance counseling at **studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling** and sign a master promissory note (MPN) at **studentaid.gov/mpn**.
- By accepting your offers on Ursa, you acknowledge that any funds received under federal or Colorado student aid programs will be used solely for education-related expenses as a student at UNC.

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS

Federal Direct PLUS loans are offered to parents of dependent students. These loans may be equal to the cost of attendance minus other aid that the student accepts. Parents are not obligated to accept a PLUS loan and can adjust the amount they wish to borrow.

The Department of Education performs a credit check on the potential borrower of a PLUS Loan. Completion of a Master Promissory Note (MPN) is required as well as Credit Counseling for some borrowers. These can be completed at **studentaid.gov**.

If the parent has an adverse credit history, the loan can be denied. Parents who are denied can work with the government to have the loan approved. A PLUS credit check does go against the parent credit report, but the debt-to-income ratio test is not applied for a PLUS loan.

If the parent has been denied for the PLUS loan, a student can borrow an additional Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan. This additional offer will be made automatically to the student's aid offer once UNC receives this information from the Department of Education.



TUITION PAYMENT



Pay with VISA, MC or Discover/Other Novus Card **online** by logging into your **Ursa account**, clicking the “Student” tab and navigating to “My Account.”



Sign up with **Bear Pay** to make monthly installment payments.

BEAR PAY

UNC’s monthly pay plan allows you to pay your bill in easy monthly installments rather than in one lump sum. This plan includes your tuition, room and board, and all university fees.

- You can pay your bill over time instead of all at once.
- Automatically adjusts your payments after financial aid is applied to your account or when classes are added or dropped.
- Directly withdraws payments each month from your checking account or credit card.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Depending on payment options, one-fifth or one-fourth of the total payment plan is due on the 20th of each month during the Fall and Spring semesters. One-third of the total payment plan is due on the first of each month during the Summer semester.*



FALL

August-December:

Enroll by August 20 for five payments

Enroll by September 19 for four payments

No enrollment after September 19



SPRING

January-May:

Enroll by January 20 for five payments

Enroll by February 19 four payments

No enrollment after February 19



SUMMER

June-August:

Enroll by May 30 for three payments

No enrollment after May 30

**Payment plans are not offered for Interim Session.*

HOW TO APPLY FOR BEAR PAY

The Bear Pay plan enrollment is fast and simple. You'll be able to apply for Bear Pay once charges are placed on your account. To apply:

- Log into your Ursa account at ursa.unco.edu.
- Click on the "Financial" tab, and under the "Billing" section, click the "Pay/View eBill or Bear Pay" link and follow the payment plan instructions. There's a nonrefundable application fee of \$50.



COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPEND (COF)

If you're a Colorado resident, make it a top priority to apply for the COF stipend. **If you don't apply for the stipend, you'll pay a higher tuition rate.**

The fund was established by the Colorado legislature to reduce the cost of tuition for Colorado resident undergraduate students.

You will also need to authorize your COF stipend to be used at UNC. To do this you will need to log into your Ursa account and click on the "Financial" tab. Check your student bill in August to see the applied stipend.

Register for the stipend online at cof.college-assist.org.



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

Office of Financial Aid
Campus Box 33
501 20th Street
Greeley, CO 80639-0055

