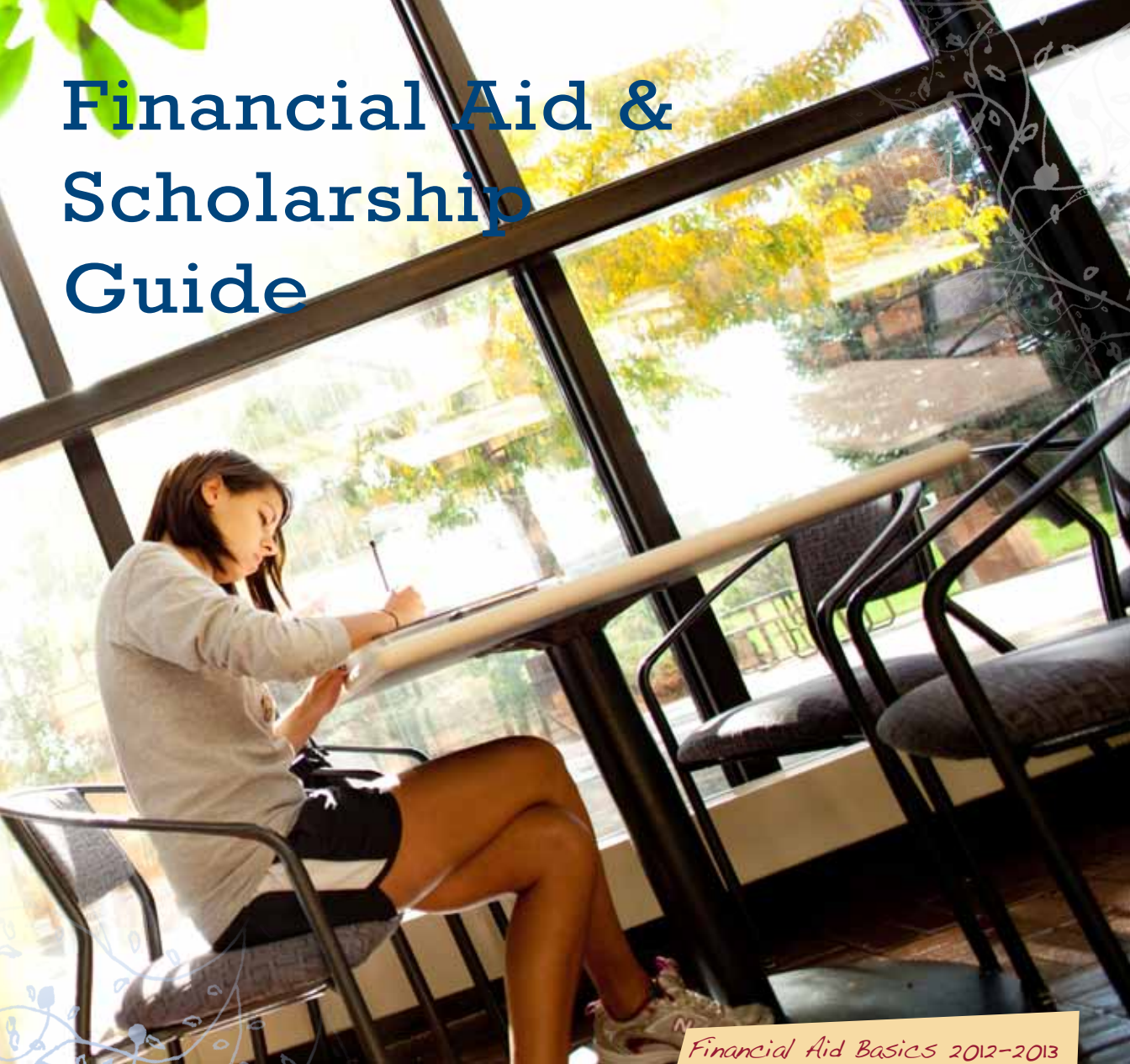


Financial Aid & Scholarship Guide



Financial Aid Basics 2012-2013
www.unco.edu/ofa

UNIVERSITY of
NORTHERN COLORADO

Bringing
education
to life.

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INTRODUCTION

The cost of a college education has risen in recent years, leading you and your parents to be concerned about how to finance your education. This guide is designed to provide you with answers to many of the questions you may have about the financial aid process, including federal and state sources of aid. UNC offers financial assistance through a variety of loans, grants, work-study and scholarships. More than 70 percent of our students receive some type of financial assistance. Together, we'll make your future happen.

Financial aid can supplement a family's contribution in order to help meet educational costs. During the college years your family should make paying for higher education a priority. Financial aid may be available to those who apply early and have demonstrated eligibility for financial assistance, but funding is limited and requests often exceed the amount available.

HOW ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED

To establish your eligibility, we first need to determine the resources available to you. Resources include:

- Financial contribution from parent(s)
- Personal savings
- Summer and school year earnings
- Spouse's earnings (if you are married)
- Outside scholarships
- Fellowships
- Child support received

The Office of Financial Aid determines your budget by adding together your estimated expenses for the nine-month academic year. Resources are subtracted from your expected cost or your "budget." The difference is your financial need or your eligibility. To put it simply:

$$\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Family Contribution} = \text{Need}$$



ESTIMATED COSTS

for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

www.unco.edu/costs

	Colorado resident / Non-resident / WUE resident*		
Full-time Tuition	\$7,160 ^a	\$16,822 ^a	\$10,368
College Opportunity Fund (COF) Stipend Credit	-\$1,860 ^b		
Student Share of Tuition	\$5,300		
Fees	\$1,323 ^c	\$1,323 ^c	\$1,323
Room & Board (based on 19 meals/week) ^d	\$10,190		
Books & Supplies	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$1,325
Total	\$18,138	\$29,660	\$23,206

^a Tuition rate based on 15 credit hours per semester. Does not include differential tuition rate – a per credit hour charge to defray the higher costs associated with offering some classes. The differential rate is expected to be \$18.00 for non-liberal arts core sciences/SES/Art classes, \$40 per credit hour for non-liberal arts core business classes; \$36.00 per credit hour for non-liberal arts core classes in music, theatre and dance; and \$64.00 for non-liberal arts core nursing classes.

^b Only Colorado residents are eligible.

^c Fees based on an average of 15 credit hours per semester.

^d Fees vary per credit hour and program.

^d Multiple meal plans are available.

*UNC participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program. This allows students who are residents of 14 western states (listed below) to attend UNC at a reduced tuition rate that is 150% of the in-state (calculated on total tuition prior to the COF stipend for in-state students).

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE) PROGRAM

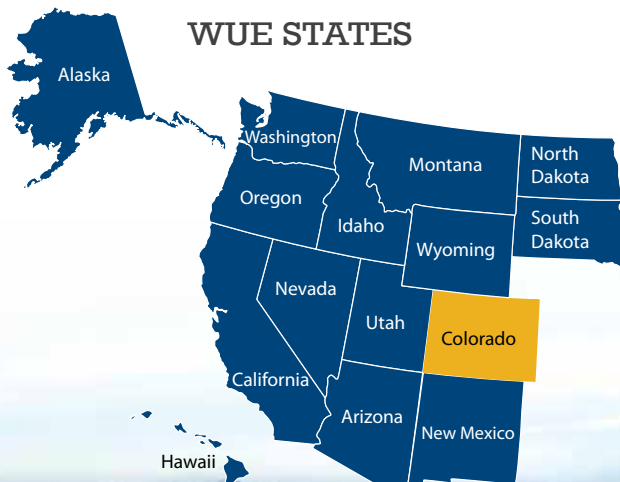
Non-resident students can save over \$6,000 in tuition costs each year at the University of Northern Colorado with the Western Undergraduate Exchange. WUE provides reduced tuition to students who are residents of one of the states participating in the WUE program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR WUE

Your application for admission also serves as your application for WUE. In addition, you may submit the UNC Universal Scholarship Application to be considered for other scholarships. Detailed information about all of the UNC scholarships is available at www.unco.edu/ofa/scholarships.

The WUE tuition rate will remain effective as long as you continue to be an undergraduate student working on your first bachelor's degree, remain in good academic standing, and continue to be enrolled at UNC. The WUE tuition rate will apply to all terms: fall, interim, spring, and summer and part-time as well as full-time enrollment. It is NOT effective for programs and courses offered through the Office of Extended Studies as they have separate tuition rates.

WUE STATES



For students receiving need-based financial aid, all awards, including scholarships must fit within the need amount. Eligibility is determined each academic year based on the information submitted in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. To qualify for some types of non-need-based aid you must complete a FAFSA, which is explained in the following section.

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

To determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) the Government looks at both parent and student resources. The contribution made by your parent(s) is determined by income and asset information provided on the FAFSA. The Government considers factors such as:

- Number of people attending college in your family
- Previous year's income and taxes paid
- Number of working parents
- Assets
- Age of older parent (for estimating retirement needs)
- Family size

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. Obtain a pin

We recommend that you and your parents first obtain PIN numbers from www.pin.ed.gov. Once you receive the PIN numbers, you may complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov.

2. Complete the FAFSA

Be sure to submit your FAFSA by the March 1 priority deadline. So we will receive the results, include UNC's school code of 001349. You can

complete the FAFSA after March 1 but funding will likely be limited.

You will receive a confirmation via email.

(Note: Check your spam/junk folder for this confirmation email.) Verify that all the information is accurate on your confirmation. If you need to make corrections, please do so on-line. If the information is correct, keep your confirmation for your records.

If you need assistance in completing the FAFSA, plan to attend College Goal Sunday. A list of locations and times for College Goal Sunday as well as any other FAFSA workshops will be available on our website at www.unco.edu/ofa/.

3. Upon being admitted to UNC, activate your Ursa account

Activate your account on Ursa, UNC's communication portal, by using the on-screen prompts at <http://ursa.unco.edu>. You can also activate and check your Bear Mail for important notices. If you need assistance creating an Ursa account, contact the Office of Admissions at 970-351-2881 or admissions@unco.edu.

Please note that Ursa information can only be shared with you and not with family members because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). More information about FERPA is available on the UNC Registrar's website at www.unco.edu/regrec/FERPA.

The Office of Financial Aid will review your application information to see if further documentation is needed. Be sure to keep your address, e-mail address and phone number current on Ursa so we may contact you for additional information.



INTERPRETING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Upon review of your financial aid application, the Office of Financial Aid will send you an award offer through Ursa which details the amounts and types of financial aid for which you are eligible. Offers are based upon full-time attendance at UNC as an undergraduate or graduate student.

The Office of Financial Aid begins sending notification of award availability on the web in the spring. Follow the instructions you'll receive to access your award notice. Financial aid applicants may receive the following types of financial aid:

- Grants and Scholarships (scholarships may require a separate application)
- Work Study (part-time employment)
- Student Loans (low interest loans)

There are two types of financial aid available to help you meet your educational costs: need-based and non-need based aid.

NEED-BASED AID

Need-based aid includes the following:

- **Grants** do not have to be repaid. Examples are the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Colorado Student Grant, and University Need-Based Grant. Some of the grants listed are restricted to Colorado residents.
- **Low interest loans** are funds that must be repaid at a future date, usually beginning six months after you graduate or leave school. These include the Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan.
- **Work-Study** offers 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 residents and non-residents. Summer Work-Study requires an additional application. Work-Study and Student Hourly jobs are posted on our website at www.unco.edu/ofa, click on

“job bank.” Students are paid according to the number of hours worked. Call the Office of Student Employment at 970-351-2628 for more information.

NON-NEED-BASED AID

Non-need based aid consists of the following:

- **Loans** must be repaid. They may be available for up to the cost of education minus other aid and are offered to qualified parents and/or students. An example is the Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan, available to parents of dependent students. The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is available up to program maximums. Students may choose the option to pay the interest on the loan while in school or have the interest deferred until repayment. Deferring the interest will result in higher repayment amounts.
- **Scholarships** can be based on merit or talent. The UNC Universal Scholarship Application is a simple way for students to apply for scholarships. The Universal Scholarship Application is available to admitted students through URSA. A list of scholarships is available at www.unco.edu/ofa. The scholarship application deadline is March 1 for the upcoming academic year (fall/spring) for most undergraduate scholarships, and June 1 for transfer scholarships.
- **No-Need Work Study** has different eligibility requirements. To apply you must complete the FAFSA and not qualify for need-based financial assistance. This award is only for Colorado resident undergraduate students. First priority is given to students who meet the March 1 priority deadline for the FAFSA and received funding from this program the previous year.

- **Hourly employment** offers part-time positions on campus for students to work within various university offices. This is a good alternative for students who want to work but are not awarded work-study.

APPLY FOR THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND (COF) STIPEND

If you are a Colorado resident, make it your top priority to apply for the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend. The fund was established by the Colorado legislature for Colorado resident undergraduate students. Register for the stipend online at www.collegeincolorado.org. If you do not apply for the stipend, you will pay a higher tuition rate.

COMPLETE THE UNC UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Your application for admission also serves as your application for a number of admissions-based scholarships. In addition, you may submit the UNC Universal Scholarship Application, beginning in January each year, to be considered for other scholarships. Detailed information about all of the UNC scholarships is at www.unco.edu/ofa/scholarships.

Students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours each semester to qualify for the scholarships listed. The institutional scholarships listed are awarded to students who are working on their first bachelor's degree program. Students in off-campus cash-funded programs (Extended Studies) are not eligible for institutional scholarships and should check with the Office of Extended Studies regarding scholarship opportunities.

Note: For transfer scholarship purposes, only transferable credit hours earned after high school graduation will be considered for scholarship eligibility purposes.

INCOMING FRESHMEN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

COLORADO RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Awarded automatically based on the student's Scholarship Eligibility Index (inside back cover). Information on how these scores are determined is available at www.unco.edu/admissions/matrix/matrix.asp. Students must be admitted by March 1 for priority consideration.

UNC Trustees Scholarship

- \$5,000/renewable
- Eligibility index of 140 or above

UNC Presidential Scholarship

- \$2,000/renewable
- Eligibility index of 129 and above

UNC Provost Freshman Scholarship

- \$1,250/non-renewable
- Eligibility index of 112 to 128

UNC Bear Tracks Scholarship

- \$1,000/non-renewable
- Eligibility index of 100 to 111

Students are eligible to receive only one of the above scholarships.

The following scholarships and funds are not based on the Scholarship Eligibility Index:

Academic Achievement Scholarship

- \$1,000/renewable
- Given to semi-finalists for the Boettcher Scholarship or National Merit Award

UNC First Generation Scholarship

- \$4,000/renewable
- Need-based with limited numbers awarded each year
- Requires completion of the UNC Universal Scholarship Application and FAFSA

UNC Valedictorian Scholarship

- \$1,000/renewable
- Colorado resident ranked first in high school class (Home schooled not eligible)

Greeley Promise Scholarship

- \$2,000/renewable
- Graduate of a District 6 Greeley / Evans high school or Dayspring Christian Academy

OTHER UNC SCHOLARSHIPS

UNC Legacy Scholarship

- \$500/not automatically renewed
- Students whose biological or adoptive mother or father graduated from UNC
- Requires completion of the UNC Universal Scholarship Application

NON-RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Awarded automatically based on the student's Scholarship Eligibility Index (inside back cover). Information on how these scores are determined is available at www.unco.edu/admissions/matrix/matrix.asp. Students must be admitted by March 1 for priority consideration.

Students are eligible to receive only one of the nonresident scholarships. Available only to students from non-western states*.

UNC National Undergraduate Scholarship

- \$6,000/renewable
- Eligibility index of 106 or above

UNC National Bear Tracks Scholarship

- \$4,500/renewable
- Eligibility index of 96 to 105

TRANSFER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Must be admitted to UNC and have transcripts on file verifying eligibility by June 15 if enrolling for the first time in fall semester or November 1 if enrolling for the first time in spring semester.

COLORADO RESIDENT TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Students can receive the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship in addition to one of the following three scholarships listed below.

Presidential Transfer Scholarship

- \$2,000/year
- Automatically offered to Colorado residents who transfer with an associate degree (AA or AS) from a community college and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher
- Renewable with satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Office of Financial Aid

Provost Transfer Scholarship

- \$1,250/year
- Automatically offered to Colorado residents who transfer at least 30 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher
- First year of UNC enrollment only

Transfer Bear Tracks Scholarship

- \$1,000/year
- Automatically offered to Colorado residents who transfer at least 24 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- First year of UNC enrollment only

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship

- \$1,000/year
- Complete the UNC Universal Scholarship application before June 15 or provide documentation of Phi Theta Kappa membership to the Office of Financial Aid if admitted after the June 15 application deadline
- Offered to Colorado residents who transfer from a Colorado community college
- Must have been a member of Phi Theta Kappa at the community college
- Renewable with satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Office of Financial Aid

NON-RESIDENT TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Students are eligible to receive only one of the nonresident transfer scholarships. Available only to students from non-western states*.

National Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

- \$6,000/year
- Automatically offered to non-resident students who transfer with at least 30 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher
- Renewable with satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Office of Financial Aid

National Bear Tracks Transfer Scholarship

- \$4,500/year
- Automatically offered to non-residents who transfer at least 24 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Renewable with satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Office of Financial Aid

*Students who are residents of the western states (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY) are not eligible for the scholarships listed above. They receive a reduced tuition rate through the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE). Visit www.unco.edu/admissions/wue.asp for more information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I wait until I'm admitted to UNC before I apply for aid?

No. You should submit your financial aid application (FAFSA) as soon after January 1 as possible. Once you are admitted, the financial aid office will activate your financial aid application if you have one on file.

What if my award does not meet my need or I don't qualify for need-based aid?

Contact the Office of Financial Aid about non-need based loans, such as Federal Direct PLUS, the Federal Direct unsubsidized Stafford Loan and alternative (private) loans. Other possibilities for additional funding include non-need based scholarships and employment.

Will the College Opportunity Fund stipend show as part of my award?

No. The College Opportunity Fund was established by the Colorado legislature for Colorado resident undergraduate students. It is not considered financial aid and does not appear as part of your award offer. You must register for the stipend online at www.collegeincolorado.org. If you do not apply for the stipend, you will pay a higher tuition amount.

If I have to work while attending college will my grades suffer?

Surprisingly, studies have shown that students who work on campus up to 20 hours per week do better academically and are more responsible when budgeting their time.

Will the financial aid offered at one school transfer to another school?

Financial aid does not transfer from school to school. If you are planning to transfer between schools during an academic year, you should contact the financial aid office at each school.

Do I have to complete a FAFSA every year?

Yes, each year we must reevaluate your eligibility for financial assistance based upon your and / or your parent's current federal income tax return. Remember to complete your FAFSA each year at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Is there any aid available if I decide to attend summer school?

Financial aid for the Summer Session is limited but is possible under certain conditions.

The financial aid application asks for information from my parents' tax return, but my parents are not going to file their return until after the application deadline. What should I do?

Use estimated figures when filing in order to meet the priority filing deadline.

Am I expected to save money from my summer job?

You are expected to contribute toward your educational expenses but your expected contribution will vary based upon your income.

Note: Individuals willfully providing false or misleading information to secure funds under Title IV federal aid programs will be subject to a \$10,000 fine, a prison sentence, or both under the U.S. Criminal Code. The provision of false or misleading information to secure funds under the Colorado student aid programs, or any misuse of funds received, may result in criminal prosecution pursuant to Colorado Criminal Code sections 18-1-101.

SUMMARY

Applying for financial aid is a detailed process that you must initiate. It is important to stay engaged along the way. Read each application carefully and complete them accurately. You should submit all required applications on or before the priority deadlines established by the Office of Financial Aid and respond to requests for additional information in a timely manner. Keep in mind that you and your parents are responsible for meeting your educational costs but financial aid may be available when your resources are not sufficient to meet those costs.

The Office of Financial Aid is here to help you find ways to pay for your education. We have walk-in counselors available 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday in Carter Hall. You may also call us to discuss your questions or concerns at 970-351-2502.

Note: Application procedures discussed in this publication are based on information available at the time of printing. Carefully review all correspondence, including e-mail messages that you receive from the Office of Financial Aid. Changes that may have occurred in procedures or regulations will be reflected in correspondence. Contact the Office of Financial Aid if you have questions regarding this process at 970-351-2502 or e-mail at ofa@unco.edu.



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