Let’s Get Started

Together we can help you make your dream of a college education a reality.

Understanding the financial aid process is an important step toward fulfilling your educational goals. This guide will answer many of your questions about the financial aid process, including eligibility, applications and the types of aid available. UNC offers financial assistance through a variety of loans, grants, work-study and scholarships, and here you'll find information to help you apply. Close attention to deadlines is one key to applying successfully for financial aid. Financial aid may be available for students who’ve demonstrated eligibility for assistance when they apply on time by the March 1 deadline. Funding is limited after that deadline, so timeliness can be a factor in your award. Be sure to submit all required applications on or before the deadlines established by the Office of Financial Aid.

The Office of Financial Aid has walk-in counselors available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in Carter Hall Room 1005, or you can contact us at 970-351-2502 or OFA@UNCO.EDU.

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. Correspondence will reflect changes that may have occurred in procedures or regulations.
How Eligibility is Determined

To establish your eligibility, the U.S. Department of Education first needs to determine the resources available to you.

**RESOURCES INCLUDE:**
- Expected Family Contribution, as determined by the FAFSA
- Personal savings
- Summer and school year earnings
- Outside scholarships
- Fellowships

The Office of Financial Aid determines your budget (cost of attendance) 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. To put it simply:

\[
\text{COST OF ATTENDANCE} - \text{FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)} = \text{NEED}
\]

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 you submit in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.GOV.

**EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION**

To determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the government looks at both parent and student resources. Income and asset information provided on the FAFSA determines the EFC. Factors include:
- Number of family members attending college
- Completed 2015 income and taxes paid
- Number of working parents
- Assets (excluding the value of the home you live in currently)
- Age of older parent (for estimating retirement needs)
- Child support paid or received and any other untaxed income

**BEAR FACT:**
All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA, which determines whether you qualify for some types of non-need-based aid, as well as institutional aid.
BEAR FACT:
The Office of Financial Aid will review your application information to see if further documentation is needed, so it's important to keep your address, e-mail address and phone number current on Ursa. Regularly check your BearMail and Ursa accounts for updates.
Applying for Financial Aid

1. **OBTAIN A FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID (FSA ID)**
   - You and your parents need to first obtain a FSA ID from [FSAID.ED.GOV](http://fsaid.ed.gov). Once you receive the FSA ID, you may complete the FAFSA at [FAFSA.GOV](http://fafsa.gov) starting October 1, 2016. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.

2. **SUBMIT THE FAFSA BY THE MARCH 1 DEADLINE**
   - Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA to capture your completed 2015 tax data to file the 2017-18 FAFSA accurately. The IRS Data Retrieval tool allows you to import your income information directly from your IRS tax return. If you have not yet filed a 2015 tax return, contact our Office of Financial Aid at [OFA@UNCO.EDU](mailto:OFA@UNCO.EDU) or 970-351-2502.
   - Add UNC’s school code, 001349, in order for us to receive the results and determine your financial aid eligibility. You can complete a FAFSA after March 1, but funding may be limited.
   - You will receive a confirmation email from the U.S. Department of Education with your Student Aid Report. Make sure to verify that all of the information that you reported is correct. If you need to make corrections, you may do this online at [FAFSA.GOV](http://fafsa.gov). Be sure to check your email spam folder for your FAFSA confirmation if you did not receive it within a week.

3. **ACTIVATE YOUR URSA ACCOUNT**
   - Once you're admitted to UNC, activate your account on Ursa, UNC’s communication portal, by using the onscreen prompts at [URSA.UNCO.EDU](http://ursa.unco.edu).
   - You can also activate and check your BearMail for important notices. If you need assistance creating an Ursa account, contact our Technical Support Center at 1-800-545-2331 or email [HELP@UNCO.EDU](mailto:HELP@UNCO.EDU). Please note that your Ursa account is the how the Office of Financial Aid will communicate with you on all your information requests.
   - Frequently check your BearMail and Ursa account for additional requirements.

If you need assistance in completing the FAFSA, plan to attend a College Goal Sunday Event, which happen across the nation in various locations in early November. For a list of locations and times near you, visit [COLLEGEGOALUSA.ORG](http://collegegoalusa.org).

Note: Ursa information can only be shared with students 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 [UNCO.EDU/REGREC/FERPA](http://unco.edu/regrec/ferpa).
Interpreting Your Financial Aid Award

After reviewing your financial aid application, the Office of Financial Aid will send you an estimated and then official award offer through Ursa.

The offer will detail the amounts and types of financial aid for which you are eligible. Offers are based upon full-time attendance (12 credits) at UNC as an undergraduate or part-time (5 credits) for graduate students. Some aid is available for part-time undergrads. Graduates may ask for a review for additional aid, if full-time.

The Office of Financial Aid begins sending estimated online notification of award availability around January. Official award notices will be sent beginning in March and include instructions for accessing your award notices. All 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** (government subsidized and unsubsidized)

**Bear Fact:**
When you receive your official notice of a financial aid award via BearMail in the beginning of March, log in to Ursa to accept your award within 20 days.

**Bear Fact:**
$130.4 million total financial aid awarded

**Bear Fact:**
Before March, awards are considered estimates. In March, the Office of Financial Aid will follow up with an official award offer.
Types of Financial 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 (FSEOG), Colorado Student Grant, and UNC Need-Based Grant. Some of the grants listed are restricted to Colorado residents.

- **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. Many work-study and student hourly jobs are posted on our website at UNCO.EDU/OFA, click on “student 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.

- **FEDERAL SUBSIDIZED LOANS** are funds that must be repaid at a future date, usually beginning six months after you graduate or leave school. Interest is paid by the government while the student is enrolled at last half-time.

NON-NEED-BASED AID

Non-need-based aid consists of the following:

- **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 deadline for the FAFSA and who also 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.

- **LOANS** must be repaid. They may be available for up to the cost of attendance 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.
COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPEND

If you are a Colorado resident, make it a top priority to apply for the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend. The fund was established by the Colorado legislature to reduce the cost of tuition for Colorado resident undergraduate students. Register for the stipend online at COLLEGEINCOLORADO.ORG. You will also need to authorize your COF stipend to be used at UNC on the Financial tab of Ursa. If you do not apply for the stipend, then you will pay a higher tuition rate. Check your student bill in late August to see the stipend.

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

• SCHOLARSHIPS can be based on merit, talent or other donor criteria. The UNC Scholarship Application is a simple way for students to apply for scholarships. The Scholarship Application is available to admitted students through Ursa. A list of scholarships is available at 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.

– UNC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Your application for admission also serves as your application for a number of admission-based scholarships. In addition, you may submit the UNC Scholarship Application to be considered for other scholarships. Admitted students can apply on Ursa at URSA.UNCO.EDU. Detailed information about all of the UNC scholarships is available at UNCO.EDU/OFA. The UNC Scholarship Application opens in January and the deadline is March 1.

Hourly jobs and Work-Study are posted on our website at UNCO.EDU/OFA, click on “student job bank.”

BEAR FACT:
57% of incoming freshmen are awarded a grant or scholarship

BEAR FACT:
The UNC Scholarship Application opens in January. We encourage all students to complete the easy to use application every year. Apply at UNCO.ACADEMICWORKS.COM
Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)

WUE provides an automatic reduced tuition rate to students who are residents of one of the following states participating in the WUE program.

To participate in the WUE program, you must be a permanent resident of one of the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington or Wyoming.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR WUE**

*Your application for admission also serves as your application for WUE. Apply at GOBEARS.UNCO.EDU*

The WUE tuition rate will remain effective as long as you are 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.

Note: Students cannot qualify for in-state residency after attending UNC as a WUE student. One would need to decline WUE and pay non-resident tuition for one year before establishing in-state residency.
## Costs for the 2016-17 Academic Year

*For more information visit UNCO.EDU/COSTS*

### FULL TIME TUITION<sup>a</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado Resident</th>
<th>WUE&lt;sup&gt;**&lt;/sup&gt; Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident/ Non-WUE</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong></td>
<td>$6,906&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>$13,464</td>
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### FEES<sup>b</sup>

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<sup>a</sup> Based on 15 credit hours per semester (30 per year) allows students to graduate in 4 years.

<sup>b</sup> Fees based on an average of 15 credit hours per semester. Fees vary per credit hour and program.

<sup>c</sup> Based on UNC 19 meal per week plan and on Tier 2 housing plan. Multiple meal plans and housing options are available, visit UNCO.EDU/HOUSINGOPTIONS for more information.

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*Tuition rate listed includes the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend credit. Colorado residents must apply for COF to receive stipend. Apply at COLLEGENINCOLORADO.ORG.*

**Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program 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).*
Scholarships awarded automatically based on the student’s academic performance. Students must be admitted by March 1 for consideration.

*For more information visit unco.edu/admissions*

### Freshman Admission-Based Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Freshmen Criteria</th>
<th>Resident Amount</th>
<th>Non-Res/Non-WUE Amount</th>
<th>WUE** Resident Amount</th>
<th>Renewable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>3.8 GPA and 29 ACT or 1290+/1350++ SAT</td>
<td>$24,000 ($6,000 per year)</td>
<td>$36,000 ($9,000 per year)</td>
<td>$16,000 ($4,000 per year)</td>
<td>Yes, with a 3.0 GPA or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>3.6 GPA and 27 ACT or 1210+/1280++ SAT</td>
<td>$12,000 ($3,000 per year)</td>
<td>$28,000 ($7,000 per year)</td>
<td>$12,000 ($3,000 per year)</td>
<td>Yes, with a 2.75 GPA or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provost</td>
<td>3.4 GPA and 24 ACT or 1090+/1160++ SAT</td>
<td>$8,000 ($2,000 per year)</td>
<td>$20,000 ($5,000 per year)</td>
<td>$8,000 ($2,000 per year)</td>
<td>Yes, with a 2.5 GPA or higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transfer Admission-Based Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<th>Non-Res/Non-WUE Amount</th>
<th>WUE** Resident Amount</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Automatically offered if student has at least 13 transferable credits and a 3.5 GPA of higher</td>
<td>$2,000 per year</td>
<td>$8,000 per year</td>
<td>$3,500 per year</td>
<td>Yes, with satisfactory academic progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Automatically offered if student has at least 13 transferable credits and a 3.0 GPA of higher</td>
<td>$1,000 per year</td>
<td>$6,000 per year</td>
<td>$2,500 per year</td>
<td>Yes, with satisfactory academic progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi Theta Kappa**</td>
<td>Member of Phi Theta Kappa</td>
<td>$1,000 per year</td>
<td>$1,000 per year</td>
<td>$1,000 per year</td>
<td>Yes, with satisfactory academic progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAT prior to March 2016 (Math, critical reading, no essay) / ++SAT after March 2016 (Math and evidence-based reading and writing, no essay)

You must complete the UNC Scholarship Application before March 1 deadline. For detailed information about all UNC scholarships, visit unco.edu/oia.

You must complete the UNC Scholarship Application before June 1 deadline or provide documentation of Phi Theta Kappa membership to the Office of Financial Aid if admitted after June 1.
Other Scholarship Opportunities Outside of UNC

There are various scholarship resources outside of UNC and the government that students and families should consider to help fund college.

Here’s a list of resources to help students and families pay for college. Report outside scholarships or assistance to the Office of Financial Aid by contacting the office.

COLLEGE IN COLORADO
College in Colorado has a very comprehensive website that keeps you from having to visit multiple sites. You will need to create an account. If you attend school in Colorado, it is likely that you already have an active account. Also, it is not just limited to Colorado high school students. They also provide a free financial education program developed to help high school students and families understand college financing and the role that higher education can play in their financial futures. There is a rewards program offered in order to earn points to register for scholarship drawings and more!

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS
Out of UNC’s nearly 12,000-plus students, approximately 34 percent are the first in their family to attend college. As a first generation student, you’ll find a culture of caring and inclusive, supportive faculty and staff. Check out IMFIRST.ORG to learn more about support and resources for first generation students.

RECOMMENDED SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING SITES
With the following websites, find scholarships that are right for you:
- CAPPEX.COM
- CHEGG.COM
- FASTWEB.COM
- WELDCOUNTYBRIGHTFUTURES.COM
- GREELEYGOV.COM/GOVERNMENT/CEO/GTOWN-PROMISE
Important Financial Aid Dates

OCTOBER 1
- FAFSA Application available at FAFSA.GOV.
- Use UNC school code 001349.
- Apply for a FSA ID at FSAID.ED.GOV.

NOVEMBER 13
- College Goal Sunday in Greeley, Colorado at Island Grove Event Center, 501 North 14th Ave., Greeley, Colorado from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Check for a College Goal Sunday location near you at COLLEEGOALSUNDAYUSA.ORG.

JANUARY 1
- UNC Scholarship Application is available at UNCO.ACADEMICWORKS.COM
- Around this time, estimated award letters are sent for incoming, first-year students. (Before March, awards are considered estimates. In March, the Office of Financial Aid will follow up with an official award offer.)

MARCH 1
- UNC Scholarship Application and FAFSA deadline.
- Make sure your FAFSA application processed correctly and was sent to UNC.
- Check your Ursa account and BearMail on a regular basis for updates.
- Official financial aid award notices begin sending

APRIL
- Official UNC award letters are sent out.

JUNE 1
- UNC Scholarship Application deadline for transfer, graduate and international students.

JUNE 15
- Accept or decline your award through your Ursa account.
- Contact the Office of Financial Aid with any questions you may have.

MID-TO-LATE AUGUST
- Your Financial Aid Award will be applied to your student bill.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
Carter Hall 1005, Greeley, CO 80639
Tel: 970-351-2502
Fax: 970-351-2099
Office hours: 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday

UNCO.EDU/OFA
The University of Northern Colorado is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual preference or veteran status. For more information or issues of equity or fairness or claims of discrimination contact the UNC AA/EO/ Title IX Officer at UNC Human Resource Services, Carter Hall 2002, Greeley, CO 80639 or call 970-351-2718.
Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. Submit your financial aid application (FAFSA) as soon after October 1 as possible. Once you’re admitted, the financial aid office will match your financial aid application to your admission application 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.

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Deciphering Financial Aid Lingo

**URSA** – UNC’s online point of access to secure information and tools, used by students to manage their registration, view their grades, view and pay their student bills, receive notifications and messages about their financial aid, complete student forms and more.

**GRANT** – Need-based financial aid that does not need to be paid back.

**SCHOLARSHIP** – Money awarded to help pay for education, usually for students who meet specific requirements. This money does not need to be repaid.

**AWARD** – The total amount of all grants, loans, and scholarships offered.

**LOAN** – Money lent to be repaid with interest.

**MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE** – Legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education.

**FSA ID** – Federal Student Aid ID is your electronic passport to federal student aid online. Your FSA ID serves as your electronic signature and can be used to access your financial aid records.

**FULL-TIME** – Undergraduates: Being registered for at least 12 credits during a semester. Graduate students: Being registered for at least 9 credits during a semester.

**PART-TIME** – Undergraduates: Being registered for 6 to 11 credits during a semester. Graduate students: Being registered for 5 to 8 credits during a semester.
**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 [COLLEGEINCOLORADO.ORG](http://www.COLLEGEINCOLORADO.ORG). If you do not apply for the stipend, then 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 with 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.

**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. Contact the Office of Financial Aid or visit [UNCO.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID](http://www.UNCO.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID) website for updates.

**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.

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Note: Individuals willfully providing false or misleading information to secure funds under Title IV federal aid programs will be subject to a $20,000 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.