

*Funding Your
College Education with*
FINANCIAL AID
2021-22



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

unco.edu/financial-aid



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Getting 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. **Attention to deadlines is one key to applying successfully for financial aid.** Funding is limited after the deadline, so timeliness can be a factor in your offer. Be sure to submit all required applications and follow-up information 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, at Bear Central, 2nd floor of the UNC Campus Commons building. You can also reach us at 970-351-4862 or **ofa@unco.edu**.

Virtual appointments available: **unc.link/ofa-appointment**

Note: Application procedures discussed in this publication are based on information available at the time of printing. Carefully review all correspondence, including email messages from the Office of Financial Aid. Correspondence will reflect changes that may have occurred in procedures or regulations.

Applying for Financial Aid

1 OBTAIN A FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID (FSA ID)

- You and your parents (where applicable) need to first obtain an FSA ID from **fsaid.ed.gov**. Once you receive the FSA ID, you may complete the FAFSA at **fafsa.gov** starting Oct. 1. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.

2 START THE FAFSA APPLICATION

- Whenever possible, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA to capture your completed 2019 tax data to file the 2021-22 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 2019 tax return, contact our Office of Financial Aid at **ofa@unco.edu** or 970-351-4862.
- Add UNC's school code, **001349**, in order for us to receive the results and determine your financial aid eligibility.

3 SUBMIT THE FAFSA BY THE MARCH 1 DEADLINE

- You can complete a FAFSA after March 1, but funding may be limited. All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA, and most institutional aid requires UNC to have a FAFSA on file.
- You will receive a confirmation email from the U.S. Department of Education with your electronic 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 **studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa**. Be sure to check your email spam folder for your FAFSA confirmation if you do not receive it within a week.



Fill out the FAFSA at **fafsa.gov**. Beware of scam sites. If a site asks you for your payment information, it's a scam site.

FAFSA VERIFICATION

Each year, the federal government comes up with an algorithm to decide which FAFSAs need to be verified, much like a tax audit. Sometimes this is because of a missing signature, a number that doesn't add up or a random selection. If your FAFSA is selected for verification, you will need to submit additional documentation. If your FAFSA is selected, UNC will alert you via your email and SMS/mobile text, and the Office of Financial Aid (970-351-4862) will work with you directly if you have any issues completing the verification process. Using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool will greatly reduce your chance of having to provide follow-up information.

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:

- Family resources and assets
- Personal savings
- Summer and school year earnings
- Outside scholarships

Over **75%** of University of Northern Colorado students receive some type of financial assistance.

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

To determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the government looks at both parent (where applicable) and student resources. Income and asset information provided on the FAFSA determines the EFC. Factors include:

- Number of family members
- Number of family members attending college
- Completed 2019 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

Eligibility is determined each academic year based on the information you submit in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa**

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:

 $-$  $=$ 

COST OF ATTENDANCE**FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)****NEED**



Receiving a Financial Aid Estimate and Offer

Once all required paperwork is complete, the Office of Financial Aid will send you an estimated financial aid offer (depending on the timing of your application submission) and then an official aid offer.

Your financial aid offer will detail the amounts and types of financial aid for which you are eligible. Offers are based on full-time attendance (12 credits) at UNC as an undergraduate. Some aid is available for part-time undergrads.



“UNC is a great place to grow. It has an open platform for you to have a voice and express yourself.”

Armando Silva '10,
Visual Arts

Before March, offers are considered estimates. In March, the Office of Financial Aid follows up with an official aid offer and your next steps.

\$141 million total
financial aid awarded

Note: Urso 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.

Types of Financial Aid

All financial aid applicants may be eligible for the following types of financial aid.

NEED-BASED AID



GRANTS

Don't have to be repaid. Examples are the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Colorado Student Grant funded by the Colorado General Assembly, and UNC 1889 Founders 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 nonresidents. Students are paid according to the number of hours worked. Students cannot perform work-study duties during scheduled class times.



FEDERAL SUBSIDIZED LOANS

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 least half-time.

NON-NEED-BASED AID

NON-WORK-STUDY 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 aren't awarded work-study.

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.

LOANS must be repaid. Some 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 annual 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, talent or other donor criteria. Scholarships are semester-based and cannot be doubled up in one semester.

Colorado Resident

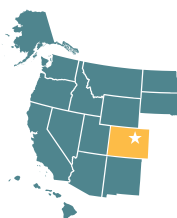


College Opportunity Fund Stipend.

If you're 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 **cof.college-assist.org**. You'll also need to authorize your COF stipend to be used at UNC on the Financial tab of Ursa. If you don't apply for the stipend, you'll pay a higher tuition rate. Check your student bill in late August to see the stipend.

WUE Resident Tuition

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE).



- 1 Your application for admission also serves as your application for WUE tuition.
- 2 To automatically receive the WUE tuition rates, 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.
- 3 The WUE tuition rate applies to all terms (for part-time and full-time enrollment) — fall, interim, spring and summer. It isn't applied for programs and courses offered through the Office of Extended Campus, as Extended Campus has 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 nonresident tuition for one year before establishing in-state residency.







"Applying for scholarships has been a huge help because it allowed us, for the first time in our lives, to have a stable home and get closer to finishing our education."

Cassandra Toca '18, Spanish and Mexican American Studies;
Sandra Toca '18, Criminal Justice and Sociology

Estimated Cost to Attend UNC

2020-21 undergraduate fall and spring semesters, 30-credit academic year*
For more information, go to unco.edu/costs.

*Taking 15 credits per semester (30 per year)
allows students to graduate in four years.



	 COLORADO	 WUE ¹ RESIDENT	 NONRESIDENT/ NON-WUE
unco.edu/costs	COLORADO RESIDENT		
TUITION (15 credits/semester)	\$8,796 COF ² =\$7,596	\$14,724	\$19,854
FEES	\$2,465	\$2,465	\$2,465
HOUSING AND MEALS³ (Tier 3 housing, 14 meals/week)	\$11,684	\$11,684	\$11,684
 ESTIMATED COSTS (Direct costs if living on campus)	\$22,945 COF ² =\$21,745	\$28,873	\$34,003

Students should also factor books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous living costs not billed by UNC into their budgets. Although these costs differ for everyone, a good annual estimate is about **\$1,200 for books and supplies** and **\$3,856 for other expenses**.

¹Western 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.

²This 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.

³Based on UNC 14 Meals Per Week plan and Tier 3 Housing plan.



Try our online estimator tool:
go.unco.edu/price-calculator

Donor Funded Scholarships provided
\$5,783,211 in financial aid to
students during fiscal year 2019.



Scholarships

To be considered for other scholarships, submit the UNC Scholarship Application.

For detailed information about all UNC Scholarships, visit unco.edu/financial-aid.

Your application for admission also serves as your application for a number of admission-based scholarships. Once you've been admitted, you may submit the UNC Scholarship Application to be considered for other scholarships, which you can apply for through your Ursa account at ursa.unco.edu.

The UNC Scholarship Application opens in November and the priority deadline is February 1. If you don't qualify for scholarships as a new student, keep trying as the criteria and number of scholarships change each year.

Note: For transfer students with scholarships, only transferable credit hours earned after high school graduation are considered for scholarship eligibility.

Extended Campus students are not eligible for automatic admission-based scholarships.

More than **\$3.4 million in scholarships** available through the UNC Scholarship application for students with interests that span the university's offerings.

**FRESHMAN ADMISSION-
BASED SCHOLARSHIPS**

Over four years



unco.edu/admissions/cost-aid

**COLORADO
RESIDENT**

**WUE¹
RESIDENT**

**NONRESIDENT/
NON-WUE**

**NORTHERN LIGHTS
SCHOLARSHIP**

Below 2.99 GPA

Not Applicable

\$8,000
(\$1,000 each fall and
spring semester)

\$8,000
(\$1,000 each fall and
spring semester)

BEAR SCHOLARSHIP

3.0-3.39 GPA

\$6,000
(\$750 each fall and
spring semester)

\$12,000
(\$1,500 each fall and
spring semester)

\$16,000
(\$2,000 each fall and
spring semester)

PROVOST SCHOLARSHIP

3.4-3.79 GPA

\$10,000
(\$1,250 each fall and
spring semester)

\$16,000
(\$2,000 each fall
and spring semester)

\$20,000
(\$2,500 each fall and
spring semester)

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

3.8-3.99 GPA

\$14,000
(\$1,750 each fall and
spring semester)

\$16,000
(\$2,000 each fall
and spring semester)

\$28,000
(\$3,500 each fall and
spring semester)

TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

4.0 GPA

\$16,000
(\$2,000 each fall and
spring semester)

\$24,000
(\$3,000 each fall
and spring semester)

\$36,000
(\$4,500 each fall and
spring semester)

**TRANSFER ADMISSION-
BASED SCHOLARSHIPS**



unco.edu/admissions/cost-aid

**COLORADO
RESIDENT**

**WUE¹
RESIDENT**

**NONRESIDENT/
NON-WUE**

**PHI THETA KAPPA
SCHOLARSHIP**

Member of Phi Theta Kappa

\$1,000 per year

\$1,000 per year

\$1,000 per year

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

3.0 GPA

\$1,000 per year

\$2,500 per year

\$6,000 per year

TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

3.5 GPA

\$2,000 per year

\$3,500 per year

\$8,000 per year

¹ 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.

Other Scholarship Opportunities Outside of UNC

You can also explore various funding resources outside of UNC and the government.

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.

MY COLORADO JOURNEY

cicmoney101.org

College in Colorado has a comprehensive website that keeps you from having to visit multiple sites. You'll need to create an account. If you attend school in Colorado, it's likely you already have an active account. Also, it's not just limited to Colorado high school students. College in Colorado provides 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. Its rewards program allows you to earn points to register for scholarship drawings and more!

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

Out of UNC's 10,000-plus students, approximately 43 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. Search UNC's scholarships for ones that are given to first generation students.

unco.academicworks.com/opportunities

RECOMMENDED SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING SITES

With the following websites, find scholarships that are right for you:

- **fastweb.com**
- **scholarships.com**
- **weldcountybrightfutures.com**
- **unco.academicworks.com/opportunities/14481**

Tip: **NEVER** pay for an outside, private scholarship service or give your credit card or social security number to a private company.

Important Financial Dates



Oct. 1

OCTOBER 1

- FAFSA Application available at **fafsa.gov**.
- Use UNC school code **001349**.
- Apply for an FSA ID at **FSAID.ed.gov**.



Nov. 1

NOVEMBER 1

- If you're an admitted student, the UNC Scholarship Application is available through your Ursa account at **ursa.unco.edu**.



Dec.

DECEMBER

- Estimated aid offers are sent for incoming, first-year students.



Feb. 1

FEBRUARY 1

- UNC Scholarship Application deadline for first-year freshmen and continuing undergraduate students.



Mar. 1

MARCH 1

- FAFSA deadline.
- Make sure your FAFSA application processed correctly and was sent to UNC.
- Admitted students, check your Ursa account and BearMail on a regular basis for updates.
- Official financial aid offers begin being sent to admitted students.



June 1

JUNE 1

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



June 15

JUNE 15

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



July 1

JULY 1

- **Student loan borrowers complete:**
 - Loan entrance counseling
 - Master Promissory Note (MPN)
 - Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment (ASLA)
- **Parent PLUS loan borrowers complete:**
 - Credit check/application
 - Master Promissory Note (MPN)



Aug.

MID-TO-LATE AUGUST

- Your financial aid will be applied to your student bill.

Official financial aid offers continue to be sent out on an ongoing basis.

Frequently Asked Questions

SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL I'M ADMITTED TO UNC TO APPLY FOR AID?

No. Submit your financial aid application (FAFSA) as soon after Oct. 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 AID OFFER DOESN'T 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 and UNC's monthly payment plan called Bear Pay.

WILL THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPEND SHOW AS PART OF MY AID OFFER?

No. The College Opportunity Fund was established by the Colorado legislature for Colorado resident undergraduate students. It's not considered financial aid and doesn't appear as part of your aid offer. You must register for the stipend online at collegeincolorado.org. If you don't apply for the stipend, you'll 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.

IS THERE 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 website for updates.

DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE A FAFSA EVERY YEAR?

Yes, each year your situation must be reevaluated for your eligibility for financial assistance. FAFSA opens Oct. 1 each year.

WILL THE FINANCIAL AID OFFERED AT ONE SCHOOL TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?

Financial aid doesn't transfer from school to school. If you're planning to transfer between schools during an academic year, contact the financial aid office at each school.

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.

WILL WUE SHOW AS PART OF MY AID OFFER?

WUE is a tuition rate and will be reflected in your estimated costs.

DO I NEED TO PAY MY FULL COST OF ATTENDANCE ALL AT ONCE?

Direct cost of tuition, fees, and room and board, if on-campus, will be due half in fall and half in spring. Indirect costs such as books, transportation and personal expenses are not billed by UNC but are controlled by you (the student).

WHAT ELSE?

Make sure you "know before you owe" UNC or any college. Make sure you understand your bill and financial aid before you commit. We are here to help.

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.

Deciphering Financial Aid Lingo

AID OFFER

The total amount of any grants, loans and scholarships offered.

ANNUAL STUDENT LOAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT (ASLA)

Complete every year to better understand your student loan obligations.

ENTRANCE COUNSELING

Needs to be completed for federal loans for first-time borrowers to ensure you understand your obligations.

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 who are registered for at least 12 credits during a semester for financial aid purposes. **UNC recommends 15 credits per semester to graduate in four years.**

GRANT

Need-based financial aid that doesn't need to be paid back.

LOAN

Money you borrow and repay 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. Needs to be completed for federal loans if you're a first-time borrower.

NEED-BASED AID

Money received for college that is based on factors like income, the number of people in

your family attending college, etc. See page 3 for a more detailed listing.

NON-NEED-BASED AID

Money received for education that may be awarded based on grades, test scores or other non-need-specific criteria.

PART-TIME

Undergraduates who are registered for 6 to 11 credits during a semester.

SCHOLARSHIP

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

URSA

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

VERIFICATION

Verification is a standard federal process where universities are required to confirm that the data reported on the FAFSA form is accurate. If you're selected for verification, you'll need to provide extra documentation to complete your FAFSA. Failure to complete required documentation in a timely manner may result in a loss of some or all aid.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Bear Central, 2nd floor, Campus Commons
Tel: 970-351-4862
Fax: 970-351-2099
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
unco.edu/financial-aid

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/ EEO/ Title IX Officer at UNC Human Resource Services, Carter Hall 2002, Greeley, CO 80639 or call 970-351-2718.

"I only got to where I am today thanks to the amazing people who have helped me in my journey. My goal in life is to be able to give back in any way I possibly can."

Rachael Carrillo '19, Sociology



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

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