



# A short self-help guide to financial aid at **UCLA**.

Chances are you were hitting the books so hard in high school that you didn't have much time to research financial aid for college. But learning about your financial options to pay for college is probably something you need to do, which explains this brief guide to financial aid. It starts where all the other knowledge you've acquired starts: by asking questions.

# The 10 financial aid questions that will get you the most helpful answers.

## 1. Am I eligible for Financial Aid?

Yes! Everyone who completes the FAFSA is eligible for some form of student aid.

## 2. What is a FAFSA application? Why is it important to my financial aid?

FAFSA is short for “Free Application for Federal Student Aid.” It is a form that’s your starting point for any type of financial aid.

It’s best to submit a FAFSA as early as possible after January 1st to be considered for maximum financial assistance. Next year’s deadline is March 2, 2012.

## 3. Do many UCLA students receive financial aid?

Yes! In 2011, more than half of UCLA students received financial aid, and the average financial aid package for full-time students was \$17,008. You can receive aid, too!

## 4. What types of financial aid are there?

You’ll find four basic types of financial aid:

**Scholarships** financial support for your education. Scholarships can be based on financial need, your academic merit, or many other factors, such as your background, talents, or professional interests.

**Loans** your way to borrow money to pay for school. Loans must be paid back with interest, but the interest rate is low, and you don’t have to start paying it back until after you leave school.

**Grants** cash gifts to support your education and related costs. Grants do not have to be repaid, and some programs provide as much as \$12,000 per year.

**Work-study** the federal government pays part of your wages while you work part-time in school. You’ll find work-study opportunities on the UCLA Financial Aid Office website.

And many tax benefits are available to help defray the cost of higher education. For details on financial aid and tax benefits, see the websites at the end of this guide.

## 5. What is the Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan?

If you are a California resident, and your family’s total income is less than \$80,000 a year, the Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan covers all of your educational and student services fees at UCLA.

## 6. What do I need to do to apply for the Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan?

You’re eligible if you meet the financial requirements. All you have to do is complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2nd deadline, and automatically, you’ll be considered for the Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan.

## 7. What if my family earns more than \$80,000 per year?

As a start, if your family earns between \$80,000 and \$120,000 a year, the Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan will help pay a percentage of your university fees for 2011-12 academic year. And families can qualify for other financial aid, too.

## 8. Can I get financial aid if I can’t prove financial need?

Yes. Not all financial aid is tied to income. Many forms of aid — especially scholarships — reward your academic achievements, merit, and other qualifications. And loan assistance is an option.

## 9. What important dates and deadlines should I know?

Besides the FAFSA deadline of March 2nd, there are specific deadlines for every form of financial aid. You don’t want to lose an opportunity for financial support because of a missed deadline; look closely for the deadline in the application.

## 10. What are some key websites and links I need to know for financial aid?

### Financial aid overview

University of California:  
Paying for UC

👉 [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying-for-uc/financial-aid](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying-for-uc/financial-aid)

Financial aid questions, counseling, opportunities

UCLA Financial Aid Office

👉 [www.fao.ucla.edu](http://www.fao.ucla.edu)

### Major grant sources

Cal Grants

👉 [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)

Pell Grants

👉 [www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html)

### Work-study at UCLA

Work-Study Office

👉 [www.fao.ucla.edu/wrkstd\\_student](http://www.fao.ucla.edu/wrkstd_student)

### Other useful websites

Financial Aid Estimator

👉 [www.fao.ucla.edu/estimator/calinfo.aspx](http://www.fao.ucla.edu/estimator/calinfo.aspx)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

👉 [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Higher Education Tax Benefits

👉 [www.fao.ucla.edu/publications/2011-2012/2010TaxBenefits.pdf](http://www.fao.ucla.edu/publications/2011-2012/2010TaxBenefits.pdf)