

# Fast Facts on Financial Aid at UC

## for Community College Students

### Financing a UC Education

Students can afford to attend UC with the support of a partnership among the following.

- **Students** are expected to contribute to their education through part-time work and a manageable amount of student loan.
  - Unlike many students at community college, students at UC attend full-time and work part-time
  - Educational loans are a manageable way to finance an education and are a part of most financial aid packages
- **Parents** are expected to contribute to their student's education based on their financial circumstances as reported on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).
  - Very low-income parents may be expected to contribute nothing.
  - Independent students' parents are not expected to contribute (see *Whose Parents Need to Report Their Income?* below)
- **The University** provides grants to cover costs that students and their families are not expected to meet themselves.
  - The University's grant program is specifically designed to keep the student's work and loan manageable.

#### Financing an Education: The Student's Perspective

Cost of Attendance

- Less Parent Contribution (if any)
  - Less Grant Assistance
- 
- = Equals Student Responsibility  
(loan and part-time work)

#### UC Financial Aid Facts

**60% of UC students receive some form of financial assistance.**

These awards averaged \$9,700 in 2000-2001

**50% of all undergraduate UC students receive some form of grant or scholarship.**

These awards averaged \$6,400 in 2000-2001

#### Whose Parents Need to Report Their Income? Dependent Versus Independent

Independent students do not need to report their parents' income on the FAFSA. By federal standards, undergraduate students are considered independent of their parents if they can answer "yes" to any of the following questions.

1. Are you 24 or older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year filing the FAFSA?
2. Are you married as of the date filing the FAFSA?
3. Do you have children who receive more than fifty percent of their support from you?
4. Do you have dependents other than your children who receive more than fifty percent of their support from you?
5. Are you an orphan?
6. Are you a veteran?

**Students with special family circumstances and those with significant changes in income should contact the financial aid office to see if changes to their eligibility can be made.**

# Fast Facts on Financial Aid at UC

## Average Annual Costs of Attending UC

Most UC students pay less than the average costs listed below because they receive some form of financial assistance.

Living Arrangement	Annual UC Fees*	Living Expenses**	Estimated Total Cost of Attending UC (2002-03)
On-campus	\$3,860	\$12,950	\$16,810
Off-campus	\$3,860	\$11,710	\$15,570
With Parents	\$3,860	\$7,380	\$11,240

\* Be sure not to confuse UC fees with overall costs (students will not receive a bill from UC for \$16,810, for example).

\*\* The total cost includes expenses that students are already paying for whether attending college or not, such as transportation, food, and housing.

## How is Financial Aid Calculated?

To evaluate eligibility for financial aid, we look at the total cost of attendance — including registration fees and living expenses — and the expected contributions from the student and, if applicable, his or her parents. If costs exceed these expected contributions, the University, as a financing partner, looks to other resources to help cover costs.

Below are four scenarios to illustrate how four students and their families, together with the University, might cover the costs of attending UC for one year. The first three are “dependent” students, each in a family of four with one student in college; the fourth student is married and considered “independent” of his parents for financial aid purposes. To explore how families like their own finance a UC education, students can visit our online financial aid calculator at [www.ucop.edu/pathways/finaid/calculator](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/finaid/calculator).

### Sample Financing Plans

Student Financing Plan	DEPENDENT			INDEPENDENT
	Samuel	Sonja	Salina	Stephen
Annual parent income	\$25,000	\$45,000	\$65,000	N/A
Expected from parents	0	2,680	7,520	N/A
Student wages From part-time job during school year (12 hrs/wk @ \$7.30/hr)	2,900	2,900	2,900	\$2,940
Student Savings From full-time work during summer	690	690	690	690
Student Loan Low interest	3,960	3,960	3,960	5,350
Grant Aid Does not have to be repaid	9,260	6,580	1,740	7,830
Estimated costs (2002-03) Living on campus	16,810	16,810	16,810	16,810

Examples are meant to be instructive and are not guarantees of financial aid.

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## Applying for Financial Aid

### All Students Should Apply

- Many community college students miss out on aid for which they are eligible while at community college
- Students who apply for and receive a Cal Grant Award while in community college will be able to transfer with the knowledge that their fees will be covered at UC or CSU
- Students are eligible for low-interest federal loans regardless of family income

### File Two Forms

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
- Both mailed to all UC applicants in early January

### Before March 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year

- Deadline to submit the FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form for eligibility for a Cal Grant
- Priority deadline to submit the FAFSA for all UC financial aid
- Students who miss the March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline should still apply as some types of financial aid may still be available

### Online or on paper

- FAFSA on the Web is faster and allows for fewer mistakes
- FAFSA on the Web available January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Paper FAFSA available at most high schools, colleges, and public libraries
- Students who applied for admission to UC online through Pathways can return to Pathways after January 1<sup>st</sup> to have their information pre-populate the FAFSA on the Web

## Financial Aid Timeline

November	Filing period for Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships.
December	Students should research scholarship opportunities if they have not already done so.
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	The first day students can submit the FAFSA for the upcoming fall term. FAFSA on the Web goes live.
Early January	Fall applicants to the University will receive copy of FAFSA and GPA Verification form
Mid to Late January	Deadlines to apply for UC Alumni Association Scholarships (see Application for Admission and Scholarships for details).
Early to Mid February	Statewide sessions held to assist students and parents file the FAFSA.
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Deadline for FAFSA and GPA Verification Form.</b>
Early Spring	Deadlines for many non-University scholarships.
April-June	Financial aid award letters are mailed to students. Requests for additional documentation mailed to some students.
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Additional deadline for community college students to submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification form. Students are strongly encouraged to make the March 2 <sup>nd</sup> deadline, as those meeting the September deadline are competing for a small number of remaining awards.

## Sign the FAFSA Electronically

Students **and** parents can sign the FAFSA on the Web electronically with a Federal Student Aid PIN.

PINs are available at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) year-round, so students and parents can apply for a PIN before January 1<sup>st</sup> in preparation for the FAFSA on the Web filing period.

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## For more information

Find detailed financial aid information online at [www.ucop.edu/pathways/finaid](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/finaid). Campus-specific information can be found at the Web sites below:

**BERKELEY FINANCIAL AID** [www.uqa.berkeley.edu/fao](http://www.uqa.berkeley.edu/fao)  
(510) 642-6442

**DAVIS FINANCIAL AID** [faoman.ucdavis.edu](http://faoman.ucdavis.edu)  
(530) 752-2390

**IRVINE FINANCIAL AID** [www.fao.uci.edu](http://www.fao.uci.edu)  
(949) 824-8262

**LOS ANGELES FINANCIAL AID** [www.fao.ucla.edu](http://www.fao.ucla.edu)  
(310) 206-0400

**MERCED** [www.ucmerced.edu](http://www.ucmerced.edu)

**RIVERSIDE FINANCIAL AID** [www.finaid.ucr.edu](http://www.finaid.ucr.edu)  
(909) 787-3878

**SAN DIEGO FINANCIAL AID** [www.ucsd.edu/finaid](http://www.ucsd.edu/finaid)  
(858) 534-4480

**SANTA BARBARA FINANCIAL AID** [www.finaid.ucsb.edu](http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu)  
(805) 893-2432

**SANTA CRUZ FINANCIAL AID** [www2.ucsc.edu/fin-aid](http://www2.ucsc.edu/fin-aid)  
(831) 459-2932

## Related Agencies

**Federal Student Aid Information Center**  
(800) 433-3243  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students)

**California Student Aid Commission**  
Customer Service Division  
[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)  
(888) 224-7268

## Current Interest Rates on Federal Loans

July 2002-June 2003

### Federal Stafford Loans

In School and Grace Period: **3.46%**

In Repayment: **4.06%**

**Parent PLUS Loans: 4.86%**

## Fee Increases at UC

Fee increases at UC have been anticipated in the Governor's budget for 2003-2004. The proposed increase will raise the systemwide mandatory fee \$1,200 over the 2002-2003 level, from \$3,429 to \$4,629 for resident undergraduates.

### Fee increases and financial aid

Financial aid packages at UC will take into account the higher fee levels. UC students receiving Cal Grants or UC financial aid grants (as opposed to loans) will have the fee increase fully offset by increased grant assistance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What if my parents can't help me pay for school?

**A.** Your family should still file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, between January 1 and March 2 of your last year at community college. If your parents' income is low, they will have a smaller — or even no — contribution expected. If they do have an expected contribution, remember that this amount is not "due" at one specific time but can be contributed to your educational costs in a variety of ways, such as helping pay fees each quarter, buying books or providing monthly funds for living expenses.

### Q. I have a child. Will there be money for childcare expenses?

**A.** We do not include childcare expenses in the examples in this brochure. However, some campuses will take those expenses into consideration when developing your financial aid package. Contact a campus financial aid office for details.

### Q. What aid is available for foreign students or undocumented immigrants?

**A.** Aid for foreign students and undocumented immigrants is severely limited and largely consists of scholarships from non-University agencies. Students planning to apply with the INS to be permanent residents of the United States should begin the process several years in advance of college. Some undocumented students (as well as documented nonresidents of California) who attended a California high school for three years and graduated may be eligible to pay in-state UC fees. For more information, visit [www.ucop.edu/sas/sfs/ppolicies/ab540faqs.htm](http://www.ucop.edu/sas/sfs/ppolicies/ab540faqs.htm).

### Q. If we don't qualify for any grant aid, is there anything else you can do to help me?

**A.** If your family's financial situation is such that you are not eligible for grant aid, you may still be eligible for other forms of assistance. Scholarships are often based on academic merit rather than finances. Certain kinds of subsidized or low-interest loans are also available. These loans still require you to file the FAFSA.