

The Facts: Federal Financial Aid for UC Students

In partnership with the federal government, the University of California provides one of the most robust financial aid programs in the nation. UC helps low-income students succeed in college by combining federal, state and university aid — along with contributions from students and their parents — into a cohesive package that ensures that cost is not a barrier to enrollment and graduation.

Under the University’s [Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan](#), students who are California residents and whose annual family income is under \$80,000 have all systemwide tuition and fees covered by grants or scholarships. That means that 57 percent of California undergraduates pay no tuition. Many of these students receive additional financial help with other costs, such as food, housing, books and transportation. Three-quarters of California undergraduates paid less than the full \$13,548 for tuition and mandatory fees in 2017-18, and the average grant and scholarship (for residents and nonresidents) was more than \$18,170, which helps cover the total cost of attendance.

This financial aid model has proven remarkably successful: The University enrolls and graduates more low-income and first-generation college students than any other top research university in the country.

Federal investment in college access and financial aid programs is central to UC’s success. This includes not just Pell Grants, but the Federal Work-Study Program, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and various federal low-interest loan programs, including Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans.

Federal student financial aid for UC undergraduates

Pell Grants	\$412M
• UC Students Served	82,300 (37%)
Federal Work-Study*	\$23.7M
• UC Students Served	12,400 (6%)
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants*	\$10.7M
• UC Students Served	14,500 (7%)

Total Federal Aid: \$1.69B

**Includes UC’s institutional match*

The power of Pell

UC’s Pell Grant recipients have comparable graduation rates to non-Pell Grant recipients; within five years of graduation the majority of these students go on to earn more than their family’s income during the time they attended UC.

UC leads in serving low-income undergraduates Pell enrollment vs. Pell graduation, 2011 cohort

Institution	Pell Enrollment	Pell Graduation
UC	41%	80%
AAU Public	22%	72%
AAU Private	15%	89%
CSU	48%	54%

**Averages weighed by enrollment
Source: U.S. Department of Education*

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants

The SEOG program, which includes an institutional match, serves approximately 14,500 UC students, many of whom are low-income, first generation and community college transfer students.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE: A PARTNERSHIP THAT LEADS TO SUCCESS

UC expects parents to contribute based on their financial resources and circumstances as reported on the FAFSA. Students themselves are expected to cover part of their cost of attendance through a combination of part-time employment and loans. The remaining costs of attendance are covered by UC through a

combination of federal, state and university grants and scholarships. Federal Work-Study and low-interest loan programs provide essential self-help tools that let students and their families make smart, manageable investments in their future.

Student borrowing

- 52 percent of undergraduate students graduate with no debt
- For students with loans, the average debt is just over \$20,200, compared to the \$30,100 national average

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR UC GRADUATE STUDENTS

UC enrolls more than 57,800 graduate and professional students across 10 campuses.

These students serve as mentors, role models and instructors for UC's 222,493 undergraduates. They also help drive UC's research mission, working alongside faculty to advance knowledge and make new

discoveries. For example, more than 300 startup companies have been launched by UC graduate students or emerged directly from their discoveries.

Graduate degrees at UC in 2017-18

- 12,793 students earned a master's degree
- 4,062 students earned a Ph.D.
- 2,272 students earned a professional degree in medicine, health science, law or engineering
- UC awards about 7 percent of the nation's Ph.D.'s

As with undergraduate education, the UC-federal partnership helps thousands of graduate students continue their studies. Vital programs include low-interest federal loans

and the work-study program, along with prestigious graduate and postdoctoral fellowships funded through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health and other federal research partners.

Graduate Federal Work-Study in 2017-18

- Almost 800 UC graduate students earned \$3 million through Federal Work-Study.