UCHICAGO COLLEGE AID HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | Financial Aid

1101 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637-5416
T 773.702.8666
F 773.834.4300

financialaid.uchicago.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL AID

INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL AID

The information in this guide provides you with the policies surrounding the various aid programs for which you may be eligible. This information is subject to change, so please consult our website for the most current information: financialaid.uchicago.edu.

Financial Aid aims to ensure all admitted students have access to an affordable University of Chicago education. Our professional staff conduct comprehensive reviews of all aid applications and materials to personalize a financial aid package for each student. We provide financial aid packages which combine University of Chicago grants and scholarships with federal and state grants, student self-help, and a family contribution.

Cost of Attendance for 2025-26

	ON-CAMPUS	COMMUTER	OFF-CAMPUS
TUITION	$71,325	$71,325	$71,325
STUDENT LIFE FEE	$1,941	$1,941	$1,941
FOOD & HOUSING	$20,835		$17,502
MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (COMMUTERS)		$7,980	
BOOKS/ PERSONAL EXPENSES	$3,750	$3,750	$3,750
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE*	$450	$450	$450
TOTAL	$98,301	$85,446	$94,968

Financial Aid uses the following budget to determine financial aid packages.

1. Students enrolling at UChicago for the first time in 2025 will be assessed a Class Fee of $696 in each of their first two years.
2. All students are required to have health insurance while enrolled at the University of Chicago. Students are automatically enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (USHIP) for an additional fee. More information about opting out of this plan will be provided by Campus and Student Life in the summer. Information available at wellness.uchicago.edu.
3. Students enrolled in any graduate level coursework may be subject to aid and budget adjustments. Please visit financialaid.uchicago.edu for more information
4. Food & Housing is based on the average student room cost and the Unlimited meal plan. Choosing a more or less expensive housing option or meal plan will not change your financial aid package.

HOW FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES ARE DETERMINED

Your overall financial aid package is determined by reviewing a number of resources, including a contribution from your parents' income and reported assets, a portion of your personal assets, and your income from employment. Your package reflects your family's particular circumstances, your eligibility requirements for different financial aid programs, and the availability of funds. This is determined by reviewing your complete and valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), UChicago Financial Aid Worksheet, parent tax returns and W-2 forms.

Parents' Resources

We carefully evaluate the information you and your parents provide on the financial aid application forms, plus any special circumstances that you have brought to our attention, to determine the amount your parents should be able to contribute to your college expenses. Your parents may decide to use their savings, their current income, their future income (through borrowing), or some combination of these sources to meet their contribution.

For the purposes of your financial aid consideration, the Office of Financial Aid will use your family's prior-prior year income (for the 2025-26 academic year, 2023 tax information will be used). This allows families to begin the financial aid application process sooner, without having to wait until the current or prior year's taxes have been filed. If your household experiences a significant increase in income during your time in the College, your family's contribution may similarly increase. Conversely, if your household income is greatly reduced, you may receive more financial aid.

Assets

Additionally, a portion of the family contribution is derived from asset values reported by the parent. These include investment accounts, stocks, real estate other than the primary home and value of family-owned businesses. UChicago does not consider funds in dedicated retirement accounts (401k or IRA) or equity in the family's primary home.

Student Resources

Your income from employment, a portion of your savings, and other types of assistance such as educational trust funds are all considered to be student resources. These are subtracted from your total cost of attending the University of Chicago to determine your need for financial assistance.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AID

You must be a full-time student to receive UChicago financial aid. The College of the University of Chicago expects students to enroll in a minimum of 300 units of credit (usually 3 classes) that count toward your undergraduate degree per quarter in Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters. See the Dean of Students for alternative enrollment options.

Students may receive institutional financial aid from the College for up to 12 academic quarters, regardless of whether a quarter counts as official enrollment through the College. Federal financial aid may be available for up to 18 quarters. As you progress through your studies, your adviser will communicate with the Financial Aid Office regarding your academic timeline. If you anticipate enrolling beyond 12 quarters and require an additional quarter of institutional financial aid, your adviser will work with you to explore available options.

Full application instructions are available on our website at financialaid.uchicago.edu/undergraduate.

Transfer students matriculate with an academic level of First Year. This is adjusted during their first year on campus, once their academic path has solidified. The number of quarters of assistance for a transfer student is determined after a review of the student's previous enrollment. While transfer students may apply for federal or state aid at any point during their undergraduate program, only transfer students who indicate they would like to apply for aid when submitting their application for admission will be considered for institutional aid. Transfer students who matriculate in the Summer term are not eligible for any institutional summer aid, however federal financial aid may be available. Please reach out to the Office of Financial Aid for assistance with this process.

Empower Initiative

Beginning with the Class of 2023, the UChicago Empower initiative will increase access to UChicago in a variety of ways. UChicago will guarantee free tuition for families with incomes under $125,000* per year (with typical assets) during Autumn, Winter and Spring terms. Families earning less than $60,000* per year (with typical assets) will have tuition, fees, and standard food and housing covered by financial aid during the Autumn, Winter & Spring terms. These guarantees span the entire length of a student's undergraduate program in the College as long as Satisfactory Academic Standards are met. Students are evaluated for financial aid guarantees under the Empower Initiative during their first year only.

First Phoenix - All first-generation college students who qualify for need-based financial aid will be guaranteed free tuition as part of the First Phoenix Scholarship program. First-generation students who do not qualify for need-based financial aid will be awarded a $20,000 scholarship over four years. Awards are made to students whose parents did not attain a degree from a four-year college or university.

Summer Aid

Students who are enrolled in the Summer term, inclusive of the September session, will automatically be considered for institutional and federal grants and scholarships as long as we received a completed application during the academic year. Utilization of Federal Work-Study or loans over the Summer term require an additional application that can be found in my.uchicago.edu account.

Reapplying for Aid

Unless you are only interested in utilizing merit scholarships, you must submit a new application each year that you wish to be considered for financial aid. If you receive need–based aid, the Financial Aid office will review your family's financial circumstances annually and the package you receive will reflect any changes.

You may reapply for financial assistance by submitting a complete and valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for federal aid, the UChicago Financial Aid worksheet, your parents' W-2 forms, and a signed copy of your parents' federal income tax return. The priority deadline for Autumn quarter financial aid is May 31st. Students who submit their application materials after May 31st can still apply for aid, but there may be a delay in receiving your financial aid notification that extends into the start of the academic year. Please note that we cannot accept e-mailed copies of forms that have Personal Identifiable Information (i.e. social security number, birthdate, etc. These documents must be uploaded to the My.UChicago Portal.

We realize that the use of prior-prior year taxes may not always reflect the current household income situation. Also, we understand that there may be other unexpected circumstances that can affect your family's ability to contribute. If your family has experienced a drastic change in circumstances since your original financial aid determination, you have the option to submit an appeal. While an appeal is not a guarantee of additional aid, we will review your information to determine if any changes can be made. Please contact our office for more specific information about the appeal process.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are an Illinois resident and receive a State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant, you should file your renewal FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 in order to receive future MAP Grant funds, as in previous years the program has closed early. We encourage you to file your FAFSA by November 1. Eligibility for MAP funding is based on the date you submit your complete and valid FAFSA.

ABOUT YOUR PACKAGE

ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

Your financial aid package may include support from one or more of the following programs: Your financial aid package may consist of need-based and non-need-based institutional, federal or state funding.

GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Odyssey Scholarship

In May 2007, the University received a $100 million gift from an anonymous donor to assist students of limited means. Students are given the Odyssey Scholarship based on a variety of criteria, such as students coming from families with limited means and those coming from first-generation backgrounds. These funds are intended to reduce the indebtedness of those receiving the scholarship. Odyssey scholars are only designated during the student's first year at the university.

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is packaged based on your annual complete and valid FAFSA submission. Eligibility is determined by the U.S. Department of Education and are designed to assist students with limited financial means.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is a federal fund administered by UChicago and is packaged to the neediest students who apply for aid and are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant. The maximum FSEOG that can be packaged per year is $4,000, but actual amounts may vary depending on UChicago's resources. It is packaged based on your annual complete and valid FAFSA submission.

Outside Scholarships

The University of Chicago allows students to benefit from 100% of their outside scholarships placed as long as total financial aid resources do not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance (COA). Therefore, outside scholarships may affect the amount of university funding we provide. In addition, federal regulation sometimes limits the total amount of grants and scholarship packaged. It is the policy of the University of Chicago to distribute these funds evenly across the Academic Year (Autumn, Winter, & Spring terms).

For students who are receiving tuition benefits from their parents' employers, we reduce institutional grant funds by the tuition benefit amount.

All outside scholarships should be reported to the Office of Financial Aid as early as possible.

Tuition Remission

For students who are receiving tuition benefits from their parents' employers, we reduce institutional grant funds by the tuition benefit. It is the responsibility of the student to report to the Office of Financial aid if there will be a change in the amount of the tuition remission.

University of Chicago Grant

The University of Chicago Grant and Grant II are grants offered toward your demonstrated financial need that has not been met through federal, state, and scholarship programs. The University Grant given to students is underwritten by the University and does not need to be repaid.

Endowed Scholarships

These scholarships are assigned to students based upon specific criteria outlined by the donor. The Office of Financial Aid may package these funds after the start of the school year, when they may be exchanged dollar for dollar with a University Grant or Odyssey Scholarship that had been previously packaged. The total grant amount will remain unchanged.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are required to adhere to the code of conduct to continue receiving institutional financial aid. If you stop attending the University of Chicago because of misconduct and are approved to return to the university, you must obtain approval from the Dean of Students to receive institutional financial aid.

LOAN PROGRAMS

While the university strives to provide generous financial aid packages without the use of student loans, students and families can be assured that they do have the option to borrow in the event students are looking to enhance their educational experience at UChicago, or to help pay expenses that may not be covered by their aid package or the parent contribution. Although borrowing may not be a student's first choice, it is important to remember that student loans are a viable option when funding gaps may otherwise create a hardship for the family. If students have questions about their borrowing options, please direct them to the Financial Aid Office.

Federal Direct Loans

The University of Chicago participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program, where the lender is the U.S. Treasury. There are two types of Federal Direct Loans for students: subsidized and unsubsidized.

Both loan types allow you to defer repayment until after you graduate or drop below half-time status. The federal government pays the interest on your Federal Direct Subsidized Loan while you are enrolled. You are responsible for paying the interest on your Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan while you are enrolled, although you have the option to defer interest to the principal of the loan at repayment. Loans borrowed through the Direct Loan program will be submitted to the National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS) and accessible by authorized agencies, lenders, and institutions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Federal regulations require that you be a registered student, enrolled at least half time (200 units of coursework that count toward your Undergraduate degree requirements. Undergraduate loan eligibility expires once undergraduate coursework has been completed), complete a Master Promissory Note and Informed Borrowing Confirmation, as well as entrance loan counseling for the quarter for which funds are disbursed. Please note that all students receiving Direct Loans must complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment process each year a student chooses to take outloans. Borrowers cannot be in default on any prior Title IV loans, or have made satisfactory arrangements with their loan servicer

FEDERAL LOANS FOR STUDENTS (FOR LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2025)

	SUBSIDIZED FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN	UNSUBSIDIZED FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN	COMBINED SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN
LIMITS FOR DEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES	Annual Limits: First-year students: $3,500 Second-year students: $4,500 Third- and fourth-year students: $5,500 Aggregate Limit: $23,000	Annual Limits: First-year students: $2,000 Second-year students: $2,000 Third-and fourth-year students: $2,000	Annual Limits**: First-year students: $5,500 Second-year students: $6,500 Third- and fourth-year students: $7,500 Aggregate Limit**: $31,000
LIMITS FOR INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES	Annual Limits: First-year students: $3,500 Second-year students: $4,500 Third- and fourth-year students: $5,500 Aggregate Limit: $23,000	Annual Limits: First-year students: $6,000 Second-year students: $6,000 Third- and fourth-year students: $7,000	Annual Limits**: First-year students: $9,500 Second-year students: $10,500 Third- and fourth-year students: $12,500 Aggregate Limit**: $57,500
FEES	Loan origination fees are set by the Federal government and are subject to change October 1st of each year. For current information, please refer to the UChicago financial aid website. Additional information can also be found at studentaid.ed.gov.		
INTEREST	Fixed 6.39%*** No interest accumulates during in-school period. Interest begins to accumulate upon graduation or when enrollment drops below half-time.	In-school, grace period, and repayment rate: fixed at 6.39%***. In-school interest may be paid monthly or capitalized.	

REPAYMENT	Begins 6 months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time. Minimum $50 per month, with up to 10 years to repay.	Begins 6 months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time. Minimum $50 per month, with up to 10 years to pay.

** These limits apply to a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized loans. A student who is not eligible for the annual limit in subsidized funds may be eligible to borrow the difference between the combined subsidized and unsubsidized limit solely in unsubsidized funds.

*** Interest rate for 2025-2026.

Go to financialaid.uchicago.edu for more information.

GRADE LEVEL PROGRESSION

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT:	SECOND-YEAR STUDENT:	THIRD-YEAR STUDENT:	FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT:
0 – 899 UNITS	900 – 1,799 UNITS	1,800 - 2,699 UNITS	2,700 UNITS AND ABOVE

To view Federal Student Loan Repayment options and a sample loan repayment schedule, please visit https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/

Federal Direct Loan Exit Counseling

Once a student borrower has applied for graduation, they will be asked to complete a Loan Exit Counseling session. This is an online activity that is required by the U.S. Department of Education for all graduating borrowers.

ADDITIONAL LOAN PROGRAMS

Additional loan options such as the Federal Direct PLUS and private loans allow some families to meet the costs of an education not covered by other financial aid.

Federal Direct PLUS for parents

The University of Chicago participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct PLUS program, where the lender is the U.S. Treasury, and the parent is the borrower. The PLUS loan is a credit-based loan with a fixed interest rate. The loan has a modest origination fee. Current interest rates and fees can be found on the Loans page of the Financial Aid website, https://financialaid.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/how-aid-works/types-of-aid/loans/.

The borrower can be the biological or adoptive parent (or, in some cases, the stepparent) of the student. Parents may not borrow the PLUS jointly. To participate in this loan program, parents must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Note that a parent will be asked to provide proof of citizenship to confirm eligibility. A complete and valid FAFSA must be on file prior to our processing a Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Students must be enrolled in 200 units of coursework that count toward their undergraduate degree requirements per quarter to receive Federal Direct PLUS funding. Undergraduate loan eligibility expires once undergraduate coursework has been completed

Private Alternative Loan Programs

Private alternative loans require the student to be the primary borrower and to provide a qualified cosigner in most cases. Alternative loan programs are non-federal education loans and should only be used as a last resort after all federal loan options have been exhausted.

As with any loan, we urge families to research and compare the terms and benefits of several loans before making a selection. The financial aid office will process the loan with your chosen lender.

Private lenders are required to provide you with three Notice of Disclosure forms throughout the application process. The first Notice of Disclosure will be sent when you initiate an application with the lender, and it will indicate a range of the potential interest rate and fees pending a credit check. The second disclosure will be sent to you after a credit check has been performed for you and your cosigner, and it will indicate your actual interest rate and fees based on the amount for which you are eligible. In addition, you must complete and submit the "Self-Certification" form the lender will provide, which requires you to provide your estimated cost of attendance and the total amount of aid for which you are eligible, including federal loans. The final disclosure provides the opportunity to cancel the loan if needed.

STATE OF ILLINOIS GRANT PROGRAM

State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant

For residents of Illinois, by completing a valid FAFSA and agreeing to share your financial information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), you have been considered for the MAP Grant. If you meet the eligibility criteria for the MAP Grant, your financial aid notification indicates the estimated award amount. Residents of Illinois with an SAI of less than $9,000, and who meet the FAFSA application deadline, are eligible.

Eligibility for a MAP Grant is tracked by the equivalent number of semester credit hours of MAP funds paid on your behalf. This is called MAP Paid Credit Hours. Payment for each term is made based on the equivalent number of eligible credit hours, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15.

The maximum number of MAP paid credit hours is capped at the equivalent of 135.

(Students at the University of Chicago use the equivalent of MAP Credit Hours based on enrollment in the number of courses per quarter as follows: 3 or 4 courses (300-400 units) equal 10 hours; 2 courses (200 units) equal 7 hours; and 1 course (100 units equals 3 hours. Therefore, an eligible full-time student enrolling for all three quarters uses a total of 30 MAP Paid Credit Hours each academic year.)

Only coursework that counts toward undergraduate degree requirements is eligible for MAP Grant funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are unable to complete a FAFSA, you are encouraged to complete an alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. More information can be found at ISAC.org.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY

Please note, merit scholarships are not available during the summer term. They are only disbursed during Autumn, Winter and Spring and eligibility is determined prior to the student's first year in the College.

Chicago Public Schools Educators Award Scholarship

In recognition of the important work of educators and in honor of their service to the city of Chicago, the University of Chicago offers the CPS Educators Award. This full-tuition scholarship for children of educators in the Chicago Public Schools is renewable if you maintain the minimum GPA, full-time enrollment and your parent remains employed in CPS.

Chicago Police & Fire Scholarship

In honor of Chicago Fire Fighters' and Chicago Police Officers' service to the University community and the city, the University of Chicago offers full-tuition scholarships to select children of active Chicago firefighters and police officers. To be considered for a full-tuition scholarship, candidates must qualify for admission to the University of Chicago and be children (or legally adopted children) of sworn Chicago Fire Fighters and Chicago Police Officers. Students whose parent lost their life in the line of duty are also eligible for the scholarship. Each recipient is guaranteed full tuition for four years of undergraduate studies (12 academic quarters) provided he or she makes satisfactory academic progress.

Chicago Public Schools Scholarship

The University of Chicago awards full-tuition, four-year scholarships to select graduates of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) who are admitted to the College of the University of Chicago. Awards are made to outstanding students who show the greatest potential for making contributions to the academic, extracurricular, and community life of the College. CPS student applicants will automatically be considered.

UChicago Partner Schools Scholarship

As part of an ongoing effort to support students in our community and make higher education an affordable option for our local families, the University of Chicago awards full-tuition, four-year scholarships to select graduates of select partner high schools in the city of Chicago. The awards will be given to students who demonstrate the greatest potential for making contributions to the academic, extracurricular, and community life of the College.

National Police and Fire Scholarship

To be considered for the scholarship, candidates must qualify for admission to the University of Chicago and be children (or the legally adopted children) of currently active, sworn municipal, county, or state firefighters or police officers in the United States and Puerto Rico. Students whose parent lost his or her life in the line of duty are also eligible to apply. Each winner is guaranteed up to full tuition for four years of undergraduate studies (12 academic quarters), provided he or she makes satisfactory academic progress and remains enrolled full-time in the College. Additional financial aid is also available for families who apply and qualify for need-based aid.

UChicago Scholarship for Dependents of Faculty, Other Academic Appointees & Staff

To support those who further the University's mission each and every day, the University of Chicago will offer full-tuition scholarships to select dependents of UChicago faculty, staff, and other academic appointees.

City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) Star Scholarship (Transfer Students)

The University of Chicago awards up to full-tuition scholarships to select recipients of the City Colleges of Chicago Star Scholarship who are admitted to the College of the University of Chicago. Awards are given to outstanding students who show the greatest potential for making contributions to the academic, extracurricular, and community life of the College. CCC Star Scholar applicants will automatically be considered when they apply for transfer admission and need not submit any additional information beyond the required application materials.

First Phoenix

All first-generation college students who qualify for need-based financial aid will be guaranteed free tuition as part of the First Phoenix Scholarship program. First-generation students who do not qualify for need-based financial aid will be awarded a $20,000 scholarship over four years. Awards are made to students whose parents did not attain a degree from a four-year college or university.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the support of generous donors, The College has many endowed scholarship funds that provide aid for students. They do not represent additional financial aid funds, but are packaged as a dollar-for-dollar swap of other need-based institutional funding (i.e. University of Chicago Grant, Odyssey Scholarship, etc.). Endowed funds are typically packaged during the Autumn quarter and do not change the net financial aid amount. Students who receive an endowed scholarship will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

As part of your financial aid package, you will be expected to earn between $3,000 and $4,000 (by working up to 20 hours per week) throughout the academic year. Most students use their earnings to pay for books and personal expenses. Students who choose not to work during the academic year will need to find alternative resources to meet the earnings expectation.

If you are eligible, your aid package will include an amount from the need-based Federal Work-Study program. This federal financial aid program provides funds for part-time jobs on campus or in community-based service organizations. Your employer pays a portion of your hourly wage, and the federal government pays the remaining amount. If you are not eligible for Federal Work-Study, your package will include Student Employment.

Federal Work-Study earnings are limited to the amount specified in your financial aid notification. Your earnings will be monitored, and you will be notified by the Federal Work-Study program coordinator when you are within $500 of your earnings limit. Federal Work-Study is need-based and receipt of Federal Direct Subsidized loans or outside scholarship funding may affect eligibility.

If you are not eligible for Federal Work-Study, your package will include an amount for Student Employment. Ineligibility for Federal Work-Study does not prevent you from working an on-campus job. However, some employers require Federal Work-Study eligibility as a condition of employment.

For information about Federal Work-Study and other employment opportunities, visit the student employment website at studentemployment.uchicago.edu.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

What is the Summer term? The Summer term includes any coursework during the summer, including courses taken in September. Financial Aid policies below pertain to the summer term.

Students who are eligible for need-based financial aid who are attending the summer quarter may be eligible for Summer Scholarships through the University for up to 300 units of coursework that counts toward their undergraduate requirements, Additionally, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Stafford Loans, Summer Federal Work-Study and Funding for Paris Summer Study Abroad Program are also available. The College does not require a separate Summer financial aid application to be considered for the Summer Scholarship or Federal Pell Grants. Students wishing to utilize Federal Direct Loans or Federal Work-Study during the summer will need to complete a separate application. Students who received need-based financial aid during the Autumn, Winter or Spring Quarters and are enrolled in Summer courses (or the September Session) will automatically be reviewed for Summer financial aid eligibility.

Traditional need-based aid (such as UChicago Grants and Odyssey Scholarships) are not available during the summer term.

- Summer Scholarship - Eligible students who received need-based financial aid throughout the academic year will receive $1,000 per 100-unit course (maximum $3,000). Odyssey students will receive $4,790 per 100-unit course (maximum $14,370). This Scholarship will only count toward tuition costs. Odyssey Scholars will also receive funding to cover the summer student services fee. **No institutional aid will be available for housing and other costs.**
- Federal Pell Grant - Eligibility is based on student's federal Student Aid Index (SAI) and Summer enrollment. Students must be enrolled in at least 200 units of coursework that counts toward their undergraduate requirements over the Summer term in order to be eligible for Pell Grant funding.
- Federal Direct Loans - Federal loan eligibility requires enrollment in at least 200 units of undergraduate that counts toward their undergraduate requirements. Funding may be prorated and could impact future academic year availability. Students wishing to utilize Federal Direct Loans or Federal Work-Study during the summer will need to complete a separate application (see below).
- Summer Federal Work-Study - A student can receive Federal Work-Study even if the student is not enrolled in the Summer but will enroll during the Autumn 2025 Quarter. Students wishing to utilize Federal Direct Stafford Loans or Federal Work-Study during the summer will need to complete a separate application.

VETERAN AND DEPENDENT OF VETERAN EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

University of Chicago is approved by the Illinois Office of Veterans Education and Training for the administration of VA Education benefits to those eligible. Veteran Administration Benefits may be available to qualifying students enrolled in approved programs. Eligible Veterans, their spouses, and children, may qualify to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB)— Chapter 30, Post-9/11 GI Bill®—Chapter 33, Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)—Chapter 35, Montgomery GI Bill®—Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)—Chapter 1606, or Reserves Educational Assistance Program (REAP)—Chapter 1607. Our Financial Aid staff is trained to assist students through the process of applying to secure potential benefits.

*The Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense are the determining bodies of benefit eligibility

Students and families at the 100% level for Post-9/11 GI Bill are eligible to benefit from the Yellow Ribbon program at the University of Chicago. The Yellow Ribbon Program helps to pay for additional educational costs that might not be covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. To find out more about the Yellow Ribbon Program, please visit https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/ .

Veteran benefits are considered a direct parental resource for undergraduate dependent students and can affect the amount of need-based aid they may receive.

For instructions on the veteran's benefit application process at UChicago, please visit https://registrar.uchicago.edu/records/veterans-resources/

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

In order to continue to qualify for institutional, federal and state financial aid, all undergraduate students must (1) complete a minimum of 70% of the units in which you enroll (withdrawn, incomplete, repeated, courses counting towards other majors, and pass/fail courses <u>are</u> included in this calculation); (2) maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (repeated coursework and courses counting towards other majors <u>are</u> included in this calculation, but incomplete, withdrawn and pass/fail courses are <u>not</u>); and (3) complete their program within a maximum time frame of 143% of the published length of program or 6,300 units (withdrawn, incomplete, repeated, and pass/fail courses <u>are</u> included in this calculation). Test credits (for example, those used in AP placement) are not factored into the student's GPA. In addition (because federal regulations require that the student's academic progress be consistent with the standard the school requires for graduation), you must have a GPA of 2.0 or higher at the end of your first and second year in the College.

Evaluation

The Office of Financial Aid reviews academic progress at the end of each academic year (inclusive of the Summer term), or when a student returns to the College after an absence of at least one quarter. If the review of academic progress finds that you are not meeting the above standards you will be ineligible to receive institutional, federal, and/or state financial aid funds. Any course taken at the University of Chicago, as well as transferred coursework that count towards a student's major, will be included in SAP evaluations. Students who are not meeting SAP standards are notified by email through their UChicago email.

Appeal Process

If you are found ineligible for financial aid because you are not making satisfactory academic progress in any of the three components included in our evaluation, you may appeal the decision by submitting a signed statement (appeal) to Financial Aid. The appeal should detail why you were unable to meet the progress requirements, document any unusual or mitigating circumstances, and describe what has changed that will allow you to meet SAP standards at the next evaluation. Simply paying for classes on your own, changing your major, or sitting out for any duration of time is insufficient to re-establish your eligibility for federal, state, and/or institutional aid, and will not be considered during an appeal.

The Appeal Committee in Financial Aid will review your appeal and may discuss your academic record with the Dean of Students in the College. The committee will also request supporting documentation based on your submitted signed statement. If your appeal is approved, you will be eligible for institutional, federal, and state funds for one quarter (financial aid probation). In the event your appeal is approved, your financial aid will be approved on a term-by-term basis and you will move into a financial aid probation status. You will be required to develop an academic plan with your adviser that stipulates your academic advancement (including grade/GPA requirements and/or completed coursework) and will be responsible for satisfying the conditions of the plan to remain eligible for aid. Academic plans are unique to each student and are developed to bring students back into compliance with SAP standards as quickly as possible within in a specific timeframe, and if possible, by the next annual SAP evaluation. At the end of each quarter, Financial Aid will review the previous quarter's academic record and determine if you are meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements and any requirements included in the academic plan. Financial Aid may be able to package federal, state, and/or institutional aid for the remaining quarters of the academic year if you are successfully meeting the conditions outlined in your approved academic plan. Appeals must be submitted by the 4th week of each quarter to receive full consideration. Appeals that are submitted after the end of the academic year will not be considered unless there are exceptional circumstances that are approved by the Director.

If you do not meet these criteria for financial aid eligibility but the Dean of Students in the College permits you to remain enrolled, you will not receive institutional, federal, or state funding until you are successfully meeting the minimum academic standards outlined above or are able to reappeal your SAP standings by reaching out to the Office of Financial Aid. Your financial aid will be reinstated only if you satisfy all of the SAP policy components referenced in the first paragraph or are granted and additional appeal. The Office of Financial Aid will inform any student who fails to meet the requirements of their academic plan through their UChicago email account.

BILLING

In the beginning of each academic quarter, the Bursar's Office will bill students for tuition, fees, and food and housing. All student billing and payment questions should be directed to the Office of the Bursar (773)702-8000.

Financial aid will be reflected as an anticipated payment on the first bill of each term. However, only accepted financial aid will be disbursed and posted as payment toward your student account. It is important that all disbursement requirements be met by each quarter's payment due date to avoid any late payment penalty fees. For detailed billing dates, payment due dates, and assistance in understanding your bill please visit the Bursar's website at bursar.uchicago.edu. In the event that grant (or loan) assistance covers out of pocket or personal expenses, your refund can be deposited directly into your U.S. checking or savings account if you enroll in Direct Deposit at my.uchicago.edu.

FERPA (FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal statute aimed at ensuring student privacy by defining what constitutes a student "educational record" and identifies who can access student records. Any school receiving federal funding is obligated to abide by FERPA for all of its students.

As the stewards of the data, the Registrar's Office is committed to ensuring the privacy of student educational records and adhering to FERPA guidelines. In this role, we educate the University community in its obligations in regards to confidentiality and inform students of their rights in regards to their own educational records. Policies governing the maintenance, review, and ultimate disposition of students' education are governed by the University record retention policy.

FAQS

FAQS

BOOKS AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

How will I pay for books and personal expenses?

Depending on your package, you may be responsible for books and personal expenses. You can use your biweekly paycheck from your Federal Work-Study or student employment job for these expenses. Even if your financial aid package provides funds for daily expenses, you should be prepared to purchase books before Autumn Quarter begins, see below for additional information.

What is the Book and Supply Charge Program?

The Book and Supply Charge Program allows students to purchase educational books and supplies from our campus bookstores and to charge those items directly to their student account at the University. This allows students the opportunity to pay for books and supplies, along with other tuition and fees, by the standard University billing policies and dates. For more information visit the College's website.

SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS

How do I submit documents for financial aid review?

Documents should be submitted via upload to your My.UChicago portal. **Please note that we cannot accept documents containing Personal Identifiable Information (PII – i.e. social security number, birthdate) via email**. This includes documents such as tax returns and W-2 forms. If you are unable to upload documents to the My.UChicago Portal, please send them via fax, mail, or bring them to our office in person.

I am required to submit proof of U.S. citizenship. Can I submit photocopied proof?

Yes, photocopies of U.S citizenship documents (i.e. passport, naturalization papers, etc.) are acceptable and should be uploaded to your My.UChicago Portal

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS

When will my financial aid disburse?

If all of your outstanding requirements have been met and you have been notified of your financial aid package, your aid will disburse up to 10 days prior to the first day of classes each quarter. It will first apply towards any outstanding balances you may have. If all of your outstanding balances have been met and there is still financial aid left over, you will receive a refund.

When and how will I receive my refund?

Refunds are processed by the Bursar's Office and will typically be sent out within 10 business days of the credit balance being established. Refunds are produced in the form of either a paper check or a direct deposit to a student bank account. If you wish to utilize direct deposit, you may enroll at my.uchicago.edu.

HOUSING & OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Will my financial aid cover if I choose on-campus housing or meal plan with higher costs?

Financial aid will not increase when a student chooses a housing & food option that has a cost greater than standard/double occupancy (i.e. single room, apartment meal plan, etc.). All financial aid packages are calculated using the cost of the Unlimited meal plan. If a student initially chooses (or is defaulted into) a lower cost meal plan, but changes to the higher cost unlimited plan after financial aid has disbursed, this could result in a balance due. It is important to finalize all housing and meal plans prior to the disbursement of financial aid in the Autumn Quarter.

What happens if I decide to move off campus? How will this affect my financial aid package?

The Office of Financial Aid uses different food and housing costs for the different housing arrangements. The total cost estimate for an off-campus resident is approximately $3,000 less than that for a University housing resident. This is because the costs for off-campus housing are typically lower than those for on-campus housing. Since UChicago meets student need up to the total cost of attendance. students who reside off campus will have financial aid that is approximately $3,000 less than those living on campus.

Additionally, your bill will no longer include charges for food & housing. The Office of the Bursar will bill an off-campus resident only for tuition and the student life fee. If the credits to your account (e.g., University of Chicago Grant funds, outside grants and scholarships, student loans, family contribution) exceed charges, you will receive a refund to help pay for rent, food, and other living costs.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must notify us if your housing plans change.

STUDY ABROAD

I understand that financial aid may be available to students who participate in study abroad programs that are sponsored by the University of Chicago. How will my package be affected?

If you are participating in a study abroad program that is offered through the University Study Abroad Office, your tuition will be the same as if you were enrolled in courses on campus. The allowance for books and personal expenses will also be the same. However, there is an additional program fee associated with each study abroad program that will be charged to your account. This fee includes accommodation, instruction, student support, and program excursions. The credits that are earned via enrollment in a study abroad program that is offered through the University Study Abroad Office will count as enrolled units for federal financial aid purposes.

The family contribution is determined in the same manner regardless of whether you study abroad. The components of your self- help expectation (expected income from employment) are adjusted because you will not be able to work while you are abroad. There is a separate budget for each of the study abroad programs, but the budget for an on-campus student is used as the foundation for the packages made to students studying abroad. Additionally, all Odyssey students will receive an airfare stipend in the amount of $1,200 and additional aid to cover the administrative fee of $675 (2024-25 amount, future amounts subject to change) while all institutional need-based aid recipients will receive an airfare stipend in the amount of $1,200. Note that if participation in a study abroad program results in higher expenses, the student and his or her parents are responsible for the difference.

Students can receive this additional financial support for one study abroad experience during their four years at UChicago. If a student takes more than one study abroad experience, they will still receive their regular financial aid during that quarter, but no additional funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students living off-campus during their study abroad quarter will not receive a financial aid refund due to the study abroad program fee being directly billed. These students will want to plan for alternatives for paying rent and utilities during this time.

Additional aid information for study abroad is available on the study abroad website.at study-abroad.uchicago.edu.

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

I will be enrolling in a joint bachelor's/master's program. Can I still receive financial aid?

Students are eligible for institutional aid during the first four years of their undergraduate program regardless of whether they are taking undergraduate or graduate level coursework. After the student has completed four years of their undergraduate program (or graduated from their undergraduate program or completed their undergraduate degree requirements), they are no longer eligible for institutional financial aid but are able to borrow student loans.

Federal financial aid eligibility is based on the number of courses in which a student is enrolled in a given quarter that apply to their undergraduate program. Students who receive federal aid (Pell Grant, SEOG, Stafford Direct Student Loans or Parent PLUS Loans) must be enrolled in 200 units that are required for completion of their undergraduate program in order for those funds to disburse.

LOANS

How do I apply for a Federal Direct Loan?

1. Obtaining a Federal Direct Loan is a three-step process. Visit the Financial Aid website for access to the web links and forms.
2. Tell us the amount you wish to borrow by completing the 2025-24 Federal Direct Loan Request Form and accepting the loan amount in my.uchicago.edu
3. Complete the electronic Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at https://studentaid.gov/mpn/
4. Complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment at https://studentaid.gov/asla/ (this must be completed each year a loan is borrowed)
5. Complete entrance counseling at https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/

What is the Master Promissory Note (MPN)?

The MPN is your agreement to repay the funds you borrow and your acknowledgment of having accepted the terms of the loan. (Please refer to the chart on page 5 for the annual and aggregate loan limits.) The note that you sign does not contain a dollar amount, but by signing the note you agree to repay any amounts borrowed against that note. The MPN is valid for up to 10 years from the date you sign it.

How are the funds disbursed?

After you complete the MPN and entrance counseling, and the Office of Financial Aid has processed your loan request, your loan proceeds will be sent to the University electronically for disbursement to your student account. Federal regulations require loan proceeds be disbursed in multiple installments. Because the University of Chicago is on a quarter system, your loan proceeds will be disbursed in three installments, one at the beginning of each quarter. You should plan your bill payments and other financial needs in accordance with this disbursement schedule. To receive your loan disbursement at the start of autumn quarter and avoid late payment fees or other issues with an unpaid balance, you should complete the steps outlined above no later than September 1.

How does my parent apply for this loan?

Your parent needs to complete a credit check and MPN at https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/ to apply for the loan. To complete the PLUS MPN online, your parent will be required to use his or her FSA ID. The FSA ID is the same one used to complete the FASFA and is used as your parent's electronic signature when completing the PLUS MPN online at https://studentaid.gov/mpn/parentplus/landing. For questions regarding FSA ID, go to https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. For details and application instructions visit the Office of Financial Aid website.

Will my parent have to complete the PLUS MPN every year that funds are borrowed?

In most cases, your parent has to complete the PLUS MPN only once – the first year these funds are borrowed for you. In the first and every subsequent year, however your parent will have to complete a new PLUS application online at https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/. The PLUS application allows your parent to indicate the amount she or he wishes to borrow and authorizes the Department of Education to complete a credit check.

Is it possible for my parent to know whether she or he is approved to borrow a Federal Direct PLUS before completing the PLUS MPN?

Approval for the Federal Direct PLUS is based on a parent's credit report. Your parent may learn whether she or he will be approved for this loan by completing the PLUS application before completing the PLUS MPN. The PLUS application is completed online at https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/. (Request a Direct PLUS Loan). NOTE: The credit approval is valid for 180 days.

How much is my parent eligible to borrow from the Federal Direct PLUS program?

The Federal Direct PLUS program allows a parent to borrow up to the full cost of attendance, less any other financial aid, including other educational borrowing.

Is it possible for my parent to wait until I graduate to begin repaying the Federal Direct PLUS?

Yes. Your parent can learn more about deferring repayment of interest and principal while you are enrolled by calling your Direct Loan Servicing Center and by visiting their website "Student Aid on the Web" at https://studentaid.gov/. You can find your Direct Loan Servicer's phone number by visiting https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/servicers.

What options are there if my parent is denied the Federal Direct PLUS?

If a parent is denied a Federal Direct PLUS due to credit reasons, the parent may appeal the denial, reapply with a credit-worthy endorser, or the student may borrow additional funds from the unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan program.

- To appeal a PLUS denial, the parent must contact the Student Loan Support Service Center at 800.557.7394
- To reapply with an endorser, the endorser must procure an FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch. The endorser must sign into studentloans.gov with the FSA ID, click on "Endorse PLUS Loan," and complete the endorser addendum using the loan reference number provided
- If a PLUS Loan is appealed or endorsed, the borrower must also complete PLUS Entrance Counseling.
- To borrow additional unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan funds, the student should contact Financial Aid. The student may be able to borrow up to the independent student loan limits indicated on the chart on page 5 of this brochure.

How are Federal Direct PLUS funds disbursed?

Federal regulations require loan proceeds to be disbursed in multiple installments. Because the University of Chicago is on a quarter system, your parent's loan proceeds will be disbursed in three installments at the beginning of each quarter.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY / STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

What is the difference between Federal Work-Study and Student Employment?
Federal Work-Study is a need-based federal program that is based on the family's Student Aid Index (SAI as determined by a complete and valid FAFSA). If a student's SAI is outside the range of eligibility for Federal Work-Study, their package will include Student Employment. Students are able to work regardless of which is included in their package, however some positions do require Federal Work-Study eligibility.

I'm not going to earn the full amount I received in Federal Work-Study funds for the academic year. May I use these funds in the summer Federal Work-Study program?
Funds not used in the academic year they are received cannot be carried over, but you can apply separately for summer Federal Work-Study.

How are earnings paid? Do my wages get deposited directly to my student account?
You will receive biweekly paychecks directly from your employer.

I'd like a job that provides community service. What opportunities does the University offer?
UChicago students who are interested in public service have many employment possibilities. Off-campus community service jobs are available at nonprofit organizations and community-based agencies throughout the city of Chicago. For additional information, please visit ucsc.uchicago.edu or studentemployment.uchicago.edu. Tutoring positions are also available in local public schools. For additional information, please visit nsp.uchicago.edu.

Do I need to prove to prospective employers that I am eligible for Federal Work-Study? If so, how do I provide this proof?
You should bring to each job interview your Federal Work-Study Employment Authorization Form that provides proof of eligibility. The employment form is available at my.uchicago.edu.

In addition to the Federal Work-Study Employment Authorization Form, what other documents do I need to bring for my job?
Federal law requires your employer to review original documents that establish your identity and eligibility to work in the United States (your Social Security Card and your passport, alien registration card, current driver's license, or naturalization certificate). An employer cannot allow you to work until you have satisfied these requirements, whether you are a U.S. citizen or you are a non-citizen.

What happens if I am hired?
You will be expected to complete an orientation session, as well as a background check if you are working with minors.

ENROLLMENT CHANGES AND REPEATED COURSE WORK

A student who receives federal Title IV funds is subject to rules governing the return of funds in the event that he or she withdraws from all courses and/or fails to earn a quality grade in at least one course. To determine the amount of Title IV funds a student may keep to pay charges, the Office of Financial Aid will consider the number of days the student was enrolled during the relevant quarter (not including scheduled breaks of 5 consecutive days or more) and the date on which the student first indicated his or her intent to withdraw. The university is required to return all unearned funds back to the Department of Education.

A student earns Title IV funds in proportion to the length of time he or she is enrolled for the first 60% of the quarter. Title IV funds are defined as Federal Direct Stafford Loans, Federal Direct PLUS, Federal Pell Grants, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. The percent completed is determined by dividing the number of days the student attended the University from the total number of days in the quarter. The last day of attendance is the date the student begins the University's withdrawal process, or the last date the student participated in "instructional activity related to the student's course of study" (e.g., attending class in person or online, participating in interactive computer-assisted instruction, lab, exam, assignment submission) which can be confirmed by a faculty or staff member. If the student leaves without notifying the Dean of Students in the College of his or her withdrawal and if it is impossible to establish a date that the student last participated in an "academically related activity," the midpoint of the quarter will be considered the official last date of attendance for the purpose of returning unearned Title IV funds.

Unearned Title IV funds will be returned in the following order: 1) Unsubsidized Direct Loan 2) Subsidized Direct Loan 3) Direct PLUS loan 4) Federal Pell Grants 5) Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant 6) Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant 7) TEACH Grant. Funding returned to Federal Tuition Assistance programs will be returned independently of Title IV funding.

In addition to a reduction in federal aid, all students subject to the policy above who cease enrollment in all coursework may also have their institutional aid reduced. Institutional aid reductions are proportional to the student's adjusted tuition bill.

Leave of Absence

Students in the College who decide not to return to the College must take a leave of absence. To do so, students must submit a Leave of Absence Request to the Office of College Community Standards. While on leave, students will have a note indicating "Current Status: Leave of Absence" posted to their University of Chicago transcript and are liable for all tuition and fees assessed for any quarter for which they have registered.

Should they decide to return to the College, a student on leave of absence may do so at any time. To do so, students must submit a Request to Resume Study form.

Students who decide to return to the College after a leave extending more than 8 quarters, consecutive or cumulative, must submit the Request to Resume Study form with additional supporting materials. The request and the additional materials will be reviewed by the College Academic Standing Committee. The College is not obliged to approve a student's return. Students who are approved to resume their studies are ordinarily expected to complete their program without further interruption.

BILLING

Does the University offer a payment plan?
The University offers several methods for remitting payment of your quarterly billing statement. For a complete listing of payment options, please visit the Bursar's website at bursar.uchicago.edu.

How will I receive my bill?
The University of Chicago Bursar's Office sends tuition bills electronically. Once you enroll in the service, the Office of the Bursar will notify you via email each time a new billing statement is issued. For more information about E-Bill, visit the Bursar's website at bursar.uchicago.edu.

How do I pay my bill?
Students may submit payments online at My.UChicago>Finances>Account>View EBill/Epay. If you are unable to make a payment online you may mail your check payment to: University of Chicago Bursar, 6030 South Ellis Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

Is it possible to use a credit card to pay my bill?
No. The University of Chicago does not accept credit card payment for tuition, food, housing, or fees.

What if the bill does not reflect a payment for my outside scholarship?
Your bill may not reflect a payment for your outside scholarship if the Office of Financial Aid has not received and processed the payment from the agency sponsoring your scholarship. Once payment has been received by the University, it will disburse to your billing account similarly to other financial aid.

PARENT INFORMATION

I no longer have a relationship with my parent(s). How would I provide parent information?

For the purposes of institutional financial aid, the following statements apply:

I am married and/or have a child and the FAFSA indicated I am an independent student. Do I still need to submit my parent tax and household information? In most cases, YES

I am 24 years of aid (or older) and the FAFSA indicated I am an independent student. Do I still need to submit my parent tax and household information? In most cases, YES

I have one or more children and the FAFSA indicated I am an independent student. Do I still need to submit my parent tax and household information? In most cases, YES

If you fit into one of the above categories, please reach out to our office with any additional questions. Students with dependent children should reach out to our office to discuss additional resources that may exist for assistance with childcare expenses.

Parent tax returns and W-2 forms are required documents for financial aid eligibility determination. In some cases, a student may qualify for a Dependency Override, meaning parent information would not be required. In order to qualify for a dependency override, a student must be able to demonstrate that he/she does not have a relationship with either biological (or adoptive) parent. In these extreme circumstances a student's dependency may be changed from "dependent" to "independent" if the situation and documentation necessitate such a change. Please see the section on Dependency Overrides on page 25 of this handbook.

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

I am thinking about becoming a Resident Assistant (RA). How will this affect my financial aid?

When a student becomes an RA, nothing changes with the way their financial aid is calculated. The same process is used to determine eligibility. However, since students receive a board waiver (they are not charged for food), we remove this the board/food budget item from the student's Cost of Attendance. Those charges would have otherwise been covered by financial aid, but since they are now covered by the University the need-based financial aid is reduced by the amount of the board cost.

EXTENDED STATUS AND NO FURTHER ENROLLMENT REQUIRED (NFER) STATUS

I will be going on extended or NFER status. How will this affect my financial aid?

Financial aid eligibility is contingent upon full-time enrollment. Since you would not be enrolled in courses during extended status, you would not receive any of your financial aid for that quarter. If you enroll in courses and then go on extended status after they have started, you would be responsible for paying back any balance that is created by this change after all required financial aid recalculations have been completed

APPENDIX:
FEDERAL AND STATE STUDENT AID PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

APPENDIX: FEDERAL AND STATE STUDENT AID PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to receive assistance from federal and state student aid programs, a student must

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- Demonstrate financial need (except for the unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan and the Federal Direct PLUS programs);
- Be a degree seeking student;
- Have a valid Social Security number;
- Make satisfactory academic progress toward a degree;
- Certify on the FAFSA that he or she will use federal student aid only for education purposes, is not in default on a student loan, and does not owe a refund on a federal grant. (Note that the parent who borrows Federal Direct PLUS funds on behalf of the student must be either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.)
- Be a resident of the state of Illinois for at least 12 months immediately prior to the academic year for which assistance is requested if they are an independent student. For a dependent student the parent must be an Illinois resident (required for MAP Grant only);
- Have a high school diploma, General Education Development (GED), valid home school credentials, or meet the Ability to Benefit alternative criteria;
- Register for the Selective Service if you are male, at least 18 years old, and not currently a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. To receive federal and state financial aid, you may be required to submit proof of registration. For more information you may go to www.sss.gov (Note: this requirement was repealed for any FAFSA submitted after June 17, 2021);
- Not be enrolled simultaneously in elementary or secondary school;
- No current outstanding Grant Overpayments;
- Have not obtained loan amounts that exceed annual or aggregate loan limits made under any Title IV loan program;

DATABASE REVIEWS

The following are among federal agency databases reviewed by the Department of Education to confirm some of the information on your FAFSA form:

- Social Security Administration for confirmation of Social Security numbers and U.S. citizenship status
- Selective Service System for confirmation of Selective Service registration status, if applicable
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for confirmation of eligible non citizenship status, if applicable
- If data you provided on your complete and valid FAFSA does not match the data at these agencies, the Committee on Financial Aid will ask you for additional documents to verify that the information on the FAFSA is indeed correct. Documents that you may be asked to provide include a copy of your passport to confirm that you are a U.S. citizen or a copy of the Selective Service acknowledgement card to confirm that you are registered with Selective Service.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Your eligibility for federal funds (FSEOG, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or Federal Work-Study) is based on a federally mandated system of need analysis. As you review your financial aid package, keep in mind that your eligibility for federal funds is based on the requirement of the law.

VERIFICATION

If you submit a valid FAFSA, your financial aid application may be selected for verification by the Department of Education. If your application is selected for verification, the Office of Financial Aid will send you a verification worksheet on which you can provide the requested additional information.

If you are selected for verification, you may be required to submit official IRS tax return data. Tax information will transfer directly to the FAFSA at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. If you are unable to directly transfer tax information, you must submit an IRS Tax Return Transcript or a signed copy of your federal tax returns. You may request your IRS Tax Return Transcript online at www.irs.gov/ individuals/get-transcript.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Until you have submitted all the information requested and the verification process has been completed, the College cannot disburse FSEOG, Federal Pell Grant, Illinois MAP Grant funds; cannot permit you to work under the Federal Work-Study Program; and cannot approve your Federal Direct Loan or Federal Direct PLUS application.

COMMITMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Any commitment of federal funds is contingent upon subsequent Congressional appropriation and receipt of the funds by the University of Chicago.

CONFLICTING INFORMATION AND DATA

Our procedures ensure that we resolve conflicting data for our applicants as follows:

Applicants Selected for Verification

If we have reason to believe that any information on the application used to calculate the Student Aid Index (SAI) is inaccurate (or if any supporting documentation is discrepant and inaccurate), we require the applicant to provide adequate documentation to resolve the conflict.

Applicants Not Selected for Verification

For students who are not selected for verification, we must resolve any conflicting information of which we become aware. As required, the Financial Aid Office will review all tax returns provided to the school even if they were not requested.

Other Applicant Information Received by the School

We have an adequate internal system to identify conflicting information that we may have, regardless of the source. All personnel in the University are informed to notify the Financial Aid Office if information is presented that may impact a student's eligibility for financial aid. For example, the Foundations who handle scholarships know that they must inform the Financial Aid Office of the student's eligibility.

PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The University of Chicago understands that certain situations may arise that warrant further consideration above and beyond the typical file or verification review required by the Department of Education. The Financial Aid Department will review student files on a case-by-case basis for professional judgement overrides when a student's financial situation has significantly changed or is not accurately reflected by the complete and valid FAFSA application; or in the event that a student's dependency status should be overridden due to issues not fully identified or captured by the FAFSA application. These requests must be made to the Financial Aid Office and will require additional documentation that varies based on the nature and type of review being requested. Prior to requesting a professional judgement review, students must complete the verification process, if selected. Please note that these reviews are final. Regulations regarding professional judgments are documented in the HEA Section 479A subpart a.

Income Adjustments

In accordance with the aforementioned regulations, institutions may allow a financial aid counselor, with support of adequate documentation and on a case-by-case basis, the authority to make adjustments to the cost of attendance or data value items required to calculate the Student Aid Index (SAI) to allow for consideration of individual applicant circumstances. UChicago has established the following policy in compliance with these regulations.
Because the FAFSA is only intended to capture a family's financial strength at the time of application, it is necessary to have a process by which a financial aid counselor may review a family's circumstances in response to changes that occurred after the filing date but within the academic year. Additionally, individual circumstances may exist by which a dependent student's financial strength should be assessed separately from the financial strength of his/her parent(s). The following cases of professional judgment represent some extenuating circumstances that may be considered for an income adjustment at the University of Chicago:

- Change in or loss of employment resulting in significant decrease in income
- Loss of child support received
- One-time income from IRA, Pensions, Annuities or Retirement
- One-time lump sum governmental grants for natural disasters
- Unusually high medical or dental expenses (except cosmetic, including orthodontic work, plastic surgery, Lasik surgery, etc.) paid in the current year and not covered by insurance
- Other unforeseen circumstances (such as natural disaster) that significantly decreases the income available for postsecondary educational costs

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and other cases may be reviewed if they demonstrate a significant change in income. Please speak to a financial aid representative if you have additional questions.

The following circumstances will not be considered by the University of Chicago for an income adjustment:

- Car payments or car insurance
- Consumer debt (credit cards, mortgages, rent, etc.)
- Chapter 7 or 13 personal bankruptcy
- Home equity, IRA, 403B and 401K loans
- Loss of untaxed income not reported to the financial aid office or on the FAFSA

The financial aid office reserves the right to request and collect any and all supplemental documentation we deem necessary to process an appeal using our professional discretion.

Unusual Circumstances - Dependency Override

In order to qualify for a dependency override, a student must be able to demonstrate that he/she does not have a relationship with either biological (or adoptive) parent. In these extreme circumstances a student's dependency may be changed from "dependent" to "independent" if the situation and documentation necessitate such a change. Extenuating circumstances that may warrant consideration by the university for a dependency override include (but are not limited to):

- Criminally abusive home environment
- Parent(s) is incarcerated and/or institutionalized
- Death of a single parent and other parent's whereabouts are unknown

The following circumstances, singly or in combination, will not be considered:

- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency
- Parents are unwilling to provide application or tax information for verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents refusal to contribute to the student's education

Sufficient documentation is required at the time of submission of the dependency override request

Acceptable documentation may include:

- A written statement between the student and the financial aid administrator or other University official who is familiar with the student's circumstances.

And two to three of the following:

- Submission of a court order or official Federal or State documentation that the students' parents or legal guardian are incarcerated;
- A signed, written statement from an attorney, a guardian ad litem, a court-appointed special advocate (or similar), or a representative of a TRIO or GEAR UP program that confirms the circumstances and the person's relationship to the student;
- Acceptable documentation may also include a signed, written statement, which confirms the unusual circumstances with:
    - A State, county, or Tribal welfare agency;
    - An independent living case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood; or
    - An independent public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence.

PACKAGING ORDER FOR STATE AND FEDERAL AID

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides all eligible Illinois residents with the Monetary Award Grant (MAP). This will be applied to your account first, as the MAP grant is considered a "first payer." Next, the Federal Pell Grant will be applied to your account, if appropriate. If you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) may be packaged at this time as well. The next financial aid source packaged would depend on the aid preference you indicated on your complete and valid FAFSA.

- If you indicated loans only: You must complete the Loan application, as well as loan process mentioned previously to apply for a loan
- If you indicated work only: Federal Work Study may be packaged, if eligible, upon the successful placement of a student worker position
- If you indicated both work and loan: Federal Work Study may be packaged, and you must complete the loan process

WHERE CAN I GO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?

If you have additional questions about financial aid, the Office of Financial Aid will be happy to help you! We are located in Room 101 of Walker Museum. You can also contact us at 773.702.8666 (between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. CST) or college-aid@uchicago.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | Financial Aid

1101 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637-5416
T 773.702.8666
F 773.834.4300

financialaid.uchicago.edu