HOW TO AFFORD UCLA

When you are admitted to UCLA, you and your family might have a lot of questions about how you’ll cover the costs of tuition, housing and other necessities. Our financial aid professionals will make every effort to help you afford to pay for your education. Our office is dedicated to helping each family create a strategy that works for them. Thanks to the numerous options available, your education can be affordable.

UCLA FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
WWW.UCLA.EDU/AFFORDABILITY
Most families pay less than the full price. In fact, 45% of our undergraduate students pay no tuition at all. We offer an array of housing options and meal plans — as well as financial aid for housing — so that you have flexibility as to how much you pay for room and board.

In addition, UCLA offers payment plan options for both tuition and housing so that families can make smaller, regular payments throughout the academic year instead of larger, lump-sum payments.

Don’t forget to check organizations in your hometown, such as the Rotary Club and AmeriCorps, that offer scholarships for community service.

### Financial Aid Applications

Before you do anything else, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the DREAM Act Application. Make sure that you complete the application before the UCLA priority deadline (March 2). These applications provide access to federal- and state-based financial aid programs for all eligible students.

### Four Types of Financial Aid

Paying for your education should be a partnership between student, family and university. Check out the many ways you can pay for your UCLA education.

#### 1. SCHOLARSHIPS

UCLA offers financial support that may be awarded based on need, academic merit, background, specific talents or professional interests:

- UCLA Regents Scholarships (merit-based)
- UCLA Alumni Scholarships (merit-based)
- UCLA Achievement Scholarships (merit- and need-based)
- University Student Aid Program Funds (need-based)

Some other important scholarship resources include:

- Searchable scholarship databases: Fastweb, College Board and Sallie Mae.
- UCLA Scholarship Resource Center: This unique center for current UCLA students helps you identify available scholarships, regardless of income level. Services include counseling and workshops.

#### 2. GRANTS

Grants are awards that the recipient does not have to repay. Sources include the federal and state governments, as well as UCLA. Most are awarded based on need and require submission of the Financial Aid Application by March 2.

Available to California residents only:

- University of California Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan
- Cal Grants (FAFSA or DREAM Act and GPA verification due March 2)
- Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP)

Available to all U.S. residents:

- Pell Grants (Federal)
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (Federal)

**University Grants:** These need-based grants demonstrate UCLA’s commitment to affordability. Recipients must complete and submit the FAFSA or DREAM Act Application annually by March 2.

**Please note:** Financial aid supported by funds from the State of California is not available to nonresident students enrolling at UCLA. However, the UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships office will assist nonresident domestic students with federal financial aid, private loans, advice on scholarships and merit-based aid, where available.

### 3. STUDENT LOANS

In 2015, graduating seniors in the U.S. had an average student loan debt of over $28,000. But for UCLA seniors, the average was much lower — just over $17,000. And virtually all UCLA graduates – 98% of them – successfully manage loan repayment.

The federal government offers low-interest student loans for higher education, such as:

- Federal Direct Loan Program
- Federal Perkins Loan Program

There are flexible payment options and other discounts, as well as delayed repayment options. Interest paid on student loans is tax-deductible.

### 4. PART-TIME STUDENT JOBS

Having a part-time job can help pay for textbooks and day-to-day living expenses. Last year, more than 9,000 UCLA undergraduates worked on campus part time. Some had work-study awards, which can make it easier to find a position on campus or off.

**What Parents Can Do**

Parents have access to a number of resources, including some that offer tax benefits.

**PARENT LOANS**

Parents may take out low-interest education loans from the government and private loans from banks or other lenders. The terms for federal loans to parents are determined by the Department of Education; they are not based on credit scores. Loan payments can be postponed until after the student graduates. Interest paid on parent loans is tax-deductible.

**SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND TAX BENEFITS**

Many families set up special college savings accounts, such as Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and 529 plans, which enable them to put away money for college tuition and related expenses. Families can also withdraw money from their 401(k) or 403(b) retirement savings accounts. Withdrawals are penalty-free when the money is used to pay for education. The government offers tax benefits and credits for higher education. For details, check your tax preparation software or ask your tax preparer.

### Where to Go for More Information

We are dedicated to helping make your UCLA education affordable. If you have questions about financial aid, contact Financial Aid and Scholarships through our messaging center: www.financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us-Info