There are many scholarship resources available to UCLA students. To ensure success, your scholarship search should be broad, and include outside scholarships in addition to UCLA scholarships. Remember to continue applying to scholarships throughout your academic career. This is not a single year process.

UCLA Scholarships for New Students
Applicants to UCLA initially apply for scholarships awarded by Financial Aid and Scholarships on their admissions application. Scholarships are awarded in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, based on the information you submit on your admissions application and are primarily designed to assist students who demonstrate financial need.

If you are admitted to UCLA, you will have the opportunity to complete an additional scholarship application, which will allow you to apply for other scholarships offered by academic departments and other campus organizations. Students must file a FAFSA or DREAM Act application by the March 2nd priority deadline to be considered for scholarships administered by Financial Aid and Scholarships.

UCLA Scholarships for Continuing Students
Apply for scholarships available through UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships – Scholarships awarded to continuing undergraduate students require that you complete an annual scholarship application that is available on MyUCLA from early February. In order to qualify:

• students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA
• must submit a FAFSA or Dream Act application by March 2, which demonstrates financial need
• must complete and online scholarship application through MyUCLA by the published priority deadline each year
Many scholarships are based on criteria other than financial need and academic achievement. Take note of your interests, hobbies, ethnic or religious background, work experience, career goals, etc. There may be specific scholarships related to these.

Try to plan ahead when applying for scholarships. It is recommended you apply six to nine months before the academic year you hope to receive the funding.

Outside agency scholarships (from foundations, organizations, groups, and individuals) can be an excellent way to help fund your education.

There’s no single, comprehensive source that can give you a list of all the scholarships, for which you may be eligible. It’s best to consult several sources, such as scholarship books, the internet, departments, your high school and community organizations, etc.

Scholarship search engines, such as Scholarship Expert, Fastweb, and College Board, can provide a wealth of information to help you in your search. Scholarship books that target specific majors, ethnicity, or religious affiliation are an invaluable way to find national and local scholarships.

Writing an excellent personal statement will help you stand out as a strong candidate for scholarship. The Scholarship Resource Center offers workshops for UCLA students as well as individualized writing support sessions to help you work on essays from brainstorming to proofreading.

Many departments at UCLA offer scholarships. Watch for listings on bulletin boards, ask departmental counselors, and check your department’s website listings.

Most importantly, be proactive and diligent in applying for scholarships. It takes a lot of work, but in the in the end all your efforts will really pay off. Your UCLA scholarship application will enable you to apply for these departmental scholarships directly. Some departments may request some additional information so they can consider you for an award.

How will a scholarship affect my financial aid?
UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships will adjust your financial aid award to incorporate scholarships. Typically, scholarships will be used to replace federal work study and/or need based student loans. This will result in reducing your loan indebtedness at graduation. It is very important that you notify UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships if you will be receiving scholarship support so that changes to your financial aid eligibility can be made without delay.