

Award Offer Adjustments | Financial Aid Guide

Financial aid packages include awards managed by the university and awards that are contributed from other sources. Sometimes the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office receives new information that may initiate an adjustment to a student's aid package. Examples of changes that might lead to an adjustment include a cost of attendance adjustment or new source of outside aid.

What aid is included in a standard financial aid package?

Undergraduates

Aid from federal, state, and institutional funds are managed by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. These include:

- **Gift aid:** grants and scholarships
- **Self-help aid:** loans and work-study

Graduates

- Loans and work-study are managed by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.
- Institutional gift aid and fellowship funding may come from the Graduate Division or individual departments.

Adjustments and Appeals

Awards not included in initial aid packages include scholarships from donors outside of the university, awards from campus departments, and reductions in charges from the Office of the Registrar or the Tang Health Center.

Common sources for aid:

- SHIP Fee Waiver (from UHS Tang)
- Outside scholarship awards
- Departmental awards
- Fee remissions
- Fee waivers
- Prizes

A reduced course load could result in adjustments to certain gift aid amounts, including Cal Grant, Pell Grant, and Middle Class Scholarship awards. Read [How Aid Works](#) for details.

What happens when outside aid is added to the existing aid package?

Aid from outside sources is considered part of a financial aid package. There are two evaluations made to determine how to fit the aid from other sources into a student's aid package.

1. Evaluation of Need

The financial need for aid offers is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Total Cost of Attendance} \\ - \text{Student Aid Index} \\ \hline \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

Notes:

- A negative Student Aid Index is treated as a zero in the need calculation.
- Subsidized loans and work-study are counted toward need.
- Unsubsidized loans are counted toward the total cost of attendance.

2. Evaluation of Cost of Attendance

The cost of attendance is initially determined for students each year by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. It includes known costs, like tuition and fees, and estimated costs like housing and food, books/supplies, and personal expenses.

- If a student's actual expenses exceed their estimated cost of attendance, a **Cost of Attendance Adjustment** may be considered on a case-by-case basis (typically for unexpected budgetary needs).

- Students can submit an **Economic Hardship Appeal** for extenuating financial circumstances or a substantial decrease in the family's income since filing for aid (typically for one-time special circumstance expenses).

Based on the results of the evaluations, an aid package may or may not be adjusted when outside aid is added to an existing offer.

For additional information about adjustments to aid visit [Adjustments to Your Award Offer](#).