



STUDENT PARENTS

CONGRATULATIONS. You've been accepted! Now what?

To be considered for financial aid at Berkeley, start with completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov or the California Dream Act Application (for students not eligible to file a FAFSA) at dream.csac.ca.gov. Submit your aid application by the priority deadline each spring. When applying for aid, be sure to include UC Berkeley's federal school code **001312**.

What does this mean for my family?

Moving forward with your education at UC Berkeley will be life changing! We encourage you to look closely at the cost of attendance published by the University, as this determines the maximum amount of financial aid you may be eligible for to cover tuition and expenses for you and your family.

Gift Aid & Scholarships: Need-based grants and scholarship amounts are determined by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office based on information submitted in the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and your Cost of Attendance. Grants are like gifts- they do not need to be repaid.

**Gift aid is awarded based on your Student Aid Index (SAI) and cannot exceed the standard Cost of Attendance.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Basic Need Center: basicneeds.berkeley.edu

Housing Security: financialaid.berkeley.edu/housing-security-deposit

Food Assistance: calfresh.berkeley.edu

Cost of Attendance (COA)

Your cost of attendance, or student budget, is an estimate of what it will cost to attend an academic year at UC Berkeley. Your budget serves as the foundation for determining your financial need as well as the amount of qualified aid, including grants and scholarships, that can be offered to you. Standard **COA** figures are established through student surveys and other research and will include the components below:

Tuition & Fees, Books, Supplies, Living Expenses (food + housing), Personal Costs, Transportation, Health insurance "SHIP" (SHIP may be waived if you can demonstrate equivalent coverage)

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office may adjust **COA** for students on a case-by-case basis to address individual circumstances. Expenses that can be considered are:

Dependent Food and Personal Expenses

Adjustments for these expenses are automatic, after verification of dependent children is completed. *These are fixed amounts, based on regional costs.

Rent & Mortgage

When living with more people, housing expenses may be higher than what is included in the standard **COA**. (It is assumed that rent is split equally between adults listed on the lease/mortgage.)

Relocation Expenses

Driving? Save your gas and/or truck rental receipts. This does not include the purchase of household items, flights, or other expenses related to securing living arrangements prior to the start of the term.

Childcare Expenses

Applicable for Children 13 and under.

Computer

\$3,000 maximum adjustment to help with the purchase of a computer. Allowed every three years.

GIFT AID ELIGIBILITY

For qualifying student parents, your standard cost of attendance will be covered by gift aid after verification of dependent children has been completed, as calculated from your Student Aid Index (SAI).

What is the Parent Grant?

If you have at least one dependent child under the age of 18 as of the first day of the academic year, and this child is not attending college and lives with you at least 50% time during the academic year, you may qualify for the **Parent Grant**. (Award amounts will not exceed the standard Cost of Attendance.) For more info, visit: financialaid.berkeley.edu/parent-grant

Why Was My Financial Aid Adjusted?

If you already have a financial aid package and subsequently receive an outside award / scholarship, your financial aid package will be adjusted for that award. Generally, need-based loans (*subsidized loans*) and work-study awards are reduced first to make room for the award / scholarship.

How Much Can I Borrow?

Subsidized Loans- up to \$5,500

Unsubsidized Loans- up to \$7,000

The total amount of your combined loans cannot exceed \$12,500 for the year.

Economic Hardship Appeal

Your aid application looks at income from two years ago. If you were working, but are no longer working (or have had any other change in income), a Economic Hardship Appeal could help. Appeals are located on the Berkeley Financial Aid forms website at: berkeley.studentforms.com

Reduced Courseload

Many student parents take a reduced courseload because of parenting responsibilities. Pell Grant, Cal Grant, and Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) eligibility is based on units enrolled. If you have been awarded a Pell Grant, Cal Grant, or the