

Undergraduate Aid Guide

Now that you've been offered financial aid, here is some information you'll need to know.

How Financial Aid is Calculated

The amount of financial aid you're eligible for is determined by a simple formula:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \text{Student's Cost of Attendance (budget)} & \\ - & \text{Student Aid Index (SAI)} & \\ \hline = & \text{Financial Need} & \end{array}$$

Students with the greatest financial need who apply by the February 15 recommended deadline are given priority for grants. Scholarships, work-study, and subsidized loans require that students demonstrate financial need, while unsubsidized loans and PLUS loans do not.

The amount of financial aid offered is intended to help you cover your college expenses for one academic year.

Accepting Your Financial Aid

Grants, work-study and admissions-based scholarships are automatically accepted. Students and parents will need to follow additional steps to accept/apply for loans. Students offered other CU Boulder Scholarship(s) may need to accept them in order to receive them.

Enrollment & Adjustments

Financial aid offers are based on available funds and full-time enrollment (12 credit hours). CU Boulder has the right to revise or cancel aid if funds are unavailable; if there is a need to change information reported on your FAFSA; if you drop below full-time; or for any other eligibility-related reasons. If you sign up for a class and never attend, your aid most likely will be reduced.

The cost to attend CU Boulder for the academic year, among other factors, determines the maximum amount of aid you're eligible to receive. In order to help students plan, we use estimates of tuition and fees to make financial aid offers. In the event tuition and fees are lower than estimated, your financial aid may be reduced; however, if tuition and fees are higher, your aid may be increased.

Applying for Federal Direct Student Loans

1. Accept your Federal Direct Loans online via the student portal. Always accept subsidized loans first. This acceptance serves as formal application for these loans.
2. First-time borrowers will need to complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (also known as MPN or Loan Agreement) by logging in to studentaid.gov.
3. You will receive a disclosure statement from the Direct Loan Servicer informing you of the amount of loan that will be sent to the school.
4. For more information about interest rates, monthly payments, and types of repayment options visit www.colorado.edu/financialaid/types-aid/undergraduate-student-loans.

You have the right to decline or reduce the loans offered. You also have the right to cancel or reduce the accepted amount of the loan any time during the school year.
Important Note: Students can accept Direct Loans up until the last day of the semester in which they are enrolled at least half-time.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans

1. Regardless of whether or not a parent PLUS Loan is listed in your offer in the student portal, your parent can apply for this type of loan.
2. To apply, your parent will need to log in to studentaid.gov, click the 'Parent' tab and then select 'Apply for a PLUS Loan'. The parent borrower will also need to complete a Master Promissory Note (also known as MPN or Loan Agreement) if we do not have one on file.
3. Your parent will receive a disclosure statement from the Direct Loan Servicer informing them of the amount of loan that will be sent to the school.
4. For information about how to apply, interest rates, and monthly payments visit www.colorado.edu/financialaid/parent-loans.

Note: If your parent is not eligible for the PLUS Loan, contact a financial aid counselor for more options.

Private Loans

Private loans are only recommended as an option after the student has applied for and considered federal loans. To learn more about these loans, visit www.colorado.edu/financialaid/private-loans.

Scholarship Information

Private scholarships must be reported to our office. This can be done in the student portal.

Scholarship donors can send checks to:
Scholarship Services
University of Colorado Boulder
77 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0077

Checks should be received by the first day of class to avoid late fees.

Student Employment

Job listings for work-study and hourly jobs may be viewed in the student portal. We include openings for both on-campus and off-campus positions.

Jobs for fall semester are usually posted around July 1. Students offered work-study for fall semester need to begin working by October 1 to avoid cancellation of their work-study offer.

Resident advisors receive a housing credit toward their bill each semester. The credit is counted as part of the student's financial aid, so changes to RA credits could impact other types of financial aid.

Financial Aid Refunds

To receive your financial aid refund, sign up for direct deposit. For instructions visit www.colorado.edu/bursar or call the Bursar's Office at 303-492-5381.

Financial aid, with the exception of work-study, will be applied directly to the tuition and fee bill. Any funds exceeding the bill will be refunded to your bank account by direct deposit approximately three days before classes begin.

Special Circumstances

If you or your parents have special circumstances such as a loss of income or unusually high medical expenses, they can submit a Professional Judgment Appeal. To learn more about this appeal process, visit www.colorado.edu/financialaid/apply-aid/special-circumstances.

Financial Aid Policies

Financial aid policies contain important details about how current and future financial aid can be impacted by dropping classes, withdrawing from the university, or not receiving passing grades. The following policies can be found online at www.colorado.edu/financialaid/policies:

- Adjustments to Financial Aid
- Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Return to Title IV Funds & Refund Policy

CU Boulder Grant Limit

University-funded grant aid is provided to eligible students. For most degrees, the maximum limit will be 180 credit hours (for engineering students it's 160 credit hours). All credits attempted at any CU campus (grades of F, W and Incomplete are included), accepted transfer credit, and AP/IB coursework will count toward the maximum limit.

Financial Aid Funding Sources

Federally funded programs include:

- [Federal Pell Grant](#)
- [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant \(SEOG\)](#)
- [Federal Work-Study](#)
- [Federal Direct Loan \(subsidized, unsubsidized\)](#)
- [Federal Direct PLUS Loan \(parent\)](#)

State of Colorado programs funded by the Colorado General Assembly include:

- [Colorado Student Grant](#)
- [Colorado Work-Study](#)

The University of Colorado Boulder also funds a variety of scholarships and need-based grants.

Each funding source has limits. Visit www.colorado.edu/financialaid for these limits.

College Opportunity Fund

Undergraduate Colorado residents will need to proactively apply for and authorize the use of the state stipend before it can be credited to the tuition and fee bill. Please review the information at www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/cof.

Mailing Addresses

Office of Financial Aid

Regent Administrative Center, Room 175
University of Colorado Boulder
Office of Financial Aid
77 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0077

Student Employment

Regent Administrative Center, Room 205
University of Colorado Boulder
Student Employment
77 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0077

Website and Email

Office of Financial Aid

Website: www.colorado.edu/financialaid
Email: financialaid@colorado.edu

Student Employment

Website: www.colorado.edu/studentemployment
Email: studentemployment@colorado.edu

Scholarship Services

Website: www.colorado.edu/scholarships
Email: scholarships@colorado.edu

Phone

Office of Financial Aid 303-492-5091
Student Employment 303-492-7349
Scholarship Services 303-492-4533

Secure Document Upload:

www.colorado.edu/financialaid/forms/secure-document-upload

U.S. Department of Education Contacts

FAFSA Info/FSA ID 800-433-3243
TTY/TDD 800-730-8913
Direct Loan Consolidation 800-557-7392

Title IV Institution FAFSA School Code: 001370

The University of Colorado has a strong institutional commitment to the principles of diversity and takes action to achieve that end. The university does not discriminate in its educational and employment programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, creed, religion, or veteran status.

