

How to Pay for College

A student guide to funding



Created by Freshman Commuter Student Success



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Glossary

Terms are underlined the first time they appear in the text of this booklet.
Some terms do not appear in the text.

Alumnus/a - Someone who graduated from a school or college; **alumni** is the plural form.

Cumulative GPA - An average of all of the grades a student has earned in every semester.

Disburse/disbursed - To pay out money from a fund; "My scholarships have to disburse in order for my student bill to be paid."

EFC - Estimated family contribution; this is what the federal government *thinks* your family will be able to pay for your college; your EFC will determine how much federal aid you are offered.

Faculty - Educators
Example: Professors and instructors

Federal aid - Money from the United States government to help pay for school.
Example: Money you get from filing the FAFSA

Fees - Everything you are charged that excludes tuition, housing, and meal plans.
Examples: Facilities, Library, Media, Network & Data Systems, Student Activity, Student Health, and Transit Fees

Financial aid - An award based on financial need that helps pay for college.
It could be in the form of a grant, loan, or work-study program.

Good academic standing - Having above a 2.0 cumulative GPA;
not on probation or suspension.

Grace period - A period of time that occurs after a deadline; during this time you do not receive a late fee or consequence.
It's "extra time" or an extension of a deadline.

Grant - Money awarded by the government or another organization to help pay for school.
It's usually based on financial need. It's money you don't have to pay back.
Example: Pell Grant

Interest - Additional money you pay for taking out a loan. Loans collect interest until you have paid them back in full.

Invoice - A bill or receipt the University provides to list what classes and fees you are paying for and how much money is owed.

Loans - Money that is **borrowed** from the government or a private company to help pay for school.

Glossary cont'd

Professor - A teacher of the highest rank in a college or university; have a Ph.D.

Promissory Note - A document you sign saying you promise to pay back your loan.

Renewal criteria - Requirements that you must meet to be able to receive your scholarship for another school year.
Examples of criteria: 2.0 GPA, good academic standing, etc.

Scholarship - Money awarded by a university or organization based on things like good grades, showing leadership qualities, or other criteria.
It's money you *don't* have to pay back.
Example: UA departmental or degree-specific funding

Staff - People who work for the UA in administrative and support positions.
Example: advisors, financial aid personnel; deans

State funds - Money that you get from the state government to help pay for school.
Example: Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship "The Lottery Scholarship"

Subsidized Loans- Loans that are based on financial need. The government pays for the interest this loan collects while you are still in school.
After you graduate, then you start paying interest.
These loans should be your **first choice**.

Tuition - The money your pay the university for your classes; you pay for the number of credits you are enrolled in;
tuition rates vary depending on what college you are in, what program you are in, and whether your class is online or in-person.

Unsubsidized Loans- Loans that are not based on financial need.
You immediately start paying for the interest this loan collects.
These loans should be your **second choice**.

Verification - Something is missing from your FAFSA so it is selected for review.
Students must complete additional steps to make sure their FAFSA information is correct and then receive financial aid.
(Sometimes students are picked at random to complete this process.)

Work-study - Non-taxable money you can earn by working on-campus; your earnings are deposited to your personal bank account and can be used for anything you want;
you must apply for a job, get hired, and clock hours before receiving any work-study funds;
work-study eligibility is based on financial need.

Scholarship Disbursal

Don't freak out when scholarships don't go through immediately. They start disbursing the week before classes start, but they can often take a few weeks to go through. There is a grace period of a month after your student invoice says it's due. This time is to allow scholarships to process.

To see your scholarships:

Log in to your **UAConnect** account

Click the "**Financial Aid**" tile

Click "**Accept/Decline Awards**" and select the academic year

Another way to see your financial aid:

Log in to your UAConnect account

Click the "Treasurer's Office" tile

Click "Account Summary by Term" on the left-hand side

Click on whichever semester you want to view and it will list your "Financial Aid Activity"

To see outside scholarships (ones that are not from the University):

Log in to your UAConnect account

Click the "Financial Aid" tile

Click "Outside Scholarship Messages" on the left-hand side

Scholarship Disbursal cont'd

*Loans and work study are the only forms of financial aid you have to "accept/decline" in your UAConnect account.

*Scholarships will go through automatically.

REFUNDS

If you are expecting to receive a refund because your awarded funding is more than you owe, you need to follow these steps:

Log in to your UAConnect account

Click the "Treasurer's Office" tile

Click "Refunding Options" on the left-hand side

You will want to create a BankMobile Disbursements account, this will make sure your refund money goes straight to your bank account.

FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Application opens Oct 1st

You must complete the FAFSA every year!

The FAFSA is an *application* for federal aid and state aid like the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholarship, Pell and SEOG grants, loans, work-study programs, and aid specifically for military families.

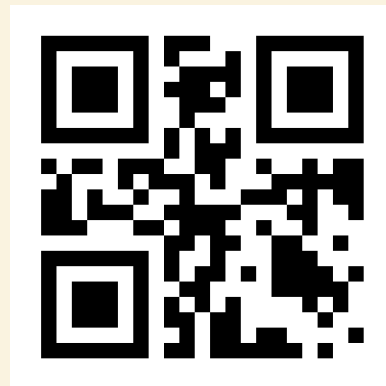
To apply:

Go to **studentaid.gov**

Click "**start here**" if you have never filed before or log in if you are renewing

You will need to use your parents'/guardians' taxes and your personal taxes from 2 years before

eg. 2022 FAFSA use 2020 taxes



After completing the form, check your **Student Aid Report** to see what financial aid you qualify for.

To view this:

Log into your FAFSA account

Go to your "**dashboard**"

Click on "**Student Aid Report**" under "**Quick Links**"

FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Who can file as independent?

In order to file your FAFSA as an independent you must be one of the following:

- 25 or older
- Married
- Have a child
- Legally emancipated

Reasons for FAFSA verification:

You may be randomly selected to complete additional steps in order for your FAFSA to go through.

Your FAFSA application could be missing something, so they need more information.

To complete FAFSA verification:

Check your UAConnect account under the "Notifications" tile.

Under "To-Do's" the additional paperwork you need to complete will be listed.

This paperwork will need to be returned to the financial aid office.

Federal Loans

If you apply for financial aid (FAFSA), you may be offered loans as part of your financial aid offer.

A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.

There are two types of Federal Direct Loans available:

Direct Subsidized Loans are loans made to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school.

Direct Unsubsidized Loans are loans made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need.

If you qualify based on your FAFSA, the loans will appear on your UAConnect account. You will click the "Financial Aid" tile and then "Accept/Decline Awards" to view them.

You can adjust the amount of the loan you take out.

Always take subsidized loans first.

When you accept federal loans, you must complete entrance counseling on the FAFSA website that explains more about the responsibilities of taking out a loan.

You will also have to sign a Master Promissory Note. This is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s).

Federal Work-Study

Work-study is a federal program that offers eligible students part-time job opportunities to work up to 20 hours per week and earn a paycheck twice per month up to the yearly awarded amount.

You do not have to declare work-study earnings on your taxes because they are considered financial aid.

Work-study awards are part of your FAFSA.

You can check your Student Aid Report at studentaid.gov to see if you are eligible or look on your UAConnect account by going to the "Financial Aid" tile and clicking on "Accept/Decline Awards."

If you are, you can look for work-study specific jobs by going to:

https://finaid.uark.edu/work_study/for_students/job-listings.php

You must apply for a job, get hired, and clock hours in order to receive your work-study award.



You can also still apply to any *non*-work-study campus jobs. When you get hired, tell your supervisor that you are eligible for work-study. This will "save them money" because your job can be federally funded.

This will have no effect on you or how you are paid.

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship

(aka Lottery Scholarship)

How Much:

\$1,000 freshman year | \$4,000 sophomore year
\$4,000 junior year | \$5,000 senior year

Who Can Get It:

You must file your FAFSA and be an Arkansas Resident with a composite ACT score of at least 19.

***If you moved from another state, but can prove residency in Arkansas using an electric bill, water bill, etc. you can also qualify.**

College freshmen who did not qualify for Academic Challenge Scholarship can apply as traditional students if they were enrolled as a full-time first-time freshman and completed 27 hours with a 2.5 GPA at the end of Spring.

If they do not have 27 hours at the end of spring, they can apply as non-traditional. Non-traditional students are defined as students who are currently in college and did not receive Challenge as freshmen, as well as adults who have completed some college but do not yet have a degree.

How to Get It:

Go to sams.adhe.edu
Search "Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship"

Click the green "**APPLY NOW**" button

Deadline: July 1st



How to Keep It:

Complete and pass at least 27 hours in your freshman year (12 hours first semester, 15 second semester).

Complete and pass at least 30 hours in your sophomore and junior years (15 hours per semester).

Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship cont'd

**What if I don't meet the
renewal criteria one year
because I drop a class?**

You can make up those credit hours
over the summer.

If you take summer or intersession
classes here at UA, you will need to send
official transcripts to the Challenge folks at
ADHE to prove you made up the hours.

If you take classes at NWACC or another
college, you will need to send official
transcripts to UA and the Challenge folks
at ADHE to prove you made up the hours.

UA Scholarships

How to Keep Your UA scholarships

(Examples: Razorback Bridge, Silas Hunt, Silas Hunt Distinguished, ROTC room and board, U of A Leadership Scholarship, etc):

**Link to renewal
information:**



What do I have to do in my first year to get the money again my second year?

Complete and pass at least 12 hours first semester and 15 hours second semester, for 27 hours total and at least a 2.75 GPA.

What do I have to do in my second and third years to get the money through graduation?

Complete and pass at least 30 hours total each year and keep a at least a 2.75 GPA.

*5-year Architecture students can receive it for up to 8 semesters

UA Scholarships you only get once:

First Year Advantage, Freshman Academic Scholarship,
Freshman Success Scholarship, Razorback Connection Scholarship,
University Enrichment Scholarship

UA Current Student Scholarships

Applications open Jan 1st and close Feb 15th

A student must attend the University of Arkansas for one fall semester to be able to apply for current student scholarships. These scholarships will give you money to pay for school the following year. They're open to all undergraduate students and are not limited to a specific major.

For these scholarships, the University is looking for students with good grades, leadership qualities, and who are involved with clubs/organizations, who identify or are allied with certain populations (e.g. underrepresented students, minorities, LGBTQIA+, etc.), who are studying specific topics (e.g. an anthropology student who is focused on Latin American studies), or students that have financial need.

Link to Current Student Scholarships:



Go to uark.academicworks.com

Sign in with your UARK credentials

Complete the **General Scholarship Application**

Once you complete that, it'll open up the Alumni Scholarship Application, and the application for your specific college.

You **MUST** complete the General Scholarship Application in order to gain access to your specific college scholarships or the alumni ones.

The Division of Student Affairs also offers scholarships for current students.

Their scholarships require students to be in good academic standing.

Individual deadlines may differ.

Link to Student Affairs Scholarships:



UA In-State Transfer Student Scholarships

Arkansas Transfer Achievement Scholarship:

Annual award that allows you to pay the same tuition you did at the following UA System two-year institutions: Batesville, Cossatot, Morrilton, Rich Mountain, Pulaski Tech, Hope-Texarkana, and Phillips County.

Awarded to eligible transfer students who are Arkansas residents and have earned an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts in Teaching degree from a participating UA System two-year institution, and who enroll in an on-campus degree program at the U of A (Fayetteville campus).

Renewable for up to 10 semesters with maintenance of good academic standing (2.0 cumulative GPA after each semester)

The scholarship application is not required for this award.

Chancellor's Transfer Scholarship:

Annual award up to \$3000 per year

Renewable for one additional year with completion of 24 hours and 3.0 cumulative GPA

Awarded to top applicants from Arkansas two-year colleges

U of A Transfer Student Scholarship:

Annual award up to \$2000 per year

Renewable for one additional year with completion of 24 hours and 3.0 cumulative GPA

Awarded to top candidates from the applicant pool

Residency Based Scholarships

New Arkansan Non-Resident Tuition Award Scholarship:

Awarded to entering freshmen and transfer students from Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

If you are an entering freshman with a 3.2 or higher GPA you may receive a New Arkansan award that pays 70% of the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.

3.6 or higher GPA - 80%

3.8 or higher GPA - 90%

Waiver of Non-Resident Tuition for Native American Residency:

Native American students from other states who belong to tribes that formerly lived in Arkansas before relocation, and whose names are on the rolls in tribal headquarters, shall be classified as in-state students of Arkansas for tuition and fee purposes, on all campuses of the University of Arkansas.

These tribes include the Caddo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Delaware, Kickapoo, Osage, Peoria, Quapaw, Shawnee, and Tunica.

Students should send a copy of their tribal membership card or Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood to the Office of Admissions, 232 Silas H. Hunt Hall, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

UA Veteran and Military Affiliated Scholarships

Service Members and their dependents must register with the **Veteran and Military-Affiliated Student Center (VMSC)** to be considered for a scholarship award. Registration with VMSC is also a necessary part of using your VA education benefits.

The VMSC additionally provides resources by assisting with benefits, networking, and supporting veterans and their families.

- 1. Military Dependents Scholarship**
- 2. Military Educational Benefits**
- 3. University of Arkansas Military Book Scholarship**
- 4. University of Arkansas Military Dependent Scholarship**
- 5. Service Members Scholarship**
- 6. Northwest Arkansas Military Officers Association of America (NWAMOAA) Scholarship**

Important Contact Info:

Veteran and Military-Affiliated Student Center
Garland Avenue Shops, 115-116 640 N. Garland Ave (M-F 8:00am-5:00pm) vmsc@uark.edu 479-575-8742 / vric@uark.edu

Link to VMSC website:



UA Scholarship Contact Info

For general information, email: scholars@uark.edu

College of Education and Health Professions

Scholarship Manager: Gina Hardin, ghardin@uark.edu

Scholarship website: <https://coehp.uark.edu/students/scholarships.php>



Walton College of Business

Scholarship Manager: Jessica Burkett, jb167@uark.edu

Scholarship website:

<https://walton.uark.edu/current-students/scholarships.php>



College of Engineering

General email: enrdean@uark.edu

Scholarship Website:

<https://engineering.uark.edu/academics/scholarships-and-financial-aid.php>



UA Scholarship Contact Info

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

Scholarship Manager: Becky Alverson, bbalvers@uark.edu

Scholarship website:

<https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/future-students/scholarships.php>



Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

Scholarship Manager: Carl Riley, criley@uark.edu

Scholarship Website:

<https://fulbright.uark.edu/scholarships/>



Fay Jones School of Architecture

Scholarship Manager: Melinda Smith, melindas@uark.edu

Scholarship Website:

<https://fayjones.uark.edu/admissions/index.php>



What do I have to do to keep my funding?

Credits and GPAs listed are minimum requirements

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship "The Lottery Scholarship"	Freshman Year: 12 credit hours in the fall 15 credit hours in the spring 2.5 GPA	Sophomore Year: 15 credit hours in the fall 15 credit hours in the spring 2.5 GPA	Junior Year: 15 credit hours in the fall 15 credit hours in the spring 2.5 GPA	Senior Year: 15 credit hours in the fall Varies in the spring 2.5 GPA
University of Arkansas Scholarships	Freshman Year: 27 credit hours total for the school year 2.75 GPA	Sophomore Year: 30 credit hours total for the school year 2.75 GPA	Junior Year: 30 credit hours total for the school year 2.75 GPA	Senior Year: 30 credit hours total for the school year 2.75 GPA
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	Freshman Year: File FAFSA Complete at least 67% of classes you started 2.0 GPA	Sophomore Year: File FAFSA Complete at least 67% of classes you started 2.0 GPA	Junior Year: File FAFSA Complete at least 67% of classes you started 2.0 GPA	Senior Year: File FAFSA Complete at least 67% of classes you started 2.0 GPA

What happens if I am put on academic probation or suspension?

If you fall below a 2.0 cumulative GPA, you will be put on academic *probation*. You will have one semester to increase your cumulative GPA to at least a 2.0.

Academic *suspension* means you are unable to enroll for one major semester.

Important information to know if this happens:

Students who sit out for one major (fall or spring) semester after the term of the suspension may apply for readmission to the university.

A student who does not earn credit from another institution may be readmitted on academic probation following suspension.

A student who earns credit from another institution(s) during or after the suspension must apply to the university for admission as a transfer student and, if readmitted, will be on academic probation following suspension.

A student readmitted on probation after suspension must make a semester grade-point average of at least 2.0 for each semester, (fall, spring, or summer) until he or she is removed from probation.

Failure to do so will result in academic dismissal.

If I get put on academic probation what happens to my....?

FAFSA - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is required to be eligible for FAFSA funds.

This means you must earn at least a 2.0 GPA and complete and pass 67% of the classes you started each semester.

If you do not meet SAP, you can:

- bring up your cumulative GPA to at least a 2.0, or
- ask for an exception, or "appeal" the loss of eligibility.

To appeal for your FAFSA funding, you must explain why things went wrong and what has now changed in your situation that will improve your academic performance. You must also complete and submit the SAP Appeal Form.



UA Scholarships - For the most part, if you lose a UA scholarship, you will not be able to get it again.

However, if scholarship loss was due to an extenuating circumstance or medical emergency, you may appeal to the Scholarship Review Committee. You will need to provide proof (e.g. medical records, proof of loss of employment) .

Appeals are granted only in extreme circumstances beyond the student's control. You must file your appeal before your grades go back up to the required GPA.

Please email soappeal@uark.edu for instructions regarding the appeal process.

Arkansas Challenge Scholarship - If you are unable to meet the requirements to keep the Challenge, you will need to take the next school year to increase your GPA to at least a 2.5 and then reapply. You will be awarded as a non-traditional student if funding is still available.