



FINANCIAL AID: 101 TOOLKIT

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FINANCIAL AID: 101 TOOLKIT

PURPOSE

This Toolkit provides information regarding Financial Aid, lists of grants and scholarships offered to Nevada students, a list of financial terms and their definitions, and additional recourses for students and families.

OBJECTIVES

- Inform students and families about Financial Aid
- Partner with families to support student's college-going goals and show that College is affordable

STUDENT GRADE LEVEL

This toolkit is designed for GEAR UP Staff, Specialists, First Year College Advisors (FYCA) and College Coordinators serving GEAR UP students in grades 7-12, as well as first year post-secondary students.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR TOOLKIT

This toolkit is targeted to GEAR UP Staff, Specialists, FYCAs, and College Coordinators, school counselors, family engagement professionals (parent liaisons), college access professionals, middle and high school administrators, district-level educators who work with counseling and/or college access programs, and parent groups.

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

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The GEAR UP community across the nation is dedicated to student success, and generously shares information and resources among programs. This guide was created from wisdom and experience shared by many GEAR UP projects, but we'd particularly like to thank GEAR UP Washington State whose Financial Aid guide inspired us.



College is Affordable

It is no secret: college can be expensive. Do not let the cost of college education put your goals out of reach. There are many resources available to help you achieve your college dreams. “Financial Aid” is money to help you pay for college. It comes from the federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and organizations. Over 80% of all college students receive financial aid to help them pay for college.

Deciding to go to college is one of the best financial investments you can make. Students who earn a college degree earn hundreds of thousands of dollars more over a lifetime. Attending college in Nevada is one of the best bargains in the nation!

Nevada Promise Scholarship: Currently, all five Nevada Community Colleges offer the Nevada Promise Scholarship. Nevada Promise provides coverage of tuition and other mandatory fees not met by federal or state aid for up to three years. There are no income or high school GPA requirements, and it is open to all Nevada high school students graduating between August 1 and June 15 who are beginning classes at a Nevada Community College immediately following graduation.

First-year recipients must be graduating high school students and cannot have earned a prior associate or bachelor’s degree. Students must enroll in the fall semester immediately following high-school graduation. The deadline to apply for the Nevada Promise Scholarship is October 31st of a student’s senior year in high school. To qualify for funding, applicants must be classified as a Nevada resident for tuition purposes and must have earned a high school diploma from a private or public high school that is located in a county that borders Nevada and accepts pupils who are residents of Nevada. Students may also qualify if they earn their GED or HSE prior to the age of 20.

Nevada Millennium Scholarship: Also known as the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, offers Nevada high school graduates free or reduced tuition to in-state universities and colleges like the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno.

Although there are a number of pathways to the Millennium Scholarship, the most common is the successful completion of a rigorous program of study at a Nevada high school.

1. You must graduate with a diploma from a Nevada class of the year 2000 or later.
2. You must complete high school with at least an unweighted GPA of 3.25.
3. You must have been a resident of Nevada for at least two of your high school years.

Currently, the scholarship allows up to \$80 per credit hour for eligible students with a total lifetime value of \$10,000.00.

Silver State Opportunity Grant: The SSOG provides grants to eligible low-income students who are college-ready to assist with funding a portion of the cost of attending a community or state college within the Nevada System of Higher Education Limited funds are awarded to students enrolled in 15 or more credits on a first-come, first-served basis. Students should complete the FAFSA in order to be eligible for this grant.

Nevada State Access Grant: These grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to students who are unable to receive the federal Pell Grant, but still demonstrate a high level of need according to their FAFSA.



Total Cost of Attendance

In addition to tuition and fees, there are expenses to consider when thinking about how much college may cost. Each school has its own **Cost of Attendance (COA)**. COA is the total of the following:

- **Tuition and fees** – The price you pay to attend classes and earn credit towards a degree. Additional fees pay towards student facilities like libraries and athletic centers, services like parking passes and student IDs, and other administrative costs.
- **Books and Supplies**
- **Room and Board** – Food and the cost of living in a college dormitory or apartment.
- **Transportation Expenses** – Public transit pass, gas, parking, and travel.
- **Personal Expenses** – Clothing, laundry, and hygiene.

Consider all of these expenses when evaluating your financial aid options and deciding which college you want to attend.

Sticker Price vs. Net Price

Know the difference between “sticker price” and “net price”. A college’s sticker price is the full-published cost of attendance. The published price of attending a college is not usually what students actually pay. This *sticker price* is the cost of attendance BEFORE your grants, scholarships, and other financial aid are considered. For many students, there is financial aid available to offset these costs.

The *net price* is the cost of attendance minus any grants and scholarships that you receive. This difference is key, as most students do not pay the sticker price of a college. Do not let the sticker price keep you from applying to a college. A college with high tuition may offer you a generous financial aid package and end up being more affordable than colleges with a lower sticker price.

If you want to know how much you might have to pay if you attend a particular college before you apply, use a “net price calculator”. Colleges are required to have theirs on their websites. When you are doing online research, make sure that you fill out the information on these helpful calculators to see an estimate of what your college costs would be at the particular college. To find the net price for a specific college or university, use the U.S. Department of Education’s Net Price Calculator at [Net Price Calculator Center](#).

PRO TIP: Look up unfamiliar terms in the “lingo” section.

Does it seem like everyone is speaking a different language when it comes to financial aid? You are not alone! The financial aid world is filled with finance terms and jargon. This guide provides a “lingo” section to help you understand these terms.



Paying for College

How can my education be funded? Attending college is not free, but you still can afford to go. It does not matter what your family's income is. It does not matter where you live. It does not matter how much you have in the bank. There are a variety of ways and combinations to pay for it.

- **Savings:** Savings allow you to use money you already have. The more you save, the less you will have to borrow. If you save money at a financial institution like a bank or credit union, your savings will earn interest over time. Even saving a small amount each month can help.
- **Your Family:** Your family is expected to help you pay for your education out of their current income, but financial aid is designed to help families with limited resources.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid is money to help you pay for college. It comes from the federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and organizations. In order to receive financial aid, *you must apply*.

Applying for financial aid is a separate process from applying for admission to a college. You have to do both. To receive financial aid, you must apply for it using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA ([FAFSA](#)). Colleges use the results of your FAFSA to create your financial aid package.

- **Aid from the Federal Government:** The federal government generally awards financial aid to students from low-income families. The largest federal grant program is the Pell Grant program. The federal government also offers other grants and loans to help students pay for their education and subsidizes work-study jobs at various colleges and universities.
- **Aid from State Government:** State of Nevada Grants are awarded to qualifying Nevada residents attending Nevada postsecondary institutions as undergraduate students in addition, the state subsidizes work-study jobs at school across the state.
- **Aid from colleges:** In addition to administering financial aid and state programs, many colleges and universities have their own scholarship, loan, and work programs. These may include:
 - Alumni-sponsored awards
 - Privately sponsored scholarships
 - Athletic Awards
 - College funds used for financial aid.

Some awards are based on financial need. Others are based on your academic achievement, religious affiliation, race or ethnicity, community activities, artistic talents, athletic ability, field of study, or special hobbies, experiences, and interests.

- **Aid from Your Community:** Non-profit organizations, foundations, and businesses often provide scholarships as a community service. To find these programs, talk to your counselor.

PRO TIP: When in doubt, apply!

Most students in Nevada qualify for and use some form of financial aid in order to pay for college. It is better to apply and be turned down than to miss out on money you may have received! It is free to apply for FAFSA. What do you have to lose?



Types of Aid

- **Grants:** Grants do not have to be repaid if you successfully complete the courses in which you were enrolled. They are given to students who have the highest financial need. Most grants come from the federal and state government.
- **Scholarships:** Scholarships do not have to be repaid provided that you successfully complete your coursework. They are awarded for good grades, cultural or religious background, sports or special talents. Most scholarships come from organizations and colleges.
- **Work-Study:** Work-study helps you earn money to pay for your education by working a part-time job offered through the college. There are federal, state, and institutional work-study programs.
- **Loans:** Loans for students have lower interest rates than most other types of loans. Unlike grants or scholarships, loans must be repaid with interest when you finish college, even if you do not graduate. Student loans are offered through banks, colleges, and other institutions.

Federal student loans can be a good option to pay for college costs not covered by grants, scholarships, or work-study. Federal loans often have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options than private loans. However, students and parents should be careful not to borrow any more than is absolutely necessary to cover education expenses. To learn more visit [Student Loans](#).

Each loan has its own characteristics and features. Compare your options side-by-side and include:

- The total cost to repay the loan (including principal, interest, and fees).
- How long it takes to repay the loan.
- The amount of the monthly payments.
- The penalty you would have to pay if you were late on a payment or default.
- Whether it can be consolidated with other loans at the time of repayment.
- Whether payments can be deferred if you re-enter college or experience financial difficulties.

Sampling of Other Options

- **Military Service:** The military offers many educational benefits that service members can take advantage of during or after service. From financial aid and college funds to programs that convert military training into college credit, there are multiple ways for service members to further their education. Learn more at [Today's Military](#).
- **National Service through AmeriCorps:** AmeriCorps is a national service program. AmeriCorps is a real-life education and work experience wrapped into one. As an AmeriCorps member, you volunteer to help make the world a better place; Help children learn; protect the environment; or bring needed services to a low-income community. Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, and training, and may receive a living allowance and limited health benefit options. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help you pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training or to repay student loans. Learn more at [AmeriCorps](#).



Qualifying for Aid

Need-based financial aid programs are designed with the assumption that students and parents have a responsibility to pay a share of educational costs. The amount you and your family pay are expected to pay will vary based upon factors including:

CALCULATING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ = \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

- Income
- Assets
- The number of children in the family
- The number of children attending college

The process for determining your eligibility for financial aid establishes what you and your family can reasonably be expected to pay. This is called your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and is used to identify your financial need.

Federal and state need-based financial aid is offered only if your EFC is not enough to cover the cost of attending a particular school. Although your Expected Family Contribution will stay the same, your financial aid eligibility may increase when you apply to higher-priced colleges.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, the federal government provides more than \$150 billion in financial aid! Unfortunately, many students miss out simply because they don't complete the FAFSA. Submitting your FAFSA allows you to be considered for need-based grant programs such as the Federal Pell Grant – that's money you don't have to pay back provided you successfully complete your classes.



How to Apply for Financial Aid

To qualify for financial aid, you must apply. The most important application for financial aid is the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All federal aid programs, most programs offered by the State of Nevada, and many programs offered by colleges require you to complete and submit the FAFSA.

Important FAFSA Facts

- Make sure you visit the official FAFSA webpage at [FAFSA](https://fafsa.ed.gov). It is **FREE** to file the FAFSA! Be cautious of websites requesting you to pay a fee.
- At fafsa.ed.gov, you can complete, submit, and track your application. If you submit online, the program will check your data before it is transmitted so that you are less likely to make an error. However, if you do not have internet access, you can get a paper copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).
- To learn more about how to complete the FAFSA correctly, visit [FAFSA](https://fafsa.ed.gov).
- You must file the FAFSA for every year you are in school.
- You may file the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov after October 1st each year.
- Check the status of your FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov by clicking on the FAFSA follow-up link. There is also an online chat function to answer any questions students or families might have.

When to Apply

The FAFSA becomes available online October 1st of the year that you plan to go to college. It is important to note that college, state, and private financial aid deadlines vary – so make sure you check with your particular college to find out their FAFSA submission deadline. Regardless of the deadline, you should aim to complete the FAFSA as close to October 1st as possible because financial aid dollars are limited and often are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional forms that may be required. The FAFSA may not be the only form required to receive an award letter from a postsecondary school. Some colleges require the College Board CSS Profile form or an institution-specific form. You must also complete the college admissions process. Check with each of the colleges and universities you listed on your FAFSA to determine their requirements and deadlines. Furthermore, individual financial aid programs – particularly scholarship programs – often require you to apply in addition to the FAFSA.

After Submitting the FAFSA...

- Check your FAFSA status and make corrections if necessary. You can check the status of your FAFSA immediately after submitting it online. You can check the status of a paper FAFSA after it has been processed (roughly 710 days from the date mailed). Visit fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-433-3243 to check the status of your FAFSA.
- Be on the lookout for your SAR Report. Once you filed your FAFSA electronically, you will receive an electronic Student Aid Report (SAR) within a few days of submitting your completed FAFSA. Read it immediately and follow any directions.
 - The schools that you listed on the FAFSA will also receive these results. Those schools use information from your FAFSA to figure out how much federal student aid you may receive. These colleges might also use your FAFSA to see if you are eligible for additional institutional-specific financial aid programs.
- Once you've received your SAR, check out your "Expected Family Contribution" or "EFC". The EFC is a calculation based on the information that you reported on your FAFSA. Your colleges use the EFC to determine the amounts of federal programs, work-study, and loans for which you may be eligible.
 - The EFC is, in theory, a measure of a family's ability to contribute towards a student's



cost of attendance (COA), calculated according to a formula established by law. Keep in mind, the COA contains costs that you would still pay regardless of attending or not attending college.

- For example, you would still need to pay for room and board, transportation, and personal expenses either way. So, do not be discouraged by a higher EFC.
- In addition to sending your information to the schools you listed, the Federal Government also sends your information to the Nevada System of Higher Education, the state agency in charge of state-level financial aid programs such as the Nevada Promise Scholarship and the Silver State Opportunity Grant. So, your FAFSA helps you apply for federal, state, and school-based financial aid!
- If you filled out the FAFSA before you filed your previous year's tax return, you may need to update your information. It's easy to make corrections to your FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov by clicking on "Making FAFSA Corrections". To correct a paper FAFSA, call 1-800-433-3243. Corrections usually take between 3-5 business days to process, and you should then receive a revised SAR.
- Respond to any requests for verification. You are not in trouble; colleges are required to verify that the information submitted on the FAFSA is correct for students who are randomly selected by the U.S. Department of Education. If you are selected for verification, be sure to respond in a timely manner so that your financial aid awards are not delayed!
- Carefully review your financial aid award letters and make a final decision. Each college you selected on your FAFSA will send you a financial aid award letter that details the financial aid you are eligible to receive. Make sure you review each award letter carefully. If you have any questions regarding your award letter(s), call the financial aid office at the college. If your financial situations change from the time you file your FAFSA, you should notify the school's financial aid office to update your information. If the financial aid offer does not meet your needs, financial aid packages can be appealed. Check with your institution's process. You might have to provide additional information or write an essay describing your situation, but the worse scenario is that you get the original package.
- Once you make a final decision regarding where you will attend college, you will need to decide which aid to accept and which to decline. Your college will outline the process for doing this in your award letter. Be sure to accept the aid that you plan to use by your college's deadline. If you are taking out loans, be sure to borrow only what you need; otherwise, you might be paying off loans for longer than you expected.

Getting Your Money

The financial aid staff at your college will explain exactly how and when your aid will be provided. They also will tell you whether you need to fill out any more paperwork or meet other requirements. For instance, if you are receiving a federal student loan for the first time, you will be required to sign a promissory note and go through online entrance counseling. Respond to the requests from your college in a timely manner so there are no delays in processing your financial aid.

Nevada FAFSA Completion Campaigns

FAFSA Completion Season in Nevada will take place from October to January each year. The events surrounding this campaign are designed to support students and parents as they complete the FAFSA. Additionally, as part of the College Journey Initiatives, FAFSA completion Month activities will be made available at high schools throughout Nevada.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [FAFSA Completion Season](#)
- [College Journey Initiatives](#)
- [Nevada Registry](#)

Factors That Affect Eligibility

Various factors may result in increases or decreases in your eligibility for financial aid.

- ✓ **Dependent or Independent Status:** All students are considered either dependent (relying on their parents financial support) or independent (self-supporting). Dependent students must submit financial information about their parents on the FAFSA. This information is required even if the parents do not intend to help pay for the student's education.

You are automatically considered an independent student for the 2022-2023 school year if you are 24 or older as of December 31, 2021. If you are under 24, you will be considered an independent student if you are one of the following:

- A graduate or professional student.
- Married.
- A student with legal dependents including children (spouses cannot be considered dependents).
- On active-duty military service.
- A veteran of U.S. Armed Forces.
- An orphan or ward of the court or in foster care at any time age 13 or older.
- In legal guardianship or emancipated minor status as of the date of application (or 18th birthday if a Nevada resident).
- Determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth, by the school district or other social service agency.

To learn more, visit: [FAFSA – Dependency Status](#).

Appeals: If you think that you should be considered independent because of unusual circumstances, even though you do not meet any of the criteria listed above, talk to the financial aid administrator at your college about a “dependency override”. Aid administrators may use their judgement to change your status to independent if they believe your status warrants it. The decision by the institution is final.

- ✓ **Citizenship Requirements:** Undocumented and DACA recipients are not eligible for federal aid but are eligible to apply for institutional aid, state scholarships, private loans and external scholarships. Contact the financial aid office at your college for details and requirements.
- ✓ **Class Load:** Increases or decreases in your number of credits or classes enrolled in per term may affect how much financial aid you are eligible to receive. Before making a change to your class schedule, check with your financial aid administrator for more details.
- ✓ **School Transfer:** Financial aid does not automatically transfer with the student to a new institution. Students must contact the financial aid administrator at the new school to determine what actions should be taken to receive aid. Students must be sure to have an electronic version of the FAFSA results sent to the new institution by logging into FAFSA and adding the school code of the new school as a FAFSA correction. Students with a Direct or PLUS loan will need to reapply. If you transfer to a more expensive school, you may be eligible to receive more aid. See your financial aid administrator for details if you have filed the FAFSA. It is important to consider the types of aid at each institution considering the implications of potentially higher loan debt of higher cost schools.
- ✓ **Loan Repayment:** There are different types of repayment plans, for example Pay as You Earn and loan consolidation. Find the right repayment plan for you, learn how to make payments. Get help if you can't afford your payments and see what circumstances might result in a loan being forgiven, canceled, or discharged. More information is available from the Federal Government at [Student Aid](#).



- ✓ **Tax Credits:** The IRS provides two tax credits to help offset the costs of college or career school by reducing the amount of your personal income tax: the American Opportunity Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit. Visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and view Publication 970 for information.
- ✓ **Changes in Financial Status:** Students and families sometimes experience changes in their financial status due to special circumstances, such as the loss of a job, serious illness, disability, significant medical expenses, separation or divorce, or a death in the family. If your family income changes, your financial aid eligibility also may change. If the information you submitted on the FAFSA is vastly different from your current income and assets, contact the financial aid administrator at the institution you attend or plan to attend and explain your circumstances. In special instances, the aid administrator may adjust the information used to calculate your expected family contribution, which may result in increased financial aid eligibility based on your revised level of financial need.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid

Published by the U.S. Department of Education, this publication provides information on federal grants, loans, and work-study. The English and Spanish guides may be downloaded at [Student Aid Guide](#). The English, Spanish, or Braille guide may also be ordered by calling 1-800-433-3243.



Aid for Adult Students

A Guide for Students Ages 25 and Older

If you think financial aid is just for recent high school graduates, think again! Adult learners can qualify for many financial aid programs. In fact – every program covered in this guide is open to adult learners, with the exception of the Nevada Promise Scholarship.

The First Step

Completing the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov is the first step in finding money for college. This important form will provide access to federal, state, and college-level financial aid.

Laid-Off or Displaced Workers

If you were laid-off from your job, you may be able to qualify for funds to go back to school and learn new skills.

If you have recently been laid-off, your last year's tax return – the information used to complete the FAFSA – may not be a good indicator of your current financial situation. If this is the case, file your FAFSA and then contact the financial aid office at the school you are planning to attend to see if they can calculate your aid using your current information. You will have to document proof of your change in income and/or employment status.

Returning Students with Previous Defaulted Student Loans

If you attended college before and took out student loans, the status of those loans can affect your ability to apply for and receive financial aid. If your previous student loans are in default, you should contact the lender immediately and set up a payment plan to return your loans to good standing. Income-based repayment options are now available to help you set up a payment schedule you can afford. It can take six to nine months for your loans to be returned to good standing. If you want to attend college while restoring your good-standing status, contact the college you plan to attend to see if they have any options for you while you resolve this issue. However, it is possible that you will have to wait until your eligibility is fully restored.

Credit History

In general, your credit history DOES NOT affect your ability to receive federal and state financial aid or to take our federal student loans. However, as noted above defaulting on previous student loans can affect your eligibility. If you are returning to a college, you previously attended, the college may require you to pay any outstanding fees, such as library fines or parking tickets, before processing your enrollment or your financial aid.

Finding Scholarships for Adult Students

Many private and community scholarship programs are open to adults as well as traditional-aged students. Start your search by checking out [Scholarships](#). Keep in mind: You should never pay to search for scholarship opportunities online.

APPENDIX

Financial Aid Options* - Financial Term Glossary - Additional Resources

*The lists of resources below are not exhaustive. Please check with the Financial Aid Office at your school of choice for more information on their student financial aid offerings.



Federal Grants

Federal Pell Grant

ALL NEVADA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM. Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor, graduate, or professional degree. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances.

IMPORTANT!!!

You may have to repay all or part of a Federal Grant if:

- You withdrew early from the program for which the grant was given to you.
- Your enrollment changed in a way that reduced your eligibility for your grant (for instance, if you switch from full-time enrollment to part-time, your grant will be reduced).
- You received outside scholarships or grants that reduced your need for Federal student aid.

Applying: You should start by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. You will have to fill out the FAFSA every year you're in school in order to stay eligible for Federal student aid.

Award Amount: Award amounts can change yearly. The maximum Federal Pell award is \$6,895 for the 2022-2023 award year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). The amount you get will depend on:

- Your Expected Family Contribution
- The cost of attendance (determined by your school for your specific program)
- Your status as a full-time or part-time student
- Your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less

You may not receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

The TEACH Grant

NOT ALL NEVADA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATE IN THE TEACH GRANT PROGRAM. A TEACH Grant can help you pay for college if you plan to become a teacher in a high-need field in a low-income area.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a TEACH Grant, you must do the following:

- Meet the basic eligibility criteria for the federal student aid program
 - Complete the FAFSA
 - Be enrolled as an undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate student
 - Be enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program
 - Meet certain academic achievement requirements
 - Receive TEACH Grant counseling
 - Sign a TEACH Agreement to Serve
- Note: If you do not teach at an eligible school, the grant will be treated as a student loan.

Check with your school's financial aid office to find out if the school offers to TEACH Grant.

Award Amount: The TEACH Grant program provides up to \$4,000 annually to students who are pursuing or completing course work and degree programs to start a career in teaching.



Federal Work-Study Program

NOT ALL NEVADA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM.

Federal Work Study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's area of study.

Eligibility: Eligibility for Federal Work Study is determined by your FAFSA EFC.

National Service Benefits

AmeriCorps

Joining AmeriCorps is a way to put your idealism into action. As an AmeriCorps member, you can help make the world a better place; help children learn; protect the environment; or bring needed services to a low-income community.

There are opportunities in AmeriCorps for anyone who is willing to do something special, something unique, something exciting. AmeriCorps is a real-life education and work experience wrapped into one. As a member, you will learn teamwork, leadership, responsibility and other essential skills that will help you for the rest of your life. And you will gain the personal satisfaction of taking on a challenge and seeing the results.

AmeriCorps Offers Tangible Benefits: Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, and training, and may receive a living allowance and limited health benefit options. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Award (which is equivalent to the value of a Pell grant) to help you pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training or repay student loans.

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible for AmeriCorps positions, you must be 17 years of age or older, have a high school diploma or a GED (or are Completing a GED), and be a U.S. citizen, or an eligible non-citizen. Participants may enroll in college while holding a position and may apply to projects in the state or nationally.

Application Process: For more information on AmeriCorps and its various programs, visit [AmeriCorps](https://www.americorps.gov).

Financial Aid for Military Service

Those called to active duty while enrolled in college receive certain protections regarding financial aid eligibility, enrollment status and loan repayment. In most instances, the student will not be penalized as a result of his or her absence to perform military service. Check with the school's financial aid office for more details.

If you are currently enlisted in any branch of the military, check directly with your unit about education benefits. In addition, there are federal and state educational benefits for students who have services or are serving in the armed forces.

You may be able to use these education benefit programs for college, technical, or vocational courses, correspondence courses, online courses, apprenticeships on-the-job training, flight training



and licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, and certain entrance examinations. For more information regarding veteran's education benefits, visit: [Military Education](#). Please note that not all programs can be used for all types of training.

Federal – Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of educational benefits to eligible veterans. The bill became effective August 1, 2009. You may be eligible if you have at least 90 days aggregate services on or after September 11, 2001 or if you were discharged after September 11, 2001 with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Application process: Visit [G.I. Bill](#) for up-to-date information on these benefits. Visit [Military Education](#) to find a local Campus Coordinator.

Federal – Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve

The Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve program may be available if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

This benefit pays up to 36 months, and eligibility for the program normally ends on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. One exception to this rule exists if you are mobilized (or recalled to active duty from your reserve status). In this case, your eligibility may be extended for the amount of time you are mobilized plus four months. For example, if you are mobilized for 12 months, your eligibility is extended for 16 months (12 months of active duty plus four months). So even after you leave the Reserves after mobilization, you may have additional eligibility for the MGIB – Selected Reserve.

Application Process: Visit [G.I. Bill](#) for up-to-date information on these benefits or contact Veterans Affairs on the campus you choose to attend. Visit [Military Education](#) to find a local Campus Coordinator.

Federal – Reserve Education Assistance Program

The Reserve Education Assistance Program provides up to 36 months of education benefits to members of the Selected Reserves, Individual Ready Reserve and National Guard who are called or ordered to active service in response to a war or national emergency. The benefit is payable based on the number of days you were deployed to active duty. Your eligibility generally ends when you leave the service.

Application process: Visit [G.I. Bill](#) for up-to-date information on these benefits or contact Veterans Affairs on the campus you choose to attend. Visit [Military Education](#) to find a local Campus Coordinator.

Federal Tuition Assistance Program

Army National Guard and Reservists may be eligible for this program while pursuing any degree up through a master's degree. Service members should check with their unit or a Higher Education Veterans Program coordinator for eligibility and application information. AN eligible member can receive benefits up to \$250 per semester credit or \$167 per quarter credit and \$4,500 per fiscal



year. This is not a guaranteed benefit and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Generally, you must submit the application before the term begins.

Application process: Visit [Go Army Ed](#) or contact Veterans Affairs on the campus you choose to attend. Visit [Military Education](#) to find a local Campus Coordinator.

For Native American students, Assembly Bill [262](#) allows a waiver of registration and other fees for members or descendants of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation located within Nevada. Eligibility includes a student being a Nevada resident for a year, maintaining a minimum 2.0 semester grade point average, and completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).

Federal Loans

If you apply for financial aid, you might be offered loans as part of your school's financial aid offer. A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. If you decide to take out a loan, make sure you understand who is making the loan and the terms and conditions of the loan. Loans made by the federal government, called Federal Loans, usually have more benefits than loans from banks or private sources.

The U.S. Department of Education's federal student loan program is the William D. Ford D. Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education is your lender.

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

The difference between Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans is basically that Direct Subsidized Loans have slightly better terms to help out students with financial need.

Direct Subsidized Loans

- Direct Subsidized Loans are available to undergraduate students with financial need.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow, and the amount may not exceed your financial need.
- The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan:
 - While you're in school at least half-time
 - For the first six months after you leave school (referred to a grace period), and
 - During a period of deferment (a postponement of loan payments)

Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students; there is no requirement to demonstrate financial need.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow based on your cost of attendance and other financial aid you receive.
- You are responsible for paying interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods.
- If you choose not to pay the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods and deferment or forbearance periods, your interest will accrue (accumulate) and be capitalized (that is, your interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan).

Direct PLUS Loans



The U.S. Department of Education makes Direct PLUS Loans to eligible parents and graduate or professional students through schools participating in the Direct Loan Program. A Direct PLUS loan is commonly referred to as a parent PLUS loan when made to a parent, and as a grad PLUS loan when made to a graduate or professional student.

- The U.S. Department of Education is your lender
- You must not have an adverse credit history. A credit check will be conducted. If you have an adverse credit history, you may still be able to receive a PLUS loan if you meet additional requirements.
- The maximum PLUS loan amount you can receive is the cost of attendance (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received.
- Grandparents (unless they have legally adopted the dependent student) and legal guardians are not eligible to receive parent PLUS loans, even if they have primary responsibility for raising the student.

Direct Consolidation Loans

The Direct Consolidation Loans allow you to combine all of your eligible federal student loans into a single loan with a single loan server. The interest rate on a Direct Consolidation Loans will be one fixed rate based on the average of the interest rates of the loans being consolidated.

How much can you borrow?

Your school determines the loan type(s), if any, and the actual loan amount you are eligible to receive each academic year. However, there are limits on the amount in subsidized and unsubsidized loans that you may be eligible to receive each academic year (annual loan limits). The actual loan amount you are eligible to receive each academic year may be less than the annual loan limit. These limits vary depending on:

- Whether you are a dependent or independent student
- Whether you're an undergraduate student, a graduate or professional student, or a parent.

If you are an undergraduate student, the maximum amount you can borrow each year in Direct Subsidized loans and Direct Unsubsidized loans ranges from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year, depending on what year you are in school and your dependency status.

If you are a graduate or professional student, you can borrow up to \$20,500 each year in Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Direct PLUS Loans can also be used for the remainder of your college costs not covered by other financial aid.

If you are a parent of a dependent undergraduate student, you can receive a Direct PLUS Loan for the remainder of your child's college costs not covered by other financial aid.

Before you take out a loan, it is important to understand that a loan is a legal obligation that makes you responsible for repaying the amount you borrow with interest. Even though you don't have to begin repaying your federal student loans right away, you shouldn't wait to understand your responsibilities as a borrower.



BE A RESPONSIBLE BORROWER

- *Keep track of how much you're borrowing. Think about how the amount of your loans will affect your future finances, and how much you can afford to repay. Your student loan payments should be only a small percentage of your salary after you graduate, so it is important not to borrow more than you need for your school-related expenses.*
- *Research starting salaries in your field. Ask your school for starting salaries of recent graduates in your field of study to get an idea of how much you are likely to earn after you graduate. You can also use the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook at [Dept. of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) to research careers and salaries.*
- *Understand the terms of your loan and keep copies of your loan documents. When you sign a promissory note, you are agreeing to repay the loan according to the terms of the note even if you don't complete your education, can't get a job after you complete the program, or you didn't like the education you received.
i.e. Know that even if a loan is deferred, interest will still accrue during the deferment period.*
- *Make payment on time. You are required to make payments on time even if you don't receive a bill repayment notice, or a reminder. You must pay the full amount required by your repayment plan, as partial payments do not fulfill your obligation to repay your student loans on time.*
- *Keep in touch with your loan servicer. Notify your loan servicer when you graduate; withdraw from school; drop below half-time status; transfer to another school; or change your name, address, or Social Security Number. You should also contact your servicer if you're having trouble making your scheduled payments. Your servicer has several options available to help keep your loan in good standing.*

How do I get a Federal Student Loan?

To apply for a Federal Student Loan, you must first complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. Based on the results of your FAFSA form your college or career school will send you a financial aid offer, which may include Federal Student Loans. Your school will tell you how to accept all or part of the loan.

Before you receive your loan funds, you will be required to:

- Complete Entrance Counseling – a tool to ensure you understand your obligation to repay the loan.
- Sign a Master Promissory Note, agreeing to the terms of the loan.

Contact the financial aid office at the school you are planning to attend for details regarding the process at your school.



Nevada State Financial Aid Programs

College of Southern Nevada (CSN)

U.S. citizenship is not required for admission at CSN, and their doors are open to all students who seek education and the opportunities it provides.

CSN Alternative Scholarship

Scholarship Background: The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) created the Alternative Scholarship for students that cannot qualify for federal aid due to U.S. citizenship requirements (if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, you must complete the correct school year FAFSA. U.S. citizenship is not required for admission at CSN, and their doors remain open to all students who seek education and the opportunities it provides. Funding is limited and is awarded on a first come, first served basis. Once funds are exhausted, no additional students can be considered.

Scholarship Amount: The maximum award amount is \$1,200 at fulltime enrollment (12 credits or more). Students needing less than fulltime to graduate will be considered for an amount prorated based on the student's enrollment level. (Offered during Fall and Spring semesters only). Funding is limited to only classes leading to the graduation degree(s) approved by the counselor.

Qualifying Criteria:

1. DACA status documented with DHS or undocumented (U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizens or NSHE international students will not be considered for the scholarship);
2. Graduating High School/Current SND students;
3. Financial Need;
4. Declared a DCS (CT, AA or AAS) or BACH degree program but the first day of the semester;
5. Enrolled in classes that apply towards degree program by CSN's Financial Aid Department's published census date; and
6. Meet Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

How to Apply:

1. Complete the Alternative Scholarship Application.
2. Complete the College Board's online EFC Calculator to document your financial need.
3. Because students sometimes make errors on their application, there is a process for verifying applications and making corrections. All students will need to submit a copy of their household income documentation used to complete the EFC Calculator.
4. Submit all documents to the Financial Aid Office at one of the three main campuses.

CSN Mission Graduation Scholarship

Scholarship Background: The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) has created the Mission Graduation Scholarship for students that are in their final semester to graduate. The Financial Aid Department would like to alleviate stress that may be felt as students try to achieve their educational goals.

CSN is looking for students that have completed their 2022-2023 FAFSA and have attempted enough credits to achieve the degree they currently declared with CSN. Students are encouraged to meet with their counselor and determine if they are in their semester for graduation.



Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications should be submitted at the beginning of the graduating semester to allow time for processing. Once funds are exhausted, no additional students can be considered. Due to limitation of funds, awards may not be retroactive.

Scholarship Amount: Maximum award amount is \$2,000 at full-time enrollment (12 credits or more). Students needing less than full-time to graduate will be considered for an amount prorated based on your enrollment level. (Offered during Fall & Spring semesters only). Funding is limited to only classes leading to the graduating degree(s) approved by the counselor.

Qualifying Criteria:

1. Must meet one of the following:
 - Cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher at CSN.
 - Have an Academic Satisfactory Progress pace of 80% or higher at CSN.
2. Completed the 2022-2023 FAFSA and turned in any documents listed on student's "To Do" list.
3. Registration must have a completed Application for Graduation on file.
4. Met with an Academic Counselor/Advisor and provided a signed degree sheet confirming the students will be able to graduate at the completion of the term.

CSN President's Scholarship

Scholarship Background: The Financial Aid Department and Academic Affairs worked together to create a scholarship to assist high school graduates become CSN graduates. Through hard work and dedication, many students are very close to completing an associate degree with CSN after high school graduation. To support student's continued success, CSN offers a one-time CSN President's Scholarship to complete the student's degree they were dually enrolled in while in high school.

Scholarship Amount: This scholarship would be \$1,500 per semester for the first year after high school graduation.

Qualifying Criteria:

For 2022 Graduates:

- Graduate from CSN High School with a weighted GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Complete the FAFSA and any eligibility documents required
- Full-time enrollment in classes listed on declared degree at CSN in Fall, 2022

For more information on these and other scholarship and grant opportunities at CSN, visit [CSN – Financial Aid](#).

Great Basin College (GBC)

Each semester, Great Basin College has a number of scholarships available to award in all program areas. For the 2022-2023 academic year, there were over 80 scholarships available for GBC students. Scholarship sources include donations from local businesses, government agencies, private citizens, Foundations, and endowments. Scholarship award amounts vary between \$150 and \$5,000 and some have specific criteria for qualification (i.e. students enrolled in Nursing programs, Business Administration programs, re-entry students, etc.). Financial need for need-based scholarships must be evidenced through the FAFSA process.

Disbursement of Funds: Most GBC scholarship awards are disbursed in two equal payments upon fall and spring semester enrollment.



Scholarship Standards: It is the student's responsibility to meet the required scholarship standards in order to maintain eligibility for their awards. Academic Standards require minimum half-time (6 credits) enrollment with a cumulative 2.0 GPA unless otherwise specified.

Application Criteria:

- Application forms are available through the Office of Student Financial Services.
- An official transcript or copies of an official transcript with a school seal will be accepted (high school, GBC, or transfer).
- A brief statement of your academic, career, and personal goals must accompany each application.

For more information on GBC's scholarship offerings, visit [GBC – Financial Aid](#).

Nevada State College (NSC)

Achieve Nevada is a robust financial aid program to cover more college expenses for more students. Qualifying students may receive free tuition and funding to help with books and other expenses.

- You may qualify if you are Pell Grant-eligible and complete the FAFSA.
- If you are not eligible to receive federal aid but your EFC is below \$15,000, you may still qualify to have up to 60% of your tuition covered with a Nevada State Grant.

Students do not have to be Nevada residents or enroll full time to receive an Achieve Nevada award. Transfer students are also eligible. Achieve Nevada funds are awarded via the following grants:

Nevada State Access Grant

Funded from both state and institutional sources these grants are awarded first-come, first-served bases to students demonstrating a high need based on their FAFSA application. Award amounts are based both on a student's EFC and number of credits taken in a term. The priority deadline is January 15th, to be considered for the upcoming academic year.

Nevada State College Grant

This institutionally funded grant is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to students who, although otherwise eligible to receive federal student aid, are ineligible to receive the Federal Pell Grant, but still demonstrate a high level of need according to their FAFSA application. Award amounts are based on both the student's EFC and number of credits taken in a term. The priority deadline is January 15th, to be considered for the upcoming academic year.

Nevada State Opportunity Grant

This institutionally funded grant is awarded to NSC students who are not eligible to apply for any type of Federal Student Aid but demonstrate a high level of need to their FAFSA or Non-Federal Aid Application. Award amounts are based both on a student's EFC and number of credits taken in a term.

Scorpion Academic Scholarship Program

Nevada State College's Scorpion Academic Scholarship Program rewards incoming students for their prior academic performance and helps to put students on the road to success at NSC.

Eligibility: Eligible students must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.25 unweighted GPA or from a community college within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) with a 3.25 GPA



and an AA, AS, AB. Students must enroll as a full-time (12 or more financial aid-eligible credits) degree-seeking students at Nevada State College the semester immediately following high school graduation.

You must apply for admission to Nevada State College by January 15th and send your final seventh semester transcripts to the Office of Admissions & Recruitment by February 1st. Scholarships will be awarded based on a student's unweighted GPA from transcripts received by February 1st.

Scholarship Amount: Black & Gold level awards are based on available funding and are not guaranteed:

2022/23 Award Level*	GPA Criteria	Minimum Award
Presidential	3.75 and above	\$2,000 semester
Mount Scorpion Achievement	3.50 – 3.74	\$1,250 semester
Black & Gold	3.25 – 3.49	\$500 semester (based on available funding)

For more information on NSC’s scholarship offerings, visit [NSC – Financial Aid](#).

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) offers a variety of financial aid options, including grants, scholarships and work-study. To be eligible, you must be admitted to TMCC and enrolled in an associate degree or certificate program.

The Adelante Grant

The Adelante Grant is a \$1,000 grant towards school expenses awarded annually on a first-come, first-served basis and is available to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students and undocumented students. Students are not required to complete the FAFSA. Students are required to complete TMCC’s Instructional Methodology form.

Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits in an eligible degree-seeking certification or associate’s and maintaining a 2.0 GPA. For best consideration, student should apply by August 1st.

Institutional Incentive Grants

TMCC has several institutional grants including: The Freshmen Incentive Grant (FIG), the TMCC Incentive Grant (TIG), and the Graduation Incentive Grant (GIG). These grants require that you fill out the FAFSA and complete the corresponding financial aid file, be part of the GRS cohort, and be continuously enrolled in 12-15 applicable credits, including math and English. Students are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact TMCC for more information on these grant opportunities.

TMCC Foundation Scholarships

Designed to reward achievement and encourage academic excellence, the TMCC Foundation provides scholarships to TMCC students on an annual basis. Funds are provided by private donors wishing to assist TMCC students with their educational goals. Scholarship awards are based on many factors: Scholastic merit and financial need, and other factors. Current TMCC students are eligible to apply for scholarships beginning January 1st. The priority deadline is March 1st.



University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas Grants:

Tuition + Award Program

This award provides Nevada residents, DACA or undocumented Nevada residents, whose EFC are Federal Pell Grant-eligible, the equivalent of 12 credit hours of tuition and fees each semester, plus another \$1,000 for books for the school year.

Nevada Bob Davis Scholarship/Grant

This grant is based on financial needs as determined by the FAFSA. There is a priority FAFSA filing date of November 1st.

Eligibility:

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA must be \$0
- First baccalaureate degree
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and Nevada resident
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA

Grant Amount:

- Awards vary up to \$800

UNLV Clark County Housing Grant

Eligibility:

- Students must be able to meet the UNLV academic admissions standards
- Students must be a Clark County resident
- Students must have applied for Housing and have a signed contract by June 1st of the award year
- Students must have applied for traditional residence hall housing as defined by the Association of College and University Housing Officers for one of the following owned and operated UNLV residence halls:
 - Dayton Community
 - Tonopah Community
 - South Complex
 - Upper Class Complex
- Students must have a FAFSA or Alternate Need Determination Form on file by November 1st of the award year with UNLV
- Students must demonstrate need as determined by the FAFSA or Alternate Need Determination Form

Grant Amount:

- \$4,000 per year (\$2,000 per semester)
- Awards will be given by order of FAFSA completion and housing application

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Scholarships:

Entering freshmen are considered for scholarships based on responses received via the online UNLV Admissions Application, official test scores, official transcripts, official SAT and ACT scores and results from the FAFSA. Unofficial test scores hand-delivered to the UNLV Financial Aid and Scholarship and UNLV Admissions offices will not be considered for scholarship awarding purposes. Students admitted by November 1st and given priority for scholarship awarding.



President's Scholarship

Initial Award Criteria:

- Must be a National Merit Finalist
- Must list UNLV as first choice school
- New freshmen who have never attended college
- Must be admitted to UNLV by November 1st
- Full-time enrollment (12 credits or more)

Award Value: Effective Fall 2019 semester and beyond, the award value is applicable to new freshmen students admitted to UNLV. The President's Scholarship is awarded at \$10,000 per academic year (Fall & Spring semesters only). The scholarship will also pay \$5,000 towards one full semester of study abroad expenses.

Provost's Scholarship

Initial Award Criteria:

- ACT score range 36-30 or SAT score range 1600-1390
- High school GPA: 4.0-3.8
- New Freshmen who have never attended college
- Full-time enrollment (12 credit hours or more)
- FAFSA completion
- Newly admitted to UNLV by November 1st.

Award Value: Award value as applicable to new freshmen students admitted to UNLV during the Fall 2022 semester and beyond: \$5,500 per year (\$2,750 per semester).

UNLV Excellence Scholarship

Initial Award Criteria:

ACT score range: 27 - 36		ACT score range: 27 - 29
SAT score range: 1280 - 1600	OR	SAT score range: 1280 - 1389
High school GPA: 3.5 - 3.7		High school GPA: 3.8 - 4.0
AND		
New freshmen students who have never attended college		
Full-time enrollment (12 credit hours or more)		
Completed FAFSA		

Rebel Scholarship

Initial Award Criteria:

ACT score range: 25 - 36		ACT score range: 25 - 26		ACT score range: 23 - 26
SAT score range: 1200-1600	OR	SAT score range: 1200-1279	OR	SAT score range: 1130 - 1279
High school GPA: 3.2 - 3.4		High school GPA: 3.5 - 3.6		High School GPA: 3.7 - 4.0
AND				
New freshmen students who have never attended college				
Full-time enrollment (12 credit hours or more)				
Completed FAFSA				





Rebel Challenge Scholarship

Initial Award Criteria:

- Overall cumulative high school GPA of 3.25 or higher
- An SAT or ACT score within one of the ranges represented in the graph below
- Must be a new nonresident freshman student starting attendance during a fall semester
- Must have never attended another college
- Enroll in at least 12 credit hours – fall and spring semesters (summer credits do not apply)
- Live in a UNLV residence ball the freshman year

Award Level	High School GPA	SAT or ACT Score (SAT = Critical Reading & Math)	Annual Award Amount
President’s Award	3.75+	1130 SAT or 23 ACT	\$11,000
Provost’s Award	3.5 – 3.74	1130 SAT or 23 ACT	\$9,000
Dean’s Award	3.25 – 3.49	1130 SAT or 23 ACT	\$7,000

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

For financial aid assistance, the University of Nevada, Reno offers The Nevada Guarantee. If you’re a Nevada resident and come from a low-income family, UNR will guarantee your free tuition, fees and books. All students must complete the FAFSA or the Institutional Methodology for FAFSA-Ineligible Students from between October 1st and February 1st.

What does it provide?

- Eligible students are promised gift aid that covers registration and mandatory fees and books for 15 credits each fall and spring semester for four years as long as students make satisfactory academic progress.
- Gift aid includes grants and scholarships from federal, state, and institutional sources. Gift aid is financial aid that does not require repayment.
- Students are automatically enrolled in the First in the Pack Program that provides academic and social support.

How do you qualify?

- Nevada residents admitted to the University of Nevada, Reno
- Full-time student
- Family income of \$50,000 or less OR Pell Grant-Eligible as determined by the FAFSA
- Maintain financial aid satisfactory academic progress

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Grants:

The Access Grant

The Access Grant is an institution grant awarded to need-based students at UNR. To be eligible students must be either undergraduate or graduate students that meet enrollment requirements: Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 15 credits Graduate students must be enrolled at least half-time

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Scholarships:



National Merit Scholarship

The National Merit Scholarship is \$16,000 per year for four consecutive years immediately following high school graduation. The scholarship is offered to National Merit Finalists who meet or exceed Presidential Scholarship GPA and test score minimums. To qualify, finalists must designate the UNR as their first choice with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation prior to the first or May of the year they will start college.

Presidential Scholarship

The Presidential Scholarship is \$8,000 er year for four consecutive years of enrollment immediately following high school graduation. To retain eligibility for the Presidential Scholarship, students must complete at least 15 UNR credits each fall and spring semester, and their UNR cumulative GPA cannot drop below 3.5.

Nevada Scholars Scholarship

The Nevada Scholars Scholarship is \$2,500 for one year. A “Nevada Scholars Level” placeholder is posted to student’s accounts when they are initially awarded, but funds will come from various sources, so before the start of the fall semester, the placeholder will be cancelled and replaced with actual scholarship funds of at least \$2,500.

Pack Pride Scholarship

The Pack Pride Scholarship is for \$1,500 for one year. A “Pack Pride Level” placeholder is posted to qualifying student’s accounts when students are initially awarded, but funds will come from various sources, so before the start of the fall semester, the placeholder will be cancelled and replaced with actual scholarship funds of at least \$1,500. Scholarship criteria, including enrollment and GPA requirements will depend on the scholarship used to replace the Pack Pride Level placeholder.

Breakdown of GPA and Test Score Requirements for First-Year Scholarships:

Presidential Level Minimum and Maximum GPA and Test Score Requirements

GPA	Minimum ACT Composite	Maximum ACT Composite	Minimum SAT	Maximum SAT
4.0	31	36	1420	1600
3.9	31	36	1420	1600
3.8	31	36	1420	1600
3.7	31	36	1420	1600
3.6	31	36	1420	1600
3.5	31	36	1420	1600

Nevada Scholars Level Minimum and Maximum GPA and Test Score Requirements

GPA	Minimum ACT Composite	Maximum ACT Composite	Minimum SAT	Maximum SAT
4.0	22	30	1100	1390
3.9	23	30	1130	1390
3.8	24	30	1160	1390
3.7	25	30	1200	1390
3.6	26	30	1240	1390
3.5	27	30	1280	1600
3.4	27	36	1280	1600



3.3	28	36	1310	1600
3.2	29	36	1650	1600

Pack Pride Level Minimum and Maximum GPA and Test Score Requirements

GPA	Minimum ACT Composite	Maximum ACT Composite	Minimum SAT	Maximum SAT
4.0	May qualify for Presidential or Nevada Scholars			
3.9	22	22	1100	1100
3.8	22	23	1100	1130
3.7	22	24	1100	1160
3.6	22	26	1100	1200
3.5	22	26	1100	1240
3.4	22	26	1100	1240
3.3	23	27	1130	1280
3.2	24	28	1160	1310

For more information on the types of financial aid available at UNR, visit [UNR – Financial Aid](#).

Western Nevada College (WNC)

Western Nevada College (WNC) offers a variety of grant and scholarship opportunities for new and returning students.

WNC Grant Opportunities

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The FSEOG program is a grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. It is administered directly by the WNC Financial Aid Office.

How to Apply: To get an FSEOG, you must complete the FAFSA so WNC can determine how much financial need you have. The financial aid office will award FSEOGs to students that have the most financial need.

Specific Requirements: You must maintain enrollment as an undergraduate student and must not have previously earned a bachelor’s degree.

State Grant Programs

WNC offers state grant funding opportunities, such as:

- Nevada Resident Award
- Nevada Student Grant
- Grant in Aid
- Western Nevada Award

Eligibility: to be eligible for these programs, students must:

- Be a Nevada Resident
- Have a complete financial aid file
- Demonstrate financial need



- Enroll in at least six units

Grant award: Award amounts are based on remaining financial need and begin at \$500 per semester. WNC begins awarding these funds after April 1st and awards to students with the lowest EFC, enrolled in six units or more, and with the earliest FAFSA completion date.

Wildcat Award

This state program provides limited funding to Nevada residents on a first come, first served basis. The eligibility requirements are the same as the four State Grant Programs listed above. Award amounts are based on remaining financial need and begin at \$750 per semester. WNC begins awarding this funding after April 1st each year and awards to students with an EFC just over Pell Grant eligible EFC and with the earliest FAFSA completion date.

WNC 15 to Finish

This state program provides limited funding to Nevada residents on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible, students must:

- Have a complete financial aid file
- Demonstrate financial need
- Be enrolled in at least 15 units

Grant Award: Award amounts are based on remaining financial need and begin at \$1,000 per semester. WNC begins awarding these funds after July 1st of each year and awards to students with the lowest EFC, enrolled in 15 units or more, and with the earliest FAFSA completion date.

WNC Scholarship Opportunities:

WNC Foundation Scholarships

Each year, WNC Foundation awards scholarships to students on the basis of academic criteria or any combination of academics, field of study, financial need, activities, community service, and other criteria.

New or continuing students must create a Scholarship Account at WNC and apply by April 15th each year to be considered for WNC Foundation Scholarships. Generally, in order to be selected to receive a campus-based scholarship, students must:

- Meet the specific selection criteria for a particular scholarship program
- Be enrolled in a minimum of six units, unless otherwise requested by the donor
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0, unless otherwise requested by the donor
- Some scholarships require students to have financial need. To be more likely to receive financial need-based scholarships, students will need to complete the FAFSA

Student Employment:

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study provides on-campus jobs that are located on the Carson City, Fallon, and Douglas campuses. The hours worked are arranged around the student's class schedule, not to exceed 20 hours per week. Students must qualify for Work-Study in their Pell Grant award and must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for this program.

Nevada Student Employment Program



The Nevada Student Employment Program is a state-funded program based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA. Students must be a Nevada resident and enrolled in at least half-time. There are on-campus jobs located on the Carson City, Fallon, and Douglas campuses. The hours worked are arranged around the student's class schedule, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

Western Student Employment Program

The Western Student Employment Program is a Nevada access employment program for students who have demonstrated financial need as determined by the FAFSA and is designed to help provide employment for qualified students. These are on-campus jobs that are located on the Carson City, Fallon, and Douglas campuses. The hours worked are arranged around the student's class schedule, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

Regents Service Program

The Regents Service Program is a state-funded program based on criteria established by the Nevada System of Higher Education, Board of Regents. To be eligible, Nevada residents must be enrolled at least half-time and must meet one of the following criteria:

- Head of household
- Single parent who has never attended college or has had a break in enrollment of two years or more
- First person in their immediate family to pursue a certificate or degree beyond high school
- Not receiving support from parents or family
- Have unusual financial circumstances

WNC uses the funds from this program to support literacy by providing reading tutors to the elementary schools within our service area. These tutors provide individuals and group tutoring at the elementary schools. A FAFSA is not required for this program, and applications are available in the Financial Assistance Office.

For more information on student financial aid opportunities at WNC, visit [WNC – Financial Aid](#).



Financial Aid Lingo

Co-signer: A credit-worthy individual, usually a parent or spouse, who has agreed to share the responsibility for repayment of a student loan with a student.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total cost of attending an institution including tuition, room and board, books, lab fees, transportation, and basic living expenses.

Credit Hour: Units of value given to courses, which equate to academic credits toward your degree. Credit hours are based loosely on the number of hours you are expected to spend in a particular class each week (not counting homework or other out-of-class study time). Different courses are worth different credit hours, but the common format is three to five credit hours per class. Most academic programs require students to complete a minimum number of credit hours for graduation. For example, most associate degree programs require 60 credit hours. Most bachelor's degree programs require 120.

Default: Being delinquent in repaying a student loan more than a predetermined number of days or failure to comply with any of the terms of the promissory note.

Deferment: A deferment is an approved pause in repaying a federal student loan. Students may seek a deferment due to financial hardship; time spent continuing their education (example: graduate school); active military service or; other reasons as determined by the lender.

Delinquency: Missing a scheduled payment on a student loan. If delinquency persists, default will occur.

Dependent: Your "dependency status" is a term that determines whose information you must report on the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, you must report your and your parent's information. If you are an independent student, you will only report on your information (and your spouse's if you are married). Questions on the FAFSA will help you determine your status.

Estimated Financial Aid Percentage: An overview, provided by each institution you've applied to attend, of the amount of financial aid you likely will be eligible to receive. Your financial aid package may be very different from college to college. Cost of attendance is different at each school, and schools may offer different types of scholarships.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): To be for most financial aid programs, families must complete the FAFSA and provide their financial information. The EFC is calculated based on this information and shows the amount of money a family can be expected to contribute toward the student's education. The EFC is used to determine the student's eligibility for need-based financial aid but is not necessarily representative of the amount a family will actually pay for college.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Federal Direct Plus Loan: This type of loan is available for parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students. The student must be enrolled at least half-time. Financial need is not a requirement. A credit check is required. If the parent is denied, the student may qualify for additional unsubsidized funds.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan: This type of loan is for undergraduate students. The federal government pays the interest while the borrower is in school, during grace, and deferment periods. The student must attend at least half-time. Financial need is required. If you are a first-time



borrower, there is a limit on the maximum period (measured in academic years) that you can receive Direct Subsidized loans.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan: This type of loan is for undergraduate and graduate students. The borrower is responsible for all interest and the student must attend at least half-time. Financial need is not required.

Federal Perkins Loan: The Federal Perkins loan is available to undergraduate and graduate students at a low interest rate. The principal and interest of the loan must be repaid to the school that distributed the loan. NOTE: Not all institutions participate in the Federal Perkins loan Program.

Federal Pell Grant: The Federal Pell Grant is a grant for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and have not yet completed the bachelor or professional degree.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): This type of grant provides funds to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Priority consideration is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients. Students could receive between \$100 and \$4,000 a year depending on need, when you apply, and funds available at your school.

Federal Work-Study: The Federal Work-Study program provides part-time employment for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need to assist with paying educational expense.

Forbearance: Arrangement to postpone or reduce a borrower's monthly payment amount for a limited and specified amount of time, or to extend the repayment period. The borrower is charged interest during the forbearance.

Graduate Student: Someone who has earned a bachelor's degree and is pursuing additional education in a specific field.

Interest: A fee charged to borrow money. Interest charges are in addition to the principal of the loan.

Interest Subsidy: The payment of interest on subsidized loans by the U.S. Department of Education for student borrowers while they are in school.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants: This type of aid is for students who are not eligible for a Pell Grant due to not meeting the program's need requirement and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2011. The award is equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant for the award year.

Merit-based: Financial aid programs that require students to meet a certain level of achievement, usually academic.

Need-based: Financial aid programs that award funds based on the level of financial need of a particular student.

Origination Fee: An amount of funds deducted from the proceeds of student and parent loans to compensate student lenders, including the U.S. Department of Education, for the cost of processing and lending loan funds.

Principal: The amount borrowed by the student, not including interest.

Private Loans: Loans can also be obtained from private sources such as banks or financial institutions. NOTE: Loans made by the federal government usually offer borrowers lower interest



rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources. See [Student Aid](#) for more information.

Promissory Note: A written promise to do something, Students are often required to sign promissory notes as a requirement of accepting student loans. For example, students must sign promissory notes promising to pay back student loans. Additionally, students may be required to fulfill certain terms to receive some scholarships.

Room and Board: Refers to changes applied to a student's account for living on campus or eating in the dining halls. "Room" applies to the cost of housing (living in the dorms) and "board" refers to the cost of meals or dining plans. Also refers to standard costs for students living off-campus for the same components.

Satisfactory Academic Progress: A set of minimum expectations established by your institution's financial aid office and by the federal government that indicates a student is making sufficient progress towards earning a degree in a timely manner. Student who do not meet this minimum level or progress may lose eligible to receive financial aid.

Servicer: A loan servicer sends borrowers bills for payment, collects payment for the lender and maintains the borrower's loan accounts. Lenders pay servicers to provide this function.

Student Aid Report (SAR): A report that summarizes information reported on the FAFSA. The SAR outlines the student's EFC and is sent to students by the federal government after they have submitted the FAFSA.

Verification: The process your postsecondary school uses to confirm that your FAFSA is accurate. If you are selected for verification, you will have to provide supporting documentation as requested by your college. Being asked for this verification DOES NOT mean that you have done anything wrong. Students are often selected at random for verification by the school or U.S. Department of Education.



Financial Aid Resources

[FAFSA Forecaster](#): Like the pre-SAT, this website allows families to complete a “pre-FAFSA” which will generate an estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Assuming family income remains relatively constant, high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors can get a preview of the FAFSA experience and learn what their EFC might look like when they file the FAFSA in their senior year.

[College Navigator](#): This is a federal website that provides a consistent set of consumer information on colleges and universities across the U.S., such as graduation and cohort default rates, retention rates, costs, accreditation, average student loan debt, etc.

[College Savings Plans Network](#): This website provides information about the available state-sponsored 529 college savings and prepaid tuition plans, including Nevada’s 529 College Savings Plan.

[FAFSA](#): This is the site for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

[Federal Student Aid](#): This is the U.S. Department of Education’s website for information on most federal student aid programs, including:

- Federal Pell Grant (for undergraduate studies only)
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (for undergraduate studies only)
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Direct Student Loans
- Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans (available to parents of dependent students only)
- Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loans (available to graduate students only)
- Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants

Applications for the above programs is made by completing the FAFSA. Notice of award eligibility and award amounts are made by the schools.

[Federal Student Aid](#): This is the federal website for information on, and making application for the Federal Direct Student Loans, as well as the Federal Parent PLUS and Grad PLUS Loans.

[U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#): This is the website for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans should go to this website to find out about and apply for available education benefits.

[Financial Aid](#): This site has information on financial aid programs, application procedures, borrowing patterns and loan debt, as well as calculators that will help you calculate an EFC, monthly payments on a student or parent loan, and the total cost of borrowing.

[FAFSA Tracker](#): Resources for students and parents for financial aid information in Nevada.

[College Scholarships](#): Information and resources for Nevada students and parents for scholarships, college grants, student loans, including a financial aid search engine.