

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Grants, Loans, and College Work-Study

Application Deadlines for Financial Aid

USU scholarship applications for the following year should be submitted to the Admissions Office or the student's academic department no later than February 1 of the present school year.

Students should apply early for federal, state, or campus aid. Students can apply for federal and state aid beginning in January for the following academic year. The best aid packages are available to students who apply in January or February. Financial aid deadlines (generally near the end of each semester) are available on the Financial Aid website: www.usu.edu/finaid

Students receive award notices and notification of outstanding requirements at their USU e-mail address. Incoming students should establish their USU e-mail account as soon as they are accepted.

Awarding Financial Aid

A student's formulated cost of education at USU (fall and spring) is based on tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses. The total estimated cost of education varies according to the student's residency status.

Upon determining the student's cost of education, the family contribution (the student's financial resources and expected help from family members) is subtracted from the cost of education. The family contribution is derived from the information the student submits with the financial aid application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid—FAFSA). Utah State University uses federal methodology to determine a student's financial aid eligibility and the amount of aid to be awarded.

Summer awarding is separate from regular school term aid, but uses the school term application to determine need. Application for summer aid will begin the first class day of March.

Types of Available Financial Aid

Federal Pell Grant: This is a nonrepayable grant for which all undergraduates must apply before they are considered for other types of federal aid. Maximum Pell awards vary yearly. Contact the Financial Aid Office for updated details.

Federal Perkins Loan: Undergraduate students and graduate students may borrow this five percent interest loan as long as there are funds available. Loan amounts are subject to change; contact the Financial Aid Office.

Under the program, interest and repayment begin after graduation, withdrawal, or otherwise leaving school, or after dropping below 6 credits.

Federal College Work-Study (FCWS): This program provides part-time, and on- and off-campus employment which enables eligible students to earn a portion of their educational expenses during the school year. Awards are based on need and the availability of funds. Students may work up to 20 hours per week.

Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Grant: Awarded to resident undergraduates who demonstrate exceptional need by determination of the financial aid officer. Awards are based on availability of funds.

The Academic Competitiveness (AC) Grant and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant: The Academic Competitiveness (AC) Grant and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant were created by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 and signed into law February 2006. Up to \$750 will be awarded to eligible first-year AC Grant students, and up to \$1,300 to second-year AC Grant students. Up to \$4,000 will be awarded each year to eligible National SMART Grant students. Students must be U.S. citizens, must be enrolled in a four-year degree program full-time, and must be receiving Pell grants. **Note:** Beginning Spring Semester 2009, AC and SMART grants will be provided for part-time attendance. For other (rather complicated) requirements, see the Financial Aid webpage: www.usu.edu/finaid/applying/SMART_ACG.cfm

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity (FSEOG) Grant: This is a nonrepayable grant given to undergraduates with demonstrated need. Awards are based on availability of funds.

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) Grant: This is a nonrepayable grant given to undergraduates with demonstrated need. Awards are based on availability of funds.

Federal Stafford Loan: Federally-guaranteed loans provided through a student's chosen lending institution. Interest is subsidized by the federal government in some cases. Loan amounts vary according to a student's need and class rank. Stafford loans are available to both graduates and undergraduates.

Emergency Check Loan: Ten-week loans of up to \$400 available to enrolled students with fees paid for at least 6 credits. These loans are *not* available for tuition. Interest is assessed at 12 percent from date of issue until the date of maturity.

Tuition Installment Plan (TIP): (See TIP policy under Registration Policies and Procedures section, page B14.)

Refund and Repayment Policies
(see page B12)

Refunding of registration fees is discussed in the Registration Policies and Procedures section (page B12). With regard to financial aid, should a student withdraw from school during the term, he or she may have to repay all or a portion of the financial aid received. Students who receive Perkins loans should have an exit interview with the loan officer in Main 21A at the time of graduation or when ceasing to be at least a half-time student. Stafford loan recipients can do exit counseling online.

Repayment of Federal Funds Policy

Students who completely withdraw from the University during the semester are required to return a percentage of their Federal Student Financial Aid. All types of Federal Financial Aid are included in the repayment including: Pell Grants, Supplemental Grants, Perkins Loans, and Stafford Loans. The amount of repayment is based on the percentage of the semester completed. For example, if a student withdraws after completing 40 percent of the semester (calculated using calendar days), the student must return 60 percent of his or her Federal Student Aid. If the student is eligible for a refund of tuition and fees, according to the University refund policy the refund will be

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applied to the Federal Financial Aid obligation. A refund may or may not completely repay the obligation. Either way, the student will not be allowed to register for future classes, nor be eligible for future financial aid, until the debt is repaid. Students who are withdrawing from the University and who have Federal Financial Aid must meet with their Financial Aid Counselor prior to withdrawing.

Example:

A student has Federal Aid in the following amounts:

Pell Grant.....	\$1,500.00
Perkins Loan.....	\$1,200.00
Stafford Loan.....	\$2,750.00
Total	\$5,450.00

If the semester has 115 calendar days and the student completely withdraws from the University on day 20: $20/115 = 17$ percent of the semester completed, 83 percent not completed. Therefore, 83 percent of Federal Aid must be repaid.

$\$5,450 \times 83\% = \$4,523.50$ must be repaid.

Note: If a tuition refund is given by the Registration Office, the refund will reduce the amount of Federal Aid that must be repaid.

Responsibilities of the Financial Aid Recipient

Minimum GPA Required:

Undergraduates: 2.0

Graduates: 3.0

Required Credit Hours Per Awarded Term

Federal Stafford Loan

A minimum of **6** credit hours for undergraduates and graduates.

Federal Perkins Loan

A minimum of **6** credit hours for undergraduates and graduates.

Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Grants

(undergraduates only)

A minimum of **12** credit hours for a full grant,

9 credit hours for a 3/4 grant,

6 credit hours for a 1/2 grant,

1 to 5 credit hours for a 1/4 grant.

Federal SMART Grant

A minimum of **12** credits per semester.

Federal ACG Grant

A minimum of **12** credits per semester.

Bureau of Indian Affairs or Tribal Grant

(undergraduate and graduate)

Preference given to full-time students (**12** credits),

6 credit hours for graduates.

Federal College Work-Study

Preference given to full-time students (**12** credits),

6 credit hours for graduates.

Exceptions

The Financial Aid Office will consider exceptions to eligibility and academic progress requirements in response to written appeals.

In addition to showing academic progress as defined above, recipients may not owe a refund on grants previously received at USU or be in default from any student loan fund at USU, including any federally-insured student loan issued at this institution.

Scholarships

The Office of Admissions awards new freshmen and transfer academic scholarships. Deadlines and parameters are subject to change, so please visit the website at www.usu.edu/admissions/scholarships. For more information, call (800) 488-8108 or e-mail admit@usu.edu.

Satisfactory progress is monitored by the criteria of each specific scholarship.

New Century Scholarship

The New Century Scholarship is funded by the Utah legislature to assist with the costs of postsecondary education for students who complete the equivalent of an associate degree by September 1 of the year their class graduates from high school. The scholarship covers 75 percent of tuition costs at a Utah state-operated institution of higher education.

Terms of the Scholarship. The scholarship may be used for two years of full-time equivalent enrollment (60 credit hours) or until the requirements for a baccalaureate degree have been met, whichever is shorter.

The scholarship may be used at any higher education institution in the state accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges that offers baccalaureate programs.

Recipients have four years after graduation from high school to use the award.

Eligibility. The New Century Scholarship is open to applicants who have graduated from a regionally accredited high school in the year 1999 or later. The applicant must have completed the requirements for an associate degree, or its equivalent, at a state institution of higher learning by September 1 of the year that their class graduates from high school.

At Utah State University, the equivalent of an associate degree is defined as:

1. Completion of the General Education portion of the University Studies requirements, **and**
2. Completion of 60 semester credits.

For more information on the classes needed to complete these requirements at Utah State University, contact:

Heather Thomas

Phone: (435) 797-3780

Fax: (435) 797-0036

E-mail: heathert@ext.usu.edu

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For an application, contact:

New Century Scholarship
State Board of Regents
P.O. Box 45202
Salt Lake City UT 84145-0202
Phone: (801) 321-7221
FAX: (801) 366-8470
E-mail: newcentury@utahsbr.edu
www.utahsbr.edu

Centennial Scholarship

The Centennial Scholarship for Early Graduation program is a *partial* tuition program which allows for high school graduation to be flexible and appropriate to meet the needs of individual students.

Eligibility

Any public school student who: (1) has a Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP) on file, (2) has indicated to the secondary school principal the intent to complete early graduation, (3) has completed all required courses or demonstrated mastery of required skills and competencies, and (4) has graduated from a Utah public high school is eligible.

Requirements

To receive scholarship funds, a student must: (1) graduate early from a Utah secondary institution, and (2) enroll within one calendar year in an eligible Utah post-secondary institution. Post-secondary institutions accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges are eligible. A student must begin using funds as a full-time student and for *tuition only* within one calendar year of high school graduation.

Scholarship Funds

Funds for the Centennial Scholarship will be disbursed as follows:

Junior year.....	\$1,000
First quarter of senior year	750
Second quarter of senior year	500
Third quarter of senior year	250
First trimester of senior year.....	666
Second trimester of senior year.....	333

Procedures

1. In consultation with the student's parent or guardian and school advisor, the student develops a Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP) and indicates to the secondary principal the intent to complete early graduation at the beginning of the ninth grade year or as soon thereafter as the intent is known.
2. Upon graduation, the student obtains the Centennial Scholarship for Early Graduation certificate from the high school counselor.
3. The high school principal verifies the student's early graduation and signs the certificate. The original certificate is kept by the student. Additional copies are made for school and district records.
4. The student enrolls full time in an eligible post-secondary institution and presents the certificate to the registrar.
5. The registrar verifies the student's enrollment, and completes, signs, and seals the certificate. The original copy is sent to the Utah State Office of Education (USOE).
6. USOE verifies the information, approves the funding, and issues funds. Funds are sent directly to the post-secondary institution in the student's name within 4-6 weeks.

7. Any funds remaining unused when the student leaves the post-secondary institution are returned to USOE.

Regents' Scholarship

During 2008, the Utah State Legislature created the Regents' Scholarship. This scholarship encourages Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially by taking a rigorous course of study and saving for college. There are three elements to this scholarship: (1) a Base Award, (2) an Exemplary Academic Achievement Award, and (3) a Supplemental Award. All three awards can be applied toward tuition and fees at a post-secondary institution within the State of Utah.

Eligibility and Requirements

Three different criteria apply for the three sections of the scholarship. These criteria are shown below.

Base Award. This award may be given to any public school student who (1) has a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, with no individual grade lower than a *C* in required core courses; (2) has a reported ACT score; (3) has passed the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test (UBSCT); (4) is a U.S. citizen *or* an eligible noncitizen for receiving federal aid; (5) has no criminal record (with the *exception* of misdemeanor traffic citations); and (6) enrolls full time at an eligible Utah institution of higher education within 12 months of high school graduation (*unless* an approved leave of absence is obtained).

Exemplary Academic Achievement Award. This award may be given to any public school student who (1) qualifies for the Base Award Regents' Scholarship; (2) has a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher, with no individual grade lower than a *B* in required core courses; and (3) has an ACT score of 26 or higher.

Supplemental Award. This award may be given to any public school student who has contributed between the ages of 14-17 to their Utah Educational Savings Plan account.

Scholarship Funds

Base Award. This award is worth up to \$1,000, and is awarded as a one-time payment.

Exemplary Academic Achievement Award. This award is equal in value to 75 percent of the cost of tuition for up to two years of full-time enrollment *or* until the associate or bachelor's degree requirements have been met (whichever time is shorter). To maintain the award, the student must average grades of *B* or better for two consecutive semesters and must make reasonable progress toward completion of an associate or bachelor's degree.

Supplemental Award. This award is worth \$100 per year for students who have contributed between the ages of 14-17 to their Utah Educational Savings Plan account. The maximum amount that may be awarded is \$400.

Additional Information

The Regents' Scholarship may be used for any qualifying college-related expenses, including tuition, fees, housing, and books.

Students may use the Regents' Scholarship along with other scholarships and federal grant aid. However, a student *may not be awarded both* a Regents' Scholarship and a New Century Scholarship.

Further information about the Regents' Scholarship, as well as application information, may be found at:

<http://www.utahsbr.edu/acad01i.html>