

# **Funding Your Health Professions Degree**

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Financial Aid Advisor



# **The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office**

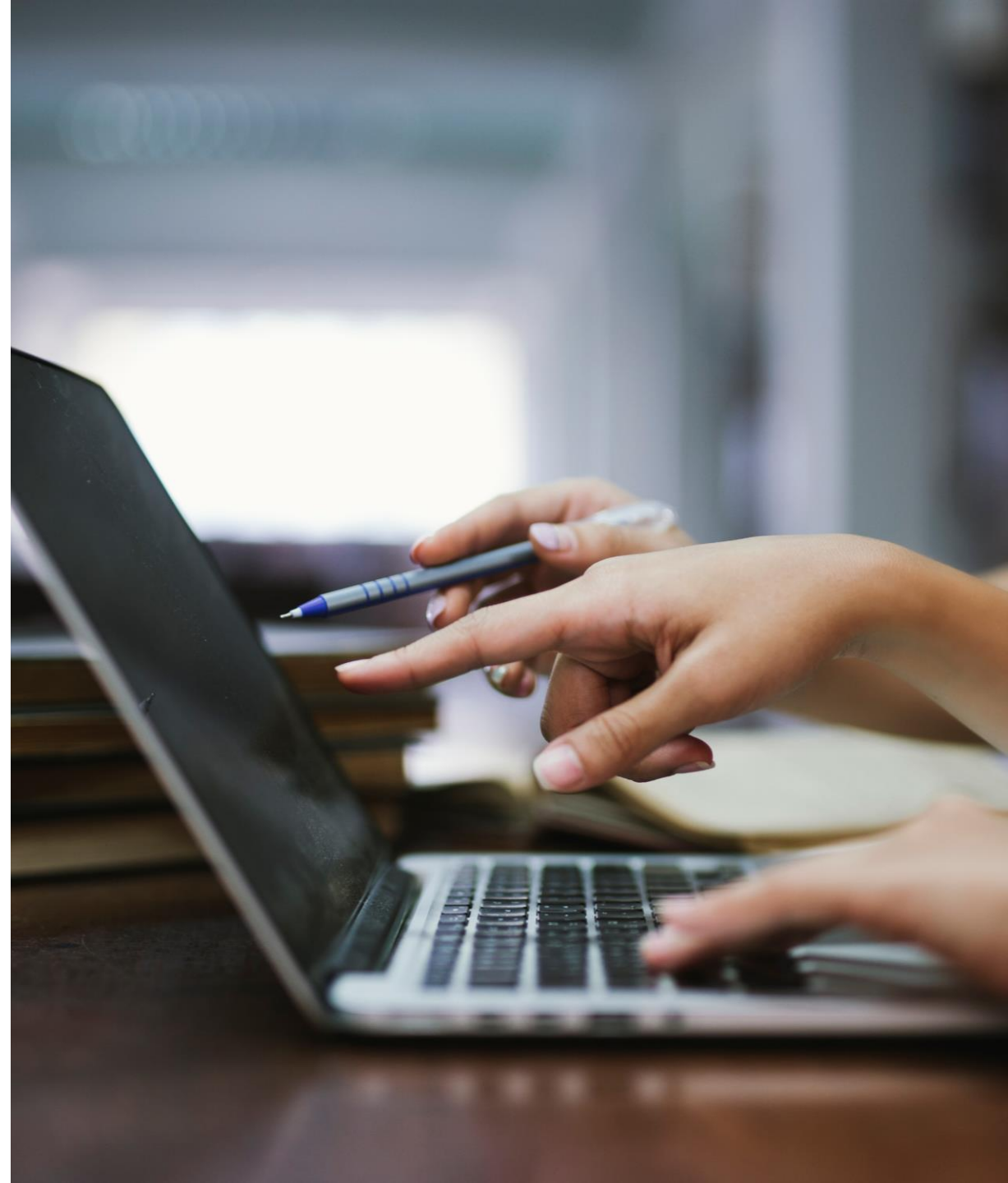
**We are here to help support you.**

## **What we do:**

- Administer federal, state, and institutional aid
- Provide guidance on budgeting and financial options

## **How to connect with us:**

- Email
- Phone
- Zoom
- In-person





# KEY TAKEAWAYS







# Funding Types

Understand the different categories of financial aid funding.





# Federal Aid Updates

Stay informed about the federal aid updates coming July 1, 2026.

[Federal Student Loan Changes](#)

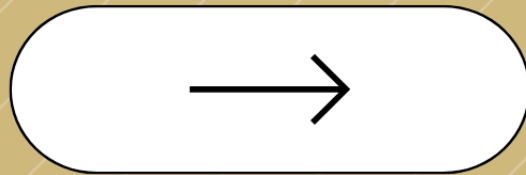




# Money Management

Gain budgeting skills and explore financial tools for success in school and beyond.

# Financial Aid



# How Financial Aid Works

1) Student submits FAFSA annually

2) Aid Offer is made

3) Student accepts aid in UCD Access

4) Student completes loan requirements

5) Each semester: aid pays bill, refund sent via Direct Deposit



# The Basics

## Eligibility for the FAFSA:

- U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen
- Not in default on federal loans or owe federal grant funds
- Use federal student aid only for educational purposes
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

## Ineligible for the FAFSA?

- Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA)
  - Colorado students with ASSET status
  - Determines eligibility for state grants and work-study funds
  - Important information for need-based scholarships

# Applying for Aid

***Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)***

- ☐ Studentaid.gov
- ☐ Tax year data required
- ☐ List CU Denver school code (004508)
- ☐ Missing or other required information will be displayed in "To Do List" in UCD Access
- ☐ Visit our website for more information





# Financial Aid Offer

- Based off Cost of Attendance (COA), FAFSA data & Available Funds
  - Monitor CU Anschutz Email
  - Full-time Enrollment
  - Accept in UCD Access
- Sources included:
  - Student loans: federal and private
  - Scholarships & Grants
  - Work Study & Tuition Assistance
- Sources not *initially* included:
  - Private Loan
  - Work Study & Tuition Assistance
- **Total financial aid cannot exceed the COA**
  - The least favorable aid may be reduced, which could result in repayment of funds to CU Anschutz





# Disbursement of Aid

- The release of financial aid funds to pay tuition, fees, and other eligible charges
- Once all requirements and registration are satisfied
  - *Can take up to two weeks to disburse*
- Aid is disbursed at start of each semester
- Aid is applied to charges first
  - FASO sends email notification when aid is disbursed to Bursar's Office
    - Progress can be monitored in UCD Access
- Remaining funds are refunded to student for other educational expenses
  - Direct deposit or mailed check
  - Once a \$0 balance shows in UCD Access, the refund is on its way

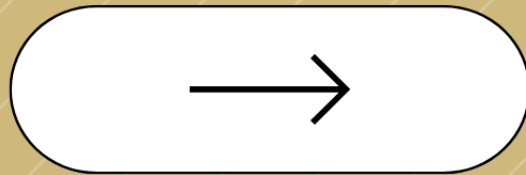


# How to Keep Your Aid

- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
  - Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0\*
  - Pass minimum 67% of attempted courses
  - Do not exceed 150% of published length of program
- If you drop or withdraw from a semester, **please reach out to our office**
  - Federal funds may need to be repaid
  - Our office conducts a required calculation to determine how much aid was earned & how much must be returned



# **Cost of Attendance (COA)**





# Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Best estimate of *reasonable* costs associated with your program
- Includes direct & indirect expenses
  - **Direct:** Tuition, campus and health insurance fees
  - **Indirect:** Books/supplies, personal transportation, living/housing expenses
- Viewable on:
  - UCD Access
  - COA page on our website
  - In the Financial Aid Offer email
- Special circumstances may qualify for an increase in COA
  - E.G.: Childcare, computer expenses, unusual health costs, etc.
  - Reach out to our office to discuss the situation
  - Funds typically covered by additional loans



# Cost of Attendance (COA) & Your Financial Aid Offer

## *IMPORTANT INFORMATION*

- Initial financial aid offers include eligible funds from need-based aid & federal student loans
  - Scholarships, private/alternative loans, work-study, etc. are added as applicable
- Aid Offers are sent via email
  - Any time an adjustment is made, a new Aid Offer email is sent
- Loan offers must be actively accepted by student
- Financial aid offer **can never** exceed COA amount
  - Includes all aid types
    - Loans, work-study, grants, scholarships, tuition assistance, etc.
- If total aid is greater than COA at any time, our office is required to reduce least desirable form of aid
  - This can result in having a bill to pay to the Bursar's Office

# Cost of Attendance (COA)



## 2025-2026 College of Nursing MS -DNP Estimated Cost of Attendance (budget)

### Resident

Tuition per credit hour = [\\$801.00](#)

	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	TOTAL
Tuition*	\$ 4,005	\$ 4,005	\$ 2,403	\$ 10,413
Fees**	\$ 232	\$ 72	\$ 72	\$ 376
Program Fee	\$ 130	\$ 130	\$ 78	\$ 338
Books & Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 1,800
Academic Travel	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 600
Health Insurance^	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,050	\$ 4,200
Living Expenses	\$ 13,266	\$ 13,266	\$ 8,844	\$ 35,376
Loan Fees	\$ 108	\$ 108	\$ -	\$ 216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,008</b>	<b>\$ 19,848</b>	<b>\$ 13,247</b>	<b>\$ 53,319</b>

### Non-Resident

Tuition per credit hour = [\\$1,298.00](#)

	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	TOTAL
Tuition*	\$ 6,490	\$ 6,490	\$ 3,894	\$ 16,874
Fees**	\$ 232	\$ 72	\$ 72	\$ 376
Program Fee	\$ 130	\$ 130	\$ 78	\$ 338
Books & Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 1,800
Academic Travel	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 600
Health Insurance^	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,050	\$ 4,200
Living Expenses	\$ 13,266	\$ 13,266	\$ 8,844	\$ 35,376
Loan Fees	\$ 108	\$ 108	\$ -	\$ 216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 22,493</b>	<b>\$ 22,333</b>	<b>\$ 14,738</b>	<b>\$ 59,780</b>

### Budget comments:

\*Tuition based on 5 credit hours per semester for Fall & Spring and 3 credit hours for Summer

\*\*Fall semester includes one-time \$140 matriculation fee for first year, first time students.

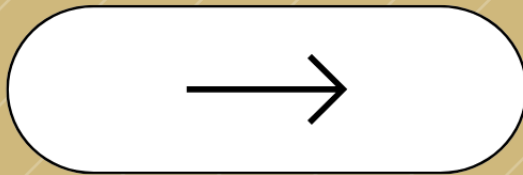
^Health insurance allowance is only an estimate.

- Figures are subject to change each academic year
- Ways to view your cost of attendance
  - UCD Access
  - Award Offer
  - [Our Webiste](#)





# **FINANCIAL AID FUNDING TYPES**



# Educational Loans

## *General Information & Terms*

### **Money borrowed from:**

- Federal government
- College or university
- Private sources (e.g.: banks, credit unions, etc.)

### **Lender:**

- Financial institution that lends funds to a borrower

### **Loan Servicer:**

- Company lender may partner with to administer loans/collect payments



# Educational Loans

## *Current Options*

### **Federal Direct Loan Program**

- Allows eligible students & parents to borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education (ED)
- Includes
  - Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (BSN Only)
  - Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

### **Private Educational Loans**

- Student or parent loan from a private source
- e.g.: banks, credit unions, private companies, college or university





# Grants, Scholarships & Work-Study

- Grants
  - Free money to assist with paying for schooling
  - Typically, does not require repayment
  - Graduate/professional student are not eligible for Federal Pell Grant
- Scholarships
  - Awards given to students meeting a specific criteria
  - Typically, does not require repayment
- Work-Study
  - Provide part-time employment for eligible students allowing them to earn money to help cover educational expenses



# Scholarship Sources

## CU Anschutz FASO:

- Need-based grants/scholarships
- All students are automatically considered when they complete a FAFSA annually.
- Eligible students will have funds included in their offer

## College:

- Funding awarded by your program
- Reported and processed via FASO
- Programs share application and details directly with their students



# Scholarships Continued

## Private Sources

- Funding obtained from an outside (non-CU) source.
- National, local, and professional organizations
- Personal interests & hobbies
- Scholarship Service Programs: repaid w/ service
  - Benefits: sponsor pays tuition & fees, provide living expense stipend
  - Repay with service after graduation
  - National Health Service Corps, Veteran Affairs, and Military Health Professions Scholarship Program.

## Search Engines:

[ScholarshipUniverse](#) | [CareerOneStop](#) |  
[Scholarships.com](#) | [fastweb.com](#) | [Big Future](#)





# Scholarship Wisdom

- **Be persistent** – success takes effort and consistency
- **Set time aside** regularly to search and apply for scholarships
- **Get feedback** – have someone review your applications
- **Stay organized:**
- Save past applications, recommendation letters, resume/CV
- Track search phrases and results
- **Expand your scope** – look beyond your specific degree
- **Highlight your uniqueness** – think broadly about what makes you stand out

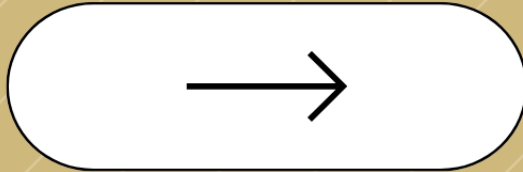


# Scholarship Reminders

- Never pay for a scholarship application
- Notify FASO of all scholarships and awards
- Total aid, including free funds, cannot exceed the cost of attendance
- Reduce the highest interest rate loan to maximize savings

# **Federal Aid Updates**

***Effective July 1, 2026***





# Borrowing Limits

*Effective July 1, 2026*

	Graduate Students	Professional
Annual Loan Limits	\$20,500	\$50,000
Lifetime Loan Limits	\$100,000	\$200,000

## Undergraduate Parent PLUS

- Parents who borrow PLUS before this date can borrow up to student's COA
- Parents who borrow after this date:
  - \$20,000 or remaining COA per dependent student
  - \$65,000 aggregate limit per student

# Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

*Effective July 1, 2026*

## Legacy Borrower

- Students who borrowed Direct Loans for their current academic program before this date
- These students can continue to borrow Graduate PLUS up to three more years or until they finish their program, whichever comes first

## New borrowers

- Students who borrow Federal Direct Loans on or after this date will not have Graduate PLUS available
  - Unsubsidized Direct and/or
  - Private loan



*This is the most updated accurate information as of 11/06/25  
May be subject to change*

# Repayment Plans

*Effective July 1, 2026*

## New Standard Repayment Plan

- 10-, 15-, 20-, or 25-year terms based on the amount borrowed
- Fixed monthly payment for the term
- \$100,000 – 25 Year Term

## Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)

- 30 Year Term
- Monthly payment is 1-10% of income based on AGI.
- Eliminates negative amortization.
- No cap on monthly payment.



Visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) for more information or contact your Loan Servicer.



# Deferment & Forbearance Changes

*Effective July 1, 2026*

## Deferment

- Sunsets the economic hardship and unemployment deferments.

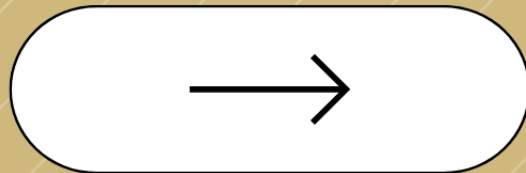
## Forbearance

- Loans made on or after July 1, 2027, are eligible for forbearance for up to nine months in any two-year period.
- Current rules allow for a forbearance up to 12 months at a time, with a cumulative limit of three years.



Visit [www.studentaid.gov](https://www.studentaid.gov) for more information or contact your Loan Servicer.

# Money Management



# Living Allowance

To minimize student debt, carefully consider the amount you need for living expenses.

- Adjusted each academic year
- 25/26 academic year: \$2,800 per month
- Adjust for: partner income, family support\*, savings, wages, etc.
- Funding for:
  - Food (Groceries and dining out)
  - Car expenses (Insurance, maintenance, fuel)
  - Personal hygiene
  - Recreation
  - Non-monthly or irregular expenses
    - E.G.: Car registration
    - Budget the monthly equivalent and reserve that in a savings account





# Living Allowance

Category	Amount
Rent & Utilities:	\$2,000
Food:	\$475
Personal Care & Entertainment:	\$165
Personal Transportation:	\$160
Total:	\$2,800/month

- Use this as a ***reference***, not a rule
- Build a budget that fits **your own financial situation and goals**
- Financial aid cannot be used to pay personal debts such as credit cards or auto loans
- Download out our [Student Budget PDF](#) for more guidance!

# Money Matters

*Live like a student now.*

- Aim for total monthly expenses to be less than \$2,800
- If you are used to earning or spending more, make changes before starting school
  - Remaining personal funds should be used to pay-off credit card debt and/or establish an emergency fund
- Health Insurance is required for all students
  - Students are automatically enrolled in the CU Student Plan and can waive coverage with comparable coverage annually
- Moving expenses:
  - Budget and save now - these are not covered by financial aid
  - Security deposit, moving truck, and household supplies
- Set financial goals and be realistic about your circumstances
  - Avoid starting school with credit card debt
  - Have \$1,000 for an emergency fund



# Creating a Budget

*Aim for progress over perfection*

- Use our Student Budget Worksheet
  - Sticky notes offer Tips and Tricks
- Track monthly resources and expenses
- Budgets are fluid and should reflect your financial priorities
- Include a modest amount for a buffer



# Money Saving Tips from Students

*Success is finding balance of needs & wants.*

*Pay attention to your budget and adjust as needed.*

- Have roommate(s)
- Weekly meal plan; double recipes and freeze.
- Cook with friends
- Budget for dining out/coffee/drinks
- Student Lunch and Learns
- Use discounts/coupons to spend less on food and social activities
- Use your RTD Pass
- Rock Lot for Parking on campus
- Carpool
- Don't defer car maintenance
- Shop and bundle your car & renter's insurance
- Biking is good for your budget and your health
- Wait at least 24 hours before making a big purchase
- Use technology to ensure you are getting the best deal

## Best Practices:

- **Put your aid into a savings account & monthly auto transfer for expenses**
- Compare health insurance plans **before** school begins
- Don't borrow for things someone else pays for
- e.g.: phone, health insurance, car insurance

# Additional Resources

- [Bursar's Office](#)
  - Student Billing Account, Payment Plans
- [Registrar's Office](#)
  - Student Records, FERPA, Enrollment Verification, Residency
- [Student Health Insurance](#)
  - SHIP questions, Waiver
- [Veteran & Military Student Services](#)
  - Utilizing Veteran's Benefits
- [Student Outreach & Support Office](#)
  - Support student safety, health, and well-being, CARE Team, Case Management, & Medical Leave of Absence

# Next Steps

- Create [Student Aid Account](#)
- If planning on attending CU Anschutz
  - Complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA
    - Spring 2026, Summer 2026
    - Add school code: 004508
  - Complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA
    - Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Summer 2027
    - Add school code: 004508
- Research your program's COA
  - Can be found on our [website](#)
- Begin creating a budget
  - Use the budget worksheet on our website
- Search for Program and Private scholarships



# Questions? Thank you



## Financial Aid & Scholarship Office

**Location:** Education 2 North | 3rd floor Student Services Center

**Phone:** 303-724-8039

**Email:** [FinAid@CUAnschutz.edu](mailto:FinAid@CUAnschutz.edu)

**Website:** <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/finaid>

*Visit our website for up-to-date advising hours and Zoom link.*