

Steps in the Financial Aid Process

Knowledge of the financial aid process and deadlines is essential to help you cover the cost of your college education.

UConn

ONE STOP
STUDENT SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

Search for Scholarships

- ❑ Start your scholarship search as soon as possible.

Students are encouraged to contact local civic organizations, religious affiliations, high school guidance offices, and libraries for possible scholarship opportunities.

Contact your state department of higher education for information regarding state scholarships and grants.

Additional information is available at financialaid.uconn.edu/scholarships.

Helpful Hint

Some scholarship search groups charge a fee for their services. Before paying a fee, remember that you can usually find everything you need online for free.

Apply for Admission to UConn

- ❑ UConn has a need-blind admission policy. The financial aid application is independent from the admission application process. Please complete the financial aid and admission application processes separately.

Helpful Hint

If you are planning to apply for financial aid, it is imperative that you provide a valid Social Security number during the admission process. This will help to ensure the timely processing of your financial aid.

- ❑ Apply by December 1 for full review for merit-based scholarships and invitations to special programs. Students are automatically reviewed to determine if they are eligible for merit scholarships. Additional information is available at admissions.uconn.edu/cost-aid/scholarship/policies.

Helpful Hint

View the estimated cost to attend. Tuition can vary if you are in-state vs. out-of-state. Visit financialaid.uconn.edu/cost.

Prepare to Apply for Financial Aid

- ❑ Begin collecting the documents needed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income). A full list of what you need is available at studentaid.gov. For Spanish-speaking families, access the site and select Español.

- ❑ Students and parents must have an FSA ID to access the FAFSA. You and your parent can apply for a FSA ID at studentaid.gov.

The FAFSA

- ❑ The FAFSA is a form required to determine a student's eligibility for federal, state, and University aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Student Loans, Federal Work-Study, University Grants, etc.

OCTOBER – FEBRUARY

- ❑ Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov as soon as possible beginning December.

Do not wait for your admission acceptance notification to apply for financial aid. On the FAFSA, list the schools to which you are applying.

To be considered on-time at UConn, you must submit your FAFSA by February 15. The awarding of most forms of financial assistance is reserved for applications received and logged in by the federal processor on or before this on-time application deadline. Please note that all offers are based upon funds availability.

Regardless of the UConn campus you will attend, list the University of Connecticut Federal School Code 001417. Record the college address as 233 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT.

If you don't have internet access you can get a paper FAFSA from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243); contact this number with any general questions regarding the FAFSA.

- ❑ Review your FAFSA Submission Summary, which contains the results from your FAFSA. Please note both student and parent need to sign and resubmit after any FAFSA changes are made.

MARCH

- ❑ Award notifications are released with offers of admission in early March.
- ❑ To be eligible for federal, state, and institutional need-based aid, you must meet certain eligibility requirements. Details are available at financialaid.uconn.edu/eligibility.
- ❑ Access the Student Administration System (SA System) at studentadmin.uconn.edu to review your financial aid, accept your offers, and complete all steps on the Financial Aid Action page. Be sure to print a copy of the page for your records.

For helpful instructions, visit financialaid.uconn.edu/resources.

If your file is selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education, your aid offer is considered an estimate until the federal verification process has been completed. More information is available at financialaid.uconn.edu/eligibility.

Promptly set up your account with Inceptia and submit the documents in your task list. Students will receive an email from vgcs@inceptia.org to begin the process.

Financial aid offers may be adjusted as a result of the verification process. You will receive an email if there are any changes to your financial aid offer. You must access the Student Administration (SA) System to review and, if necessary, take action on any changes.

Steps in the Financial Aid Process (continued)

APRIL – MAY

- ❑ Pay the \$400 enrollment fee via the application portal by May 1.

Helpful Hints

- Watch your email! Communications regarding your financial aid will be sent to you at your email address.
- The College Financing Plan is a tool designed to simplify information about cost and financial aid. It's available in the Student Administration System.
- If you wish to allow our office to speak to your parents, identify your parents as designees via the ferpa.uconn.edu/share-my-information.
- Include your name and Student ID on all documents submitted to UConn.
- Submit all official scholarship notifications to the Office of the Bursar at bursar.uconn.edu. Then select the Payment & Refunds tab. Then select Submit Private Scholarships. This will allow the Bursar to defer payment on the scholarship until the funds arrive.

- ❑ If accepting a Federal Direct Student Loan, complete:
 1. Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and
 2. Entrance Counseling at studentaid.gov

If you have accepted a Federal Direct Student Loan, you must complete steps 1 and 2 before the loan funds can be applied to your UConn fee bill. Additional information regarding Federal Direct Student Loans is available at financialaid.uconn.edu/loans-for-undergraduates.

JUNE – JULY

- ❑ Search and apply online for student jobs at studentjobs.uconn.edu.

If you are a Federal Work-Study recipient, you must obtain a job to earn your Work-Study offer. These funds are not applied to your UConn fee bill. Fall fee bill is due 8/1

- ❑ If a balance is due, consider your payment options at bursar.uconn.edu/departments/cash-operations/student-payments.

Families have a variety of financing options available to help them afford a UConn education, including:

1. interest-free monthly payment plans through the Office of the Bursar;
2. Federal Direct PLUS Loans; and
3. private (alternative) loans.

- ❑ A parent who wishes to borrow a Federal Direct PLUS Loan on your behalf will begin the process by completing:
 1. an online application and
 2. a Federal Direct Parent Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and at studentaid.gov.

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan program allows a credit-worthy parent to borrow on behalf of a student. The loan is available to parents regardless of the level of financial need. To begin this process:

1. One parent must complete an online application and request a credit check, using their FSA ID. The results of the application check will be available immediately.
2. If your parent's credit is approved, they will be given instructions for completing the Federal Direct PLUS Loan MPN.
3. If the loan is denied because your parent did not meet the credit requirements, you (the student) may be awarded additional Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds.

4. The application and MPN may be completed at studentaid.gov beginning in April.

Additional information regarding Federal Direct PLUS Loans is available at financialaid.uconn.edu/plus.

- ❑ Private (alternative) loan terms vary depending on the creditworthiness of the borrower. Interest rates and repayment terms are unique to each loan product. Private (alternative) loans can take up to 30 calendar days to credit towards your fee bill.

UConn has a suggested lenders list at financialaid.uconn.edu/altloan. Then select ELMSelect. Loan options can be filtered by your program type.

If applying for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan or private (alternative) loan, apply for sufficient funds to cover both the fall and spring UConn fee bills.

It is also recommended to apply for loans 30 days before the fall fee bill due date of August 1.

The best financing option for an individual student or family can be determined only after a careful review of the various options.

For a summary of financing options visit financial.uconn.edu/financing-options.

AUGUST

- ❑ UConn fee bill payments are due for the fall semester on August 1.

JANUARY

The spring fee bill will be due by January 8. Plan accordingly!