

## Understanding Your Award Notification

**Cost of Attendance:** Your estimated cost of attendance includes **direct costs** (expenses paid directly to the university), and **indirect costs** (expenses incurred as a result of attendance other than the university).

**Federal Direct Student Loan:** Loan funds provided to the student by the U.S. Department of Education through the school. Repayment of principal begins six months after the borrower ceases to be a student on at least half-time basis. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the annual application. There are two types of Federal Student Direct Loans: **subsidized** and **unsubsidized**. Students with financial need can qualify for a subsidized loan, and the government pays the interest on the loan while the student remains enrolled at least half-time (6 credits). Students who don't demonstrate financial need qualify for an unsubsidized loan and interest accrues while the student is in school. Student must complete **Entrance Counseling** and the **Master Promissory Note** to receive disbursements.

**Federal Parent Loan (PLUS):** A federal loan program that allows parents who have no adverse credit history to apply for up to the Cost of Attendance each year, less any financial aid. PLUS loans must be repaid with interest.

**Federal Pell Grant:** A grant provided by the federal government to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below a threshold designed annually by the U.S. Department of Education, based on the amount of program funds appropriated by Congress. Must complete FAFSA annually for renewal consideration.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG):** A grant provided by the federal government to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Priority is given to Pell Grant recipients and funds must be awarded by the school in lowest EFC order. Awarding is contingent upon funding and may not be renewed year to year.

**Federal Work-Study (FWS):** A program that provides part-time employment to students attending institutions of higher education who need the earnings to help meet their costs of post-secondary education and encourages students receiving FWS assistance to participate in community service activities. Awarding is contingent upon funding and may not be renewed year to year.

**Gift Aid:** Funds awarded to the student that do not have to be repaid, unless the student fails to meet certain terms, such as a service requirement, specified as a condition of the grant. Gift aid includes awards with titles such as grants, scholarships, remissions, waivers, etc. Gift aid can be awarded based upon many factors, including (but not limited to) financial need, academic excellence, athletic, musical, and theatrical talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations.

**Private (Alternative) Loan:** A loan from a commercial lender used to pay for up to the annual Cost of Attendance, less any financial aid received. Private loans usually require the applicant to be creditworthy or have a co-signer and have varying interest rates, fees and repayment options. Repayment of interest (and often principal) generally begins immediately, with some lenders offering deferment options for in-school periods.

**Remaining Need:** Difference between the institution's **Cost of Attendance** and the student's **Expected Family contribution (EFC)**.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** To be eligible for federal funds (Pell, FSEOG, Direct Loans, FWS, etc.) students must make satisfactory academic progress; meaning you are continuing to complete courses and maintain a required GPA based on your credit level.

**Scholarship:** A type of **gift aid** awarded to the student that does not need to be repaid. Scholarship awards are typically based on merit or a combination of merit and need, such as academic excellence, talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations. To be eligible for renewal of certain scholarships, the student may be required to maintain a specific Grade Point Average (GPA) or enrollment status.

**Self Help Aid:** Financial aid in the form of loans or student employment (other than FWS). Loans can be used to pay the remaining costs after all other awards have disbursed. Student employment earnings (including FWS awards) are generally not deducted from direct costs but can be used to help you cover indirect costs and are paid in the form of wages to students.

**State Grant:** State-funded program that provides grant funds to state residents who demonstrate the highest level of financial need as determined by the results of the FAFSA. Amount varies and is based on enrollment status.