

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

102 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-2825

(949) 824-8262
<https://www.ofas.uci.edu>

UPDATED: April 7, 2021

The UCI Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, with guidance from the Department of Education, is working to address concerns from those directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19. We have prepared this FAQ to answer some of the most frequently asked questions and will continue to update this document as new information is received.

I have questions for Financial Aid and Scholarships. Can I make an appointment or call with questions?

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships staff is working remotely. The office is closed to in-person visitors and staff. The office remains operational and you can reach a financial aid advisor by phone at (949) 824-8262 or [register with Qless](#) for a phone appointment.

2020-21 Year:

I heard that the Department of Education has distributed additional emergency grant funding to colleges and universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How do I qualify for this grant?

The U.S. Department of Education has distributed additional funding to UCI for emergency financial assistance grants to qualified students for the 2020-21 school year. Similar to the Cares Act emergency grant funding provided to UCI for the 2019-20 school year, the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund* (also known as 'HEERF') provides emergency grants to assist students with economic hardships related to disruptions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is currently in the process of awarding these funds to qualifying undergraduate, graduate and professional students. If you qualify, you will receive an email informing you that you were awarded an emergency grant.

I am a Dreamer and heard that UCI is awarding additional emergency grant funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How do I qualify for this grant?

The Regents of the University of California and the State of California are awarding additional funding for emergency financial assistance grants to qualified Dreamers for the 2020-21 school year. The UC Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund assists students with economic hardships related to disruptions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is currently in the process of awarding these funds to qualifying students. If you qualify, you will receive an email informing you that you were awarded an emergency grant.

What expenses are these emergency grants intended to pay?

Funds may be used to cover the following (but are not limited to these expenses):

- Travel and moving expenses associated with the transition to on-line learning,
- Housing, food and utilities,

- Child care,
- Technology or other resources needed for online coursework,
- and medical expenses.

I have not received an email informing me that I was awarded an emergency grant. Can I appeal to be considered for this award?

At this time, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is still in the process of awarding emergency grants to qualifying undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Most students will qualify. If you do not qualify for this award, you may appeal to be considered for one if you believe you have experienced economic hardships related to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructions on how to appeal will be provided by May 1st.

Will the government waive the interest on my federal student loans?

The Department of Education maintains a [webpage](#) with the latest announcements regarding the coronavirus and forbearance information for students, borrowers, and parents.

What happens if I need to drop a class?

The Department of Education has not relaxed compliance requirements related to unit enrollment. Financial aid eligibility is verified based on the units you are enrolled in at the end of the 6th week of each quarter. You must be enrolled at least half time (6 units for undergraduate and graduate students) to remain eligible for financial aid. Most undergraduate grant programs require full time enrollment and your eligibility will be reduced if you are enrolled in less than 12 units at census.

What happens if I withdraw?

If you withdraw (officially or unofficially), the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is required to perform a calculation to determine if financial aid you received for the term must be returned based on the number of days of the quarter you attended. The later in the quarter that you withdraw, the more of your financial aid will be considered “earned.” A financial aid representative will contact you to determine if your withdrawal is related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it may qualify you for a federal relief waiver. You can find additional information on our website under [Student Withdrawal Policy](#).

2021-22 Year:

How can I submit a required document to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships?

Documents required to complete your 2021-22 financial aid application may be uploaded during our office closure. Log into MyAid to find out which documents you must submit. Only documents that show “Needed” on the “My Aid Application Status” of the MyAid portal for the 2021-22 year should be uploaded. As a reminder, documents cannot be submitted as email attachments.

What if my family’s income has been affected by COVID-19?

Our counselors can reassess your family’s ability to help with your educational expenses if you or your family’s income this year will be significantly less than the 2019 tax year income reported on your 2021/22 FAFSA. If your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is already 0, you should not appeal because you have already been awarded the maximum amount of financial aid possible. Additional information about the appeal process will be available on our website in June. If you will be a new student in Fall 2021, you will need to make the decision to submit your SIR by May 1 based on your current financial aid award as an appeal does not guarantee that a change to your financial aid award will occur. To

initiate an appeal, send an email to finaid@uci.edu with the subject "Special Circumstance Appeal 2021/22."

For additional information, please contact our office:

Website: ofas.uci.edu

Phone: (949) 824-8262

Email: finaid@uci.edu

Phone appointments: [Qless](#)

Sincerely,



Rebecca Sanchez, Director

UCI Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships