



DOLLARS & SENSE

As you begin your college education, you may be challenged by your first real experiences with financial management and budgeting. In order to find success in financial management, it is important to understand your aid offer and develop a plan preparing for the ongoing financial demands of college.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

If you have not already done so, apply for federal, state and institutional aid by filing a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Keep in mind that you must fill out the FAFSA each year. The FAFSA will be available on October 1st every year, and it is best to complete it as soon as possible when available.

Both the student and parent need to apply for a FSA-ID (a username and password) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Applicants will have the option of transferring their tax information directly from the IRS, which can help simplify the application process.

FINANCIAL AID AWARD OFFER

Your aid offer can assist you in meeting your college costs. You can view the package by logging into your student portal at catalyst.uc.edu. Finalizing your aid offer may also mean completing the loan process for accepted loans.

More information is at financialaid.uc.edu/loansteps.

- Let us know of any outside scholarships or other aid sources you will receive that is not listed on your award offer.
- If you do not understand an aid source or want help determining how your aid will meet costs, visit our website (financialaid.uc.edu) or call One Stop (513-566-1000) for assistance.

New students seeking your Catalyst credentials? An email was sent to the email address used on your admission application. Do a quick search for "Catalyst" in your email to find it.

STUDENT ACCOUNT BILL

Student bills are due 5 days before the start of each term. Bills are available online through Catalyst and are not sent in the mail. Billing notification emails go to students prior to the due date, whenever there is a change to registration or the bill, and on a monthly basis when the bill is unpaid.

Student bills are based on registration and will include the following:

- Tuition (instructional, general, campus life, and technology fees and, when appropriate, non-resident and program fees)
- Room and board (for on-campus students)
- Student health insurance (for students who do not opt out of the university's health insurance)
- Financial aid (including loan estimates prior to the start of the term)

Note: You may need to meet additional requirements for some aid sources (such as signing a loan promissory note or registering full-time to receive the full Federal Pell Grant).

The fall semester bill will be available in Catalyst this summer following registration. If you have an outstanding item in your "To Do List" on your Catalyst account, it may prevent aid from disbursing. View your bill online at catalyst.uc.edu. Failure to meet payment obligations may cause late fees to be incurred and a block from future registration.

ESTIMATED DATES

	Registration	Bill Due Date	Classes Begin
Fall 2020	Orientation	8/16/2020	8/24/2020
Spring 2021	mid-November	1/6/2021	1/11/2021
Summer 2021	mid-February	5/5/2021	5/10/2021

TUITION GUARANTEE

Investing in a college education is one of the most impactful decisions you can make for future success. At UC, we believe every student and family deserves to know exactly what that investment will be. Being transparent and consistent about costs means that students can fully focus on their Cincinnati experience, both in the classroom and beyond.

The Cincinnati Tuition Guarantee is a cohort-based, guaranteed initiative that establishes a "frozen" tuition rate for degree-seeking undergraduates particular to each admitted class. Undergraduate tuition, fees, and room and board charges for each academic year's cohort are set by UC's Board of Trustees for up to four or five years depending on the length of a student's academic program. More info at uc.edu/bursar/fees/tuition-guarantee.

PAYMENTS

Financial aid (except Federal Work-Study) will be credited directly to your bill. Students are responsible for paying any unmet portion of the bill as follows:

- **Online Payment:** Payment can be made when viewing the bill using personal check information at no additional cost. Credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover) payments are assessed a 2.75% non-refundable service fee.
- **Payment by Mail:** Print remittance from online bill and submit it with check to the Cleveland, OH, address.
- **In Person Payment:** Payments by check can be made at the drop box (2nd floor, University Pavilion) or a branch campus.
- **Payment Plan:** 3 payments over the term is available with a \$35 enrollment fee. Details on the extended payment plan are available at uc.edu/bursar.

REFUNDS

If you receive additional financial aid after your statement is paid or if your aid exceeds your charges, you will receive a refund. Refunds are not retained for future semesters. Students can sign up at catalyst.uc.edu to have their refund checks directly deposited into the checking account of their choice. More information is available at uc.edu/bursar/refunds.

AID ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To receive aid, students must be in good academic standing. They must also be registered at least half-time (6+ credit hours/semester for undergraduate students) or registered for co-op to be eligible to benefit from most financial aid programs. Some aid programs are available only to students who are full-time (12+ credit hours/semester for undergraduate students). Students who co-op during the year should request that their aid be adjusted according to their co-op schedule.

Dropping classes or withdrawing from the university can significantly affect your aid eligibility. Federal aid recipients are subject to refund and repayment obligations that may differ from university withdrawal policies. Generally, financial aid recipients whose class load changes during the semester's refund period will have their aid prorated. A student may also be required to repay all or a portion of the aid received depending upon the point of withdrawal. Students who drop classes can also lose financial aid eligibility for upcoming semesters. To avoid problems, speak to staff at the One Stop Student Service Center before dropping courses or withdrawing.

All financial aid recipients should review the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy at financialaid.uc.edu/academicprogress to understand rules needed to maintain aid eligibility.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students enrolled in classes and on co-op are required to have health insurance coverage. Students are automatically charged for university health insurance, but this coverage can be waived if you are currently enrolled in a qualified health insurance plan.

Students can complete the UC health insurance waiver listed on their "To Do List" in Catalyst. Waivers must be completed by the waiver deadline and are required for each academic year. The deadline date to waive for fall semester is usually the second week of the semester. Waiver instructions are available at orientation.

MONEY MANAGEMENT TIPS

The experience of other students and common sense can help to make college more affordable. Here are ten quick tips to move toward financial success.

1. **Have a money plan** to reduce impulse spending and anticipate upcoming expenses.
2. **Set aside money** for term start-up costs such as books and supplies.
3. **Avoid unnecessary fees** like cell phone/data plan overage, late payment fees, and ATM charges.
4. **Limit use of your car** as gas and parking cost add up quickly; consider leaving your car at home, if possible.
5. **Avoid credit cards** since they are the quickest way to substantial debt.
6. **Work part-time** for spending money.
7. **Share costs** with your roommate(s) for living expenses
8. **Use your meal plan** to reduce your food costs.
9. **Borrow loan funds wisely** with an eye on future repayment obligations.
10. **Live frugally** now to reduce paying for choices later.

Remember, while most students (and some parents) will accept loans to meet college costs, consider how to reduce reliance on them by using income or savings to meet your expenses.

Likewise, it is always easier to reduce costs than to increase income. Brainstorm ways to live more inexpensively and things to do without while in college. Living more frugally now will make financial life after college much easier. More tips at financialaid.uc.edu/livelikeastudent.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

The University of Cincinnati wants to provide students with campus and off-campus scholarship information. You can explore scholarship opportunities using our search tool at under the "Search for Scholarships" heading at financialaid.uc.edu. Most UC academic programs list their scholarship options with our office. As well, many outside agencies provide us with scholarship information that we make available to you. Please use our search tool routinely as new scholarships are posted as information becomes available.

Additionally, scholarships are available from many sources including high schools, places of worship, civic groups, and parents' employers. We recommend that you check with your high school guidance counselor, the reference sections of your library, and organizations in your hometown. The internet, by using the key word "scholarship" in a search, can be a great resource. It takes some research to find scholarship opportunities, but it can be worth the effort and time required. Scholarships are not only awarded to freshmen. Scholarship opportunities are available throughout your academic career, and it's important to continue your scholarship search each year.

Students should also be aware of the terms of each scholarship offered and the limits of receiving multiple awards. For more information, visit financialaid.uc.edu/scholarshiplimits.

QUESTIONS?

Our websites financialaid.uc.edu and onestop.uc.edu can answer a lot of questions. We are also here to help via your campus **One Stop Student Services Center** where staff can assist you with the ABC's of being a student: Aid, Billing, and Class Registration.

Uptown/Clifton Campus
220 University Pavilion
onestop@uc.edu
513-556-1000

UC Blue Ash Campus
150 Muntz Hall
onestop@ucblueash.edu
513-745-5740

UC Clermont Campus
100 Student Services Building
clermontonestop@uc.edu
513-732-5300

CREATING A BUDGET

Financial success for students is based on developing a personal budget that anticipates financial needs and tracks spending. The personal budget starts with estimating the annual bill costs and dividing by two for an estimated term student account statement. Award offers show projected, estimations of tuition. You can also use currently available figures to estimate costs now.

2019-2020 ANNUAL TUITION & FEES

Rates for 2020-2021 will be based on UC Tuition Guarantee (uc.edu/bursar/fees/tuition-guarantee.html)

and are anticipated to be set by UC Board of Trustees in May 2020 and will be posted at uc.edu/bursar and financialaid.uc.edu/costs/fees.

Full-time (12-18 credit hours per 2 terms) Undergraduate Fees

Tuition & Fees	Ohio	Metro	Non-Resident
Uptown/Clifton Campus	\$11,660	\$12,260	\$26,994
UC Blue Ash Campus	6,010	6,610	14,808
UC Clermont Campus	5,634	6,234	12,866

Program Fees are required based on specific academic program.

You can find the costs at uc.edu/bursar/fees/program-fees.html.

Additional cost information available at financialaid.uc.edu/residency.

Health Insurance Plan \$2,360
Required of all students unless a waiver documents alternative coverage; waiver for fall waives entire academic year.

2019-2020 ANNUAL HOUSING RATES

Rates for 2020-2021 anticipated to be approved by UC Board of Trustees in May 2020

with additional information posted at uc.edu/housing.

Room & Board Rates (on-campus housing)

Type of Room	Fee
Traditional - Multiple Occupancy	\$6,856
Traditional - Designated Single	7,912
Junior Suite - Multiple Occupancy	8,004
Junior Suite - Designated Single	8,662
Suite - Double Occupancy	8,526
Suite - Designated Single	9,040
Apartment - Double Occupancy	8,998
Apartment - Designated Single	9,540

Board/Meal Plan \$4,674
Meal Plan is unlimited dine-in swipes when dining halls open as well as 15 guest passes and \$150 Bearcat Card per semester.

The award offer will provide annual financial aid amounts for a full-time student and allow you to view semester breakdowns. Available tools will help the family project any remaining term balance or refund. Federal Work-Study awards are not applied to the bill. Part-time students should note that some aid sources will adjust along with the bill while other aid sources (including most scholarships) are limited to full-time enrollment.

There will also be expenses that are not billed by the university. For instance, students spent an average of \$1,200 on books and supplies this past year. Parking on campus ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 per year. Additionally, any budget created should include transportation to and from home, off campus rent and utilities, clothing, entertainment, and other personal expenses.

Creating a financial plan and regularly updating it is the key to ensuring that anticipated expenses will be met by financial aid, income or savings, and family assistance.