

2017-2018 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW – Graduate

CHECKLIST

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|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review and Accept/Decline Aid: Most of your financial aid offer (in particular, loan programs) may require your online acceptance or denial. Please log on to Student Self-Services through myUSF to view your financial aid award. If you are required to accept or deny any part of your award, please do so promptly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pay Attention to the Award Period: If eligible for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan, it will initially be offered to you with a Fall and Spring award period. If you would like to request that the award period be adjusted, you will need to complete our Financial Aid Enrollment Change Request Form. We recommend that you request the adjustment before you accept the loan offer, and only accept the loan when the offer reflects the correct award period. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consider need for Supplemental Loans: If you have maximized all primary financial aid resources (e.g., Unsubsidized loan, scholarships) you may explore supplemental credit-based loan options, such as Graduate PLUS or private loans from the bank or lender of your choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Requirements: If you plan to accept any amount of Federal Direct loans you must complete a one-time Entrance Counseling workshop and Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentloans.gov . We cannot disburse your loans until we have received the Entrance Counseling and MPN. If you have previously completed these steps while attending USF, you should not need to again. |

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

The Cost of Attendance for the 9-month academic year includes both direct expenses (tuition & fees) and indirect expenses (books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses and room & board for off-campus students).

For most graduate students, tuition expenses included in the COA used to determine your eligibility for aid are based on an average tuition/fees cost of **\$8,600** based on six units of enrollment for the Fall and Spring semesters combined (three units per semester). **These figures are not meant to represent your specific tuition or charges for the academic year but it is an average cost against which we measure your resources to determine your eligibility for aid.**

If you plan on applying for additional supplemental loans, and the estimated tuition in your COA does not reflect your actual anticipated charges, you should complete our [Financial Aid Enrollment Change Request](#) form to ensure your COA is appropriate for your charges **before** applying for the additional loan.

2017-2018 Cost of Attendance Components

| Components | On-Campus | Off-Campus | In Parent's Home |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Tuition and Fees | \$8,600 | \$8,600 | \$8,600 |
| Room and Board | \$16,660 | \$16,660 | \$4,200 |
| Books and Supplies | \$1,600 | \$1,600 | \$1,600 |
| Transportation | \$1,200 | \$1,200 | \$700 |
| Personal Expenses | \$2,600 | \$2,600 | \$2,600 |
| Health Insurance Allowance | \$3,200 | \$3,200 | \$3,200 |
| Total Cost of Attendance | \$33,860 | \$33,860 | \$20,900 |

Note: Not all of these charges will be accrued as a student. You will not be asked to pay USF the total Cost of Attendance amount. Your actual cost of attendance may be more or less depending on each student and situation.

STUDENT AID PROGRAMS

Please note: To be eligible for Federal financial aid, you must be enrolled at least half-time in each semester you are requesting financial aid. Half-time enrollment for USF graduate or doctoral degree program students is defined as 3 units per term.

If you receive aid, such as grants, scholarships or other assistance from your degree program or any outside agency, that aid will be considered when determining your remaining financial aid eligibility. If you later receive such an award, we may be required to adjust your financial aid package.

The aid being offered to you by the Financial Aid Office comes from one or more of the following programs. Be sure to read all of this information before you accept the benefits and obligations of the aid programs.

FEDERAL LOANS

| William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Unsubsidized | William D. Ford Federal Direct PLUS Loan |
|--|--|
| Interest Rate: 5.31% fixed rate* | Interest Rate: 6.31% fixed rate* |
| Origination Fee: 1.069%* | Origination Fee: 4.28%* |
| Grace Period: 6 months after graduation, ceasing attendance, or dropping below half-time enrollment. | Grace Period: 60 days after graduation, ceasing attendance, or dropping below half-time enrollment. |
| About: The Direct Unsubsidized Loan is non-credit, non-need based, deferred payment loan. Interest begins accruing upon disbursement of the loan. The maximum amount is \$20,500 per year, or the student's Cost of Attendance minus other offered aid, whichever is less. Repayment of interest and principal begins 6 months after the borrower graduates, ceases attendance, or drops below half-time enrollment. | About: The Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program is a credit-based, but not need-based loan that allows graduate students to borrow supplemental loan funds to meet their educational expenses. A student may borrow up to the difference between the student's cost of attendance and other offered financial aid. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled at least half-time and must apply first for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan by filling out the FAFSA. |
| Additional Requirements: Students who accept the Direct Unsubsidized Loan will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Direct Loan Entrance Counseling at www.studentloans.gov . Students should only need to do this one time as a student at USF. Your Direct Loan cannot be disbursed until the MPN and Entrance Counseling are completed. | Additional Requirements: Students must complete the Graduate PLUS Loan Request at www.studentloans.gov but not until available, generally the week of June 1, 2017. The student should indicate the requested amount and loan period on the application. Upon completion, the student will receive a credit decision. If approved, the student must complete a Master Promissory Note (also found on studentloans.gov) specifically for the PLUS loan. |

**Interest rates and origination fees are subject to change each year based on congressional action.*

Policies

All students **must** read and review the Financial Aid Policies page found [here](#). Graduate students are expected to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements and understand the financial impact of withdrawing or failing classes, and the federal expectations for return of un-earned financial aid.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GRADUATE STUDENTS

Will my accepted Financial Aid be credited towards my charges on my bill before it is paid to my student account?

Financial Aid that has been accepted will be credited to your bill only when all necessary requirements for those funds have been completed. We recommend that all students regularly review their “Unsatisfied Requirements” in the Financial Aid Status section of their myUSF account to ensure that their financial aid will be properly credited towards charges and paid to their student account.

My Financial Aid Award Offer says that I have unmet eligibility. Is that what I will owe USF?

No. Compare your accepted financial aid to your tuition (tuition = anticipated yearly units multiplied by per unit rate **or** use your fixed cohort rate, if applicable). If your aid is less than the tuition, then the difference is the amount you owe.

Is my Financial Aid Offer also a bill? If not, when will I receive a bill from USF?

No, the Financial Aid Offer is **NOT** a bill and does not indicate actual charges owed. You will not receive a bill until after you are registered for classes. Once you are registered for classes, tuition is due. **You will not receive a paper bill.** The billing statement will be sent to your myUSF email account. USF students can create Authorized Payer profiles (usernames and passwords) through View and Pay in myUSF, which allows parents, spouses, and others to receive bill notifications, view bills and make payments online.

How do I cancel or reduce my loans?

If you would like USF to cancel or reduce an accepted federal or private loan, you must make a written request to the Financial Aid Office before the loan disburses **or no later than 14 calendar days after disbursement of the loan to your USF Student Account.** You may still be responsible for any accrued interest and fees charged by your lender. If you receive a loan refund from USF, you may be required to return sufficient funds to your USF account before your loan reduction or cancellation request can be processed. You may also make early loan payments directly to your lender or loan servicer at any time with no pre-payment penalty.

When is my financial aid going to be paid to my account?

At the beginning of each semester and once you have met all the requirements for disbursement, your aid will be paid to your USF Student account. Requirements include returning your award notice, completing verification, enrolling for the number of units you anticipated when you applied for aid and completing the Loan Entrance Counseling workshop. In addition, any specific information or documentation requested from you must be provided before disbursement can take place.

I'm expecting to receive a refund from my financial aid. How will I receive these funds?

Credit balances created by federal student aid are refunded by check unless a student's Direct Deposit information is provided. Please visit <https://myusf.usfca.edu/onestop/billing-tuition/refunds> for instructions on how to complete an online Direct Deposit Authorization Form. In general, your refund will be available within 14 days of disbursement of financial aid into your student account.

When do I apply for financial aid for the next academic year?

If you will be enrolled in Fall 2018, Spring 2019, and/or Summer 2019, beginning October 1, 2017 you may complete a 2018-2019 renewal FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.gov> to be considered for financial aid for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Additional questions?

Contact the One Stop Office at (415) 422-2020 or email onestop@usfca.edu.