

# Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

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The University administers an extensive program of financial aid services that include merit scholarships and need-based grants, loans and work-study. Assistance is available to eligible students who have demonstrated their ability to successfully pursue their educational goals. Financial aid is a supplement to the contribution toward college costs that can reasonably be expected from the student and the family. Since college is a "planned investment", all factors involved in financing an education should be evaluated and considered in advance. Applying for assistance is one of those steps.

## Federal and State Financial Aid

In order to be eligible to receive financial aid, you must:

1. Demonstrate financial "need" (except for some loan programs).
2. Be accepted to the University as a degree or certificate student in an eligible program. You may apply for aid before you are accepted; however, aid will not be offered until you have been admitted to the University.
3. Have a high school diploma.
4. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
5. Have a valid Social Security Number.
6. Be registered with Selective Service, if required.
7. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress.\*
8. Use student aid only for educational purposes.
9. Not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on any federal educational loan.

The financial aid application is free and information about applying for financial aid is readily available on the Web, through our office, your lender or your guarantor. If you need assistance with the FAFSA, please contact our office.

### FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

To apply for financial aid, submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) by March 1 for maximum consideration. If you apply after that date, you will be considered for any remaining funds as of the date we receive your application. Need-based gift aid is awarded on a first come, first serve basis to eligible students. Students and parents are allowed to estimate on the tax questions if you have not yet filed a federal tax return when you complete the FAFSA.

\* "Satisfactory Academic Progress" is the term used to denote your successful completion of coursework toward a degree or certificate. For federal, state, and institutional aid, the University is required

to monitor the progress of each student toward degree/certificate completion. These academic standards apply for all periods of enrollment at all colleges attended and regardless of whether or not aid was received for federal and state aid eligibility. If you fall behind in your coursework, or do not achieve minimum standards for grade point average and earned credits, you may lose your eligibility for all types of federal and state aid, and institutional aid administered by our office.

For complete information regarding financial aid, please go to <http://www.finaid.unr.edu> or contact (775) 784-4666.

## University Scholarships

Scholarships are merit awards based on academic performance. Information on the types of programs, application procedures, and a search of available scholarships is available on the office's website. Completing the FAFSA for need-based aid is encouraged to increase the student's opportunity for additional financial assistance.

### Undergraduate Students

The University's general scholarship program offers awards to entering freshmen and renewal scholarships to continuing freshmen and sophomore students. Scholarships to juniors and seniors are awarded primarily by the college or department.

General scholarships to entering undergraduates are based on the academic credentials presented in the admissions application. For entering freshmen, the high school GPA and college entrance examination test scores (ACT or SAT) create an academic index that determines the eligibility and amount of an automatic scholarship award. Students admitted to the University by February 1 receive priority. Scholarships to students admitted after February 1 are offered as additional funds become available. Transfer students are considered for general scholarships based on their admission application information and their college academic performance.

Continuing students complete the application available on-line prior to the February 1 deadline for an award for the next academic year. The application information for students with 50 or more earned credits is forwarded first to the college/department for their primary consideration. Some colleges may also require a supplemental scholarship application.

### Graduate Students

Graduate students may apply for scholarships using the general on-line scholarship application by the February 1 deadline. Information on assistantships and other graduate awards may be available by contacting the Graduate School or accessing their website.