

Glossary of Terms for Award Notifications

The Glossary of Terms for Award Notifications contains universally accepted definitions of language typically contained on award notifications. The goals of the glossary are:

- a. To provide community-defined and accepted definitions of common terms used on institutional award notification (Award Letters);
- b. To provide greater clarity and understanding for students through consistency in the use and meaning of terms on award notifications (Award Letters) across all colleges and universities;
- c. To allow prospective students to easily compare information from multiple schools because terms used have common definitions.

Cost of Attendance: The estimated cost of attending this institution for one academic year. This amount includes:

- Expected charges for one year of tuition and fees
 - Tuition – Charges assessed for classes
 - Fees – Charges assessed for other college services
- Room and board for resident students
- Estimated living expense – allowance for rent, utilities, and food for off-campus living
- Estimated transportation costs
- Estimated books and supplies
- Miscellaneous costs

Direct Costs: Expenses the student/family pays to the college.

Indirect Costs: Expenses the student/family may pay to a third party (merchant, landlord, etc.)

Net Cost: Amount of direct and indirect costs remaining after all gift aid (scholarship and grant) are subtracted.

Out-of-Pocket Cost: Difference between the cost of attendance and all gift aid. Out-of-Pocket cost can be covered through a variety of sources, including savings, income and educational loans.

Family Financial Responsibility: Many schools award institutional scholarships and grants based on a more comprehensive calculation of family financial circumstances using information provided on the CSS PROFILE or the College's own financial aid form. This can result in a higher (or lower) financial responsibility for the student (and his/her family) that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) might indicate with its Expected Family Contribution (EFC) estimate.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): A measure of how much the student/family can be expected to contribute to the cost of the student's education for the year. The EFC is calculated according to a

formula specified in the law and is based upon the information provided by the student and his or her family during the FASFA filing process.

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 on many factors, including (but not limited to) financial need, academic excellence, athletic, musical, and theatrical talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations.

Grant: Gift aid awarded to the student that does not need to be repaid. Grants are typically based on financial need.

Scholarship: 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.

Self Help: Financial aid in the form of loans or student employment. Loans are used to help pay the remaining net costs after gift aid is deducted. Student employment earnings (including work study awards) are not deducted from billed costs but can be used to help cover indirect costs and are paid in the form of wages to the student.

Educational Loan: A form of financial aid that must be repaid with interest. Educational loans have varying interest rates and repayment terms. Students and/ or parents are required to sign a promissory note when accepting an education loan.

1 Student Loan: Funds awarded to the student that must eventually be paid back to the lender by the student.

- a. **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 a half-time basis. The FAFSA is the annual application. There are two types of Federal Direct Student 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. Students that don't demonstrate financial need qualify for an unsubsidized loan and interest accrues while the student is in school.
- b. **Federal Perkins Loan:** A low interest loan for educational expenses provided by the federal government for qualified individuals with exceptional financial need. The Federal Perkins loan needs to be repaid with interest once the student is no longer enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours).
- c. **Federal Grad PLUS Loan:** Loan funds provided to graduate students by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. This federal loan

program allows graduate students with no adverse credit history to apply for up to their Cost of Attendance each year, less any financial aid. To be eligible, the student must be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program of study and first borrow the maximum allowable through the Federal Direct Student Loan program. Repayment of principal and interest begins 30 to 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed with deferment and forbearance options available.

d. **Private (Alternative) Loan:** A loan from a commercial, state-affiliated or institutional lender used to pay for up to the annual cost of education, 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.

2. **Federal Parent Loan (PLUS):** A federal 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 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 postsecondary education and encourages student receiving FWS assistance to participate in community service activities.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): A grant provided by the federal government to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need.

Federal Pell Grant: A grant provided by the federal government to qualified undergraduate student who demonstrate exceptional financial need and have an Expected Family Contribution below a threshold designated annually by the U.S. Department of Education.

Enrollment Status: Academic workload (or course load), as defined by the institution, that a student is carrying for a defined academic period. This normally relates to the number of credit hours or clock hours taken by a student during a given academic period. For most traditional base, semester schools full-time status = at least 12 credit hours, three-quarter time status = 9-11 credit hours, and half-time = 6-8 credit hours. For most clock hours schools full-time enrollment equates to at least 24 clock hours per week.

Enrollment Level: Level of the degree-granting program in which a student is enrolled. There are three basic levels of enrollment: undergraduate (students seeking an associate's degree certificate or a baccalaureate degree); graduate (students working on a master's degree or professional degree); and post-graduate, students enrolled in a doctoral program. The amounts and types of financial aid a student is eligible for is determined, in part, by their enrollment level).

Verification: Process to confirm the accuracy of data provided by the applicant on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In order to complete the verification process, students are required to provide certain documents to the school for review.

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