

Guide to Your 2025-26 Financial Aid Offer

Undergraduate Students



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Important Dates

July 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended due date to accept or decline aid in My4D Deadline to accept work-study (if included in your financial aid offer) 	December 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial winter quarter bill sent to students registered for classes
		December 22, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter 2026 bill due date
July 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended due date to complete loan requirements at StudentAid.gov (MPN and entrance counseling) Recommended due date for parents to apply for a parent PLUS loan (if needed) 	December 26, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter quarter financial aid disburses to your DU student account
		December 30, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest date you may receive direct deposit financial aid refunds in your bank account
August 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended due date to accept or waive health insurance and health and counseling services Initial fall quarter bill sent to students registered for classes 	January 5, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of winter 2026 quarter
		March 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial spring quarter bill sent to students registered for classes
		March 15, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority deadline to submit the 2026-2027 FAFSA and CSS Profile
August 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended date to sign up for direct deposit for financial aid refunds Deadline to sign up for a payment plan for fall quarter 	March 22, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring quarter financial aid disburses to your DU student account
August 22, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall 2025 bill due date 	March 24, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest date you may receive direct deposit financial aid refunds in your bank account
August 29, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall quarter financial aid disburses to your DU student account 	March 30, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of spring 2026 quarter
September 3, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest date you may receive direct deposit financial aid refunds in your bank account 	April 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer financial aid application opens
September 8, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of fall 2025 quarter 		

Your Financial Aid Offer

Your financial aid offer is based on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the CSS Profile (if submitted), your assigned cost of attendance, your demonstrated financial need, and the availability of funding at DU. Your aid offer is only for the 2025-26 academic year; you must submit the FAFSA every year you wish to receive federal financial aid.

Your aid is automatically divided equally between all the quarters listed on your financial aid offer and can only be used during those terms, provided you are enrolled in the required number of credits. If your enrollment plans are different than what's listed on your aid offer, contact us so adjustments can be made to your cost of attendance and financial aid.

VIEWING YOUR AID OFFER

View a PDF of your financial aid offer through My4D:

1. Log into <https://my4d.du.edu>.
If this is your first time logging in, your password will be your 6-digit birthday in MMDDYY format.
2. Click on the "View My Financial Aid Offer (PDF)" link in the Financial Aid Information box.
3. Choose the "2025-26 Aid Year" from the drop-down menu.

ESTIMATED COSTS (COST OF ATTENDANCE)

On your financial aid offer, you will see a section called "Estimated Costs for the 2025-26 Academic Year." This is known as your cost of attendance and is an **estimate** of the overall price of attending DU for one year. These figures are based on the average enrollment of students in your academic program; your actual costs will likely be different than what's listed on your aid offer.

Costs listed are considered either direct or indirect:

- **Direct costs** are those that will appear on your University bill, such as tuition, fees, and health insurance (if you plan to enroll in DU's plan).
- **Indirect costs** are estimated costs associated with attending DU (such as books and personal expenses) but will not appear on your University bill.

The cost of attendance listed on your aid offer serves two purposes:

1. To give you an idea of the typical cost of a DU education for one year, and
2. To set a limit on the amount of financial aid you can receive during the academic year (which federal regulations require us to do).

This means that the total amount of your financial aid—including scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, etc.—cannot exceed your cost of attendance.

CAN MY COST OF ATTENDANCE BE INCREASED?

If you need additional loan funding to help cover costs not included in your cost of attendance, we may be able to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis for certain circumstances outlined on the Budget Adjustment Form. Visit the [forms page](#) of our website to learn more.

FINANCIAL AID OFFERED

The next section on your aid offer will list the types of aid you are eligible to receive for the 2025-26 academic year.

- **Grant, Scholarship, and Waiver Eligibility:** Your eligibility for grants and scholarships is determined by both your admission and financial aid applications. You are automatically considered for merit-scholarships through the admission process; if you have questions about your merit scholarship, contact Undergraduate Admission. Federal, state, and institutional need-based aid are determined by your financial aid application.
- **Student Loan Eligibility:** Most students are offered at least one type of Federal Direct loan in their financial aid offer. The type and amounts offered depend on your financial need and year in school, and most parents are eligible to borrow additional funding through the Direct Parent PLUS Loan. Additional information about these loans is available on the next page.
- **Federal Work-Study:** Some students will see a section with information about work-study, a type of financial aid that allows you to earn money through part-time employment. Because of limited funding, not all students who are eligible will be offered work-study. Additional information is available [on our website](#).

ESTIMATED NET PRICE:

This section of your aid offer estimates your net price for the 2025-26 academic year after your financial aid has been applied to your University bill (total cost of attendance minus financial aid).

- **Estimated Net Price without Loans:** This is an **estimate** of your net price after your scholarships, assistantships, waivers, etc., have been applied.
- **Estimated Net Price with Loans:** This is an **estimate** of your net price after your scholarships, assistantships, waivers, etc., have been applied, if you also choose to borrow the full amount of student loans offered to you.

ESTIMATE YOUR BILL

While your financial aid offer provides a general estimate of your cost for the 2025-26 academic year, you can use our Estimated Billing Worksheet to get a more precise calculation of what you'll be billed each quarter and how much you may need to borrow in student loan funding.

➔ A link to this worksheet is on the [forms page](#) of our website.

REVISED FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

Once you have received your initial financial aid offer, revisions may be needed if you received an outside scholarship, your cost of attendance has changed, additional funds have been approved, loan adjustments have been made, etc. You will be notified via email if a revised aid offer is available to view in My4D.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

We do not assume all students will take summer classes, which is why you won't see aid for the summer quarter listed on your aid offer. Direct loan availability is limited to your remaining eligibility from the current academic year. If interested in financial aid for the summer, you'll need to complete a separate application in My4D in the spring.

Student Loans

Most students who apply for financial aid at DU will see at least one Federal Direct student loan in their aid offer. If you need a loan to help cover the cost of your program, consider federal student loans first. All student loans are borrowed funds that you must repay after you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment, but federal student loans usually have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options than a private loan from a bank or credit union.

DIRECT SUBSIDIZED/UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

The Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan is funded by the federal government through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program, administered by DU, and available to students enrolled at least half-time (6 credits or more) in a degree-seeking program. More information about this loan is available on [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

- **Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized Loans:**
 - Subsidized loans are offered to students with financial need as determined by the FAFSA. Interest is subsidized by the government, which means it does not accrue while you are enrolled at least half time and for the 6-month grace period afterward before repayment begins. After that grace period, interest begins to accrue.
 - Unsubsidized loans are offered to students regardless of financial need. Interest begins accruing on these loans as soon as funds are sent to DU and continues to accrue while you are enrolled and throughout your grace period. You may pay the interest as it accrues if you wish.
- **Borrowing Limit:** The amount you can borrow depends on your year in school and whether you are a dependent or independent student. More information is available on [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
- **Interest Rate:** The [interest rate](#) for loans borrowed during the 2025-26 academic year is 6.39% and is fixed throughout the life of the loan.
- **Origination Fee:** The federal government charges a 1.057% fee to help offset the cost of processing these loans. This fee is assessed when loan funds are sent to DU, which means the amount applied to your student account will be slightly smaller than the amount you borrow.
- **Repayment:** Repayment begins after your 6-month grace period has been exhausted. Your grace period begins once you graduate, withdraw, or drop below half-time enrollment. No payments are required while enrolled or during your grace period.

DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN

The Direct Parent PLUS Loan is not automatically included in financial aid offers—your parent must apply for it separately through [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). This is a credit-based loan, which means your parent will need to undergo a credit check with the U.S. Department of Education before they can borrow funding. You must be enrolled at least half time (6 credits or more) to receive this loan. More information is available on [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

- **Borrowing Limit:** The maximum a parent can borrow per academic year is your total cost of attendance less all your other financial aid (including Direct loans). There is no lifetime borrowing limit.

- **Interest Rate:** The interest rate for loans borrowed during the 2025-26 academic year is 8.94% and is fixed throughout the life of the loan. Interest begins accruing when the loan is first disbursed and continues to accrue throughout the life of the loan.
- **Origination Fee:** The federal government charges a 4.228% fee to help offset the cost of processing these loans. This fee is assessed when loan funds are sent to DU, which means the amount applied to your student account will be slightly smaller than the amount borrowed.
- **Credit Check:** To receive a parent PLUS loan, you'll need to undergo a credit check with the U.S. Department of Education before being approved. A borrower is considered to have adverse credit if:
 - they have one or more debts with a total combined outstanding balance greater than \$2,085 that are 90 days or more delinquent as of the date of the credit check, or that have been placed in collection or charged off during the 2 years preceding the date of the credit check; or
 - during the 5 years preceding the date of the credit report, they have been subject to a default determination, discharge of debt in bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment, or write-off of a federal student aid debt.
- **Options if Denied:** If denied, your parent has three options: 1) apply with a credit-worthy endorser (co-signer); 2) submit an appeal to the Department of Education if there are errors on their credit report they can document; 3) contact us, as you may be eligible for an additional \$4,000 or \$5,000 Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan.

PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS

The terms of [private education loans](#) vary significantly. They require a credit check and/or debt-to-income ratio check on the borrower and/or co-signer. You should take advantage of all federal student loan options before pursuing a private loan, as federal loans generally have better terms than private loans and offer multiple repayment options. Private loans are also not eligible for federal loan consolidation, and most don't offer repayment plans based on income. Learn more about the difference between federal and private loans through [StudentAid.gov](#).

If you decide to apply for a private education loan, you must initiate the loan process with the lender you select. You can apply for a loan up to your total cost of attendance, minus all your other financial aid. Find additional information about private loans [on our website](#).

CALCULATE YOUR FUTURE LOAN PAYMENTS

Don't borrow blindly! It's important for you to understand all the terms of your loans and your repayment responsibilities before you borrow. Student loans are nearly impossible to discharge in bankruptcy, so the choices you make today can impact you for many years to come.

Generally, for a student loan burden to be manageable, the total amount you borrow should be less than your starting salary after graduation. There are multiple repayment options available for federal student loans; review these at [StudentAid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans](#).

Loan Simulator

Before you borrow, calculate what your future monthly payment amounts might look like under different repayment plans online at:

<https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/>

Next Steps to Receive Your Aid

There are additional steps you must take to receive most types of financial aid.

ACCEPT OR DECLINE YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Any type of aid you wish to receive—scholarships, loans, work-study, etc.—must first be accepted in My4D (some types of institutional aid may already be accepted on your behalf). To accept or decline the financial aid offered to you:

1. Log into My4D at <https://my4d.du.edu>.
2. Click on the “Accept or Decline My Financial Aid Offer” link in the Financial Aid Information box.
3. Select the 2025-26 Aid Year from the drop-down menu.
4. Click on the Terms and Conditions tab, read, and click the “Accept” button at the bottom of the page.
5. Click on the Accept Award Offer tab.
 - a. Choose “Accept” or “Decline” in the drop-down menu next to each type of aid offered to you.
 - b. You can borrow a portion of a loan by typing the amount you wish to borrow in the “Accept Partial Amount” box. (Remember, any amount you accept will be split evenly over your terms of enrollment.)
6. Click on the “Submit Decision” button.

Once you have accepted or declined your aid, you’ll need to contact Financial Aid if there are any adjustments you need to make to your loan amounts.

COMPLETE DIRECT SUBSIDIZED/UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN REQUIREMENTS

If you accepted a Direct loan and are a first-time borrower at DU, you’ll need to complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling before you can receive funding. Complete both requirements online at StudentAid.gov.

PARENTS: APPLY FOR THE PARENT PLUS LOAN (IF DESIRED)

If you need additional loan funding to help cover the cost of your tuition or living expenses, your parent may apply for the parent PLUS loan online at StudentAid.gov. Remember that they must pass a credit check to be approved for this funding. If approved, they’ll need to complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling online StudentAid.gov as well. (Note for fall-start students: We cannot begin certifying these loans until late mid-to-late July. This means that if you apply and are approved for the loan, it will not appear on your financial aid account until that time.)

CHECK YOUR STATUS ON MY4D

Throughout the year, be sure to review your financial aid checklist on your My4D dashboard. Anything with an open circle icon next to it requires additional action, which could delay the disbursement of your aid.

Your Bill and Receiving Your Aid

BILLING

The [Office of Student Billing](#) will assess charges to your student account (such as tuition, fees, housing charges, etc.) each quarter. You will receive an email when your bill is available to view on DUPay. More information about setting up DUPay and adding authorized users is available at www.du.edu/student-billing/make-payment.

The first bill each quarter will list tuition, fees, and any other charges you have for that term, as well as your authorized financial aid. For aid to be "authorized," it must be accepted and all requirements completed. Be sure to check My4D—any item with an open circle icon next to it in your financial aid checklist requires additional action, and the specific aid associated with that requirement will not appear as a credit on your bill until that item is satisfied.

DISBURSEMENT AND REFUNDS

No earlier than 10 days prior to the first day of classes each quarter, your financial aid for that term will disburse to your student account and will pay toward your charges—if all financial aid requirements have been met. This process is called disbursement.

If your financial aid is more than the total of your charges, you will be eligible for a refund to pay other non-billable expenses such as books and living expenses. The Office of Student Billing generates refunds 2-3 days after disbursement. To expedite the receipt of your refund, we recommend setting up [direct deposit](#). Otherwise, a check will be sent to the mailing address on your student account.

TERM	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES	DISBURSEMENT DATE	ANTICIPATED REFUND DATE
Fall Quarter	September 8, 2025	August 29, 2025	September 3, 2025
Winter Quarter	January 5, 2026	December 26, 2025	December 30, 2025
Spring Quarter	March 30, 2026	March 20, 2026	March 24, 2026
Summer Quarter	June 13, 2026	June 12, 2026	June 16, 2026

Please note: Current financial aid cannot pay a prior year’s past-due balance, and you must be current on your University bill to be able to register for the next quarter and/or receive an official academic transcript.

PAYMENT PLANS

The University of Denver provides students the opportunity to spread their educational costs out over 2 or 3 payments each quarter. Each plan has an enrollment fee of \$50, and there is no credit check requirement to enroll.

Sign up for a payment plan through DUPay once you receive your first bill for the quarter. Installment amounts will automatically be adjusted if additional charges or credits are added to your account. Late fees will be assessed for any installment 15 or more days past due, and the payment plan must be paid in full to register for classes for the next quarter. More information is available at www.du.edu/student-billing/payment-plans.

Policies

ENROLLMENT

- You must be enrolled in a degree-granting program to be eligible for financial aid.
- You maintain full-time enrollment (12 credits or more) to remain eligible for certain types of aid, including the DU Educational Grant and the Residence Hall Grant.
- You must maintain at least half-time enrollment (6 credits or more) to remain eligible for the Federal Supplemental Opportunity Educational Grant (SEOG), work-study, the Colorado Student Grant, and any Direct loan.
- The Federal Pell Grant is reduced for less than full-time enrollment.
- The Residence Hall Grant pays directly toward tuition (not housing or meal plans), and you can only receive the Residence Hall Grant if you live in eligible on-campus housing. More information is available [on our website](#).
- If you obtain your degree, withdraw from school, or change from a degree candidate to a non-degree candidate during the school year, your financial aid offer will be adjusted according to the terms you attended.
- Federal aid (including loans) can only be used to pay for courses needed to earn your degree.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

In order continue receiving financial aid, you must maintain [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP). Federal regulations require us to monitor the academic progress of all students receiving financial aid toward the completion of their degree. (Please note: this policy pertains only to financial aid and is separate from other academic policies published by the institution.) SAP is monitored on a yearly basis one or two weeks after professors are required to have grades reported for the spring term. As a financial aid recipient, you must maintain the following minimum standards to continue receiving financial aid.

SAP Minimum Standards:

- You must maintain a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.00 (2.5 for BS in Accounting students).
- You must complete and pass a minimum of 66.6% of all courses attempted, also known as Cumulative Completion Rate (CCR).
- You must complete your degree requirements within 150% of the minimum credits required to graduate, also known as Maximum Time Frame (MTF). For example, you may attempt a maximum of 288 credits to complete a degree that requires 192 credits.

Financial Aid Suspension and Probation:

Students are monitored for SAP compliance annually and will be sent an email after spring grades are posted if they fail to meet requirements. Students are placed on financial aid suspension and will not receive a disbursement of federal, state or institutional financial aid until they regain compliance with SAP requirements, or an appeal is approved by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Learn more about this policy and the appeal process [on our website](#).

WITHDRAWING FROM DU (R2T4 POLICY)

Title IV (Federal) funds are offered to you under the assumption that you will be enrolled for the entire period for which the aid is offered. When you withdraw from all courses for any reason, including medical withdrawals, your eligibility for Title IV funds must be reevaluated. This policy is known as the Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) policy.

If you withdraw from all courses prior to completing at least 60% of the term, you may be required to repay a portion of the federal financial aid you received for that term (this includes federal student loans). A pro rata schedule is used to determine the amount of federal student aid funds you will have earned at the time of withdrawal.

The return of funds is based upon the concept that students earn their financial aid in proportion to the amount of time in which they are enrolled. Under this reasoning, a student who withdraws in the second week of classes has earned less of their financial aid than a student who withdraws in the seventh week. Once 60% of the term is completed, you are considered to have earned all your financial aid and will not be required to return any funds. If you withdraw prior to the first day of classes for the term, all your aid for that term will be cancelled.

Learn more about the R2T4 policy—including how we calculate the percentage of aid earned and the order in which we return funds—[on our website](#).

INSTITUTIONAL AID AND TUITION

DU scholarships and grants can pay toward tuition charges only unless otherwise stipulated by the award (which is rare). This means that the total amount of your DU institutional aid cannot exceed the cost of your tuition for any term. Dependents of DU employees cannot receive a combination of tuition waiver benefits and other institutional aid.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for need-based aid is determined using information provided on both the CSS Profile and FAFSA applications. The CSS Profile is used to administer DU need-based aid, which includes institutional grants and scholarships while the FAFSA informed Student Aid Index (SAI) is used to determine eligibility for all federal aid, including the Pell Grant, work-study, Direct Loans, and Colorado State aid. Your “financial need” is assessed by comparing the total [cost of attendance](#) to the measures used by the SAI and CSS Profile information. Changes in your financial circumstances can affect your SAI and could impact your eligibility for need-based aid. While it’s possible to have a negative SAI, if assigned, it will always equate to 0 for the purpose of awarding financial aid.

OVERAWARDS

The total amount of your financial aid, including loans, cannot exceed your cost of attendance. In addition, your need-based aid cannot exceed your “financial need.” When the aid you receive from all sources is greater than either your cost of attendance or your financial need, an overaward exists and must be addressed.

While our office takes care not to let this happen, circumstances may change after your initial financial aid offer has been generated, resulting in an overaward. The most common example of this happens when additional financial aid was awarded to you (such as an additional institutional scholarship, private scholarship, or third-party payment). This can also happen if you reduce your enrollment from full-time to half-time.

We are bound by federal regulations to correct overawards. Doing so almost always requires a reduction in your aid. Many times, this means we will reduce a loan. However, depending on the type of overaward, we may need to reduce a scholarship or grant—particularly if there are no loans to reduce. In some cases, you may owe money back to the DU. If you have been overawarded and require an adjustment to your aid, you will receive an email from the financial aid office.

AID-ELIGIBLE COURSEWORK

The U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to ensure that federal financial aid funds are only used to pay for courses that apply to a student's degree program. Courses that do not count toward a student's program of study may be ineligible for federal or state financial aid. Regulations also limit the number of times a student may repeat a course and receive federal aid for that course. These policies affect all types of federal and state aid, including federal and state grants, loans and work-study. More information is available [on our website](#).

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student, you have the right to:

- know what financial assistance is available to you, including all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs
- know the deadlines for submitting applications and the process required
- an explanation of the types of aid contained in your financial aid offer as well as how to retain eligibility for those funds
- request a review of your current financial situation if you meet certain criteria based on changes since filing the current aid year financial aid application
- know loan interest rates, total amount to be repaid, procedures for repayment, when repayment begins, and how long you have to repay the loan
- know the method and frequency of financial aid disbursements

As a student, you have the responsibility to:

- be aware of your ability to pay any institutional charges based on your available financial aid and personal resources
- read all correspondence—including emails—sent to you from Financial Aid
- complete all requirements accurately, in a timely manner, and by the appropriate deadlines
- inform us if your enrollment plans change for any given term
- inform us of any outside scholarships, assistantships, or additional resources that you receive
- maintain a record of your application and aid information and keep copies of all your financial aid documents in a personal file
- complete the FAFSA completely and accurately, and if selected for verification, provide all requested documents in a complete, accurate, and timely manner (falsification of information on application forms for federal financial assistance is considered a criminal offense, and you may be subject to penalties under the U.S. Criminal Code)
- read and understand all forms that you are asked to submit or sign, realizing that you are legally responsible for all agreements that you sign
- know and comply with all policies and procedures of the University of Denver

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT:

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