Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of aid are included in the Estimated Need-Based Gift Aid listed on my estimate?
A: Your estimated need-based gift aid is a combination of one or more grants available from the University of Denver, the State of Colorado, and the U.S. Department of Education. The amount listed on your financial aid estimate may include the DU Educational Grant, the Colorado Student Grant, the Federal Pell Grant, and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. An itemized list of your need-based grants will be listed on your final award letter. Learn more about each of these awards and their eligibility requirements online at www.du.edu/financialaid/undergraduate/typesofaid.

Q: Why is my financial aid package from DU different than the packages I received from other schools?
A: Every school determines eligibility for institutional aid differently. Other colleges and universities are likely to have different costs as well as different amounts of financial aid (especially grant funds) to offer to students. Therefore, awards will vary from school to school. Although DU is not able to meet the full need of every student, we use every method possible to coordinate adequate resources to enable you to invest in your education at the University of Denver.

Q: Does DU match financial aid packages from other schools?
A: Your estimate from DU includes the maximum amount of financial aid we are able to offer. Unfortunately, we do not have enough funding to match award offers from other institutions, and are therefore unable to negotiate financial aid packages.

Q: Why wasn’t I offered work-study?
A: The amount of funding we have available for this type of aid is extremely limited. In fact, only about 20% of our currently enrolled, eligible students have work-study. Therefore, many students who would otherwise be eligible won’t have it offered as a part of their financial aid package. If you choose to attend DU and submit your admission deposit, you may contact us to add your name to the work-study waitlist.

Q: My CSS PROFILE application does not fully capture my family’s financial situation. Is there anything I can do?
A: If you and/or your family have experienced an unexpected change to your financial situation that is not reflected on your CSS PROFILE or FAFSA, you may submit a Special Circumstances form (also known as an “appeal”). Examples that may constitute a special circumstance include loss or reduction of employment or wages, bankruptcy or foreclosure, or loss of child support. Examples that do not constitute a special circumstance include reduction in 401K or investment values, parents’ refusal to contribute to a student’s education, unwillingness to borrow loans, or lack of credit-worthy co-signers. Please contact Financial Aid at 303-871-4020 or finaid@du.edu for more information about submitting an appeal.

Q: What if I don’t qualify for enough financial aid to make attending the University of Denver possible?
A: DU Financial Aid will help in every way possible, but only you and your family can decide if it is financially feasible for you to enroll. We encourage you to use scholarship search services and apply for many private scholarships. Credit-based loan programs and a payment plan are also available. Learn more about your options by reviewing the “Steps to Managing Unmet Cost” brochure included in this packet.

Q: Will I receive the same amount of financial aid every year I’m at DU?
A: If your family financial situation remains the same, DU will make every effort to provide you with a similar financial aid package each year, provided you apply for aid on time and there are not significant changes in available federal and state funding.

Additional resources to help you understand your award offer are available at www.du.edu/financialaid/resources/award