

How Your Financial Aid Offer is Determined

After you have been admitted to UIW and filed your FAFSA, the Office of Financial Assistance will be able to determine what financial aid you are eligible for. Your eligibility depends on your Expected Family Contribution, your year in school, your enrollment status, and the cost of attendance.

What is my Expected Family Contribution?

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is an estimate of how much of your family's financial resources could be available to help pay for your education. It is not intended to represent a dollar amount that your family is required to pay, rather it is a number we use as a benchmark to determine eligibility for need-based aid.

How is my EFC calculated?

Your EFC is determined from the data you provide on your financial aid application. Family income is only one of several factors involved. Other important factors include the number of members in your household, the number of other siblings attending college, and financial assets.

How does this impact my financial aid offer?

Once we know your financial need, we can determine your eligibility for need-based aid. You must have financial need to be eligible for need-based aid. Financial need is calculated by subtracting your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from your Cost of Attendance. *Cost of Attendance - EFC = Financial Need.*

Need-Based Aid:

- **Federal and State Grants:** This type of aid includes the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), and the Texas Equalization Grant (TEG)
- **Work-Study:** You must demonstrate financial need to be considered for work-study.
- **Subsidized Loan:** If you still have financial need after the other types of need-based aid have been added to your financial aid offer, you will be offered the Subsidized Loan for up to \$3,500.

Non-Need-Based Aid

- **Unsubsidized Loan:** Unsubsidized loans are available to students regardless of financial need.
- **Parent PLUS Loan:** The Parent PLUS Loan is a credit-based loan that does not require financial need.

Other Aid Awards

- **Academic Scholarship:** First-time freshman students are automatically considered for academic scholarships as part of their UIW application. These scholarships are awarded based on a combination of GPA and SAT/ACT scores. UIW will use the highest test score to determine scholarships, so students who have tested multiple times should submit all scores to receive the highest possible scholarship.
- **Catholic High School Scholarship:** UIW offers an additional \$2,000 per year scholarship for any student graduating from a Catholic high school. There is not a separate application for this award. Accepted students from Catholic high schools will automatically receive the scholarship.
- **Outside Scholarships:** Scholarships are typically awarded based on academic excellence, performance in a specific activity, athletic performance or other criteria established by donors. Donors may or may not require financial need determined by the FAFSA. Outside scholarships are awarded by private foundations, philanthropists, unions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations.