

Financial Aid Office

The Financial Aid Process

The financial aid process involves a series of steps. Following these directions and completing each step correctly will minimize errors and prevent delays.

Step 1: The Application Process

- **Begin application process as soon as it is available January 1st.**
- **Get a PIN!** – The Department of Education PIN (Personal Identification Number) serves as the electronic signature on the FAFSA and other federal aid documents for students and parents.
- **Gather your information** – You will need personal information such as your Social Security Number, driver's license number, your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. citizen, and Federal tax information or tax returns, including W-2 information to complete your FAFSA. Dependent students will also need this information for their parents.
- **Submit your application!** – Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and complete your FREE Application for Federal Student Aid.
 - **In the Dependency Status Worksheet section**, there is a question that reads, "At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?" **Answer "Yes"** if you were in foster care at any time since you turned 13, even if you are no longer in foster care as of today.

Step 2: Determining Financial Aid Eligibility & Need

A student is eligible for financial aid if he or she:

- Is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Is not in default on a federal student loan or has made satisfactory repayment arrangements
- Does not owe on a federal student grant or has made satisfactory repayment arrangements
- Comply with Selective Service registration, if required
- Has a valid Social Security Number
- Is enrolled at College of the Canyons in a certificate, AA/AS degree or transfer program
- In order to continue to receive financial aid, all students must:
 - ✓ Maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average = "C" grades or better
 - ✓ Complete at least 67% of ALL units you attempt. Students must pass with "C" grades or better (9 units of 12 units). "W" grades and "FW" grades count as an attempt. Please see a counselor before dropping classes.
 - ✓ Finish your educational objective before you complete 90 units coursework.

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Financial Need: If you meet all of the eligibility criteria, the Financial Aid Office will calculate how much financial aid you are eligible to receive. This formula subtracts the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** from the estimated educational costs, called the **Cost of Attendance**. The dollar amount remaining is *your* financial need.

Your need will be funded with various federal and state programs, plus any other resources for which you are eligible.

Sample Budget Per Year

Student Living with Guardian

Registration Fees (all students)	\$606.00
Room and Board	\$4,644.00
Books and Supplies	\$1,638.00
Transportation	\$882.00
Personal Expenses	\$2,772.00

Total	\$10,542.00

*Note: Out-of-state students are charged additional fees of \$166.00 per unit

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Cost of Attendance} - \\ & \underline{\text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)}} \\ & = \text{Financial Need} \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Award Notification Process

When students accurately file their FAFSA and submit all required documents, they will be notified of their financial aid eligibility online at www.canyons.edu.

Click on "My Canyons" to review your Financial Aid Award Letter.