What do we mean by that?
A UVA financial aid glossary

**Cost of Attendance (COA):** an estimate of the cost of education, which includes tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation costs

**CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE:** an application to apply for and determine eligibility for Virginia state grants and institutional aid, only completed by undergraduate students

**Demonstrated financial need:** the difference between the cost of attendance and the calculated expected family contribution

**Dependent student:** a student who cannot answer yes to one of the thirteen dependency questions on the FAFSA and generally, would be required to report parent data to apply for financial aid

**Federal aid:** awards funded by the federal government; Federal Pell grant, Direct Subsidized loan, Direct Unsubsidized loan and Direct PLUS loan

**Federal eligibility:** the amount of federal aid for which a student qualifies as determined by the federal EFC

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** an application to apply for and determine eligibility for federal aid

**Entering student:** student who is applying for admission to UVA and has not previously attended a post-secondary institution as a degree-seeking student

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** a measure of the financial strength of a student’s family used to determine demonstrated financial need; calculated according to a formula established by law in order to determine eligibility for federal aid and for undergraduate students, calculated according to an institutional formula to determine eligibility for institutional aid

**Independent student:** a student who can answer yes to one of the thirteen dependency questions on the FAFSA and generally, would not be required to report parent data to apply for financial aid

**Institutional aid:** awards provided by Student Financial Services; includes but is not limited to: Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Access UVA grants and scholarships
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**Institutional eligibility:** the amount of institutional aid for which a student qualifies as determined by the institutional EFC

**Late applicant:** student who did not submit the required information before the application deadline and is no longer eligible for state and institutional aid

**Need-based aid:** awards for which a student must demonstrate financial need in order to qualify; total amount of need-based awards may not exceed demonstrated financial need

**Non need-based aid:** awards for which a student is not required to demonstrate financial need in order to qualify (for example, Direct Unsubsidized loan)

**Official award:** the financial aid award provided after the review of submitted application materials, generally available beginning in June; subject to change if information is received by SFS or if there are changes to the student’s record

**Preliminary award:** an estimated financial aid award provided to entering and fall transfer students prior to the admission commitment date in the spring

**Returning student:** students who have attended UVA previously

**State aid:** awards funded by a state government; includes but is not limited to: Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) and Commonwealth Award

**Transfer student:** student who is applying for admission to UVA and has attended another post-secondary institution as a degree-seeking student

**University Financial Aid Application (UFAA):** an application to apply for and determine graduate financial aid

**Verification:** a federally mandated process to confirm the accuracy of information reported on the FAFSA or other submitted documents; for more information about verification, click here.

**100% of demonstrated financial need:** an awarding philosophy that provides need-based aid up to the amount of demonstrated financial need as determined by the institutional formula for calculating the EFC