

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