

Financial Aid 101 at UNC Wilmington – 2020/2021

- October 1
- Complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov using 2018 Data Retrieval Tool ([DRT](#)), [if eligible](#). Submit **ONLY ONCE**. If you were not eligible for the data retrieval tool, request an [electronic tax return transcript](#) at www.irs.gov. Save in the event you are selected for verification in December/January. Aid is awarded in the order students apply and are ready to be packaged for aid until all funds are exhausted.
- December 1
- Apply for [University Scholarships](http://tinyurl.com/UNCWScholarshipApplication) (<http://tinyurl.com/UNCWScholarshipApplication>).
- January 1
- Monitor UNCW email address regularly for verification notifications and respond immediately because funds are packaged first come first serve until exhausted.
 - FAFSA filing priority deadline for in-state (Need-based Grant & Lottery) & institutional financial aid.
 - ***We strongly encourage FAFSA completion on October 1 as some institutional grant funds could be exhausted prior to January.***
- March 1
- University Scholarship application deadline.
 - [Summer 2020 Financial Aid Application](http://www.uncw.edu/finaid) (www.uncw.edu/finaid) launches and requires 2019/20 FAFSA.
- April 1
- Monitor UNCW email address for award notification or for request of additional verification items (returning students with completed applications will be awarded on or after May 15, once grades are in and [SAP](#) is reviewed).

All new UNCW students (first year at UNCW & transfers) will be required to:

- **Accept or decline your federal student loan(s)** and answer Title IV questions accordingly on [SeaNet](#)
- **Complete Entrance Counseling and sign the Loan Agreement/Master Promissory Note** at www.studentloans.gov for any federal student loans that are accepted. Transfer students who have received federal direct loans at other institutions will need to complete exit counseling for previous institutions, also. *Items in this bullet can be completed in any order.*

Other Important Information:

- **Merit awards** are very limited at UNCW. Selection, based on your admissions application, and notification (via email) is done by Admissions typically by the end of January. A few additional offers are made by OSFA to students who have completed the scholarship application. These decisions are made by April 1.
- Additional **scholarship resources** are available at <http://www.uncw.edu/finaid/scholarships.html>
- If you are **selected for verification**, please submit all of the requested items immediately and ensure all forms are complete in order to avoid delays in receiving your financial aid award. If forms are incomplete (questions left blank, unsigned/dated, etc.) or if the information on the forms conflicts with what you submitted on the FAFSA, this will delay processing of your financial aid award.
- When you complete your FAFSA, be sure to indicate the appropriate degree/certificate program you're planning to complete and the accurate year in college you'll be beginning the next academic year. These answers impact the type, if any, and amount of aid you may be awarded.
- There is a **significant increase** in calls, emails, & visits during the months of July & August. Therefore, we **cannot guarantee that awards will be processed before bills are generated or due in July** if you apply for aid or if verification items are submitted **after June 30**. This could mean that you will have to remit payment in full by the due date for the balance owed on your bill or risk having your classes dropped due to non-payment.
- Grant account access to parents, guardians, etc. via **SeaNet Proxy**: <http://uncw.edu/reg/students-assignProxy.html>
- For **Federal Parent PLUS loans**, parents MUST apply at www.studentloans.gov and complete the electronic Master Promissory Note/Loan Agreement. This is a credit-based loan and there is no guarantee of approval.
 - If the parent is denied the loan and chooses not to secure a co-signer/endorser, the student can receive additional student loan funds (\$4K for Fr/So & \$5K Jr/Sr) by accepting the additional loan on SeaNet.
- Visit <https://uncw.edu/finaid/financing.html> for more information on college costs, money management, and financing a UNCW education.