

Financial Aid Packaging Policy 2020-2021

Packaging Defined: Packaging refers to the process of determining the type and amount of financial assistance the student is eligible to receive from one or more sources. It is truly a process as the Financial Aid Office does not determine eligibility for all aid but instead is notified of awards from the state, private donors, etc. and is responsible for coordinating all assistance received by a student.

The Office of Student Financial Aid packages financial aid for students in accordance with established federal, state and institutional guidelines. The following information is a general road map for this purpose. Individual circumstances and limited funding may warrant deviation from the packaging philosophy although staff must adhere to federal and state regulations. Initial awards made prior to the start of the award year assume full time enrollment. The academic year is fall, spring, summer, with summer considered a trailer.

A financial aid package is updated/revised when additional funding is received after the initial package is determined or when additional information is received that affects the initial calculation (income, assets, household size, grade level, enrollment, etc.)

Typical Order of Notification:

1. Institutional Financial Aid Resources
[Selection criteria is based on established institutional policies.](#)
2. Pell Grant
Eligibility is based on established federal formula.
3. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
Selection criteria is based on Pell Grant eligibility, application date, other scholarship/grant resources, unmet need and availability of funds.
4. Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
Eligibility is based on established federal formula
5. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
Eligibility is based on established federal formula
6. Federal Direct Loan for Graduate Students
Eligibility is based on established federal formula
7. State Financial Aid Resources
UCA receives notification of student eligibility by various state agencies such as the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), Vocational Rehabilitation, etc. beginning in late summer.
8. Private Financial Aid Resources
UCA typically begins receiving private scholarship checks during the summer prior to the start of the Fall term and continues throughout the year.

Note:

- [Federal Work Study](#) is not calculated and packaged up front as jobs on campus are limited and not guaranteed.
- Federal Parent PLUS loans are not packaged up front as the parent must make separate application on the federal government's portal studentaid.gov and pass a credit check.