

Federal Packaging Philosophy and Policy as of May 5, 2023

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 always considered a trailer.

A student federal financial aid package is built in the order below. As always, other resources (state, private, institutional) are not always known at the time federal aid is packaged. If additional resources are received after the student is packaged federal aid, federal aid state over-award and stacking rules apply.

1. State Financial Aid Resources (ADHE)

- First time entering freshmen who are AR Residents, with a 19 or higher ACT Super Score will have Arkansas Academic Challenge estimated at the time of admission or as soon as possible.
- For continuing students, ADHE funds are estimated/posted when rosters are received from ADHE.

2. Federal Pell Grant

3. Private Financial Aid Resources (including Contracts)

Funds are assumed to be awarded for the academic year in which they are received unless otherwise noted by the donor. However, if funds are received in the fall indicating they are for the fall an estimate will be made for the same amount for the spring, unless the student is graduating in the fall.

4. Institutional Financial Aid Resources (including Contracts)

- Academic Scholarships
- Departmental Scholarships
- Athletic Scholarships
- Other participatory scholarships (theatre, band, choir)
- UCA Foundation Scholarships

5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) up to \$1,000 per academic year Undergraduate, Pell eligible students w/o bachelor's degree & lowest family contribution (zero) based on funds available and date of application

- Funds are evenly split between fall and spring
- A percentage of the authorization is set aside although adjustments may be made due to enrollment.
 - fall starts = 90%
 - spring starts = 5%
 - summer starts = 5%

6. Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (DSUB)

7. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (UNSUB)

8. Federal Work Study (FWS)

- \$3,000 per academic year unless eligibility or amount requested is less

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9. Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- The PLUS loan will not be automatically packaged
- Information regarding the PLUS loan as an option will be made available on the UCA FAO website and will be noted in the FA eligibility notice and in the FA Guide.

10. Federal Direct Loan for Graduate Students (GPLUS)

Loan Eligibility Chart

Dependent Student					
Grade Level	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Total	PLUS	GRAD PLUS
Freshman	3,500	2,000	5,500	Up to COA	NA
Sophomore	4,500	2,000	6,500	Up to COA	NA
Junior	5,500	2,000	7,500	Up to COA	NA
Senior	5,500	2,000	7,500	Up to COA	NA
Independent Student					
Freshman	3,500	6,000	9,500	Up to COA	NA
Sophomore	4,500	6,000	10,500	Up to COA	NA
Junior	5,500	7,000	12,500	Up to COA	NA
Senior	5,500	7,000	12,500	Up to COA	NA
Graduate Student	NA	20,500	20,500	NA	Up to COA

“Uneven costs/unequal disbursements

If the student incurs uneven costs or receives uneven resources during the year and needs extra funds in a particular payment period, you may make unequal disbursements of FSEOG. There is no explicit provision for unequal disbursements in FWS. However, because FWS wages are disbursed as work is performed, usually on a weekly or biweekly schedule, total disbursement amounts are likely to be different from one payment period to the next.

Regarding Over-awards: A student isn't considered over-awarded if at the end of the academic year for the periods/terms in which the student was enrolled with the correct cost of attendance there is no over-award. Meaning, generally speaking the student should be awarded so that their COA, EFC and aid awarded do not create an over-award in any term in which the student is enrolled, a student is not considered over-awarded if at the end of the academic year considering all terms in which the student was enrolled, the student was not over-awarded in aggregate.