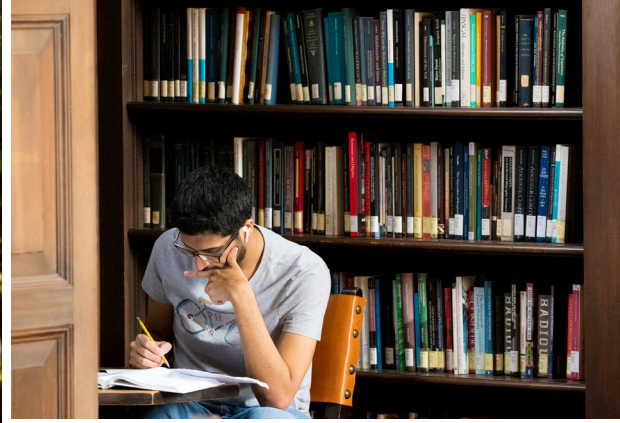


Investing in Graduate Education



2024-2025



Financial Aid at USC

Graduate and professional students at USC have a variety of financial aid and financing options available to them. In many cases, these options can cover your cost of attendance. This brochure will introduce you to these programs, their eligibility requirements and how to apply for them. We encourage you to visit financialaid.usc.edu for more information.

MASTER'S PROGRAM ESTIMATED COSTS

Figures are based on tuition rates for 2023-2024.

	Full-Time <i>(Taking 8 to 14 units* per semester)</i>	Flat Rate <i>(Taking 15 to 18 units per semester)</i>
Tuition*	\$44,880	\$66,640
Mandatory Fees	\$3,039	\$3,039
Housing	\$12,600	\$12,600
Food	\$7,290	\$7,290
Books and Supplies	\$900	\$1,200
Personal and Miscellaneous	\$2,620	\$2,620
Transportation	\$2,764	\$2,764
TOTAL**	\$74,093	\$96,153

Calculating Your Cost of Attendance

USC uses an estimated cost of attendance to determine your financial aid eligibility. We include amounts for tuition and mandatory fees based on your enrollment plans and any Direct Loan fees you may pay, as well as average amounts for standard educational expenses such as housing and food, books, supplies and other living expenses.

Housing and dining amounts are based on the assumption that students will not maintain the same standard of living they did while employed. This may mean cutting expenses by living with roommates, preparing more meals at home or making other lifestyle adjustments.

Keep in mind that your actual costs may differ. Estimated budgets for students in some programs may be higher or lower due to longer or shorter enrollment periods, special laboratory or studio supply fees, or other additional costs

incurred by all students in the program. Estimated costs of attendance for master's and doctoral students, and program-specific costs are available at financialaid.usc.edu/graduates/COA.

Tuition and mandatory fees are billed to your student account each semester. Housing and dining/meal plan may be billed to your account if you are living in university housing.

Non-tuition living expenses are estimates only. Before you borrow any loans to cover these costs, we strongly encourage you to review your expenses and determine your monthly budget.

*The estimated full-time tuition amount is calculated based on 10 units of study. If you take more than 10 units and would like to request an increase to your estimated cost of attendance, visit financialaid.usc.edu/grad-special-circumstances.

**Add \$55 USC New Student Fee for the first semester.

Who Can Apply For and Receive Federal Financial Aid?

To apply for federal financial aid, all applicants to USC’s graduate programs must:

- Be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens;
- Possess a valid Social Security number;
- Not be in default on a federal student loan;
- Be admitted to a degree-granting program of study or an eligible certificate program;
- Be enrolled in a minimum of 4 units per semester in a master’s degree program or 3 units in a doctoral program, or be enrolled in a course considered full-time by the registrar (thesis/dissertation); and
- Make satisfactory academic progress toward completion of their degree.

Although international students are not eligible to receive federal financial aid, they may be awarded merit scholarships and/or departmental fellowships or assistantships. International students may also be able to borrow through a private financing program with a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Please visit financialaid.usc.edu/international for more information.

What Types of Financial Aid Will I Be Eligible to Receive?

The USC Financial Aid Office will determine your financial need and post your Financial Aid Summary, which will consist mostly of federal loans. Scholarships, fellowships and other sources of aid are awarded primarily by individual academic departments. Check with your department for more information.

Loans

As you search for loans, always start with federal loans, as they will typically offer the best interest rates and repayment options.

Determine How Much to Borrow

Your eligibility for loans is based on your full cost of attendance. However, you should not borrow the full amount for which you are eligible if you are meeting some of your costs through income from work or other resources. The use of federal aid is restricted to valid educational costs only, and you may be required to sign a statement verifying your use of loan funds

Federal Direct Loans

Graduate students may be eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Graduate PLUS Loans. Each May, the federal government sets the



interest rate for Federal Direct Loans disbursed for the upcoming academic year. Once set, the interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Borrow up to a maximum of \$20,500 per academic year regardless of financial need. (Certain health professions may be eligible for a higher amount.)
- Interest accrues from the date of disbursement.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

- Credit-based. Bankruptcy, previous loan defaults or other serious delinquencies can disqualify potential borrowers. However, you can apply with an endorser (co-signer) who meets the criteria.
- Repayment may be deferred until six months after graduation. Interest accrues from the date of disbursement.

Please visit studentaid.gov or financialaid.usc.edu/loans for more information. Refer to the Federal Loan Repayment Options section for information about possible repayment options and other borrower benefits once you graduate.

Loan Advisory

- Borrow only what you need. You are not required to borrow the full amount for which

you are eligible. Once a student has reached aggregate maximum limits for federal direct loans, USC may refuse to originate federal loans or reduce eligibility for federal loans on a case-by-case basis.

- Investigate other sources of financial aid that do not need to be repaid, such as scholarships and outside grants.
- To reduce your total debt, try to make some interest payments on any loans while you are still in school or during your grace period.
- Tell the U.S. Department of Education or your lender/servicer if your name or address changes, or if you withdraw from USC, graduate or drop to less than half-time status.

Other Sources of Funding

Other sources of funding, including scholarships, assistantships and Federal Work-Study, can help cover your tuition or living expenses and do not have to be repaid once you graduate.

Grants

Cal Grant Teaching Credential Program and Golden State Teacher Grant Program

Graduate students who received a Cal Grant as an undergraduate may be eligible to receive an additional year of Cal Grant funding if they enroll in a teaching credential program (TCP).

Loan	Interest Rate: <small>Loans disbursed before 6/30/2024.</small>	Origination Fee: <small>Fee effective between 10/1/2020 and 10/1/2024.</small>
Unsubsidized Loans	7.05%	1.057%
Graduate PLUS Loans	8.05%	4.228%



Visit the California Student Aid Commission website for more information: csac.ca.gov/post/request-cal-grant-teaching-credential-program-benefits.

The Golden State Teacher Grant Program awards up to \$20,000 to students currently enrolled in a professional preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and working towards earning their preliminary teaching or pupil personnel services credential. Visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/california-golden-state-teacher-grant-gstg-program> for more information.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Scholarships

Source: USC academic units or outside agencies

These monetary awards can be used to cover tuition and fees and/or basic living expenses (depending on the stipulations outlined by the granting agency). No repayment is necessary.

Fellowships

Source: Academic departments or outside agencies

Academic departments may offer additional funding in the form of stipends and/or tuition remission. No repayment is necessary.

Students are encouraged to visit the Graduate School website or their academic department's website for information about scholarships and fellowships.

Work

Graduate and Teaching Assistantships

Source: Academic departments

Students receive stipends, tuition remission, and health and dental insurance to work as teaching assistants or research assistants.

No repayment is necessary. Check with your department for more information about available positions.

Federal Work-Study

Source: Eligibility determined by Financial Aid Office

Students are paid for hours worked, up to a pre-determined limit. Students must apply for federal financial aid and meet deadline and eligibility requirements.

Federal Work-Study is not available for students participating in online or distance-learning degree programs based off campus.

Other Student Employment

Students may also work on campus in departments that offer non-work-study positions. However, some departments strongly recommend their students not work while they are in school. Check with your department for more information.

Private Employers

Many companies offer tuition assistance to employees pursuing advanced degrees in their current fields. Check with your company's human resources department for more information.

Family/Student Savings

Source: Savings plans or bank accounts

Private Financing Programs*

Source: Various banks and lending institutions

Private loans must be repaid with interest. Rates are variable and based on the borrower's and/or co-borrower's credit scores. Terms may not be as favorable as those for federal loans. Private student loans:

- May not be included in Direct Consolidation Loans.
- Are not eligible for Federal Income-Based Repayment Plans.
- Are not eligible for Federal Economic Hardship Deferments.

Visit financialaid.usc.edu/loans for application instructions and a list of private financing lenders.

**Please note: Federal student loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including but not limited to Income-Based Repayment and Income-Contingent Repayment plans, as well as loan forgiveness benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide. Direct Loans are available to students regardless of income.*

Managing Your Expenses

USC Tuition Payment Plan

The Tuition Payment Plan enables students to pay for fall or spring tuition, fees, university housing and other student expenses in five monthly installments. Please visit the Student Financial Services website at sfs.usc.edu for more information.

USC Tuition Prepayment Plan

The plan allows you to prepay up to five years of full-time tuition (two-year minimum) and mandatory fees at the current rates. Prepaid amounts are not subject to future tuition and fee increases. Graduate student eligibility may be limited. For more information, please visit sfs.usc.edu, click on "Payment Options" and then on "prepayments."

Applying for Financial Aid at USC

Find Out How Much You Owe

Before applying for financial aid, you should review your current student loan debt and determine what you are able and/or willing to borrow for graduate studies.

For a complete record of all federal loans you have borrowed and amounts still owed, visit studentaid.gov. You will need the Federal Student Aid I.D. (FSA ID) you created when you submitted your FAFSA.

If you wish to be considered for federal financial aid, USC requires the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Financial Aid Supplement. Students must meet all published deadlines and eligibility requirements to be considered for all forms of aid.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Complete the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at studentaid.gov.

- USC's Federal School Code is 001328.
- The FAFSA is available beginning in December 2023. Submit by **May 3, 2024**, for priority consideration.

Financial Aid Supplement

To complete the Financial Aid Supplement online, log in to your Financial Aid Summary and Tasks (FAST) page at financialaid.usc.edu. You will find the Financial Aid Supplement in the Document Library.

- Submit by **May 3, 2024**, for priority consideration.

Understanding Your Financial Aid Summary

Your USC Financial Aid Summary will be available online at you.usc.edu and will include any loans, scholarships, Federal Work-Study and/or specific departmental awards for which you are eligible. Take the time to review your summary and decide which types of aid best fit your educational goals and budget.

- Note how much of your summary is made up of loans versus scholarships and other awards that do not have to be repaid after graduation.
- Note if scholarships may be renewed for future years, and if there are any special requirements for the continuation of the award.
- Follow any additional steps necessary to apply for and receive your loans. Please visit financialaid.usc.edu/loans for more information.

Federal Loan Repayment Options

Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program

After you complete your graduate studies, this program enables you to combine any or all of your eligible outstanding federal student loans

into one new loan with one monthly payment. The new loan will have a fixed interest rate set at the weighted average of the interest rates of the underlying loans. It may have an extended repayment period of up to 30 years.

Income-Based Repayment Options

The Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan, the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan, and the new SAVE (Saving on a Valuable Education) Plan allow highly indebted borrowers with limited income to make payments based on their income rather than amounts borrowed. Depending on when you borrowed your first loan, you will be eligible for the IBR or PAYE Plan. Most borrowers of Direct Loans are eligible for the SAVE Plan. Amounts still outstanding after 20 or 25 years of payments are forgiven. Please visit financialaid.usc.edu/loans for more information.

AmeriCorps/Teach for America

This network of local, state and national service programs offers full-time employment with public agencies, community organizations and other groups. Jobs include tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth, managing after-school programs, restoring parks, building affordable housing and improving health services. For more information, visit americorps.gov. Both programs may allow you to postpone payments and subsidize accruing interest.

Teacher Loan Forgiveness

Students who teach full-time after graduation in a qualified low-income elementary or secondary school for five years can have up to \$5,000 of their outstanding federal student loans forgiven. (The money is paid to the loan servicer at the end of your teaching service.) Students who are considered highly qualified teachers of math, science or special education may have up to \$17,500 of their outstanding federal student loans forgiven. Visit studentaid.gov for more information.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

This program forgives some federal student loan debt for borrowers employed at nonprofit organizations or federal, state or tribal

governments, including the military, or who practice medicine in certain communities. Borrowers must make 120 on-time monthly payments on a Direct Unsubsidized, Direct Graduate PLUS or Direct Consolidation Loan while working full-time in a public service job. Payment amounts must be calculated under the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan, the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan, the Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan, or the SAVE Plan. Payment amounts based on your income must be less than the standard repayment for you to benefit. Any remaining debt is cancelled after 10 years of eligible employment and qualifying loan payments. Please visit studentaid.gov to determine if you qualify for loan forgiveness or for more information.

Additional Information

Deferring Graduate School Loans

A deferment is the temporary postponement of payments on your student loan. Your servicer can advise you on your eligibility for a deferment, which may be granted:

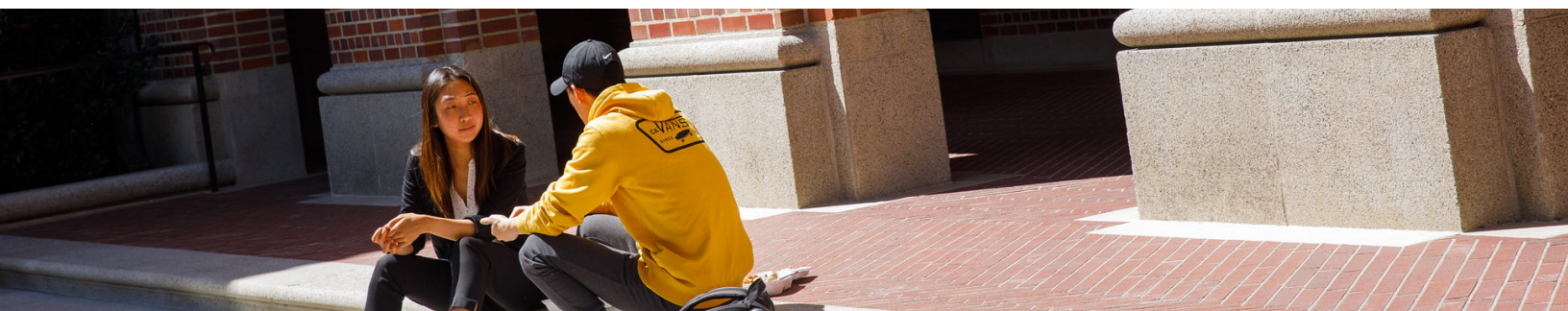
- While you are still enrolled in school at least half-time;
- For the six-month grace period after you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment;
- During periods of economic hardship or unemployment; or
- If you are actively serving in the military during times of war, national emergency or military operation.

Note: Private loans are typically not eligible for deferments.

Financial Literacy

We encourage students to sign up for iGrad, a free online service that can help improve your financial literacy. Use the site to search for scholarships and career information or to track your federal loans. You can also use the site to complete required loan counseling sessions.

usc.igrad.com





Resources

USC Financial Aid
financialaid.usc.edu

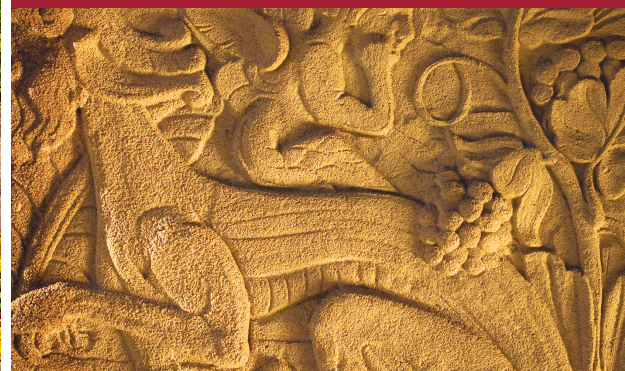
FAFSA Application
FSA ID Federal Student Aid
Direct Loan Information
studentaid.gov

Scholarships
usc.scholarshipuniverse.com
usc.igrad.com
cappex.com
college-scholarships.com
fastweb.com
myredkite.com
scholarships.com

Public Service Loan Forgiveness
studentaid.gov/pslf

Income-Driven Repayment
studentaid.gov/idr

Financial Literacy and Money Management Tool
usc.igrad.com





University of Southern California

Financial Aid Office

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0914

(213) 740-4444

financialaid.usc.edu



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For questions about compliance with the notice of non-discrimination, the University has designated a Vice President for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Coordinator, Catherine Spear, who can be reached at eeotix@usc.edu, (213) 740-5086, USC Credit Union Building, 3720 South Flower Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, California 90089-0704. For disability-related questions, the University has also designated an ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Christine Street, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs -Institutional Accessibility and ADA Compliance, who can be reached at streetc@usc.edu, (213) 821-4658, 3601 Trousdale Parkway, Bldg. #89, Los Angeles, California 90089.