



10 Financial Aid Tips

<p># 1</p>	<p>Use our website www.csuchico.edu/fa and CatBot to get your questions answered 24/7!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Award Guide ✓ Steps to Financial Aid ✓ Costs and Budgeting ✓ Types of Aid ✓ Enrollment & Eligibility ✓ Scholarships 			
<p># 2</p>	<p>Have questions? Go to the correct office in the Student Services Center (SSC) for help.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 33%;"> <p>Financial Aid & Scholarships</p> <p>Student Service Center 250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA/CADAA help • Eligibility for aid • Grants/loans/scholarships • Financial aid offers • Advisor appointments • Appeals </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 33%;"> <p>Student Financial Services</p> <p>Student Service Center 230</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay charges, tuition, fees • Payment plans • Receive funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e-Refund ○ By mail • Pick up short-term loans </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 33%;"> <p>Career Center</p> <p>Student Service Center 270</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handshake login – the #1 way for students to find jobs • Locate on-campus job if you have work-study • Locate non-work-study and off-campus student jobs </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Financial Aid & Scholarships</p> <p>Student Service Center 250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA/CADAA help • Eligibility for aid • Grants/loans/scholarships • Financial aid offers • Advisor appointments • Appeals 	<p>Student Financial Services</p> <p>Student Service Center 230</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay charges, tuition, fees • Payment plans • Receive funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e-Refund ○ By mail • Pick up short-term loans 	<p>Career Center</p> <p>Student Service Center 270</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handshake login – the #1 way for students to find jobs • Locate on-campus job if you have work-study • Locate non-work-study and off-campus student jobs
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<p># 3</p>	<p>If you want, submit an electronic Authorization to Release Information form by going to the “Student Records” section of your Student Center and selecting “Authorization to Release”.</p>			
<p># 4</p>	<p>Sign up for e-Refund (direct deposit) through your Student Center under the “Financials” section.</p>			
<p># 5</p>	<p>Use your Student Center for important information at Chico State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View your financial aid and charges, located under the “Financials” section. ○ Check your To-Do list and holds. Follow the instructions. ○ If assigned on your To-Do list, create a financial aid account: http://csuchico.studentforms.com ○ Accept/reduce/decline your financial aid in order to receive your funds. ○ Review charges and pay the balance by the deadlines. <p>You are required to pay the difference between all University charges and <i>pending</i> financial aid. If borrowing a loan, you must it for it to be “pending”. University charges may include tuition and campus fees, on-campus housing and meal plan. View your pending aid through your Student Center under the Financials section. Also see www.csuchico.edu/fa/award-info/pay-charges.shtml</p>			
<p># 6</p>	<p>Educate yourself about loans and only borrow what you need!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Know the difference: Financial aid includes loans and grants. Loans have to be repaid. Grants are free aid, and are determined by your SAI (Student Aid Index calculated from FAFSA or CADAA). ✓ If you are accepting loans as part of your financial aid package, you must complete both Loan Entrance Counseling and the Master Promissory Note. See your To-Do list in the Student Center. ✓ Watch loan video: www.csuchico.edu/fa/fatv-videos/loans-and-responsible-borrowing.shtml 			
<p># 7</p>	<p>Learn about Scholarships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Wildcat Scholarships. Chico State gives out \$1.6 million in scholarships each year. The online application is available January 2 through February 15 for the 2026-27 academic year. www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/wildcat.shtml • Apply for external (private) scholarships through community organizations, local and national foundations, state and federal agencies, fraternal organizations and private donors. If you receive an external scholarship check, take it to Student Financial Services, Student Services Center 230. 			
<p># 8</p>	<p>Budget, budget, budget! Use the Financial Wellness Clinic in Glenn 202B for help with budgeting, credit scores, student loan repayment, and other areas of personal finance. Email financialwellness@csuchico.edu or visit www.csuchico.edu/financialwellness/index.shtml</p>			
<p># 9</p>	<p>Communicate with us. Use our customer service windows in Student Services Center 250 or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telephone: 530-898-6451 or email: finaid@csuchico.edu or scholarships@csuchico.edu ○ Call to schedule an appointment with a financial aid advisor. 			
<p># 10</p>	<p>Be involved in your own financial aid education. File the FAFSA or CADAA each year. For 2026-27 the priority deadline is March 2, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Know your rights and responsibilities: www.csuchico.edu/fa/policies/rights.shtml ✓ Understand financial aid terminology: www.csuchico.edu/fa/resources/glossary.shtml 			