



**CHECK AS YOU GO!**

**APPLY TO CHICO STATE**

- New students complete application at Cal State Apply ([www.calstate.edu/apply](http://www.calstate.edu/apply)) for admission to California State University, Chico.

**START THE SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS EARLY**

- An application to Chico State is required for Wildcat scholarships. Apply for Wildcat scholarships starting **January 2**, for the next academic year. The 2026-27 deadline is February 15, 2026. [www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/wildcat.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/wildcat.shtml)
- Apply for **External Scholarships**. Research in the fall and apply as soon as possible for the 2026-27 academic year. [www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/external.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/external.shtml)

**STEPS TO COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**

- Create a FSA ID number ([www.studentaid.gov/fsa-id](http://www.studentaid.gov/fsa-id)) that you will use to complete your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA). Parents of dependent students must also obtain a FSA ID.
- For 2026-27, apply for financial aid by submitting a **FAFSA** at [www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](http://www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) **between October 2025 and March 2, 2026** to be considered for all available funds including Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and State University Grant. FAFSAs continue to be accepted throughout academic year for remaining funds. **Use Chico State's FAFSA School Code 001146.**
- Enter your name exactly as it appears on your Social Security card.
- If you are an eligible non-citizen, you must enter your Permanent Registration Number.
- The Direct Data Exchange (DDX) allows tax information to come directly from the IRS to the Department of Education. Students and parents must approve usage of the DDX to be eligible for federal financial aid. The 2026-27 FAFSA uses 2024 tax information.
- View your FAFSA Submission Summary emailed to you. Verify information and make corrections if necessary.

**YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER**

- A link to your estimated financial aid offer will be sent to your email** if you have submitted a FAFSA and included Chico State's FAFSA School Code (001146). The financial aid you are offered assumes you will be enrolled full-time. Students who attend less than full time may have their aid adjusted. We hope to get financial aid offers out in April.
- View your estimated financial aid offer.** Access the financial aid section of your Student Center to accept, reduce, or decline your loans and work-study (if awarded) **within 45 days**, to avoid cancellation of aid. We suggest that you only borrow the amount you need.
- First year Cal Grant Entitlement participants must submit a confirmation of their high school graduation to the California Student Aid Commission prior to being awarded a Cal Grant. Use **WebGrants 4 Students** (<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>) to submit confirmation.
- Authorization to Release Information:** If you want to permit our office to discuss your confidential financial aid information with specific individuals (e.g., parents, spouse) you must authorize them in your Portal. Log in to Student Center, go to the Student Records section, then click "Authorization to Release".
- Guest User Access:** If you want your parents, guardians or a third party to have access to financial and/or academic information, you can grant Guest User access to them. To add a Guest User, go to "Manage Guests" under Student Records in the Student Center and select user permissions. The next day the Guest User will receive an email with instructions on how to create an account.
- Appeals:** If your income or your parents' income has decreased dramatically compared to 2024 income due to unemployment, disability, or other adverse conditions, you may submit a **Special Circumstances Appeal** for re-evaluation of your financial aid eligibility. See [www.csuchico.edu/fa/appeals/cc-appeals.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/appeals/cc-appeals.shtml). Appeals will be processed in the order received. We recommend that you accept your initial aid offer and plan to cover preliminary costs from your current aid package, employment, and family resources.

**FOLLOW-UP STEPS: VERIFICATION**

- Students may be selected for verification, which is similar to an audit of your FAFSA. Frequently, additional documentation may be required. Check your Student Center and your Financial Aid Account regularly to see what is needed to complete your financial aid file. Pay attention and quickly respond to emails or texts from us requesting additional information.
- Create your Financial Aid Account at <https://csuchico.studentforms.com> if this item is on your To-Do List. All requested items must be uploaded as soon as possible to avoid delay in receiving your aid. If you have any problems uploading documents, call us at 530-898-6451. Priority deadline for your documents is June 15 in order to have any financial aid available to you before the start of school.

**FEE PAYMENT**

- View "What I Owe" under "Financials" in Student Center. Pay your fees by due date ([www.csuchico.edu/sfin](http://www.csuchico.edu/sfin)). Financial aid recipients must pay the difference between all University charges and pending aid. **Loans aren't considered "pending aid" unless you accept them. Remember to only borrow what you need.** For residence hall students, outstanding **University Housing** charges for the semester will be deducted from any financial aid and you must pay any remaining balance.

**ARRANGING TO RECEIVE YOUR MONEY**

- To receive your financial aid directly into your bank account, enroll in “e-Refund” under the “Financials” section of your Student Center.
- If you are a first-time borrower of a **Federal Direct Loan** at Chico State, you must complete the following to receive funds:
  - **Loan Entrance Counseling** <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>
  - **Master Promissory Note** at <https://studentaid.gov/mpn>.
- If your parent is a first-time borrower of a **PLUS Loan** at Chico State, your parent must complete the following to receive funds:
  - **Master Promissory Note** at <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/parentplus/landing> requiring FSA ID # of same parent who applied for loan.
  - Parents receiving a PLUS Loan may apply for direct deposit by completing the Parent Plus Loan Direct Deposit form ([www.csuchico.edu/fin/resources/forms.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fin/resources/forms.shtml)) .
- Complete and return a **Financial Aid Enrollment Update** ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/forms/index.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/forms/index.shtml)) to notify us of **enrollment changes** (e.g., attending fall or spring only, attending another school) so that we can revise or cancel your aid, if appropriate.

**DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

- If your financial aid file is complete, the first possible disbursement of most federal and state aid and scholarships each semester is the Thursday **prior to the first day of classes.** ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/award-info/disbursements.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/award-info/disbursements.shtml))
- “Disbursement”** includes two processes:
  - When your financial aid file is complete, your aid is applied to your Chico State student account to be credited toward your fees and other university charges.
  - Once charges are paid, the Student Financial Services Office (SSC 230) issues a refund to you for any credit balance on your account.
- If you are an **alternative (private) loan borrower**, first possible payment of an alternative loan is the second Thursday of the semester.
- Most aid requires full time enrollment to receive the full amount of financial aid offered.**  
[www.csuchico.edu/fa/eligibility-enrollment/undergrad-eligibility-enrollment.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/eligibility-enrollment/undergrad-eligibility-enrollment.shtml)
- Wildcat Scholarships** and **Presidential Scholarships** require full-time enrollment.
- Recipients of **external (outside) scholarships** must do the following in order to receive their scholarship funds:
  - Ask the organization awarding your funds to mail the check to Chico State, Student Financial Services - 0242, 940 W 1st Street, Chico, CA 95929. If they send it to you, please mail it or submit it to Student Financial Services immediately in SSC 230.
  - The check will be entered into your financial aid award. Check your email for notification of a change to your award.
  - Once entered into your award, the scholarship is considered pending aid. See [www.csuchico.edu/fa/resources/faq.shtml#uni](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/resources/faq.shtml#uni).
  - External scholarships may take up to three weeks to process once the check is received.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO AID THE PROCESS**

- Use your **Chico ID** to enter the Chico State portal (<https://portal.csuchico.edu/>) and to view your **Student Center** for personalized information. Always use your **Chico ID** when contacting us or another Chico State office.
- Once you have a Chico State email**, it is the University’s **official means of communication** and our communications will be sent to this email. As soon as you receive an email account, begin checking it regularly.
- The **Financial Aid & Scholarship Office website** ([www.csuchico.edu/fa](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa)) has important information regarding **Steps to Financial Aid** and other important financial aid information. CatBot can answer general questions 24/7.
- Follow us on Instagram (ChicoStateFinaid), TikTok (chicostate.finaid) or Facebook (ChicoStateFASO) for info and upcoming deadlines pertaining to financial aid.
- For individual and timely assistance visit our lobby in the Student Services Center room 250, call us at 530-898-6451, or email your specific questions to [finaid@csuchico.edu](mailto:finaid@csuchico.edu). Appointments with Financial Aid advisors are also available upon request.

**Policies that may affect your financial aid**

- Please be familiar with financial aid **Policies and Conditions** ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/policies/index.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/policies/index.shtml)) to know your rights as well as the regulations required to administer financial aid. See our Award Guide available in January 2026. ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/assets/documents/award-guide27a.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/assets/documents/award-guide27a.pdf))
- All students are offered a financial aid package based on full time enrollment. **If you are enrolled part-time, your award will be revised by our office to match your enrollment.** Please read about **University Census** ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/eligibility-enrollment/census.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/eligibility-enrollment/census.shtml)) to understand how financial aid disbursements may be adjusted based on number of units enrolled.
- You must maintain satisfactory academic progress in order to maintain your eligibility for financial aid.** Please read and understand the **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** policy ([www.csuchico.edu/fa/policies/satisfactory-progress.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/policies/satisfactory-progress.shtml)).

**Summer Financial Aid**

- Students who enroll in summer courses and have completed a FAFSA or CADAA will automatically be evaluated for financial aid. Funds are limited so enroll in summer classes early.