

A Guide to Financial Aid for Graduate Students

Whilst the stipend provided to our students is comparable to peer institutions, accounting for cost-of-living differences, we acknowledge that inflation, particularly with respect to housing, has significantly increased expenses, such that students may need additional financial support. Historically, the Office of Financial aid, largely focused on medical students and those paying for their education. Indeed, prior to last year (2023) your stipend was taken into account in financial aid calculations, effectively making most graduate students ineligible. However, a change in the regulations means that you may now be eligible for financial aid. In addition, ORE leadership met with the Office of Financial aid to make them aware of the unique needs and circumstances of our Programs Graduate students in order to facilitate the application process for ORE students

The Office of Financial Aid provides advice to students regarding student loans. Their contact information is below:

CU Anschutz Financial Aid: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid>

Advising Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 303.724.8039

Zoom: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/94641818363>

Office location: Education 2 North, 3rd Floor, Student Services Suite

We encourage you to reach out to them to discuss your options with respect to student loans. They can also provide advice on managing or consolidating existing debt or direct you to appropriate, recommended financial management and budgeting resources.

When interacting with Financial Aid, please identify yourself as a “**PhD student receiving a stipend**” and inform them that your **tuition is paid** by your Department or Division.

There are a number of loan options both federal and private which are detailed on the Financial Aid website: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid/types>

Federal Loans typically offer benefits and interest rates more favorable than those in the private sector. Federal Loan rates adjust each July and are listed here: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>

Payments on federal loans can be deferred whilst you are enrolled as a student, **but interest will continue to accrue.**

The process begins with completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
Our School Code is 004508.

Note that applications to Financial Aid require **at least 3-4 weeks to process**

Am I eligible for financial aid?

To qualify, students:

- Must be enrolled at least [half-time](#) in an eligible undergraduate, graduate or professional degree or certificate program
- Cannot be in [default](#) on any federal student loan or owe a refund on a federal student grant
- Must have a valid social security number
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (see [studentaid.gov's Basic Eligibility Criteria](#))
- Must meet the CU Anschutz [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) standards](#)
- Must not have drug-related offenses

The amount of aid is based on the cost of attendance estimate, which is determined by the State of Colorado: Currently \$34,242.

Eligible PhD students will be offered Federal Loans up to the cost of attendance, minus the amount of their departmental payment for tuition, fees, and health insurance.

What that means in practice is that, as an eligible Graduate Student, the **maximum** unsubsidized Federal Loan amount is currently **\$20,500 per year**, with a **lifetime maximum** of **\$138,500**. This may be a factor if you have preexisting federal loans from your undergraduate or other degree.

Graduate students may also be eligible to receive a Graduate PLUS loan up to the cost of attendance.

More information on student loan types is available at <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid/types>

If you have unusual expenses that exceed those of a typical student, such as high medical or dental costs, required equipment purchases for a specific class, or disability-related expenses, not covered by other programs, you may appeal for an increase in your loans, beyond the \$20,500 annual limit.

Note that dependents and related expenses are not factored into loan eligibility or amount.

These are general guidelines, and each situation is unique, if you are considering taking out loans to offset your living expenses, please reach out to the Office of Financial Aid to speak to an Advisor about your particular circumstances.