

## Welcome, New Highlander!

### 1. Applying for Aid

Whether or not you think you'll qualify for need-based financial aid, we recommend that every entering new student apply — it's the only way you'll be considered for every type of aid possible. The first step in the process of receiving financial aid is determining which application you should use: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA). [Visit our website](#) to determine which one you should submit.

### 3. Cost of Attendance

The financial aid that you may qualify for will be used to cover your Cost of Attendance (COA). The COA is an estimate of how much it will cost to attend one year at UCR. It is based on whether you plan on living on campus, off campus, or at home. [Visit our website](#) to see this year's COA.

### 5. Submitting Documents

If you decide to commit to the University, then the Financial Aid Office will work on creating an official financial aid offer for you. At times, students may be requested to [submit additional documents](#) and/or information before providing an Official Financial Aid Offer. You will be emailed if you need to provide additional information. Please check your email regularly.

### 2. Types of Aid

Financial Aid comes from various sources such as the federal government, state government, the University, and outside agencies. When you submit your financial aid application, UCR will put together a financial aid offer for you combining all sources of aid that you're eligible to receive.

### 4. Financial Aid Offer

As an entering new student, you will receive a Preliminary Financial Aid Offer. This is an estimate of the financial aid that you are eligible for if you decide to attend UCR. Students can expect to receive an email when the offer is ready for review. For the 2024-25 academic year, the offer is expected to be ready starting mid-April.

### 6. Next Steps

After receiving your official financial aid offer, you can decide which aid you are willing to accept. In order for your aid to be [ready to disburse](#) to your student account, you may need to complete other documents. The Student Business Services Office will bill students by mid-August and students must pay that bill by the fee payment deadline in mid-September. Visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for more important dates and deadlines.

If your financial situation is no longer accurately reflected on your financial aid application, [review this page](#).