

Dollars and Sense

This time of year students and parents can get anxious about the Fall bill and financial aid process. This anxiety is understandable because financial aid can be a complicated process. We strongly encourage you to visit our webpage at <https://www.csum.edu/web/financial-aid/home> for detailed information on the aid process. Below are tips to help families navigate the aid process and locate resources to help pay for college:

The Financial Aid Process

1. Make sure your student files their FAFSA every year. Each year many students forget to file their FAFSA because they did their first year FAFSA with their parents while they were still in high school. When students are away at college things like filing for financial aid can slip through the cracks. The FAFSA becomes available October 1 of each year for the coming college year and the 2020-2021 FAFSA will be available just around the corner so put a reminder in calendar! Visit www.fafsa.gov to file the FAFSA.
2. When filing the FAFSA please use the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to allow the IRS to verify your tax information on the FAFSA. Using the DRT helps correct any errors and, if your student is selected for a process called "Verification," will simplify the process and collection of required documents. Please make sure they review their "To Do" list for any required documents. **We cannot process their offer of aid until all required documents are submitted and reviewed by our staff.**
3. When we put together an offer of financial aid, students are notified, by email, when this aid offer is available. The offer of aid is accessible through the Student Portal, which will bring them to the "Student Center." Students can see their offer of aid under "View Financial Aid." They can review their aid and, if your student chooses to take out student loans, "accept" the loans. For more details about loans visit <https://www.csum.edu/web/financial-aid/loans> . Students have access to this information 24/7.



The Fall 2019 Bill and Financial Aid

Fall 2019 bills will go out on July 16, 2019 and are due on August 9, 2019. The bill will list Fall 2019 Tuition & Fees and Room & Board, if the student is living on campus as well as Uniforms. Students can view the bill in their Student Portal. If the student has financial aid, it will show as "Pending" on their bill under "Account Inquiry." The actual financial aid (grants, scholarships and "accepted" loans) will be credited to the student account on the first day of classes and refunds, if applicable, will be sent out by the Cashier's Office later that week. Students may need to buy books out of pocket and reimburse themselves when they get their refund.



Additional Resources

Students can help reduce the need to borrow student and parent loans by applying for scholarships. Our Financial Aid webpage provides all of the following sites.

Students can apply for Cal Maritime Scholarships, which are based on need and/or merit. Applications are available mid-November and due by the end of January. Please visit here for more information: <https://www.csum.edu/web/financial-aid/scholarships>.

Additionally, students can apply for specific Maritime Scholarships found on our webpage at: <https://www.csum.edu/web/financial-aid/other-resources>. Many of these scholarships available each year. We will update the deadlines when available.

Lastly, we also list these helpful search engine that list thousands of scholarships: <https://www.csum.edu/web/financial-aid/scholarships/outside-scholarships>.

