

# FINANCIAL AID

The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago is deeply committed to ensuring that students from every background, regardless of financial need, can find a home here. Our **No Barriers** policy allows UChicago students to graduate debt-free and prepared for lifelong success—no matter their chosen major or background prior to enrolling in college. We will work with you and your family to create a financial aid package that fits your unique circumstances and ensures that a UChicago education is within your reach.

## NO APPLICATION FEE

Families who apply for financial aid do not have to pay a college application fee to UChicago. You are welcome to attend a UChicago session in your area to learn more about applying to college.

## NO STUDENT LOAN EXPECTATION

UChicago's need-based financial aid is awarded as grants, which do not need to be repaid. Students can graduate without debt influencing their plans for the future.

## FUNDED OPPORTUNITIES

Generous funding for summer and school-year involvement is available—from internships and research positions to study abroad and career exploration treks—for students of all majors and interests.

## LIFELONG CAREER SUPPORT

Career support starts with your personal career advisor, continues through four years of professional development, and becomes real experience through over 2,000 paid internships annually.

## THE ODYSSEY SCHOLARSHIP

A key program supporting low-income and first-generation students, the Odyssey Scholarship was established in 2007 with a \$100 million gift from an anonymous donor. The Odyssey Scholarship has brought a world-class opportunity within reach of students who might not otherwise seek it—approximately 40% of our Odyssey Scholars are the first in their family to attend college.

In addition to receiving our comprehensive need-based financial support, Odyssey Scholars have unparalleled enrichment opportunities to complement their transformative education. Funded summer internships or research opportunities allow Scholars to integrate classroom lessons into a real-world environment. Additionally, cross-year mentoring and alumni engagement provide current Odyssey Scholars successful role models from similar backgrounds.

“When I think back to a year ago, I never would have imagined myself in my current position. Because of the University of Chicago's **Odyssey Scholarship**, I see myself becoming the person I have always wanted to be—researching cellular biology by day and cultivating community by night. **Odyssey has inspired me, encouraged me and compelled me to do my best and have fun in the process.**”

— **Gabe M. Barrón**, *Odyssey Scholar, Class of 2020*



“A very comprehensive financial aid package was the confirmation that an education at UChicago is within any family's reach, regardless of their financial status.”

— **Jorge M.**, *father of Valeria M., member of the class of 2019*

## NEED-BASED AID

The admissions process at UChicago is need-blind, meaning that we evaluate students on their merits alone, without weighing their financial situations. Through No Barriers, UChicago College students who receive need-based financial aid will be awarded aid packages containing grants instead of loans. We meet 100% of your family’s demonstrated financial need. This year, UChicago awarded over \$130 million in financial aid. Though UChicago financial aid packages have no loan expectation, federal loans are available should families wish to use them.

**International students**, please visit [collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/costs/international-aid](https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/costs/international-aid) to learn about international financial aid.

## MERIT AID

In addition to comprehensive need-based awards, the University of Chicago is one of the few highly-selective universities in the country that also offers substantial merit scholarships to admitted students who show outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement, leadership experience, and commitment to their communities. Every first-year student admitted to UChicago is automatically considered for merit aid, which is usually awarded for four years of undergraduate study.

### Merit scholarships include:

- University Scholarship
- National Merit Finalists Scholarship
- National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholarship
- Chicago Public Schools Scholarship
- UChicago Charter School (Woodlawn Campus) Scholarship
- Chicago Police and Fire Scholarship
- Chicago Public Schools Educators Award Scholarship

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR FAMILY?

- Admission to UChicago is need-blind for U.S. citizens and permanent residents, meaning a family’s ability to pay will not be considered in the admissions process.
- Families whose total gross income is less than \$120K (with typical assets) will receive a financial aid package that covers full tuition. Most families earning less than \$50K will have all costs covered by financial aid.
- UChicago’s need-based financial aid awards do not include loans. We meet 100% of a family’s financial need through UChicago grants, scholarships, and/or opportunities for student employment.
- All first-year Odyssey Scholars at UChicago receive a guaranteed opportunity to get a head start on their career with a research experience or Metcalf internship.

Financial Aid Materials and Priority Deadlines*			Early Action & Early Decision I	Early Decision II	Regular Decision
<b>The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</b> The FAFSA is available October 1 at <a href="https://fafsa.gov">fafsa.gov</a> (use UChicago’s school code 001774). We strongly encourage families to submit all of these materials to maximize their funding options, including aid from UChicago. However, if you wish to be considered only for federal student aid, the FAFSA is the only document you must submit.	<b>The University of Chicago Worksheet</b> This is a short, free online worksheet available through your UChicago Account once you have applied for admission. The College Board’s CSS Profile can be substituted for this worksheet.	<b>Tax Return</b> This is a signed copy of your parents’ federal income tax return, as used to file the FAFSA. Include all schedules and W-2 forms.	November 15	January 15	February 15

\*Students who submit their financial aid materials by the priority deadline will receive their financial aid award with their admissions decision. We will continue to receive and process materials at any time. All students are automatically considered for merit aid. These deadlines apply only to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. International students, please visit [collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/costs/international-aid](https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/costs/international-aid).

Please visit [financialaid.uchicago.edu/prospective-students/apply-for-aid](https://financialaid.uchicago.edu/prospective-students/apply-for-aid) for more information.