



## **Financial Aid Handbook**

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## HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Federal School Code for University of the West (UWest) is 036963

Students seeking federal and state financial aid should take the following steps:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application online (<https://studentaid.gov>). Each student is responsible for updating their address information and making any corrections via FAFSA on the Web, or by phone 1-800-433-3243 (Federal Student Aid Information Center).
- If selected for federal verification, students and/or parents should choose to automatically transfer IRS income tax information into the FAFSA using IRS Data Retrieval Tool, if available.
- Complete the UWest Application for Financial Aid. (<https://www.uwest.edu/financial-aid-forms>)

All students applying for the 2026-2027 federal financial aid should have a FAFSA on file in the Financial Aid Office by May 1, 2026 to be eligible for aid consideration for the 2026-2027 academic year.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

There are some general eligibility requirements that apply to the federal financial aid programs now being offered at UWest. To receive federal aid:

- Students must be either:
  - U.S. Citizens or naturalized citizens; or
  - U.S. permanent residents; or
  - Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands; or
  - Other eligible non-citizens. Note: Students who are in the U.S. on an F1 or F2 student visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa or a G series visa are not U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens.
- Students must be admitted and enrolled in a program that leads to a baccalaureate, master or doctorate degree.
- Students must be enrolled at least half-time status per semester to be eligible for most aid. To receive maximum aid, undergraduate students must be enrolled in twelve (12) units or more each semester, graduate students nine (9) units each semester with exceptions to certain graduate candidates and continuous enrollment students. (See Financial Aid Enrollment Status session below for details.)
- Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) throughout the financial aid period. Detailed information regarding the Financial Aid SAP Policy can be found in the UWest Catalog or online at <https://www.uwest.edu/financial-aid-policy/>
- Students must have a valid Social Security Number. The federal database will match the Social Security record to the student's FAFSA data to verify the name and date of birth are the same.
- Students must not be in default on any federal loan or owe money on a federal or state grant.

## Financial Aid Enrollment Status

Students' enrollment status affects the level of aid available in a specific term. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for aid. In addition, students receiving aid must earn a minimum number of credits each semester, applicable to their degree and consistent with their enrollment/funding status.

Enrollment/Funding Status	Undergraduate	Graduate
Full Time	12 or more units	9 or more units *
3/4 Time	9-11 units	7-8 units
1/2 Time	6-8 units	4.5-6 units

\* The definition of graduate full-time is based upon the student's degree level, stage in study, and program of enrollment, and is applicable to fall and spring semesters.

Stage of Study (Graduate)	Full-time	Corresponding Course(s)
Coursework	9 or more units	Degree Applicable Courses
Master's Thesis, all course work complete	3 units	PSYCH 699A, REL 700 Maximum: 2 terms
Doctoral Qualifying, all course work complete	3 units	DBIN 705, REL 705 Maximum: 2 terms
Candidacy, engaged in research requirement	3 units	DBIN 698A/B, 710, REL 698A/B/C, 710
Candidacy, research requirement fulfilled	1 unit	DBIN 698B, 715, REL 698B/C, 715
Continuing Practicum, all course work complete	1 unit	PSYCH 712 Maximum: 2 terms

## FEDERAL VERIFICATION

The Department of Education may select a student's FAFSA for a review process known as federal verification. UWest may also select a student for federal verification. The federal verification process requires UWest to verify items such as students and their family's household and financial information with the U.S. Department of Education.

### Verification Procedure

Students selected for federal verification will be notified with instructions for completing the verification process by the Financial Aid Office during the financial aid application process. Financial aid awards will not be finalized, and federal funds will not be disbursed until after the verification process is completed. The requested documentation should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible to avoid delays in the processing of financial aid application.

Students selected for Verification Group V1 are required to submit a completed and signed verification worksheet along with verification of parents and student's income and family size.

Students selected for Verification Groups V4 and V5 are required to provide other documentation including identity and statement of educational purpose. The Financial Aid Office will provide the students with instructions on how to complete this process.

Requested documents for verification may be submitted to the Financial Aid Office in-person, by mail, email, or fax.

Once all the required documentation has been received, the Financial Aid Office will verify the additional information provided with the information provided on the student's FAFSA and prepare a financial aid offer, typically within two weeks of the date the completed documentation was received. The process may take longer depending on the accuracy of the information provided, the student's expected entry term and seasonal variation in volume. If there are any differences found between the information reported on the FAFSA and the information provided on the verification documents, the Financial Aid Office will contact the students to make corrections on their FAFSA. The financial aid award will be based on the correct information. If conflicting information is identified at any time during an award year, a student's financial aid file will be reviewed, and additional verification may be required.

Failure to submit requested verification materials within 45 days of the requested date may result in the loss of institutional scholarships, campus-based aid, and federal loans for the semester. Pell grant eligibility may be forfeited if requested verification documents are not received by September 30th of the year trailing the award year, or within 120 days of the last day of the enrollment, whichever comes first. California state grants may be forfeited if verification is not complete prior to the end of the semester of eligibility, or the last day of enrollment, whichever comes first.

## WHAT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

UWest participates in the Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, Cal Grant, Federal Direct Loan, and Federal Work-Study programs.

### GRANT PROGRAMS

Federal and state grant programs are open to eligible undergraduate students who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree. The grant programs currently available to UWest undergraduate students are as follows:

#### Federal Grants

##### Pell Grant

- For U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens;
- Students who have not earned a bachelors or graduate degree;
- There is no repayment required;
- The maximum Pell Grant award is \$7,395 for the 2026-27 award year (July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027);
- The Student Aid Index (SAI) and enrollment intensity (the percentage of full-time enrollment at which a student is enrolled, rounded to the nearest whole percent) determine Pell Grant eligibility and amount.
- Students can only receive the Pell Grant for up to 12 semesters or the equivalent (roughly six years).

##### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Students who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree;
- Priority is given to Pell Grant eligible students who have financial need with the lowest SAI;

- Awards vary from \$100 to \$4,000 per award year.

### **State Grants – Cal Grant Program** (<https://csac.ca.gov/cal-grant>)

The **Cal Grant Program** is California's main financial aid program that does not need to be paid back. Students attending a Cal Grant eligible institution and who meet eligibility criteria can qualify for the Cal Grant award. Students will be considered for the appropriate Cal Grant award based on the responses on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA), a verified Cal Grant GPA or test score, the type of California colleges listed on the FAFSA/CADAA, and whether the student is a recent high school graduate.

**Duration:** Available for up to 4 years of full-time attendance at a participating college/university. Students must take 15 units per semester or 30 units per academic year in order to graduate within four years. The total amount of time students can receive Cal Grant is based on the student's Education Level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) when they get their first payment in college.

**Application Start & Deadline:** The FAFSA or CADAA must be submitted by the March 2 priority deadline to maximize financial aid opportunities.

**Eligibility & Requirements:** To qualify for the Cal Grant, students must:

- Demonstrate sufficient financial need (determined by CSAC and verified by their institution)
  - Meet income and asset ceilings
  - Submit the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) by the applicable deadline
    - Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, eligible non-citizen, or meet the non-resident tuition exception commonly known as AB540.
- Have a verified high school GPA, college GPA, or test score (SAT, ACT, GED, TASC, HiSet) on file with CSAC
- Be working towards their first undergraduate degree or certificate
  - Be a California resident attending a Cal Grant eligible institution
  - Not have a bachelor's or professional degree
  - Be enrolled at least half-time
  - Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards

### **Cal Grant Awards – Cal Grant A and B**

Students do not apply for a specific one. Students will be considered for the appropriate Cal Grant award based on a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA), matched GPA, financial need, and college of attendance.

#### **Cal Grant A Award**

For low to middle income students and can be used for programs that are 2+ years long that lead to an associate or bachelor's degree.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students must be within income and asset ceilings according to family size.
- Minimum GPA requirement: 3.00 high school GPA or 2.40 community college or college GPA.

#### **Cal Grant B Award**

For low income students and can be used for programs that are 1+ years long that lead to an associate or bachelor's degree.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students must be within income and asset ceilings according to family size.
- Minimum GPA requirement: 2.00 high school GPA, 2.0 community college or college GPA (for Community College Entitlement and Competitive awards), or 2.40 community college GPA (for Transfer Entitlement award).

### **California Dream Act Application (CADAA)**

The CADAA is California's state financial aid application operated by CSAC that allows undocumented and other eligible students to qualify for state and institutional financial aid.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Are Undocumented
- Have a U-Visa or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Meet the CA non-resident exemption requirements
- New: Students from Mixed-Status Families
- See Making Informed Decisions, for more information.

**Apply for a Cal Grant: Go to <https://www.csac.ca.gov/apply>**

#### **CSAC Contact Information:**

- For more detailed information about CSAC awards, visit: [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)
- Web Grants for Students: <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
- E-mail: [studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov)
- Telephone: Toll-free (888) CA GRANT (888-224-7268)

### **California Military Department GI Bill Award Program**

If you are an active member in the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia you may be eligible for a state-funded program designed to provide an educational incentive to improve your skills, competencies, and abilities.

To learn more, visit the California Military Department GI Bill Award Program (CMD GI Bill) website at <https://nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/>.

## **LOAN PROGRAMS**

Federal student loans are a form of financial aid to finance higher education and are available to both undergraduate and graduate degree seeking students. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for a loan. Student loans are borrowed funds that must be repaid, with interest.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (DL) includes Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans, as well as PLUS Loans. Students not eligible for a subsidized loan will be offered an unsubsidized loan. Loan funds are provided to students through UWest. Applicable interest rates and origination fee rates for direct loans are listed later in this section. Origination fee is deducted from the total loan amount borrowed. Repayment begins six months following graduation, withdrawal, or dropping below half-time enrollment.

**NOTE: PLUS Loans are eliminated under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act effective on July 1, 2026. Current borrowers can continue to borrow under current loan limits (and/or) from the Grad PLUS program for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less.**

## Federal Direct Loan Programs

- **Direct Subsidized Loans**
  - Need-based loan;
  - Must be repaid;
  - The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest that accrues while students are in school at least halftime or more;
  - Available to undergraduate students only.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans**
  - Non-need-based, but is limited to the Cost of Attendance (COA) and annual loan limits;
  - Must be repaid;
  - Interest accrues from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid-in-full;
  - The borrower is responsible for paying the interest that accrues during all periods of enrollment.
- **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan (PLUS)**
  - PLUS Loan is a federal unsubsidized loan for parents to borrow on behalf of their dependent undergraduate student;
  - Dependent students must be enrolled at least half-time;
  - This loan may replace the Student Aid Index (SAI), but may not exceed the student's COA minus any other financial aid the student receives;
  - The parent is responsible for accrued interest and loan repayment;
  - Must be repaid; the repayment either begins on the date of the last disbursement or is deferred for an additional six months after the dependent student has ceased to be enrolled at least half-time. The parent borrower may contact the loan servicer to request a deferment;
  - Beginning March 29, 2015, Direct PLUS loan applicants who have been determined to have an adverse credit history, but who qualify for a Direct PLUS loan by documenting extenuating circumstances or by obtaining an endorser are required to complete a separate [PLUS Credit Counseling](#) online.
  - The lender (the U.S. Department of Education) establishes the parent borrower's eligibility based on ability to repay and credit worthiness. If the lender denies the PLUS loan, the dependent student may be eligible to borrow an unsubsidized loan.
- **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan (Grad PLUS)**
  - Graduate or professional students are now eligible to borrow under the Grad PLUS Loan Program up to their COA minus any other financial aid the student receives;
  - Students must be enrolled at least half-time;
  - Borrowers are responsible for accrued interest and loan repayment;
  - Grad Plus loan is placed into deferment while students are enrolled at least half time and for six months after they graduate or cease to be enrolled at least half-time;
  - Applicants for these loans also must have applied for their annual loan maximum eligibility under the Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan Program before applying for a Grad PLUS loan;

## Private Loan (This is not Federal Student Aid)

Private loans are credit-based educational loans borrowed directly from a lender. Because the interest rates on private loans are not federally regulated, this type of loan can be more expensive. Interest rates and fee schedules vary depending on the borrower's creditworthiness. In some cases, private loans include processing fees and/or repayment fees. Thus, it is important to carefully evaluate the total cost, including repayment, before deciding to borrow a private loan.

## Loan Amount Limits

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized#how-much>

Year	Dependent Students (except students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)	Independent Students (and dependent undergraduate students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)
First-Year Undergraduate Annual Loan Limit	\$5,500-No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$9,500-No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Second-Year Undergraduate Annual Loan Limit	\$6,500-No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$10,500-No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Third Year and Beyond Undergraduate Annual Loan Limit	\$7,500 per year-No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$12,500-No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Graduate or Professional Student Annual Loan Limit	Not Applicable (all graduate and professional degree students are considered independent).	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only).
Subsidized and Unsubsidized Aggregate Loan Limit	\$31,000-No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$57,500 for undergraduates-No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.  \$138,500 for graduate or professional students-No more than \$65,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans. The graduate aggregate limit includes all federal loans received for undergraduate study.

## Interest Rates and Loan Fees

- For Subsidized Loan and Unsubsidized Loan: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized#interest-rates>
- For PLUS Loan: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/plus/grad#interest>

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A DIRECT LOAN?

Students who choose to borrow student loans should complete the following steps:

- Submit a FAFSA for the intended Award Year;
- Complete an online Entrance Counseling;
- Sign a Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (eMPN);

Students wishing to obtain information to track their loan borrowing history, can access the Federal Student Aid Account at <https://studentaid.gov/> using their Federal Student Aid ID.

## Entrance & Exit Loan Counseling

Students who are first-time borrowers of Federal Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Loans must complete Entrance Counseling before any Direct Loan funds can be disbursed to the borrower. Entrance Counseling is also required for Federal Grad PLUS loan borrowers who have never previously borrowed a Federal Grad PLUS loan.

Loan Entrance Counseling must be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>

Federal Direct and/or Federal Graduate PLUS Loan borrowers whose enrollment drops below half time such as graduating, officially withdrawn, dismissed, on a leave of absence (LOA), or simply ceased enrollment at UWest must complete an online loan Exit Counseling session at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>

The Financial Aid Office will notify the students of the loan Exit Counseling information via email after the Financial Aid Office becomes aware of the change to students' enrollment status. The students are required to complete the process within thirty days of receiving the notification.

## Federal Direct Loan Repayment Plans

It is to students' advantage to learn about managing their repayment obligations and options before repayment begins. Repayment plans include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Standard Repayment Plan;
2. Graduated Repayment Plan;
3. Extended Repayment Plan;
4. Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan
5. Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan;
6. Income-Based Repayment Plan;
7. Income-Contingent Repayment Plan;
8. Income-Sensitive Repayment Plan.

Visit <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans> for detailed information about Repayment Plans and Repayment Estimator.

## HOW AND WHEN DO I RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID FUNDS?

### Disbursement Information

UWest disburses both federal and state student aid funds. UWest first uses the funds to pay for tuition, fees, room and board charges, and then any other costs associated with attendance. If there is a credit balance on the student's account, a direct deposit will be made to an authorized bank account that the student has set up with UWest, within 14 days. Students who wish to have credit balances held in their student accounts must provide the Bursar's Office with written authorization requesting this be done.

Students whose financial aid does not cover their student account balance will be expected to pay the difference by the established due dates. Students are strongly advised to set aside sufficient funds at the beginning of each term to cover expenses such as books, room, meals, etc. while financial aid disbursements are processed.

First year students must submit proof of high school graduation or its equivalent to the Admissions Office as stated in the Admissions requirements before any financial aid can be disbursed.

**The Financial Aid office does not issue checks. Financial aid funds are disbursed by the Bursar's Office.**

- **Pell Grant** award amounts are based on the cost of attendance (COA), Student Aid Index (SAI), and Enrollment Intensity. Once eligibility has been confirmed, these awards are disbursed after the end of the Add/Drop period each semester.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)** are based on financial need and available funding received by the institution from the Department of Education. Once eligibility is confirmed, these awards are disbursed after the end of the Add/Drop period each semester.
- **Cal Grants** are based on available state funding. Once eligibility is confirmed, these awards are disbursed at the beginning of each semester.
- **Federal Direct Loans** are disbursed after the end of the Add/Drop period each semester. Because loans are subject to origination fees, about 1%, the amount received from the U.S. Department of Education will be slightly less than the total amount borrowed.
- Federal regulations require two (2) disbursements for all loans, including one semester loans. Students attending a single semester or summer term will receive their second disbursement at the calendar midpoint of the term.
- If students are in their first year of undergraduate study and are first-time Direct Loan borrowers, there is a waiting period of thirty calendar days for the first loan disbursement.
- Students who drop below half-time enrollment are no longer eligible for Direct Loans and/or Cal Grants.
- Attendance verification must be completed by instructors during the first two weeks of each semester or the Add/Drop period for all financial aid students. Loan and grant disbursements will not be released until the attendance verification is completed.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

### Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study (FWS) program is a federally funded, need-based financial aid program that provides part-time on-campus and off-campus employment opportunities to students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs.

The FWS program is intended to assist students in meeting their financial obligations to the university and to encourage community-service involvement. A student's earnings from working in an FWS position should be used to offset the cost of the student's education.

The Financial Aid Office determines a student's eligibility for FWS based on the student's cost of attendance and FAFSA information. FWS is awarded on a first come first served basis as the FWS funds are limited by the federal funding budget as well as by UWest's departmental budget. The maximum award is \$6,500 per academic year per student.

FWS jobs may be on or off campus. Off-campus jobs usually involve work in community service with federal, state, or local public agencies or private nonprofit organizations. Off-campus work must be performed in the public interest rather than for a particular interest or group. UWest requires all its off-

campus FWS jobs to be part of the community service program.

To be eligible for FWS award, a student must:

- Be enrolled at least half-time during regular academic semesters; an exception to this rule can be made to doctoral students who have completed all the required courses;
- Demonstrate sufficient unmet financial need;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory academic progress requires that an undergraduate student maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA. A graduate student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

## Institutional Student Worker

Institutional Student Worker is an institutionally funded financial aid program that provides part-time on-campus employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who are not eligible for federal work-study. Because these funds are limited, priority is given to students who apply by the priority deadline and/or eligible international students only.

All students who are in the Institutional Student Worker program will be required to work a specified number of hours per week not exceeding more than 20 hours per week, or maximum of 30 hours per week, subject to the approval of the Human Resources Office. Funds will be paid to the students bi-weekly.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Institutional scholarships may be awarded to incoming and continuing students who demonstrate exceptional leadership and service to their communities, academic achievement and financial need. Applicants who wish to be considered for scholarships are encouraged to submit all required financial aid documents when they apply for admission. A Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee appointed by the University determines the awards annually. Reviews for eligibility and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) take place each semester. Institutional scholarships are offered in the form of:

- President's Scholarship
- Dean's Scholarship
- UWest Scholarship
- Lotus Scholarship
- Metta Scholarship
- Dream Scholarship

### President's Scholarship (Full Tuition Award)

**Purpose:**

University of the West has established the President's Scholarship to encourage and motivate students who provide outstanding leadership and service to their communities or to University of the West.

**Award:**

- Award will be used to cover **full tuition up to 15 units for undergraduate students and 12**

**units for graduate students each semester awarded (Fall and Spring only).** The award is for tuition only and does not cover any fees or expenses required for attendance.

- The award is made in the form of tuition waiver. **No money will be paid to the student.**
- Award amounts may vary depending on how many units of courses the student registers for.
- This scholarship is an annual award that covers Fall and Spring semesters only. Summer sessions are not included. Recipients are subject to a mid-year progress review during the first two weeks of the Spring semester (see below).

### **Eligibility:**

- This scholarship is available to continuing degree-seeking students at UWest. ESL students or students seeking a certificate only are not qualified for this scholarship.
- To qualify for the scholarship, a student must carry a full-time credit load. That is defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 12 units each semester (24 units per academic year) for undergraduates and 9 units each semester (18 units per academic year) for graduate students. **A student must be pre-registered at the full-time credit level before the award can be made available.** Exceptions to this full-time enrollment rule may be made through an appeal process for students in their final semester.
- The minimum required **GPA is 3.75** for graduates and **3.5** for undergraduates. Exceptions may be made based on individual cases. Students who have a GPA lower than the minimum requirements may still be considered for scholarship acceptance if they are able to demonstrate distinguished strength in other evaluation criteria.
- The student must demonstrate the following:
  - Leadership - demonstrate initiative in making constructive contributions to UWest and/or the wider community. This may include suggestions and/or organization of activities that have led to curriculum, institutional, or community improvements.
  - Service – A demonstrated record of service activities that contribute to the well-being of UWest and/or the wider community.
  - Integrity - Demonstrate behavior that reflects “honesty”, “compassion”, “equanimity” and “appreciation for differences”.
  - Academic Achievement – Candidates should maintain the minimum GPA requirement.

### **How to Apply:**

For students who wish to be considered for President's Scholarship, they must submit the following:

- Completed and signed UWest Application for Scholarships Form.
- A minimum five hundred words essay regarding applicant's leadership experience, community service involvement and future plan.
- References from previous direct supervisors from work or community leaders, or academic advisors/teachers. Two references are required for President's Scholarship. References must be original and completed on the UWest Scholarship Reference Form and provided in a sealed envelope signed by the referee.
- **Application Deadline is April 1.**
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all documents are submitted on time. Applications submitted after the above-mentioned deadline will only be considered under exceptional circumstances if funds are still available.

### **Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- This scholarship is non-transferable and may not be delayed or postponed.

- This scholarship is to be used only for classes required by the student's program of study or applicable to graduation from their program of study.
- **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with the Dean's Scholarship, Lotus Scholarship, Metta Scholarship, Dream Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, IBEF Fellowship or UWest Scholarship. Student must return the scholarship fund if other scholarship money is received.**
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the scholarship will be reviewed for eligibility based on their enrollment status and academic progress. Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if the eligibility and scholarship criteria are no longer met.
- A scholarship recipient may become disqualified after the award is made if his or her enrollment status changes during the term of award, in which case the student must return the scholarship fund received.
- Should an award be declined or returned, the Financial Aid Committee may apply that award to another qualified and vetted applicant.
- ***University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.***

## Dean's Scholarship (Half Tuition Award)

### Purpose:

University of the West has established the Dean's Scholarship to encourage and motivate students who provide outstanding leadership and service to their communities or to University of the West.

### Award:

- Award will be used to cover **half tuition up to 15 units for undergraduate students and 12 units for graduate students each semester awarded (Fall and Spring only)**. The award is for tuition only and does not cover any fees or expenses required for attendance.
- The award is made in the form of tuition waiver. **No money will be paid to the student.**
- Award amounts may vary depending on how many units of courses the student registers for. To see the awarded amount, please check our latest handbook.
- This scholarship is an annual award that covers Fall and Spring semesters only. Summer sessions are not included. Recipients are subject to a mid-year progress review during the first two weeks of the Spring semester (see below).

### Eligibility:

- This scholarship is available to continuing degree-seeking students at UWest. ESL students or students seeking a certificate only are not qualified for this scholarship.
- To qualify for the scholarship a student must carry a full-time credit load, defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 12 units each semester (24 units per academic year) for undergraduates and 9 units each semester (18 units per academic year) for graduate students. **Students must be pre-registered at the full-time credit level before the award can be made available.** Exceptions to this full-time enrollment rule may be made through an appeal process for students in their final semester.
- The minimum required **GPA is 3.5** for graduates and **3.2** for undergraduates. Exceptions may be made based on individual cases. Students who have a GPA lower than the minimum requirements may still be considered for scholarship acceptance if they are able to demonstrate

- distinguished strength in other evaluation criteria.
- The student must demonstrate the following:
  - Leadership - Demonstrate initiative in making constructive contributions to UWest and/or the wider community. This may include suggestions and/or organization of activities that have led to curriculum, institutional, or community improvements.
  - Service – A demonstrated record of service activities that contribute to the well-being of UWest and/or the wider community.
  - Integrity - Demonstrate behavior that reflects “honesty”, “compassion”, “equanimity” and “appreciation for differences.”
  - Academic Achievement – Candidates should maintain the minimum GPA requirement.

### **How to Apply:**

For students who wish to be considered for Dean's Scholarship they must submit the following:

- Completed and signed UWest Application for Scholarships Form.
- A minimum five hundred words essay regarding applicant's leadership experience, community service involvement and future plan.
- References from previous direct supervisors from work or community leaders, or academic advisors/teachers. One reference is required for Dean's Scholarship. References must be original and completed on the UWest Scholarship Reference Form and provided in a sealed envelope signed by the referee.
- Application Deadline is April 1.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all documents are submitted on time. Applications submitted after the above-mentioned deadline will only be considered under exceptional circumstances if funds are still available.

### **Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- This scholarship is non-transferable and may not be delayed or postponed.
- This scholarship is to be used only for classes required by the student's program of study or applicable to graduation from their program of study.
- **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with the President's Scholarship, Lotus Scholarship, Metta Scholarship, Dream Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, or UWest Scholarship. Student must return the scholarship fund if other scholarship money is received.**
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the scholarship will be reviewed for eligibility based on their enrollment status and academic
- progress. Recipients may be disqualified for the scholarship if the eligibility and scholarship criteria are no longer met.
- A scholarship recipient may become disqualified after the award is made if his or her enrollment status changes during the term of award, in which case the student must return the scholarship fund received.
- Should an award be declined or returned, the Financial Aid Committee may apply that award to another qualified and vetted applicant.
- ***University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.***

## UWest Scholarship

### Purpose:

The institution has established the UWest Scholarship to encourage and motivate outstanding students to pursue and complete their educational studies at the University of the West.

### Award:

- Award is made with the intent of reducing a portion of the required tuition and fees to be paid for a specific semester. **No money will be paid to the student.**
- Maximum award amount is \$1,000 per semester or \$2,000 maximum per academic year for full-time students. For non full time students, the award amount will be prorated based on the number of credits registered.
- Number of scholarships awarded will be determined by the Financial Aid Committee every year.
- This scholarship is an annual award that covers Fall and Spring semesters only. Summer session(s) is not included. Recipients are subject to a mid-year progress review during the first two weeks of the second semester (Please see below).

### Eligibility:

- This scholarship is available to continuing degree-seeking students at UWest. ESL students or students seeking a certificate only are not qualified for this scholarship.
- Minimum required **GPA 3.2** for graduates, **GAP 3.0** for undergraduates. Exceptions may be made based on individual cases. Students who have GPA lower than the minimum requirements may still be considered for the scholarship acceptance if they are able to demonstrate the distinguished strength in other aspects of the evaluation criteria.
- Student must be enrolled at least **half time** to qualify for this scholarship.
- The student must demonstrate the following:
  - Leadership - Demonstrate initiative in making constructive contributions to UWest and/or the wider community. This may include suggestions and/or organization of activities that have led to curriculum, institutional or community improvements.
  - Service – A demonstrated record of service activities that contribute to the well-being of UWest and/or the wider community.
  - Integrity - Demonstrate behavior that reflects “Honesty”, “Compassion”, “Equanimity” and “Appreciation for Differences”.
  - Academic Achievement – Candidates should be in satisfactory academic standing. Minimum GPA requirement to meet eligibility.

### How to Apply:

For students who wish to be considered for UWest Scholarship they must submit the following:

- Completed and signed UWest Financial Aid Application form.
- A completed and signed University of the West International Student Supplemental Application for financial aid. (International students only)
- **Application Deadline is April 1.**
- It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all documents are submitted on time. Applications submitted after the above-mentioned deadline will only be considered under exceptional circumstances if funds are still available.

**Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- This scholarship is non-transferable and may not be delayed or postponed.
- **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, Buddha's Light Fellowship or Lotus Scholarship. Student must return the scholarship fund if other scholarship money is received.**
- During the first two weeks of the second semester, recipients of the scholarship will be reviewed for eligibility based on their enrollment status and academic progress. Recipients may be disqualified for the scholarship if the eligibility and scholarship criteria are no longer met.
- A scholarship recipient may become disqualified after the award is made if his or her enrollment status changes during the term of award in which case the student must return the scholarship fund received.
- Should an award be declined or returned, the Financial Aid Committee may apply that award to another applicant.
- **University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.**

## Lotus Scholarship

**Description:**

In 2012, University of the West (UWest) established the Lotus Scholarship Program (the Scholarship), thanks to many generous private donations. Since then, the Scholarship has supported hundreds of UWest students in achieving their educational goals, providing a total of nearly 4 million U.S. dollars in institutional aid. UWest is home of the Lotus Scholarship – are you the next Lotus Scholarship award recipient?

For each academic year, UWest is committed to continuing to provide the Lotus Scholarship for selected new students entering the University. New applicants must meet the scholarship eligibility requirements and matriculate into UWest in each academic year (see last page of this policy for students beginning in Spring term).

**Award:**

- **Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship** (\$6,000): For international undergraduate students only. (Domestic undergraduate students may apply for the Metta Scholarship.)
- **Graduate Lotus Scholarship** (\$7,000): For domestic and international MBA and MA-Psychology students only. (Students in other graduate programs are advised to apply for IBEF Scholarship.)
- The Scholarship can be applied towards tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and other expenses required for attendance at UWest.
- The Scholarship is initially awarded for **one academic year beginning in Fall semester**. Renewal of the Scholarship is possible, but not guaranteed, depending on the student's performance and funding availability. Maximum term of scholarship eligibility for different groups of students is as follows:
  - First-year undergraduates: four years (or eight semesters)
  - Undergraduate transfer students: two to three years (or four to six semesters) depending on transfer credits
  - MBA students: two years (or four semesters)

- MA-Psychology students: two or three years (or four or six semesters) depending on program (non-clinical or clinical).
- Disbursement of the Scholarship award is made in two installments, the first in Fall semester and the second in Spring semester. The funds are applied directly to the student's account. The Bursar's Office issues a direct deposit or a stipend check if the student has a credit balance in their student account after the add/drop date of each semester.

### **Eligibility:**

- The Scholarship is available to new students seeking the following degree programs at UWest:
  - MBA
  - MA – Psychology
  - All undergraduate program majors (for international students only)
- Other degree-seeking students not mentioned above as well as non-degree seeking students, Intensive English Program students, and students seeking certificates only are not eligible for this Scholarship.
- Previous recipients of the Scholarship who meet the maintaining requirements (see **Maintaining Scholarship** section below) are also eligible to reapply.
- Minimum GPA:
  - Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.0
  - Graduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.25
- International students must meet the minimum UWest admission requirements for English proficiency.
- To qualify for the Scholarship a student must be enrolled full-time at UWest.
  - Full time enrollment for undergraduate students is defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 12 units each semester (24 units per academic year).
  - Full-time enrollment for graduate students is defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 9 units each semester (18 units per academic year).
- **Students must be pre-registered at the full-time credit level before the Scholarship funds can be made available to them.** Exceptions to this full-time enrollment rule may be made through an appeal process for students who are in their final semester or who encounter extenuating circumstances. Non-full time students receive a prorated amount of the Scholarship based on the actual number of units for which they are registered.

### **How to Apply:**

- Completed and signed UWest Financial Aid Application for Scholarships form.
- A 500-word essay describing a brief statement of financial circumstances. Be sure to include any information regarding expected scholarships, financial contributions, or changes to financial situation that may affect your aid eligibility.
- **New Applicants** The Lotus Scholarship Application should be submitted together with the Application for Admission to the University. All documents must be submitted by the deadlines indicated above. Lotus Scholarship Applications that do not include the Application for Admission will not be considered.
- **Spring Term New Student Eligibility** Students matriculating into UWest in the Spring semester are eligible to apply for the Lotus Scholarship for each award year that begins in Fall of next academic year. Spring applicants must meet the same Lotus Scholarship eligibility requirements and are subject to all the terms and conditions of the Scholarship. An applicant's academic performance during the Spring semester will be taken into consideration in addition to previous academic work.

- **Renewing Applicants** Students who are renewing the Lotus Scholarship will continue to receive the scholarship amount originally awarded as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. This includes students in all academic programs.
- Scholarship applications are reviewed as long as funds are available. Due to high demand, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by April 1. Generally, applicants are informed of the scholarship decision by April 30. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all application materials and supporting documents are submitted on time.

#### **Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- The Scholarship is non-transferable to other students or institutions.
- The Scholarship cannot be deferred.
- Recipients who decide to postpone their matriculation into a program until the following Spring semester only receive half of the awarded Scholarship (e.g. a recipient of a \$6,000 Scholarship will only receive \$3,000 for the Spring semester). Recipients who postpone their entrance into a program for more than one semester forfeit the Scholarship. New students who only enroll in the Fall semester but do not continue to enroll the following Spring semester forfeit the second half of their scholarship. (*Note: Exception to this policy due to visa or medical reasons may be made on a case by case basis. Students applying for this exception must present relevant documentation.*)
- Recipients who are officially approved to take Leave of Absence (LOA) for a semester will not receive the Scholarship disbursement for that semester. The student must notify the Financial Aid Office as soon as their request for LOA is approved. Students who take LOA for more than one semester will need to petition in writing for reinstatement of the Scholarship upon their return.
- **The Scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with Metta Scholarship, Dream Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, Buddha's Light Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship or Fellowship, or UWest Scholarship.** Lotus Scholarship recipients who are awarded and elect to receive one of the above-mentioned scholarships forfeit their Lotus Scholarship eligibility for the year(s) in which they receive the other scholarship. Students may reapply for the Lotus Scholarship in the following year if they have any remaining eligibility.
- Minimum maintaining GPA: (The Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee considers both the recipient's term GPA and the cumulative GPA for Lotus Scholarship qualification.)
  - Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.25
  - Graduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.5
- Maintain full time enrollment at UWest.
- Have no (I) "Incomplete" on the transcript. Students must resolve any incomplete course(s) before the Scholarship can be renewed and/or disbursed.
- Uphold academic integrity standards (e.g. refrain from plagiarizing, cheating, etc.).
- Actively engage in student life (e.g. UWest Student Government, student clubs, events, volunteer opportunities, committees, etc.) and/or community service.
- Uphold UWest values and student conduct standards. (The University reserves the right to disqualify a student from scholarship renewal if that student has been held responsible for serious violations of the UWest Student Conduct Code.)
- Recipients may become disqualified after the Scholarship is disbursed if their enrollment status changes during the term of the award, in which case students must return the Scholarship funds received. (*Note: Exception to this policy due to medical, family, or other extenuating reasons will be made on a case by case basis. Students applying for this exception must present relevant documentation.*)

- When a student declines or returns the Scholarship, it will be considered forfeited, and UWest may keep the award or award it to another student.
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the Scholarship will be reviewed for eligibility based on the above-mentioned requirements. Recipients may be disqualified from the Scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients of the Lotus Scholarship are entitled to appeal disqualification should they encounter extenuating circumstances. The appeal needs to be submitted to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee no later than the beginning of the Spring semester. Each student may qualify for no more than two appeals during their respective courses of study. Contact the Financial Aid Office for detailed information.
- Recipients of the award agree to release to UWest the right to use their images for publication in any format chosen by the university (i.e. print, video, digital image).
- ***University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.***

## Metta Scholarship

### Purpose:

Metta scholarship is a scholarship for incoming domestic transfer students.

### Award:

- The amount of the scholarship is \$6,000 per successful applicant.
- The Metta Scholarship is awarded to select domestic undergraduate students with a minimum **3.0 GPA** who matriculate into University of the West (UWest).
- Priority is given to transfer students who, at the time of application, have successfully completed at least 30 units at a community college or accredited four-year university/college.
- The applicant's cumulative high school and college GPA are taken into consideration when awarding the Metta Scholarship.
- Renewal of the Metta Scholarship is possible, but not guaranteed, depending on the student's performance and funding availability. Maximum term of scholarship eligibility is two years or four semesters. Upon successful completion of their first two years, Metta Scholarship recipients are eligible to apply for other available university scholarships for the remainder of their program of study.
- Disbursement of the Scholarship award is made in two installments, the first in Fall semester and the second in Spring semester. The funds are applied directly to the student's account. The Bursar's Office issues a direct deposit or a stipend check if a student has a credit balance in their account after the add/drop date of each semester.

### Eligibility:

- The Metta Scholarship is available to new undergraduate students seeking a **bachelor's degree** at UWest.
- Minimum **3.0 GPA**.
- Students must enroll at UWest full time (minimum 12 units per semester).
- Students must submit FAFSA to UWest at the time of application and should demonstrate

eligibility for federal and/or state financial aid. Pell Grant eligible students are given priority in scholarship consideration.

### **How to Apply:**

- Completed and signed UWest Financial Aid Application for Scholarships form.
- *FAFSA* application or California Dream Act application.
- Copy of previous official transcript(s).
- **For New Applicants, the Metta Scholarship Application should be submitted together with the Application or Admission to UWest. All required documentation for admissions and scholarship(s) must be submitted by the indicated deadline. Applications not completed by these dates will not be considered.**

### **Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- The scholarship is non-transferable to other students or institutions.
- The scholarship cannot be deferred.
- **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with Lotus Scholarship, Dream Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, IBEF Fellowship or UWest Scholarship. Students must return the scholarship funds if other scholarship money is received.**
- The recipient must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA.
- Have no (I) "Incomplete" on the transcript. Students must resolve any incomplete course(s) before the scholarship can be renewed and/or disbursed.
- Maintain full time enrollment at UWest.
- Uphold academic integrity standards (e.g. refrain from plagiarizing, cheating, etc.).
- Actively engage in student life (e.g. UWest Student Government, student clubs, events, volunteer opportunities, committees, etc.) and/or community service.
- Uphold UWest values and student conduct standards. (The University reserves the right to disqualify a student from scholarship renewal if that student has been held responsible for serious violations of the UWest Student Conduct Code.)
- Recipients may become disqualified after the scholarship is disbursed if their enrollment status changes during the term of the award, in which case students must return the scholarship funds received.
- When students decline or return the Scholarship, it will be considered forfeited, and UWest may keep the award or award it to another student.
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the scholarship are reviewed for continued eligibility based on the above-mentioned requirements.
- Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients of the Metta Scholarship are entitled to appeal disqualification should they encounter extenuating circumstances. The appeal needs to be submitted to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee no later than the beginning of the Spring semester. Each student may qualify for no more than two appeals during their respective courses of study. Contact the Financial Aid Office for detailed information.
- Recipients of the award agree to release to UWest the right to use their images for publication in any format chosen by the university (i.e. print, video, digital image).

- **University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.**

## Dream Scholarship

### Purpose:

Undocumented students often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and face significant socio-economic challenges accessing and transitioning to college. In recognition of these challenges, University of the West (UWest) has set aside a special institutional scholarship fund aimed to increase undocumented students' participation and success in higher education.

Dream Scholarship is designed for select first-time undocumented students matriculating to UWest. A successful scholarship applicant will be awarded \$10,000 annually for up to four years, or eight semesters. Renewal of the scholarship is not guaranteed but depends on the student's performance and funding availability. The scholarship can be applied toward tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and other expenses required for attendance at UWest.

### Award:

- **Scholarship Award: \$10,000** per successful applicant per year
- Number of Awards per Year: 3
- Disbursement of the Scholarship award is made in two installments, the first in Fall semester and the second in Spring semester. The funds are applied directly to the student's account. The Bursar's Office issues a direct deposit or a stipend check if a student has a credit balance in their account after the add/drop date of each semester.

### Eligibility:

- The Dream Scholarship is available to new first-time undocumented students seeking a bachelor's degree at UWest with a declared major.
- Minimum high school GPA 2.8.
- Must submit Intent to Enroll for the upcoming fall semester.
- Must submit a *California Dream Act Application* to UWest and demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- Must enroll at UWest full-time (minimum 12 units per semester).

### How to Apply:

- Completed UWest Financial Aid Application for Scholarships form.
- A maximum 800-word Statement of Underserved/Disadvantaged Status is required in addition to the applicant's family financial data.
- Submission of a California Dream Act application.
- One recommendation letter from the applicant's high school official.
- (Optional) Any evidence the applicant feels supports the scholarship application.
- **The Dream Scholarship Application should be submitted together with the Application for Admission to UWest.** All required documentation for admission and scholarship must be submitted by the indicated deadline. Applications not completed by these dates will not be considered.
- **Application deadline is June 1.**

**Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- Priority is given to graduating high school seniors from local area high schools intending to complete a degree at UWest.
- Recipients may be required to engage in an academic plan as necessary to receive and/or maintain the Dream Scholarship.
- The scholarship is not transferable to other students or institutions.
- The scholarship cannot be deferred.
- **This scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with Metta Scholarship, Lotus Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship, IBEF Fellowship or UWest Scholarship. Students must return the scholarship funds if other scholarship money is received.**
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Have no (I) "Incomplete" on the transcript. Students must resolve any incomplete course(s) before the Scholarship can be renewed and/or disbursed.
- Maintain full-time enrollment at UWest.
- Uphold academic integrity standards (e.g. refrain from plagiarizing, cheating, etc.).
- Actively engage in student life (e.g. UWest Student Government, student clubs, events, volunteer opportunities, committees, etc.) and/or community service.
- Uphold UWest values and student conduct standards. (The University reserves the right to disqualify a student from scholarship renewal if that student has been held responsible for serious violations of the UWest Student Conduct Code.)
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the scholarship are reviewed for continued eligibility based on the above-mentioned requirements.
- Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients may become disqualified from the scholarship if they fail to uphold UWest academic or social conduct standards.
- Recipients may become disqualified after the scholarship is disbursed if their enrollment status changes during the term of the award, in which case students must return the scholarship funds received.
- Recipients of the Dream Scholarship are entitled to appeal disqualification should they encounter extenuating circumstances. The appeal needs to be submitted to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee no later than the beginning of the Spring semester. Each student may qualify for no more than two appeals during their respective course of study. Contact the Financial Aid Office for detailed information.
- When a student declines or returns the Scholarship, it will be considered forfeited and UWest may keep the award or award it to another student.
- Recipients of the award agree to release to UWest the right to use their images for publication in any format chosen by the university (i.e. print, video, digital image).
- ***University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.***

## PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### IBEF Scholarships, IBEF Fellowships and IBEF Graduate Student Research Grant

Each semester the International Buddhist Education Foundation (IBEF) awards scholarships to new and continuing students enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral program within the Department of Religious Studies and Department of Buddhist Chaplaincy. The scholarship award ranges from \$3,500 - \$4,500 per semester. IBEF established an IBEF Fellowship to support Buddhist monastic graduate students. The fellowship award ranges from \$2,000 - \$3,000 per semester. Additionally, beginning Fall 2020, IBEF embarked a new research grant to provide \$5,000 – \$6,000 per semester to PhD and DBMin candidates who are committed to the study of Humanistic Buddhism, and to complete the intended respective degrees while attending University of the West. For more information, please visit online at [uwest.edu/admissions-scholarships/](http://uwest.edu/admissions-scholarships/).

#### IBEF Application Deadline:

- Fall semester: May 1
- Spring semester: November 15

### AJ Wang Foundation Scholarship Fund

The AJ Wang Foundation Scholarship is for 1) graduating high school seniors with a minimum high school GPA of 2.5, and 2) college transfer students entering UWest as junior students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 from their previous college(s). The scholarship awards \$2,000 per year for up to four years to graduating high school seniors and \$4,000 peryear for up to years for college transferring students. The scholarship requires full-time enrollment and a minimum GPA of 3.0 and higher to maintain. For more information, please visit online at <https://uwest.edu/admissions-scholarships/>.

#### Application Deadline:

- June 1 – Incoming domestic college transfer students

### Golden Benefactor Awards

The Golden Benefactor Awards (GBA) are awarded by individual donors to stand-out undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need, and require a separate application in order for a student to be considered. The scholarships are available in fall or spring semester. Students must demonstrate financial need, academic performance, and character. The GBA application includes a application form as well as a maximum 500-word Statement of Objectives explaining the student's educational and career goals, and any specific qualifications they may have or difficulty that they may have overcome.

#### Application Deadline:

- Fall semester: The first Monday following the last day of the previous spring semester
- Spring semester: The first Monday following the last day of the previous fall semester

## VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS

UWest has been approved for veterans' educational benefits under Title 38. Veterans who choose to attend UWest and enroll in one of the approved degree programs will be able to receive veteran benefits to help pay for their education. To obtain information on VA education benefits visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website at Education and Training Home ([va.gov](http://va.gov)) or call Toll-Free at 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) They provide information 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

## 2026-2027 COST OF ATTENDANCE

The cost of attendance (COA) is an estimate of what it will cost to attend University of the West for an academic year. There are two types of expenses that make up a student's COA. Direct expenses include tuition, mandatory fees, as well as room and board (if the student lives on campus). Indirect expenses include off-campus housing expenses, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

COA is used to determine the maximum amount of financial aid a student may receive. A student cannot receive more than the COA from any combination of federal, state, institutional or private funding source. University of the West can allow certain expenses as the basis for increasing the student's COA. Expenses that may be considered include reasonable childcare expenses, computer purchase, and high medical/dental expenses that are not covered by insurance.

Each student's award letter includes the COA that was used to determine award eligibility. Students with questions regarding how the COA was calculated are welcome to contact the Financial Aid Office for additional information.

**2026-2027 Cost of attendance is not available yet. Below is the 2025- 2026 cost of attendance for reference.**

Undergraduate Full-time (12 units)	Residing On Campus		Residing Off Campus	
	On Campus	Off Campus	Parents/Relatives	
Tuition (\$605 per unit)	\$7,260	\$ 7,260	\$ 7,260	
Mandatory Fees	\$634	\$634	\$634	
Housing- On Campus	\$3,567	---	---	
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$11,461</b>	<b>\$7,894</b>	<b>\$7,894</b>	
Food	\$3,780	---	---	
Food & Housing – Off Campus	---	\$11,377	\$5,918	
Books & Supplies	\$545	\$545	\$545	
Transportation	\$626	\$995	\$909	
Student Loan Fees	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$1,643	\$2,534	\$2,070	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,794</b>	<b>\$15,651</b>	<b>\$9,642</b>	

Semester Totals	\$18,255	\$23,545	\$17,536
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$36,510</b>	<b>\$47,090</b>	<b>\$35,072</b>

MBA – Graduate Full-time (9 units)	Residing On Campus		Residing Off Campus	
	On Campus	Off Campus	Parents/Relatives	
Tuition (\$765 per unit)	\$6,885	\$6,885	\$6,885	
Mandatory Fees	\$634	\$634	\$634	
Housing – On Campus	\$3,567	---	---	
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$11,086</b>	<b>\$7,519</b>	<b>\$7,519</b>	
Food	\$3,780	---	---	
Food & Housing – Off Campus	---	\$11,377	\$5,918	
Books & Supplies	\$545	\$545	\$545	
Transportation	\$626	\$995	\$909	
Student Loan Fees	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$1,643	\$2,534	\$2,070	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,794</b>	<b>\$15,651</b>	<b>\$9,642</b>	
Semester Totals	\$17,880	\$23,170	\$17,161	
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$35,760</b>	<b>\$46,340</b>	<b>\$34,322</b>	

Psychology – Graduate Full-time (9 units)	Residing On Campus		Residing Off Campus	
	On Campus	Off Campus	Parents/Relatives	
Tuition (\$765 per unit)	\$6,885	\$6,885	\$6,885	
Mandatory Fees	\$634	\$634	\$634	
Housing – On Campus	\$3,567	---	---	
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$11,086</b>	<b>\$7,519</b>	<b>\$7,519</b>	
Food	\$3,780	---	---	
Food & Housing – Off Campus	---	\$11,377	\$5,918	
Books & Supplies	\$545	\$545	\$545	
Transportation	\$626	\$995	\$909	
Student Loan Fees	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$1,643	\$2,534	\$2,070	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,794</b>	<b>\$15,651</b>	<b>\$9,642</b>	

Semester Totals	\$17,880	\$23,170	\$17,161
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$35,760</b>	<b>\$46,340</b>	<b>\$34,322</b>

Buddhist Chaplaincy – Graduate Full-time (9 units)	Residing On Campus		Residing Off Campus	
	On Campus	Off Campus	Parents/Relatives	
Tuition (\$737 per unit)	\$6,633	\$6,633	\$6,633	
Mandatory Fees	\$634	\$634	\$634	
Housing – On Campus	\$3,567	---	---	
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$10,834</b>	<b>\$7,267</b>	<b>\$7,267</b>	
Food	\$3,780	---	---	
Food & Housing – Off Campus	---	\$11,377	\$5,918	
Books & Supplies	\$545	\$545	\$545	
Transportation	\$626	\$995	\$909	
Student Loan Fees	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$1,643	\$2,534	\$2,070	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,794</b>	<b>\$15,651</b>	<b>\$9,642</b>	
Semester Totals	\$17,191	\$22,353	\$16,518	
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$35,760</b>	<b>\$45,340</b>	<b>\$34,322</b>	

Religious Studies -- Graduate Full-time (9 units)	Residing On Campus		Residing Off Campus	
	On Campus	Off Campus	Parents/Relatives	
Tuition (\$737 per unit)	\$6,633	\$6,633	\$6,633	
Mandatory Fees	\$634	\$634	\$634	
Housing – On Campus	\$3,567	---	---	
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$10,834</b>	<b>\$7,267</b>	<b>\$7,267</b>	
Food	\$3,780	---	---	
Food & Housing – Off Campus	---	\$11,377	\$5,918	
Books & Supplies	\$545	\$545	\$545	
Transportation	\$626	\$995	\$909	
Student Loan Fees	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$1,643	\$2,534	\$2,070	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,794</b>	<b>\$15,651</b>	<b>\$9,642</b>	

Semester Totals	\$17,628	\$22,918	\$16,909
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$35,256</b>	<b>\$45,836</b>	<b>\$33,818</b>

IEP Fall or Spring (16 Weeks)	On Campus
Tuition	\$4,948
Mandatory Fees	\$634
Housing – On Campus	\$3,567
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$9,149</b>
Food	\$3,780
Books & Supplies	\$545
Transportation	\$626
Miscellaneous	\$1,643
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$6,594</b>
Semester Totals	\$15,743
<b>Annual COA</b>	<b>\$31,486</b>

**Direct Costs** are paid to UWest. These include tuition, fees and on-campus housing.

**Indirect Costs** are not charged by UWest. They are additional expenses that students need to consider in their budgeting and financial planning. These include food and housing (living expenses), books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses.

**Housing - On Campus** included in the Cost of Attendance is the average cost of available housing options

All tuition and fees should be considered as estimates and are current at the time of publication. Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notification.

## SUMMER SESSION

Funding for the summer term is limited to remaining funds from the current award year. As a result, these funds can be offered only when a student has eligibility remaining from the current award year.

Priority for summer funding is given to students who complete their application no later than the March 2 priority deadline, and who indicate that they will be attending summer session on the UWest application for financial aid.

Students wishing to receive financial aid for the summer term must notify the UWest Financial Aid Office no later than May 1 each year.

## FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

If a student needs to take classes at another institution and plans to transfer the credit back to University of the West as part of their degree program, the student may be able to receive federal financial aid under a Consortium Agreement between UWest (“Home”) and the other institution (“Host”)

- Submit the FAFSA and any additional documentation requested by the UWest Financial Aid Office.
- All the Consortium Agreement Forms must be completed and submitted to the Financial Aid Office at least four weeks prior to the start of the UWest semester/term.
- A Consortium Agreement Pre-Application Form must be completed and submitted to the UWest Financial Aid Office.
- Submit a Consortium Agreement for Federal Title IV Financial Aid Programs Form and Consortium Agreement Host Institution Budget Sheet to the Financial Aid Office at the Host Institution. Once the Host Institution has completed the necessary information, the forms should be returned to the UWest Financial Aid Office.
- Funds will not be released until the consortium agreement has been completed in its entirety.
- Financial aid funds will be applied to the student account based on the UWest disbursement schedule. The student should make arrangements to pay the Host Institution by its fee payment deadline.
- Paid Fee Receipt from Host Institution to show student’s enrollment in the approved courses.
- A student’s eligibility for UWest scholarships/fellowships is based on the enrollment status at UWest, not on the student’s concurrent enrollment at Host Institution.
- Students must have successfully completed at least one semester at UWest before they can apply for a consortium arrangement. Students must register at least one or more credit hour at UWest during the term of consortium. If they fail to meet the requirements of the agreement, or fail to meet the requirements of previously processed agreements, future agreements may be denied.
- The Consortium Agreement is only valid for one semester, once the consortium term has ended, students will need to complete and submit new Consortium Agreement Forms to be considered for additional financial aid.

To expedite the processing of financial aid, students should complete the above procedures and submit the information to the UWest Financial Aid Office as early as possible. Delays could affect their eligibility for aid.

## FINANCIAL AID STANDARDS FOR SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (FA SAP)

UWest is required by law to establish both qualitative and quantitative standards for satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a degree and these standards must be applied to all federal and state financial aid recipients, regardless of program or enrollment status. Aid programs covered by these standards are Federal Pell and FSEOG grants, Federal Work Study, Federal Loan programs (Direct, PLUS, Grad PLUS), as well as some state aid programs. These academic standards apply for all periods of enrollment, including terms when no aid was received.

The university’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy, described in full in the Academic Progress

and Policy section of the university catalog, applies to all students. Students receiving federal and state financial aid must also meet the guidelines outlined in the FA SAP policy described here.

The Financial Aid Office, in consultation with the Registrar, reviews all aid recipients at the end of each payment period, i.e. fall, spring, and summer semester, for compliance with the following standards used to measure satisfactory academic progress: Qualitative Progress, Pace of Progression, and Maximum Time to Degree. Students who do not meet one or more of these standards will receive a written SAP Notification Letter from the Financial Aid Office before the beginning of the subsequent semester.

## **Qualitative Progress Standard (Cumulative GPA)**

Undergraduate students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA; graduate students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Students who fall below these requirements will not be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress. The cumulative GPA is based on courses completed at UWest and does not include grades for courses transferred from other institutions.

## **Quantitative Standard (Pace of Progression)**

A student receiving aid must successfully complete a minimum of 67% of units attempted. Pace of progression is calculated by dividing cumulative units earned by cumulative units attempted. Courses must be degree applicable and consistent with the student's enrolment and funding status. For example, if an undergraduate student has enrolled in a total of 36 degree applicable units when reviewed at the close of the fall semester, the student must have earned a minimum of 24 units to have achieved a 67% pace of progression. If the student has earned fewer than 24 units, the student has failed to meet this standard and is not making satisfactory academic progress. Units transferred to UWest are included in the calculation of Pace of Progression.

## **Maximum Timeframe Standard**

A student may enroll in no more than 150 percent of the units required for award of the degree, and is no longer eligible to receive financial aid after this maximum is reached. Maximum units allowed are calculated by multiplying total units required to graduate by 150%. For example, a student must complete 120 units to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. The student's financial aid eligibility will be suspended as soon as he reaches 180 cumulative attempted units (150% times 120) including transfer credits, whether or not the student has completed the degree. The 150% maximum timeframe applies to both undergraduate and graduate students.

## **Criteria Used When Progress Is Reviewed**

### **Payment Period**

Each fall, spring, and summer semester is a payment period. Winter Intersession is included in the spring payment period.

### **Attempted/Earned Units**

**Attempted units:** All courses for which a student enrolls, including required pre-collegiate courses and transfer credit are included in units attempted. Grades of F, FW, I, NP, and W are included in attempted units.

**Earned units:** All courses for which a student receives credit, including required pre-collegiate courses and transfer credit are included in units earned. Grades of F, FW, I, NP, and W are not included in earned units.

## Course Withdrawals

Courses from which the student withdraws after the official add/drop deadline are included in cumulative units attempted but are not included in units earned. This includes courses dropped when a student starts but does not complete a term, whether they have withdrawn or taken leave of absence.

## Repeated Courses

Pace of Progression: All units attempted in repeated courses are included in cumulative units attempted. However, a repeated course only be applied to earned units if specified as “repeat for credit” in the catalog. Impact of Repeated Courses on Cumulative GPA:

- Undergraduate: Only the highest grade awarded is calculated in the cumulative GPA.
- Graduate: All grades earned, including repeated courses, are calculated in the cumulative GPA.

## Incomplete Courses

Pace of Progression: Courses that are assigned an incomplete grade are included in the cumulative units attempted. Until a final grade is posted, incomplete units are counted as failed and are not included in units earned. They are added to earned units only upon posting of a passing grade on or before the approved incomplete deadline.

## Transfer Credit

Pace of Progression/Maximum Timeframe: All transfer units accepted towards a student’s UWest degree are included in the review of the pace of progression and maximum timeframe standards.

Cumulative GPA: Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in the calculation of the UWest GPA.

## Financial Aid Warning

Students who do not meet the standards of the Financial Aid SAP policy at the end of any payment period are automatically placed on financial aid warning for the following payment period in attendance. Students placed on financial aid warning are eligible to receive Title IV financial aid during a warning period of one payment period without appeal or other action.

## SAP Appeal for Reinstatement of Federal Aid

Students who do not return to good standing at the end of the warning period are no longer eligible to receive Title IV and other financial aid. Students who lose their eligibility have the right to file a SAP appeal for reconsideration of their eligibility for aid.

Students who choose to appeal for a reinstatement of federal aid must submit a written appeal to the Financial Aid Office. The appeal must describe the circumstances that affected the student’s academic performance, must be submitted within 30 days of notification of failure to maintain SAP, and must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documents. No appeal will be considered until the student has an approved academic plan on file with the Registrar’s Office.

Acceptable justification for appeal includes, but is not limited to, personal or family accident, illness or injury of the student, death of a close family member, or other extenuating and unavoidable circumstances beyond the student’s control. Ongoing, chronic medical problems do not meet the definition of “extenuating circumstances.” If the condition existed at the time aid was offered, it should have been taken into consideration when selecting classes and credit load.

Factors considered in reviewing an appeal include, but are not limited to, the student’s entire academic

history, level of borrowing in relation to units completed; class standing; number of semesters of aid; previous deficiencies and appeals; and extenuating and unavoidable circumstances.

## **Financial Aid Probation and Termination**

Students who successfully appeal are placed on financial aid probation for one payment period. Students who fail to meet SAP standards at the end of the probation period become ineligible to receive further financial aid.

A student's financial aid will be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- Cumulative GPA lower than the required minimum standard for two consecutive semesters;
- Failure to complete 67 percent of cumulative units attempted for two consecutive semesters;
- Cumulative units attempted at or above 150 percent of the units normally required for award of the degree.

## **Re-establishing Financial Aid Eligibility**

Students whose financial aid is terminated due to lack of academic progress may re-establish their eligibility by meeting SAP standards again. To re-establish financial aid eligibility:

### **Cumulative GPA: Raising GPA to Minimum Required**

To raise their cumulative GPA students must complete courses at UWest. Coursework transferred from other institutions is not included in the calculation of UWest GPA. Undergraduates may hasten this process by repeating courses in which they earned a grade of C minus or below. Students must raise their cumulative GPA to the minimum required for their level of enrollment as specified in a formal Academic Plan.

### **Pace of Progression: Correcting a Credit Deficiency**

Students correct credit deficiencies by completing additional degree applicable courses at UWest or through the transfer of degree applicable coursework from other accredited colleges. Transfer credit must be approved in advance.

## **WITHDRAWAL & LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)**

After financial aid has been disbursed, a student who withdraws or ceases attendance from UWest during a semester may be required to return all or part of the funds received, including funds credited to pay tuition and fees.

Since financial aid must be used solely for educationally related expenses during periods of enrollment, federal regulations require the university to calculate the amount of aid a student "earned" for the number of days the student attended. "Unearned" aid, i.e. aid covering periods of the term when the student did not attend classes or was not enrolled, must be repaid. This calculation is referred to as Return of Title IV Funds which will be performed by the Financial Aid Office.

If repayment is owed, the student will be billed by the Bursar's Office and will have 45 days to arrange satisfactory repayment. The student is not eligible for further aid until repayment is made in full. A student who fails to make repayment on schedule may also be reported to the US Department of Education or to a collection agency representing UWest.

Students who find it necessary to withdraw from all classes and leave UWest for any reason should

complete an official LOA/Withdrawal form. This official LOA/Withdrawal must be signed, approved and submitted to the Registrar's Office. The official date of leave or withdrawal is the date the form is received by the Registrar's Office.

If a student who began attendance and did not officially withdraw receives all non-passing grades for a semester, the university must determine whether they attended class and earned the grades or whether they ceased attending at some point without officially withdrawing. This determination occurs via a requested documented last day of attendance or participation from the student's instructors.

If a student received all non-passing grades because they stopped attending class, they are considered to have unofficially withdrawn from the university. The student's financial aid will be revised based on the documented last date of attendance at an academically related activity, and they may have to repay a portion of the federal aid they received during the semester.

If the university is unable to document the last date of attendance at an academically related activity, the student's financial aid will be revised based on the mid-point of the term, and they will have to repay one-half of the federal aid they received during the semester.

Non-passing grades for financial aid purposes include Failing grade "F", Withdrawn grades "W" and "FW", Not Pass grade "NP", and Incomplete grades "I" or "IC".

LOA is granted to students in good standing with an intention to return to UWest less than one year, whereas withdrawal is applicable to students who do not plan to return to UWest as well as those who plan on taking one year or more off from their studies.

UWest's approved LOA does not meet the definition of Return of Title IV Funds Approved LOA and therefore, is considered as a withdrawal for Return of Title IV Funds purposes.

## **RETURN TO TITLE IV FUNDS (R2T4)**

The Financial Aid Office is required by federal regulations to recalculate Title IV eligibility for students who withdraw, are dismissed, take a leave of absence, or stop attending before completing the semester. This policy applies to all students receiving federal grant and/or loan aid. Students who only receive Federal Work-Study funds are not subject to this policy.

Federal Title IV regulations require students who withdraw from all of their classes prior to the 60 percent point of the payment period (defined as fall or spring semester or summer term) to return the unearned portion of their Title IV financial aid to the Department of Education. Additionally, institutions may be required to return a portion of unearned funds to the Department of Education, and some students may be entitled to a post-withdrawal disbursement.

The university must return the amount of unearned Title IV funds for which it is responsible no later than 45 days after the date of determination that the student withdrew. If the student earned more aid than was disbursed, the university would owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement which must be credited to the student's account within 180 days of the date of withdrawal determination.

### **Funds to include in a Return to Title IV calculation**

Title IV funds which must be included in the calculation are listed in the priority order of their return as follows:

1. Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loans;
2. Direct Subsidized Stafford loans;

3. Direct PLUS loans;
4. Pell Grants;
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
6. Other Title IV Assistance

UWest does not participate in the Perkins loans programs.

## Treatment of Title IV Aid When a Student Withdraws

When a student withdraws during the payment period or period of enrollment, the amount of Title IV program assistance earned up to that point is determined by a specific formula.

- If the amount disbursed to the student is/was greater than the amount earned, the unearned funds must be returned to the Department of Education.
- If the amount disbursed to the student is less than the amount earned, the student is eligible to receive a post-withdrawal disbursement of the earned aid that was not received.
- Refund calculations are not applied to students who withdraw from classes prior to the first day of attendance.
- Students who receive aid prior to the first day of attendance and who withdraw from all classes prior to the first day of attendance will be required to repay all of the Title IV Funds disbursed.

## Determining Earned Aid

The amount of assistance earned is determined on a prorated basis. For example, if a student completed 30 percent of the payment period or period of enrollment, the student earns 30 percent of the assistance he or she was originally scheduled to receive. Once the student has completed more than 60 percent of the payment period or period of enrollment, he or she earns all the assistance scheduled for that period.

## Post-Withdrawal Disbursement

A student who did not receive all of the funds earned before withdrawing may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. Students will be notified of post-withdrawal disbursement eligibility within 30 days of the date of withdrawal determination. All post-withdrawal disbursements will be credited to student account first. If the return calculation results in a credit balance on the student's account, the credit balance will be disbursed as soon as possible and no later than 14 days after the return calculation.

The university will disburse any post-withdrawal grant funds within 45 days of the date the university determines the student withdrew. No confirmation from the student is required. If a post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, the university must receive the student's permission before it can disburse them. The university will notify the student of their post-withdrawal loan disbursement and allow them 14 days to respond to the loan offer. A student may choose to decline some or all of the loan funds so that he or she does not incur additional debt. The university may automatically use all or a portion of the post-withdrawal disbursement of grant funds to pay for tuition, fees, and room and board charges (as contracted with the university). The university needs the student's permission to use the post-withdrawal grant disbursement for all other school charges. A student who chooses not to grant permission will be offered the funds. However, it may be in the student's best interest to allow the university to keep the funds to reduce debt.

When processing a post-withdrawal disbursement, the student must have met all of the conditions for a late disbursement prior to the date the student became ineligible (date of withdrawal). Some Title IV funds that the student was scheduled to receive may not be disbursed because of other eligibility requirements. For example, a first-time, first-year undergraduate who does not complete the first 30 days of a program

before withdrawal will not receive any Direct Loan funds that would have been received if the student had remained enrolled past the 30th day.

## Returning Unearned Aid

If the student receives (or the university or parent receives on the student's behalf) excess Title IV program funds that must be returned, the university must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of

- the student's institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of his or her funds, or
- the entire amount of excess funds.

The university must return this amount even if it did not keep this amount of the student's Title IV program funds. If the university is not required to return all of the excess funds, the student must return the remaining amount. For any loan funds that must be returned, the student (or the student's parent for a PLUS Loan) must repay in accordance with the terms of the promissory note. That is, the student must make scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time.

Any amount of unearned grant funds the student must return is called an overpayment. The maximum amount of a grant overpayment that must be repaid is half of the grant funds received or scheduled to be received. The student must make arrangement with the university or the Department of Education to return the unearned grant funds.

The requirements for Title IV program funds when a student withdraws are separate from any refund policy that the university may have. UWest's refund policy may be found in the catalog under the Tuition and Fees section. A student may still owe funds to the university to cover unpaid institutional charges. The university may also charge a student for any Title IV program funds that the school is required to return.

## Withdrawal Date

The Registrar's Office is the designated office of record where students provide notification of withdrawal. The withdrawal date is determined by the Registrar's Office and will be used as the withdrawal date in the calculation. The amount that could have been disbursed will be determined by the enrollment status as of the date the student completely withdraws.

## Return of Title IV Funds for Students Who Withdraw Due to Military Deployment

Students must submit a copy of the military deployment to the Registrar's Office and the Financial Aid Office. If a Title IV eligible student withdraws because of being called to active duty, or has been otherwise impacted by military mobilization, the school must perform Return of Title IV calculations that are required by statute and regulations. If those calculations result in the school being required to return funds to one or more of the Title IV programs, it must do so. The student will be responsible for any amount returned on their behalf.

## WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN AID RECIPIENT?

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students must be officially accepted into a degree-seeking program at UWest and make satisfactory academic progress toward that degree objective.
- Student must report any additional resources and/or changes. Such changes include, but are not limited to, additional financial resources such as Veteran's educational benefits; scholarships; stipends; graduate teaching assistantships; fee waivers; vocational rehabilitation payments; residence hall assistantships; or changes in enrollment, housing plans and/or residency.
- Students must be enrolled in and earn the minimum number of credits required by their enrollment/funding status each semester and must maintain "satisfactory academic progress" as defined for all applicants and recipients of aid.
- Students must meet all published deadlines.
- Students must activate their UWest e-mail address and use their official e-mail address to receive important financial aid notifications and information.
- Students should change their address via the Registrar's Office immediately anytime they have an address change.
- Students should notify the Financial Aid Office in writing if they will not be attending.
- Students should officially withdraw if they must leave UWest for any reason. Contact the Registrar's Office for additional information.
- Student loan borrowers who are graduating, leaving school or dropping below half time, must complete Student Loan Exit Counseling at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>
- Students must read the UWest Financial Aid Handbook and all other financial aid and scholarship information that they may receive. Financial Aid Advisors are available to assist students with their questions regarding financial aid, scholarships and relevant requirements.

## WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP SERVICES?

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students may request an appointment with a Financial Aid Advisor to discuss any questions or concerns they may have regarding their financial aid.
- Students who experience unusual circumstances that may impact their ability to contribute should contact the Financial Aid Office for further information. Unusual circumstances could include loss of a benefit or non-taxable income, separation/divorce, death of a parent/spouse, or economic hardship such as tuition for dependent child care, major medical/dental expenses not covered by insurance or natural disaster. Documentation is required.
- If an independent student or parent(s) of a dependent student has a substantial reduction in taxable income/ benefits, the student may contact the Financial Aid Office to reevaluate their FAFSA income.
- Students will be notified by email about their eligibility and if changes are made to their award letter during the year.
- Students may reduce the amount or decline any funds listed on their financial aid offer.

- Students should speak with a Financial Aid Advisor to review the options and consequences of dropping credits or withdrawing from UWest prior to making a final decision.
- Students can expect to be treated courteously and with civility; Financial Aid Advisors expect that in return.
- All financial aid information is held in confidence and is protected under the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Students can expect their phone calls to be returned within 24-48 hours (except during peak processing periods).

**Students should come to campus with enough funds to pay for books/supplies, incidentals, and initial living expenses. Please be prepared.**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q. Are financial aid and scholarship forms available on the Web?

A. Yes. Students can download needed forms at <https://uwest.edu/financial-aid-forms/>. Forms are also available in the Financial Aid Office. Students who do not have internet access or are not in the local area may request paper copies to be mailed.

Q. Must a student be registered for classes prior to receiving financial assistance?

A. Yes. No funds are released until the student is enrolled at least half-time.

Q. Are half- or three-quarter-time students able to qualify for financial aid?

A. Yes. If students indicated on the FAFSA or on the UWest application for financial aid that they intended to be part-time, they should review the enrollment status shown on their financial aid offer letter to ensure that it is correct. If students initially reported full-time enrollment and now their plans have changed, they should notify the Financial Aid Office. The student's eligibility for aid will be reevaluated and a revised offer letter will be provided to them.

Q. If students default on their federal student loans, what should they do now?

A. If a previous federal student loan is in default, the student may not receive any financial aid until the defaulted loan is repaid or satisfactory repayment arrangements are made. The student should contact the servicer of their loan(s) immediately.

## **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

**It is the policy of University of the West (UWest), Rosemead, CA not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, religious beliefs, physical disability, sexual preference, and/or national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, student activities, employment or admission policies, in the administration of its scholarships and loan programs, or in any other school-administered programs. This policy complies with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service Procedure 321-1, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments as amended and enforced by the Department of Health & Human Services.**