

Financing College | What you need to know

finaid@uidaho.edu | www.uidaho.edu/finaid | View Online Version at: www.uidaho.edu/finaid/informer.pdf
Financial Aid Office, University of Idaho, PO Box 444291, Moscow, ID 83844-4291



Student Financial Aid Services
(208) 885-6312 or 1-888-884-3246

Student Financial Aid Services at the University of Idaho is committed to helping you meet your educational expenses through a variety of resources including institutional scholarships as well as state and federal financial aid programs. Last year, University of Idaho students were awarded over \$80,000,000 in financial aid. We are here to help you finance your higher education.

If you have questions, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-8UIDAHO (1-888-884-3246), visit our web site at: www.uidaho.edu/finaid or come by our office located in the University of Idaho Student Union Building!

Application Process Simplified

The University of Idaho has simplified the application process for scholarships and other financial aid. If you follow these 2 steps, you will automatically be considered for all types of scholarships and financial aid available. If you meet the February 15th priority date, you will receive consideration for all funds. If you miss the February 15th priority date, still apply as there will be some funds still available.

1. Submit an admission application and have all supporting documents (transcripts and test scores as required) on file with us by the February 15th priority date.
2. Have the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file at the federal processor by the February 15th priority date.

Applying for Scholarships is Easy

The University of Idaho wants to consider all of their students for scholarships. It's easy! Just have the admission application and supporting documentation on file with us by February 15 and you have applied for merit-based scholarships, awards where a student's financial status is not considered. **(No other applications are required! If you also have your FAFSA on file you will have applied for all scholarships and other financial aid.)** For a complete listing of scholarships for which you will be considered, visit www.uidaho.edu/finaid/schols.

In the future, as a continuing University of Idaho student, you are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships without an additional application. Have your FAFSA on file by February 15th so you will be considered for all scholarships and other types of financial aid. Refile the FAFSA after January 1 each year.

You may have already qualified for some of our guaranteed scholarships, if you meet certain minimum requirements. Check out our guaranteed scholarships at www.uidaho.edu/finaid/schols.

Notification of Awards

The University of Idaho assigns all admitted students an e-mail account called "VandalMail." VandalMail is the official means through which you will receive your grades, billing statements, notices about your financial aid and messages from your professors. **You must read your VandalMail regularly for updated notices and information.** For detailed information on activating your VandalMail and accessing our secure web product called VandalWeb, please go to www.vandalsetup.uidaho.edu.

Information about your financial aid will be sent to your VandalMail. This e-mail will explain how to access your award information on the VandalWeb. Be sure to activate your VandalMail and VandalWeb.

Types of Aid Available

Student Financial Aid Services evaluates every student's application to assure it is considered for all funds available. Here are the types of funds for which you will be considered:

- » **Grants** include programs such as Pell Grant, Leveraging Education Assistance Partnership Program (LEAPP), Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Smart Grant (SMART) and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). Students must meet qualifications based on the results of the FAFSA. These grant programs are limited to undergraduate students. Grant money does **not** have to be repaid.
- » **Scholarships** come from various sources. Our office **automatically** considers your eligibility for all scholarships available at the University. Your library or high school counselor's office also may provide local and regional scholarship listings. Our Web-site provides links to several free and reputable scholarship search engines at www.uidaho.edu/finaid/scholsearch. We recommend that students do **not** use scholarship search companies that charge a fee for their services.
- » **Loans** are funds you must repay, similar to any loan money borrowed from a bank or other lender. Federal loan programs will offer you the best interest rates and benefits, such as repayment after graduation. Always consider federal loan programs before taking any loans from other sources. When you complete the FAFSA, you will automatically be considered for all federal loan programs
- » **Work Study** provides part-time jobs for students on the University of Idaho campus. You automatically will be considered for this program when you have the FAFSA on file by the February 15 priority date.

Other work opportunities are available through the Job Location and Development Office as well as the University Human Resources Office. These are free services. Additional information and job listings are available on the web at www.uidaho.edu/finaid/jld.

Admitted students may access a free job listserv through their VandalMail account.

Outside scholarships, or "agency" scholarships, are those awarded by an organization other than the University of Idaho. Examples include Junior Miss, Rotary Clubs and scholarships from your community or high school. Be sure to notify our office of these resources so we can provide you with an accurate award notification.

If you are expecting agency scholarships, please ask the donors to send funds on your behalf by August 1 (for the Fall term) and December 1 (for the Spring term) so that the funds will be available to you at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters. Funds submitted should include the student's full name (e.g., Joe Paul Vandal) and Social Security number or student ID number.

Taking the Mystery out of Completing the FAFSA

Contrary to common perception, completing the federal FAFSA form is very straight-forward. Let us walk you through the step-by-step process.

1. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for your federal PIN. The student and at least one parent should apply. The result of this 30-second process will be an e-mail delivered in a matter of hours, providing a link to your new PIN. You will use the PIN to sign the FAFSA, the Master Promissory Note for Direct Ford Loans (Stafford), make corrections to your FAFSA and file a Renewal FAFSA in subsequent years.
2. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Families may download a pre-application worksheet at this Web site (in the column titled, "Before Beginning a FAFSA") or obtain one from their high school or our office. This worksheet provides a space to gather your information before inputting it on the FAFSA Web site. **List University of Idaho's school code of 001626** to enable us to receive an electronic version of your FAFSA.
3. University of Idaho's priority filing date is **February 15 (eastern time)**. This means that students whose FAFSAs have been received by the federal processor **and** whose Applications for Admission (complete with recent transcripts and test scores) have reached the Admission Office will be given **first priority** for need-based scholarships and federal programs which have limited funding (Work Study, Perkins Loans, etc.). **Note:** You will be eligible for federal aid whether you meet the priority date or not.
4. Because many families do not have their federal tax returns completed by February 15, we **highly encourage** families to **provide estimates** to ensure they meet the priority date. Once tax returns have been completed, please be sure to return to the FAFSA online to **update** the information. For more suggestions, please visit www.uidaho.edu/finaid/hints.
5. You will have the opportunity during the fall semester to attend a Financial Aid Night at your high school where a financial aid professional will be available to explain the application process and answer questions. You are always invited to call our office for help as well. Please allow our staff to assist you with any questions **before** submitting your application to ensure an easy application process.
6. Shortly after you have submitted your FAFSA, the federal processor will e-mail you a Student Aid Report (SAR) that simply reflects the information you provided on the FAFSA. Please review carefully. If you find errors, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov, use your PIN to access your file, and make the corrections in the column titled, "FAFSA Follow-up." The federal processor will send these changes to our office.

What Happens After Submitting the Applications

1. The Financial Aid Office will take all of your application information and match it with all scholarship, state and federal financial aid programs to provide you with the best financing options available.
2. You will receive information about your scholarship and financial aid options. This usually takes place in late March. Information for admitted students is sent to their University of Idaho VandalMail e-mail account, so be sure to check your e-mail. Information about your scholarships and financial aid also will be available on VandalWeb.
3. Every student has a financial aid adviser available to them to discuss their financing options and answer any questions. Just contact our office and we will put you in touch with your financial aid adviser.

What Else Can We Do For You?

Please visit our Web site at www.uidaho.edu/finaid/services to view the many other services we provide, such as:

- » Emergency Short-Term Loans
- » Budget and Loan Repayment Counseling
- » Scholarship and Agency Verifications