

Financial Aid

Students who apply for financial aid are responsible for completing the necessary paperwork far enough in advance to assure aid is received in a timely manner. For further information, please check with the Office of Financial Aid, Student Services Building, Suite 124.

Undergraduate Student Aid

UAH has several programs to assist students in financing their college education. Comprehensive, updated information on all financial aid offered through the Office of Financial Aid is available online at www.uah.edu/financialaid. It includes detailed information about types of aid, eligibility guidelines, application procedures, criteria for awards, disbursement methods and regulations, and institutional policy followed in administration of aid. Additional information and necessary forms are available online and in the Office of Financial Aid.

Students of academic promise who can demonstrate financial need are encouraged to apply for assistance. Realistic financial planning is an essential part of college preparation. UAH helps qualified students find employment, scholarships, and loans as resources permit.

Students should make financial plans well in advance of entering the University. There are two important priority dates for student aid—December 1 for scholarships and April 1 for federal aid (apply online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>). The priority dates are the dates by which completed scholarship applications are certain to be included in the first round of review and by which the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be processed in a timely manner. A new FAFSA application must be submitted each year aid is requested.

Types of Financial Aid

Scholarships

(See the Financial Aid (<http://www.uah.edu/admissions/undergraduate/financial-aid/scholarships>) website for Scholarship listings)

Loans

UAH participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program. Student loan funds are made available directly from the U.S. Department of Education. Although it is sometimes necessary to borrow money to finance an education, caution is advised. Generally, a student should not rely primarily on loans and is advised not to borrow more than what is needed to meet expenses. Additional information regarding eligibility amounts, loan limits, application procedures and suggested application timelines may be found online at www.uah.edu/financialaid. This and other valuable information regarding the financial aid process is available in the Office of Financial Aid.

Grants

The Federal Pell Grant Program assists eligible students by providing help in meeting the cost of postsecondary education. To be eligible, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. demonstrate financial need (for most programs);
2. be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
3. have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
4. be registered with Selective Service, (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/basic-criteria/#selective-service>) if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25);
5. be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
6. be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Direct Loan Program funds;
7. maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school;
8. sign statements on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]) stating that
 - you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant and
 - you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes; and
9. show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
 - having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or
 - completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law.

A Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant provides aid to undergraduate students who would not otherwise be financially able to attend college. A student must be accepted for enrollment and be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant Program. Grants may be renewed for the four years of undergraduate study, subject to the availability of funds, unless a major change in the family's financial condition causes the student to be ineligible. Grants are awarded in compliance with eligibility based on federal guidelines.

The Alabama Student Assistance Program is a state/federal aid program designed to provide Alabama residents financial assistance for undergraduate postsecondary education. Grants are awarded for one year. The grants are renewable, but new applications must be made each year. All awards are

determined by student eligibility requirements, available funds, and student need. Students should contact the Office of Financial Aid for information regarding eligibility, application, selection, and awards procedures.

Federal Work-Study Program

The Federal Work-Study Program provides employment for students who need financial assistance. A participating student works part-time on campus or in a non-profit agency while attending the University. In determining eligibility, preference will be given to students with the greatest financial need.

Return of Federal Financial Aid

Federally funded financial aid (Pell, SEOG, Direct Loans) awarded to a student who withdraws from all classes after registration but before the end of the refund period, or who earns no passing grades for a specific term, must be repaid to the respective program source. When withdrawal or reduction of class load occurs after the end of the refund period, all tuition charges will be paid from the awarded aid and any remaining aid must be repaid to the respective aid source. Specific regulations governing this policy may be found online at www.uah.edu/financialaid.