

# Financial Aid Checklist

## Follow these steps to apply for financial assistance:

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). UC Berkeley's federal school code is 001312. Sign your FAFSA application electronically upon submission.

As of May 10, 2015, the FSA ID – a username and password – has replaced the FAFSA PIN and must be used to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. If you do not already have an FSA ID, you can create one when logging in to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov), [studentloans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) and [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office will review your FAFSA application after you are accepted to the [datascience@berkeley](mailto:datascience@berkeley) program, submit the Intent to Enroll Form and submit the Self Certification. Once you have submitted your enrollment decision, the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office will send an email notification to your UC Berkeley email account alerting you to review your financial aid offer.

Log in to MyFinAid ([myfinaid.berkeley.edu/myfinaid/home.html](https://myfinaid.berkeley.edu/myfinaid/home.html)). Review messages and submit all required documents. You will find links to these forms on your MyFinAid account.

You can accept your loan offers at any time after you see it awarded via your MyFinAid page. You should do research first on the Department of Education website to make sure these loans are the best fit for your needs.

The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Program is credit based. You may want to review credit reports for potential problems. Contact any of the following credit bureaus for information: Experian ([experian.com](https://experian.com)), Equifax ([equifax.com](https://equifax.com)) or TransUnion ([tuc.com](https://tuc.com)).

The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan credit check will commence once you accept the loan via MyFinAid. The lender will contact you via email with options for proceeding should you not pass the credit check.

We encourage you to accept the smallest amount of Grad PLUS needed for the year. You can accept less than the offered amount, which is your maximum current eligibility. You can also delay accepting any or all of your offer until you are sure you need it. Review all deadlines for loan acceptance as they vary by term.

Complete the loan entrance counseling and the Master Promissory Note. Both need to be completed in order for funds to be disbursed to your student account and can be completed online at [studentloans.gov](https://studentloans.gov). You will need your FSA ID to log in and complete the processes. Note: There is a separate Master Promissory Note for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan and the Federal Direct PLUS loan.

Loan funds are paid to your Campus Accounts Receivables System (CARS) account as early as 10 days before each semester. Be sure that you have met all criteria for disbursement including enrollment in at least six units per term.

Update your lender(s) with addresses, contact information and enrollment status (for loan deferment purposes).

For more detailed information including important deadlines, please visit: [financialaid.berkeley.edu/graduate-award-guide](https://financialaid.berkeley.edu/graduate-award-guide).