

2016-2017



**Financial Aid
Handbook**

Table of Contents

General Information	1
Financial Aid Office Contact Information	1
UAFS Financial Aid Handbook Purpose	1
Financial Aid Code of Conduct	1
Student Rights & Responsibilities	2
Enrollment Status	4
Census Date	4
Academic Year Definition	4
Summer Aid	4
Repeated Coursework	4
Application Renewal	5
Campus Resources	5
Net Price Calculator	5
How to Apply for Aid	6
Steps to Apply	6
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	7
YOUuniversal Application for State Aid	7
Verification Process	7
Professional Judgement	8
Types of Federal Aid Available at UAFS	9
General Eligibility Criteria	9
Federal Pell Grant	9
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grant (SEOG)	10
Federal Work Study	10
Application Process	10
Hiring Process	10
Getting Paid	11
Federal TEACH Grant	11
Federal Direct Loans	11
Federal PLUS Loans	13
Loan Repayment	14
Default Prevention	15
Types of State Aid Available at UAFS	16
Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship	16
Arkansas Distinguished Governor’s Scholarship	17
Arkansas GO! Grant	18
Other State Aid	19

Table of Contents

Types of Scholarships Available at UAFS	20
Freshman Prestigious Scholarships.....	20
Freshman Merit Scholarships.....	23
Freshman Opportunity Scholarships.....	23
Other Institutional Scholarships.....	24
Other Sources of Aid Outside of UAFS	26
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.....	26
Veterans Education Benefits.....	26
Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	27
Trade Adjustment Assistance.....	27
Western Arkansas Employment Development Agency.....	28
Free Online Scholarship Searches.....	28
Cost of Attendance	29
How Cost of Attendance is Determined.....	29
How Cost of Attendance is Utilized.....	29
Demonstrated Financial Need.....	29
Disbursements/Refunds	30
General Disbursement Information.....	30
Late Start Classes.....	30
Book Vouchers.....	31
Refund Information.....	31
Direct Deposit.....	31
Satisfactory Academic Progress	33
Maximum Time Frame.....	33
Qualitative Measurement – GPA.....	33
Quantitative Measurement – Course Completion Rate.....	33
Attempted Hours.....	33
Completed Hours.....	34
Repeated Hours.....	34
Financial Aid Clear Status.....	34
Financial Aid Warning Status.....	34
Financial Aid Suspension Status.....	34
Regaining Financial Aid Eligibility.....	35
Withdrawing	36
Return of Title IV Funds.....	36
Adjusting Aid Related to Withdrawals.....	36

General Information

Financial Aid Office Contact Information

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
Financial Aid Office

Location: Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center 215
Address: 5210 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
Phone: 1 (479) 788-7090
Fax: 1 (479) 788-7095
Email: finaid@uafs.edu
Website: <http://admissions.uafs.edu/financial-aid>
Federal School Code: 001110

UAFS Financial Aid Handbook Purpose

The purpose of the UAFS Financial Aid Handbook is to inform students, parents, and the campus community of the financial aid process, requirements, students' rights, and students' responsibilities. While the UAFS Financial Aid Handbook is designed to answer several basic questions surrounding financial aid, students are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office with any questions that may arise after reviewing this handbook. Federal aid information included in this book is based on current regulations as of the latest updated date; however, compliance will be in accordance with the Federal Student Aid Handbook as published by the U.S. Department of Education. State aid information included is based on current regulations as of the latest updated date; however, compliance will be in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Financial Aid Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct was last updated by NASFAA's Board of Directors in March 2014. Subject to enforcement procedures that go into effect July 1, 2015, NASFAA institutional members of NASFAA will ensure that:

1. No action will be taken by financial aid staff that is for their personal benefit or could be perceived to be a conflict of interest.
 - a. Employees within the financial aid office will not award aid to themselves or their immediate family members. Staff will reserve this task to an institutionally designated person, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.
 - b. If a preferred lender list is provided, it will be compiled without prejudice and for the sole benefit of the students attending the institution. The information included about lenders and loan terms will be transparent, complete, and accurate. The complete process through

which preferred lenders are selected will be fully and publically disclosed. Borrowers will not be auto-assigned to any particular lender.

- c. A borrower's choice of a lender will not be denied, impeded, or unnecessarily delayed by the institution, even if that lender is not included on the institution's preferred lender list.
 - d. No amount of cash, gift, or benefit in excess of a de minimis amount shall be accepted by a financial aid staff member from any financial aid applicant (or his/her family), or from any entity doing business with or seeking to do business with the institution (including service on advisory committees or boards beyond reimbursement for reasonable expenses directly associated with such service).
2. Information provided by the financial aid office is accurate, unbiased, and does not reflect preference arising from actual or potential personal gain.
 3. Institutional award notifications and/or other institutionally provided materials shall include the following:
 - a. A breakdown of individual components of the institution's Cost of Attendance, designating all potential billable charges.
 - b. Clear identification of each award, indicating type of aid, i.e. gift aid (grant, scholarship), work, or loan.
 - c. Standard terminology and definitions, using NASFAA's glossary of award letter terms.
 - d. Renewal requirements for each award.
 4. All required consumer information is displayed in a prominent location on the institutional web site(s) and in any printed materials, easily identified and found, and labeled as "Consumer Information."
 5. Financial aid professionals will disclose to their institution any involvement, interest in, or potential conflict of interest with any entity with which the institution has a business relationship.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students have the right to:

- Know what financial aid is available, including information on all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs.
- Expect fair and equitable treatment from the UAFS Financial Aid Office staff. It is the goal of the office to assist all students promptly and professionally throughout the financial aid process.
- Know the interest rate on any student loan the student borrows, the total amount that must be repaid, the length of time the student has to repay, when the loan(s) must be repaid, and what cancellation or deferment provisions apply.
- Request consideration of the financial aid package. If the student's financial circumstances have changed, the student must submit a Special Circumstance Appeal form to the Financial Aid Office (See Professional Judgement section).

- Know how Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is measured and how students can reestablish eligibility for federal and state financial aid if they fail to meet the standard (See Satisfactory Academic Progress section).

Students are responsible for:

- Understanding if financial aid does not completely cover the tuition bill, the student is responsible for setting up an installment plan or making full payment immediately to the Cashier's Office. The student must realize that until all requested information has been submitted, reviewed, and verified, financial aid will not be credited to the student account.
- Making copies of all documentation that is requested in advance of submitting them to the Financial Aid Office. Copies will not be made available to the student at a later date.
- Being admitted into a degree-seeking program during the term(s) that the student wishes to receive financial aid. Not all classes or majors are eligible for financial aid, including student loans.
- Reapplying for financial aid each year. Students cannot receive financial aid from two schools during the same year.
- Understanding that at any time enrollment drops below 6 credit hours prior to loan disbursement, the Federal Direct Loan will be cancelled. The student will be responsible for any remaining balance.
- Understanding that if the student completely withdraws from school or receives all Fs due to non-attendance, the student may be required to repay a portion of the financial aid. Students will also be placed on a manual suspension and lose financial aid eligibility beginning with the next semester attended.
- Consulting with a financial aid advisor before dropping courses and be aware of the Return of Title IV Funds Policy.
- Paying any remaining balance after any earned aid is applied when dropping classes.
- Understanding financial aid refund checks are printed once a week and mailed each week after initial disbursements are made unless direct deposit is set up prior to a refund being generated. Direct deposit refunds will be made each day after initial disbursements are made. Check amounts are based on any balance remaining after tuition, fees, book charges, and other authorized charges are paid, and are subject to enrolled hours.
- Understanding that Federal Work Study and Federal Direct Loan programs require enrollment in a minimum of 6 credit hours.
- Understanding that a financial aid advisor may request additional documentation at any time.
- Not being in default on any loan previously received at any institution.
- Obtaining the information on when and how financial aid funds will be disbursed.
- Providing all requested documentation to the Financial Aid Office accurately and timely.
- Completing an entrance and exit counseling for any student loans received at UAFS.
- Understanding the university's refund policy.
- Paying any balance from a prior semester.

Enrollment Status

Enrollment status is determined by the academic workload (or course load) that a student is carrying for a semester. This relates to the number of credit hours taken by a student during a given period of enrollment.

For federal and institutional aid purposes:

Full-Time:	12+ credit hours
Three-Quarter Time:	9-11 credit hours
Half-Time:	6-8 credit hours
Less than Half-Time:	1-5 credit hours

For state aid purposes:

Full-Time:	15+ credit hours
Three-Quarter Time:	9-14 credit hours
Half-Time:	6-8 credit hours
Less than Half-Time:	1-5 credit hour

Census Date

The census date for the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is the eleventh class day of the semester. A student's enrollment on the census date will be locked for financial aid purposes. If a student adds or drops courses prior to the census date, this could cause changes in the student's financial aid eligibility. Financial aid eligibility will be based on the student's enrollment status on the census date. A student's Cost of Attendance will be based on the student's enrollment on the census date.

Aid Year Definition

The Aid Year for financial aid purposes includes the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Financial aid eligibility is determined based on the assumption that a student will be enrolled full-time for the fall and spring semesters. The summer semester is a "trailer" semester for purposes of financial aid.

Summer Aid

Since the summer semester is at the end of the aid year at UAFS, eligibility for the summer semester will be based on the student's summer enrollment and annual eligibility minus any aid received during the fall and spring semesters.

Repeated Coursework

Students may only receive financial aid twice for the same course. If a student takes a course and passes, fails, or withdraws, that student may still receive aid for that course only one more time. Financial aid will not be calculated for any third or greater attempts for single course. Repeated

coursework can also affect Satisfactory Academic Progress. (See Satisfactory Academic Progress section).

Application Renewal

It is required for students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to determine eligibility for federal aid. Some scholarships may also require that a FAFSA be completed. Once a student has completed a FAFSA, each following year the student may return to the FAFSA on the Web to renew their application. This will pull all of the student's demographic information into a new application so the student does not have to start over completely each year.

Campus Resources

If you are having difficulty with your courses, you should seek assistance from your instructor and/or contact one of the following departments for support.

University Office	Website	Phone
Academic Success Center	http://academics.uafs.edu/academic-success/tutoring-services	(479) 788-7675
	Writing Center Services	
	Drop-In Math Labs	
	Free Group Tutoring	
Student Health Clinic	http://health.uafs.edu	(479) 788-7444
Counseling Clinic	http://health.uafs.edu/health/counseling-center	(479) 788-7398
Student Support Services	http://academics.uafs.edu/academic-success/student-support-services	(479) 788-7619
Advising Center	http://academics.uafs.edu/advising/advising-services	(479) 788-7400
Student ADA Services	http://academics.uafs.edu/academic-success/ada-services	(479) 788-7577
Testing Center	http://admissions.uafs.edu/testing-center/testing-center	(479) 788-7682

Net Price Calculator

UAFS's Net Price Calculator is available online at:

http://admissions.stage.uafs.edu/sites/admissions.uafs.edu/files/Departments/Financial/documents/np_calc/npcalc.htm.

NOTE: It is important to remember that the amounts used in the Net Price Calculator are estimates only.

How to Apply for Aid

Steps to Apply

- Step 1: Students **must** complete the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith admissions application. You may do so by visiting <http://admissions.uafs.edu>. Once the student has been accepted to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, access can be set up to the UAFS email account and Banner Self-Service through the My.UAFS online account.
- Step 2: **Complete the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** on the Web as soon as possible. **UAFS’s federal school code is 001110.** The website is www.fafsa.gov. Financial information for 2015 is required to fill out a FAFSA (W-2 forms and IRS 1040s).

Students (and a parent, if dependent) will need a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID, a username and password, to log into certain US Department of Education websites. The FSA ID replaced the FSA PIN (Personal Identification Number). If the student does not already have an FSA ID, one can be created by visiting <http://fsaid.ed.gov>. Please following the instructions in the link below:

How to Create an FSA ID

- Step 3: Complete the UAFS Financial Aid File by **June 1st**:
UAFS forms can be found online at <http://admissions.uafs.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid-forms>.
- Any additional documents required will be listed in the student’s Banner Self-Service through the [My.UAFS](#) account. Students will also be notified via UAFS email if they have outstanding requirements.

ATTENTION: The UAFS Financial Aid Office will be utilizing My.UAFS and the UAFS student email account for pertinent information regarding financial aid (such as missing information, award information, and correspondence as required).

Students that are unable to meet the priority deadline of June 1 are still encouraged to complete their financial aid file, but may be responsible for payment. Award notifications will be sent to the UAFS email account.

- Step 4: Students who graduated from an Arkansas high school and/or Arkansas residents may apply for state aid through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Please visit <http://scholarships.adhe.edu> for more information and to apply. The deadline for most programs is June 1st. Keep in mind that the FAFSA must be completed when students apply for state aid for the first time.
- Step 5: Investigate and apply for scholarships. UAFS scholarships may be found at <http://admissions.uafs.edu/scholarships>. The UAFS Financial Aid website also has a listing of additional websites that may assist in searching for outside scholarship opportunities.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be completed online at www.fafsa.gov for FREE!

Once the FAFSA has been submitted, students will receive a confirmation with a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR). Students may also log into their FAFSA to view their SAR.

The SAR will summarize the information included on the FAFSA. If the FAFSA is complete, it will also contain the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as well as estimated eligibility for federal financial aid.

NOTE: Beginning for the 2017-2018 aid year, the FAFSA will be available October 1, 2016.

YOUniversal Application

The YOUniversal Application is the application for state aid through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Students may complete the YOUniversal Application online at <http://scholarships.adhe.edu>. Students completing the YOUniversal Application for the first time must also complete the FAFSA. The deadline for the YOUniversal Application and FAFSA is June 1 to apply for state aid. For a comprehensive user guide for the YOUniversal Application, please visit:

http://static.ark.org/eeuploads/adhe-financial/FinalSept2015Understanding_Your YOUniversal Account.pdf

Verification Process

Verification is a review process that a school must complete to confirm that data reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is accurate for those students selected by the U.S. Department of Education. The school has the authority to contact the student for documentation that supports income and other information reported on the FAFSA.

Once a student (and parent, if dependent) has signed and submitted the FAFSA using the FSA ID, the student will be notified immediately if they have been selected for Verification in their Student Aid Report (SAR). It can take an additional 5-7 business days for the UAFS Financial Aid Office to receive the completed FAFSA. Students should not make any additional corrections to the FAFSA unless specifically advised by the UAFS Financial Aid Office. Unauthorized corrections can delay the Verification process.

When the UAFS Financial Aid Office receives a FAFSA that has been selected for Verification, that student will be notified of the required documentation via a paper letter and their UAFS email account. The requirements will also be viewable in the student's My.UAFS account under "View my financial aid status." Students may access the requested forms online as well.

The student would need to print the forms, complete the forms entirely, and sign the forms. If parent information is/was required on the FAFSA, the parent will also need to sign the Verification forms as well.

The student (and parent(s), if dependent) would also be required to provide W-2s, if they earned income in the appropriate year, and a Tax Return Transcript, if they filed taxes for the appropriate year. If the student (and parent(s), if dependent) use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA, they would not be required to provide W-2 or Tax Return Transcript documentation.

Once all appropriate forms have been completed and signed by the student (and parent, if dependent), and received by the Financial Aid Office, that student's file will be processed within 2 weeks. Additional information may be required. If additional information is required, that student will be contacted via their UAfS email and processing may be delayed depending on student response time. Corrections may be made to the FAFSA based on information included in Verification documents. Once a student's financial aid has been processed, that student may view their financial aid awards in their My.UAFS account under "View my financial aid status."

Any necessary corrections to financial information or household size will be made by the UAfS Financial Aid Office through the Verification process. Corrections to student demographic information, dependency questions, or parent personal or marital information will be expected to be made by the student and/or parent; however, the student will be advised appropriately by a Financial Aid Advisor. Any corrections made to the FAFSA may take an additional 3-5 business days to be processed and returned to UAfS, if our federal school code (001110) is on the FAFSA.

Professional Judgement

If students cannot answer "Yes" to the FAFSA dependency questions and are therefore required to include parent information; however, due to extenuating circumstances such as abuse or abandonment or a situation in which the student cannot or should not have contact with the parent(s), a Dependency Appeal Form may be submitted. If the dependency appeal is approved, the Financial Aid Office may use Professional Judgement to override the dependency status on the FAFSA. This would require additional action each year the student is seeking aid at UAfS.

If the family's financial situation has changed since completing the FAFSA such as a parent losing a job due to business closure or layoff, or a parent has become deceased, or parents have divorced/separated, a Special Circumstance Appeal may be submitted. If the appeal is approved, the Financial Aid Office may use Professional Judgement to adjust the finances reported on the FAFSA to re-evaluate financial aid eligibility.

NOTE: If a student chooses to pursue a Dependency Appeal or a Special Circumstance Appeal, they must first complete the Verification process. This will include completing the Verification Worksheet and providing additional financial information. This may delay financial aid awarding.

Types of Federal Aid Available at UAFS

General Eligibility Criteria for Federal Aid

Below is a list of the basic general eligibility criteria; however, a full explanation of the eligibility criteria for federal aid may be found at www.studentaid.gov.

- Demonstrate financial need for most programs
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- 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)
- Be registered with Selective Service, if born male (Must register between the ages of 18 and 25)
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program
- Be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Direct Loan Program funds
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Sign the certification statement 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 education purposes
- Show you're qualified to obtain a college education by
 - Having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate
 - Completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law or
 - Enrolling in an eligible career pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-to-benefit" alternatives prior to July 1, 2012

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant (Pell) is a gift aid that does not have to be repaid. Pell is a need-based federal grant, based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The Pell amount is based on the EFC and the student's enrollment.

- 12+ credit hours – 100% of the semester amount of Pell
- 9-11 credit hours – 75% of the semester amount of Pell
- 6-8 credit hours – 50% of the semester amount of Pell
- 1-5 credit hours – 25% of the semester amount of Pell

A student may only receive up to 50% Lifetime Eligibility Usage (LEU) of the annual Pell award in a given semester and up to 100% Pell LEU in a single aid year. Federal regulations limit a student's

Pell LEU to 600%. This means that a student may only receive Pell for 6 years or 12 semesters of full-time enrollment. If a student enrolls less than full-time, they can prolong their Pell LEU.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grant

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grant (FSEOG) is a need-based grant that does not have to be repaid. The FSEOG is a limited fund that is awarded to students on a first come, first served basis with the highest need, based on the EFC and Cost of Attendance (COA).

Work Study

Work Study is a self-help aid that allows a student to earn funds to help cover educational expenses through part-time employment. UAFS offers two Work Study programs: Federal Work Study and University Work Study. Some benefits of participating in a Work Study program includes developing interpersonal skills, practicing time management skills, and the supervisor can be a great reference. Funds are not paid directly on the student's account; however, the student may use the funds they earn to pay charges on their student account.

Federal Work Study is a limited need-based fund. This means that students must have financial need, based on the EFC and COA. Students wishing to pursue Federal Work Study must complete the FAFSA. Federal Work Study would be included in the student's financial aid award package. Students will be paid using federal funds; however, the award listed is only an estimate of what the student could earn for the academic year. Students may work up to 15 hours a week and earn the federal minimum wage.

University Work Study is not based on financial need. Students will be paid with university funds. Students are not required to complete a FAFSA. University Work Study will not be included in the student's financial aid award package. Students may work up to 15 hours a week and earn the federal minimum wage.

Application Process

Students must complete the Student Employment Application to be considered for any work study position. The completed application should be submitted to the UAFS Financial Aid Office. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be considered.

NOTE: UAFS does NOT assign work study jobs to any student.

Hiring Process

Once the student has submitted the Student Employment Application to the UAFS Financial Aid Office, the application will be made available to hiring supervisors.

If a supervisor is interested in that candidate, the supervisor will contact the student worker to arrange an interview. If the supervisor wishes to hire the candidate, the supervisor will make a job offer.

Getting Paid

Work Study students are paid the federal minimum wage. Pay will be direct deposited on a bi-weekly basis, based on the hours worked during that payment period.

Federal TEACH Grant

The Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant is different from other federal student grants because it requires students to take certain kinds of classes in order to get the grant, and then do a certain kind of job to keep the grant from turning into a loan.

NOTE: If students do not complete the service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Students must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education, with interest charged from the date the TEACH Grant was disbursed (paid to or on the student's behalf).

Federal Direct Loans

ALL LOANS MUST BE REPAID

Federal Direct Loans (Direct Loans) are self-help government loans that must be repaid with interest. The U.S. Department of Education is the lender. Students are required to be enrolled at least half-time. Half-time enrollment for undergraduate students is 6 hours and for graduate students is 5 hours. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to qualify. For more information, please visit www.studentaid.gov/loans.

There is no separate application for direct loans. The FAFSA is the application; however, there are some additional steps for first-time borrowers only. First-time borrowers must complete Entrance Counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) by visiting www.studentloans.gov. This will require the student's FSA ID. If these steps cannot be confirmed by the UAFS Financial Aid Office, loan funds will not be disbursed to the student account.

There are two types of Federal Direct Loans: Federal Direct Subsidized and Federal Direct Unsubsidized.

The Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (Sub Loan) is a need-based loan, based on the EFC and COA. Interest begins accruing with the first disbursement to the student account; however, the U.S. Department of Education will pay the interest that accrues while the student is enrolled at least half-time and during the student's grace period.

NOTE: If a Sub Loan was disbursed from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014, the borrower is responsible for any interest that accrues for any grace period on that Sub Loan.

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (Unsub Loan) is not need-based and must be repaid with interest. Interest begins accruing with the first disbursement to the student account and the student is responsible for any interest that accrues.

The interest rate for any undergraduate Direct Loan disbursed from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 is fixed at 3.71% and accrues as simple interest.

The interest rate for a graduate Unsub Loan disbursed from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 is fixed at 5.31% and accrues as simple interest.

There is an origination fee for any federal loan that is disbursed. For any Direct Loan that is disbursed from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, the origination fee is 1.068%. This fee is not expected from the student; however, will be taken from the loan disbursement.

NOTE: For more information and up-to-date interest rates and fees, please visit:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates>.

There are limits to how much a student can borrow; however, the limits depend on the student's grade level and dependency status, as determined by the FAFSA.

For a ***dependent undergraduate*** student, the annual limits are:

- ***Freshman***: \$5,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$3,500 in Sub Loan funds and the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.
- ***Sophomore***: \$6,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$4,500 in Sub Loan funds, the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.
- ***Junior/Senior***: \$7,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$5,500 in Sub Loan funds, the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.

NOTE: The combined aggregate limit that a dependent student may have outstanding is \$31,000. The student may only have up to \$23,000 in Sub Loan funds.

For an ***independent undergraduate*** student, the annual limits are:

- ***Freshman***: \$9,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$3,500 in Sub Loan funds and the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.
- ***Sophomore***: \$10,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$4,500 in Sub Loan funds, the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.
- ***Junior/Senior***: \$12,500 in Direct Loans. May be up to \$5,500 in Sub Loan funds, the difference would be Unsub Loan funds.

NOTE: The combined aggregate limit that a independent student may have outstanding is \$57,500. The student may only have up to \$23,000 in Sub Loan funds.

For ***graduate*** students, the annual limit is \$20,500 in Unsubsidized Loan funds. Graduate students no longer qualify for Sub Loans as of July 1, 2012. A graduate student may only have \$138,500 outstanding in Direct Loans. A graduate student is only allowed to have up to \$65,500 outstanding in Sub Loans that may have been borrowed prior to July 1, 2012. The combined aggregate limit for graduate students includes any Direct Loans borrowed as an undergraduate student.

Federal PLUS Loans

Federal PLUS Loans (PLUS Loans) are credit-based government loans that must be repaid with interest. The U.S. Department of Education is the lender. Students are required to be enrolled at least half-time. Half-time enrollment for undergraduate students is 6 hours and for graduate students is 5 hours. Students must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to qualify. For more information, please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus>.

Although, the FAFSA must be completed, PLUS borrowers must also complete a PLUS Loan application by visiting www.studentloans.gov. An FSA ID will be required for this process.

1. Complete the FAFSA
2. Visit www.studentloans.gov
3. Sign in using the FSA ID
4. Click Request PLUS Loan
 - Click Parent PLUS (if legal parent of dependent student)
 - Click Graduate PLUS (if graduate student)
5. Complete PLUS Application
6. The borrower will be notified immediately if they have been denied due to an adverse credit history
7. Complete PLUS Master Promissory Note
8. Complete PLUS Entrance Counseling ONLY if Grad PLUS

NOTE: Credit checks and PLUS Loan approval are only valid for 180 days.

If the PLUS borrower is denied based on credit, the borrower may choose to seek an endorser. If the borrower pursues this option, the endorser must create an FSA ID to complete the Endorser Addendum electronically at www.studentloans.gov. The PLUS Loan may then be awarded up to the endorsed amount only.

The PLUS borrower may also choose to appeal the credit decision. Contact information and instructions for appealing the credit decision will be provided in the denial notification.

If a legal parent of a dependent student is denied a Parent PLUS Loan due to adverse credit history (or lack of U.S. citizenship) and does not wish to pursue an endorser or appeal the credit decision, that student may request additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan funds up to the independent student limits. This is typically up to an additional \$4,000 for the academic year. (See Federal Direct Loans section). If a graduate student borrower is denied, no additional federal funding is available.

The interest rate for any PLUS Loan disbursed from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 is fixed at 6.31% and accrues as simple interest. For more information about how interest accrues, please visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus#interest>.

There is an origination fee for any federal loan that is disbursed. For any PLUS Loan that is disbursed from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, the origination fee is 4.272%. This fee is not expected from the PLUS borrower immediately; however, will be taken from the loan disbursement.

There is an annual limit for the Federal PLUS Loan; however, there is no lifetime limit. The annual limit depends on the student's COA and any other aid the student may be receiving. A student may receive PLUS Loan funds up to their COA minus any other aid the student is receiving. For more information, the student may visit their My.UAFS account for their specific COA and to view their current financial aid award package.

Loan Repayment

Students may visit www.nslds.ed.gov and www.studentloans.gov for an overview of their outstanding federal loans. Students must complete Exit Counseling at www.studentloans.gov once they drop below half-time for any reason. Students need to visit www.nslds.ed.gov to see who their assigned loan servicer(s) is and for their contact information. There are three time periods associated with Direct Loans: In-School Deferment, Grace Period, and Repayment.

In-School Deferment (Payments are NOT required):

While a student is enrolled at least half-time, Direct Loans are in an In-School Deferment status. This means students are not required to make payments on these loans during this time. Half-time enrollment at UAFS for undergraduate students is a minimum of 6 credit hours and for graduate students is a minimum of 5 credit hours.

Grace Period (Payments are NOT required):

Once a student drops below half-time enrollment for any reason (fully withdrawing, degree completion, etc.) the outstanding Direct Loans will enter a Grace Period. The Grace Period is 6 months. If the student were to re-enroll at least half-time before the end of the Grace Period, that student's federal loans may re-enter In-School Deferment; however, if the student does not re-enroll at least half-time, that student's federal loans will enter Repayment. Once a student enters Repayment, that student no longer has a Grace Period, even if they re-enroll at least half-time later.

Repayment (Payments ARE REQUIRED):

Once a student has exhausted their Grace Period, that student is required to begin making payments on a monthly basis for any federal loans that student has outstanding.

Federal PLUS Loans enter Repayment 60 days after the latest disbursement of that PLUS Loan **UNLESS** the borrower requests an In-School Deferment. This is an option on the PLUS application. The PLUS borrower may also request a Grace Period. This will appear as an option on the PLUS application if the borrower chooses an In-School Deferment. If the PLUS borrower chooses the In-School Deferment and the Grace Period options on the PLUS application, repayment for the PLUS Loan will operate just as the Federal Direct Loans (see above).

Some common repayment plans include: Standard Repayment Plan, Graduated Repayment Plan, Extended Repayment Plan, and several plans based on qualifying or low income. The U.S. Department of Education provides many options for loan repayment for any federal loan. For a full list of repayment plans, please visit:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans>.

Default Prevention

A student defaults on a federal student loan when they have not made any satisfactory payments for 270 days (approximately 9 months). Most students default because they are unaware of their options or they have not kept their information up-to-date with their Federal Loan Servicer, so they miss important information. If a student defaults, that student is no longer eligible for federal student aid AND the U.S. Department of Education can garnish your wages, federal/state tax refund, or other federal benefits such as social security.

To avoid default, students should stay in contact with their Federal Loan Servicer. Students can find their loan servicer by visiting the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at www.nslds.ed.gov. As long as students stay in contact with their loan servicer and keep them updated about their situation, loan servicers will be able to assist with the repayment process and offer different options such as forbearance, forgiveness, or even cancellation.

If borrowers are having trouble making payments, they shouldn't ignore their loans. The U.S. Department of Education offers several options that can help keep students' loans in good standing, even if finances are tight.

3 Ways to Stay on Track with Loan Payments

1. ***Change the payment due date.*** If borrowers get paid after the student loan payment is due each month, they can contact their loan servicer and ask if they'd be able to switch the date the student loan payment is due.
2. ***Change the repayment plan.*** What students ultimately pay depends on the plan they choose and when they borrowed. If a borrower needs lower monthly payments, they should consider an income-driven repayment plan that'll base the monthly payment amount on their monthly income.
3. ***Consolidate loans.*** If a student has multiple student loans, they can simplify the repayment process with a Direct Consolidation Loan—allowing to combine all federal student loans into one loan for one monthly payment.

If the options above don't work and/or the borrower simply can't make any payments right now, they could be eligible to postpone payments through a deferment or forbearance. However, depending on the type of loan, interest may still accrue (accumulate) on the loan during the time no payments are being made.

Types of State Aid Available at UAFS

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship (Arkansas Challenge) provides assistance to Arkansas residents pursuing a higher education and is partially funded by the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery and is the most common form of state aid available. There is a traditional and non-traditional Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship.

Students must meet one of the following criteria to qualify:

- Any Arkansas high school graduate with a final GPA of 2.5 or higher
- OR**
- Any Arkansas resident
 - with an ACT score of 19 or higher **OR**
 - who has earned at least 12 college credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

NOTE: Students with college credit must submit an official transcript from each college attended.

Students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative college GPA and complete 27 credit hours the first academic year and 30 credit hours each year thereafter.

Arkansas Challenge is a graduated scale award:

- First Year: \$1,000 or \$500 each semester
- Second Year: \$4,000 or \$2,000 each semester
- Third Year: \$4,000 or \$2,000 each semester
- Fourth Year: \$5,000 or \$2,500 each semester

NOTE: These awards are based on semester payments. So a student who receives their first semester payment in the “First Year” and the second semester payment in their “Second Year” would still have two equal payments of \$500 each semester. The semester payment will not increase just because a student changes in grade level.

The Traditional Arkansas Challenge is for graduating seniors who are entering into college in the same year.

A student must enroll in at least 15 credit hours each semester to receive the Traditional Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship for that semester. The only exceptions include the student’s first semester in which the student is required to enroll in at least 12 hours and the student’s final semester in which the student is completing their degree.

To renew the Traditional Arkansas Challenge, a student must complete a total of 30 credit hours for the academic year with a cumulative 2.5 GPA for all college courses. The only exception is for the student’s first academic year, they are only required to complete a total of 27 credit hours, with a 2.5 GPA.

NOTE: Even if a student takes extra hours in the Fall semester, the student must still be enrolled in at least 15 credit hours in the Spring semester. The Arkansas Academic Challenge cannot be applied to courses taken in the Summer term. Renewal criteria is separate from disbursement criteria. If a student is unable to complete 30 credit hours for the academic year due to course failure, the student may make up the hours in the Summer term; however, the student will be responsible to send an official transcript with the Summer coursework to ADHE by September 15.

The Non-Traditional Arkansas Challenge is for any student who graduated from high school more than a year prior to completing the YOUniversal Application. This includes students who do not start college immediately after high school completion or currently enrolled college students.

A student must enroll in at least 6 credit hours each semester to receive the Non-Traditional Arkansas Challenge for that semester; however, the Non-Traditional Arkansas Challenge is prorated based on enrollment.

- 15+ credit hours: 100% of the semester award
- 12-14 credit hours: 75% of the semester award
- 6-11 credit hours: 50% of the semester award

The only exception would be the student's final semester in which the student is completing their degree. The student would qualify for 100% of the semester award, even if the student is only enrolled in 6 credit hours.

To renew the Non-Traditional Arkansas Challenge, a student must complete the number of credit hours for which the student was awarded with a cumulative 2.5 GPA for all college courses. This means if a student is awarded for 15 hours for the Fall and 12 hours for the Spring, the student must complete 27 credit hours to renew the Non-Traditional Arkansas Challenge for the following year.

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship is renewable for up to 4 years.

NOTE: If a student is unable to complete courses due to course failure, the student may make up the hours in the Summer term; however, the student will be responsible to send an official transcript with the Summer coursework to ADHE by September 15.

Students do not have to reapply each year for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship. Once the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship has been awarded, it will automatically renew as long as you meet the renewal criteria.

For more information for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, please review the ADHE overview at <http://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships/detail/academic-challenge-scholarship>.

[Arkansas Distinguished Governor's Scholarship](#)

The Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship (Governor's Distinguished) is the most academically rigorous scholarship program offered by ADHE. The scholarship pays tuition, mandatory fees, room and board up to \$10,000 per year.

Students must be a graduate from an Arkansas high school with:

- ACT Score: 32+ **OR**
- SAT Score: 1410

AND

- Final High School 3.5 GPA **OR**
- Be named National Merit Finalist or National Achievement Scholars

A student must enroll in at least 15 credit hours each semester to receive the Governor's Distinguished for that semester. The only exceptions include the student's first semester in which the student is required to enroll in at least 12 hours and the student's final semester in which the student is completing their degree.

To renew the Governor's Distinguished, a student must complete a total of 30 credit hours for the academic year with a cumulative 3.25 GPA for all college courses. The only exception is for the student's first academic year, they are only required to complete a total of 27 credit hours.

The Governor's Distinguished is renewable for up to 4 years.

***NOTE:** Even if a student takes extra hours in the Fall semester, the student must still be enrolled in at least 15 credit hours in the Spring semester. The Governor's Distinguished cannot be applied to courses taken in the Summer term. Renewal criteria is separate from disbursement criteria. If a student is unable to complete 30 credit hours for the academic year due to course failure, the student may make up the hours in the Summer term; however, the student will be responsible to send an official transcript with the Summer coursework to ADHE by September 15.*

For more information for the Arkansas Distinguished Scholarship, please review the ADHE overview at <http://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships/detail/governors-distinguished-scholarship>.

Arkansas GO! Grant

The Higher Education Opportunities Grant (GO! Grant) is based on financial need, which is based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Eligibility is based on the family's adjusted gross income (AGI) as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For a family with one member in the household, the maximum AGI is \$25,000. For each additional household member the maximum increases by \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$75,000 for ten household members.

The annual award amount is \$1,000 for full-time students and \$500 for part-time students.

A student must enroll in at least 15 credit hours each semester to receive the full GO! Grant for that semester. The only exceptions include the student's first semester in which the student is required to enroll in at least 12 hours and the student's final semester in which the student is completing their degree.

***NOTE:** Even if a student takes extra hours in the Fall semester, the student must still be enrolled in at least 15 credit hours in the Spring semester. The GO! Grant cannot be applied to courses taken in the Summer term.*

To renew the GO! Grant, a student must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA for all college courses. A student must also demonstrate continuing financial need, based on the FAFSA for that year.

For more information for the GO! Grant, please review the ADHE overview at <http://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships/detail/higher-education-opportunities-grant-go-grant>.

Other State Aid

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) has several aid programs aside from the most common awards discussed. For a complete list of all ADHE awards and regulations, please visit: <http://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships-and-programs/a-z/>.

- Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant
- Arkansas Health Education Grant
- Law Enforcement Officer's Dependent Scholarship
- Military Dependent Scholarship
- Out of State Veterinary Medical Education Loan Repayment
- Second Effort Scholarship
- Single Parent Scholarship
- State Teacher Education Program
- Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Teacher Opportunity Program
- Washington Center Scholarship

Types of Scholarships Available at UAFS

The University of Arkansas – Fort Smith has greatly expanded its scholarship program to ensure that more students have the opportunity to attend the university and ultimately reach that next big step in their lives, whether that is a prestigious graduate school or a meaningful career. An education from UAFS is already a financial value, but the university has increased the number and financial value of scholarships to help more students conquer the cost of a college education. Students are encouraged to apply early for admission to UAFS for priority consideration for all scholarships. Scholarships are awarded as long as funding remains available.

To be eligible for Freshman Scholarships, students must be high school seniors graduating in the Spring and entering into college in the Fall of the same year and seeking a UAFS bachelor's degree.

Freshman Prestigious Scholarships

The University of Arkansas – Fort Smith provides merit-based scholarships to our most academically successful students in the form of Freshman Prestigious Scholarships. UAFS Freshman Prestigious Scholarships require a separate application in addition to the UAFS Application for Admission.

The priority deadline for the Freshman Prestigious Scholarships is November 15. All materials for the Application for Admission and Scholarship Application must be received by the deadline for priority consideration.

Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship

The Chancellor's Leadership Council Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship for students who demonstrate strong leadership capabilities both inside and outside of school as well as demonstrate strong academic performance. They must have the desire to take leadership roles on campus, complete service projects, and serve as active members of the Chancellor's Leadership Council.

Students selected for this scholarship have the privilege to enroll in a three credit hour leadership course taught by Chancellor Paul B. Beran. *Recipients are required to live on campus their freshman and sophomore years.* All students applying for this scholarship must submit a complete Application for Admission and a Scholarship Application, including a resume showing proof of leadership and service. A selection of applicants will be chosen for a competitive interview.

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preferred ACT Score: 25High School GPA: 3.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPAComplete 30 credit hours each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to \$41,720 over four years, or until degree completion\$6,701 for tuition and fees each year\$4,394 for Lion's Den Housing each year for two years\$3,064 for on-campus meal plan each year for two years

NOTE: Current students will be responsible for the scholarship renewal criteria listed on their contract.

First Bank Corp. Business

The First Bank Corp. Business Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship for students who demonstrate strong leadership capabilities both inside and outside of school as well as demonstrate strong academic performance. They must have the desire to take a leadership role in activities that recognize business student achievement and promotes the College of Business at UAFS as well as serve in an advisory capacity as student representatives to the dean and faculty of the College of Business. Students must be seeking a bachelor's degree in the College of Business. A selection of applicants will be chosen for a competitive interview.

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Score: 27• High School GPA: 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA• Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$32,000 over four years, or until degree completion• \$5,500 for tuition and fees each year• \$2,500 for on-campus housing each year

NOTE: Current students will be responsible for the scholarship renewal criteria listed on their contract. Recipients are not required to live on campus.

Honors International Studies Program

The Honors International Studies Program Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship for students who demonstrate strong academic performance. The program consists of a unique honors general education curriculum with international focus, exciting travel study classes, service opportunities, independent study project options, and the opportunity for graduation with honors. This scholarship is NOT for international students. A selection of applicants will be chosen from a competitive interview.

For more information about this program, please contact [Dr. Dennis Siler](mailto:dennis.siler@uafs.edu) by telephone at (479) 788-7537 or by e-mail at dennis.siler@uafs.edu.

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Score: 27• High School GPA: 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain 3.2 cumulative UAFS GPA• Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$26,804 over four years, or until degree completion• \$6,701 for tuition and fees each year

NOTE: Current students will be responsible for the scholarship renewal criteria listed on their contract.

University Engineering Scholarship

The Engineering Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship for students who demonstrate strong academic performance and have the desire to complete a degree in Engineering. All students

applying for this scholarship must submit a complete Application for Admission and a Scholarship Application. If selected, applicants will be contacted by the UAFS Engineering Department for an interview. If students pursue the Mechanical or Electrical Engineering programs through UA-Fayetteville, the University Engineering Scholarship may only be applied to UAFS courses.

For more information about this scholarship, please contact Dr. Darbeau, Dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the School of Education at (479) 788-7611 or e-mail at ron.darbeau@uafs.edu. Applications are accepted through December 18, 2015.

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Score: 27 • High School GPA: 3.5 • Seeking a degree in Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$22,000 over four years, or until degree completion • \$5,500 for tuition and fees each year

NOTE: Current students will be responsible for the scholarship renewal criteria listed on their contract.

UAFS Foundation Prestigious Roland S. Boreham Jr. Engineering Scholarship

The Boreham Engineering Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship offered by our Foundation department for students who demonstrate strong academic performance and have the desire to complete a degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering. All students applying for this scholarship must submit a complete Application for Admission and a Scholarship Application.

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred ACT Score: 27 • High School GPA: 3.5 • Seeking a degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA • Complete 30 credit hours each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full tuition and fees each year for four years, or until degree completion • Furnished Laptop • Books and Supplies through on-campus bookstore • \$2,000 for on-campus housing each year

NOTE: Current students will be responsible for the scholarship renewal criteria listed on their contract.

Freshman Merit Scholarships

There is NO separate scholarship application for the Freshman Merit Scholarships. The priority deadline for the Freshman Merit Scholarships is November 15. All materials for the Application for Admission must be received by the deadline for priority consideration.

Academic Distinction

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Score: 25• High School GPA: 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA• Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$18,000 over four years, or until degree completion• \$4,000 for tuition and fees each year• \$1,000 for Lion's Den Housing each year for two years

Academic Excellence

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Score: 21• High School GPA: 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA• Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$14,000 over four years, or until degree completion• \$3,000 for tuition and fees each year• \$1,000 for Lion's Den Housing each year for two years

Freshman Academic Opportunity Scholarships

Students must complete the FAFSA for the appropriate year by the deadline. Awards will be offered as funds are available. The priority deadline for these awards is November 15.

Sebastian County Academic Opportunity

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Score: 19• High School GPA: 2.7• Be a Sebastian County Resident• Demonstrate Financial Need, Based on FAFSA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain 2.5 cumulative UAFS GPA• Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$12,000 over four years, or until degree completion• \$2,000 for tuition and fees each year• \$1,000 for Lion's Den Housing each year for two years• \$500 for books and supplies each year

Academic Opportunity

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Score: 19 • High School GPA: 2.7 • Demonstrate Financial Need, Based on FAFSA* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.5 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 over four years, or until degree completion • \$2,000 for tuition and fees each year • \$1,000 for Lion's Den Housing each year for two years

*FAFSA must be completed by November 15, 2016 for priority consideration.

Other Institutional Scholarships

The priority deadline for the following scholarships is November 15 unless otherwise noted. All materials for the Application for Admission must be received by the deadline.

Arkansas Scholars Scholarship

DEADLINE: March 1st

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be named an Arkansas Scholar from an Eligible School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.8 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000 over two years • \$1,000 for tuition and fees each year

Transfer Achievement

DEADLINE: June 1st

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 transferrable credit hours • College GPA: 3.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9,000 over three years, or until degree completion • \$3,000 for tuition and fees each year

Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Achievement

DEADLINE: June 1st

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Phi Theta Kappa* • Competitively awarded to top applicants from two-year colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,000 over two years, or until degree completion • \$4,000 for tuition and fees each year

*Proof of membership must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by June 1, 2017.

Non-Traditional Student Achievement Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 years of age or older • First-Time Entering Freshman • Acceptable AccuPlacer Scores • Resume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.7 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6,000 over four years, or until degree completion • \$1,500 for tuition and fees each year

International Student Distinction Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria	Renewal Criteria	Amounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-U.S. Citizen • F-1 Student Visa status • ACT Score: 26 • OR SAT Score: 1180 • High School GPA: 3.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0 cumulative UAFS GPA • Maintain full-time status (30 credit hours per year recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16,000 over four years, or until degree completion • \$4,000 for tuition and fees each year

Sixty Plus Waiver **DEADLINE: 11th day of Class**

The Sixty Plus Waiver is a tuition waiver for students over a certain age. Students must complete the Sixty Plus Waiver Request for each semester for which they wish to receive the tuition waiver for any credit courses the student enrolls in no earlier than two days prior to the start of the semester.

Eligibility Criteria:

- 60 years of age or older
- Legal resident of Arkansas

UAFS Foundation Scholarships **DEADLINE: May 1**

UAFS Foundation Scholarship requirements vary. Students are encouraged to apply early. There are a limited number of awards available. Scholarships will be competitively awarded.

NOTE: All materials for the Scholarship Application must be received by the deadline.

Amount:

- Amounts vary by award
- Only payable during Fall and/or Spring Semesters

Eligibility Criteria:

- Minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA
- 30 credit hours completed, in most cases

Renewal Criteria:

- Varies by award

Other Sources of Aid Outside of UAFS

Outside aid can typically be based on merit achievement, performance, or some unique personal attribute. We encourage students to speak with everyone they know to ask about outside scholarship opportunities. Some agencies that typically offer scholarships include local businesses, parents' employers, civic organizations, churches, free online searches, etc.

NOTE: We do encourage students to avoid fee-based scholarship searches because there are so many free resources already available.

Since outside aid is awarded by agencies outside of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, we do not have any information unless the student or the awarding agency provides that information to us. If a student receives any outside aid, the student may have the awarding agency mail the funds to:

UAFS Cashier's Office
P.O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649

Once funds are received by the Cashier's Office, those funds will be applied to the student account.

Some organizations require verification of enrollment before they will disburse funds. You may get your enrollment verification by logging on to My.UAFS at <http://my.uafs.edu>, click:

1. Academics
2. Students Services and Financial Aid
3. Enrollment Verification 24/7

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

A division of the Department of Career Education, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) has been charged with providing opportunities for Arkansans with disabilities to lead productive and independent lives. This is our mission statement and it is the foundation for the programs and comprehensive services that we provide to individuals with disabilities to enable them to prepare for and enter the workforce.

ARS provides third party payments for qualifying students. For more information, please visit: <http://ace.arkansas.gov/arRehabServices/aboutARS/Pages/default.aspx>.

Veterans Education Benefits

To receive benefits under the GI Bill®, students must first apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the necessary application available at the VA GI Bill website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/>.

At UAFS, student veterans can meet one-on-one with the VA Certifying Official to find out more about benefits, process paperwork, and certify enrollment. The VA Certifying Official is located in the Financial Aid Office on the second floor of the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center.

Students can find more information on the Veterans Services website:

<http://admissions.uafs.edu/veterans/veteran-services>

Bureau of Indian Affairs

American Indian Center of Arkansas (Trail of Tears Association)

Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.arindianctr.org/>

Address: 1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344

Phone: 1 (501) 666-9032

Cherokee Nation

Contact Information:

Website: <http://cherokee.org/>

Address: P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 1 (800) 256-0671

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.choctawnation.com/services/education/>

Address: P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Phone: 1 (800) 522-6170 ext. 2224

Trade Adjustment Assistance

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a program that helps trade-affected workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased imports or shifts of production out of the United States. Students can contact your local Employment Security Division for additional information.

Website: <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/contacts.cfm>

Address: 616 Garrison Avenue
P.O. Box 1987
Fort Smith, AR 72902

Phone: 1 (479) 783-0231

Fax: 1 (479) 783-2132

UAFS TAA Representative: Advisement Center

Email: advisement@uafs.edu

Phone: 1 (479) 788-7400

Western Arkansas Employment Development Agency

Western Arkansas Employment Development Agency (WAEDA) is a federally funded non-profit organization which operates under the Workforce Improvement and Opportunities Act (WIOA). WAEDA serves the six counties of Western Arkansas which includes: Crawford, Sebastian, Polk, Franklin, Scott, and Logan. There are ten service delivery areas in Arkansas that operate under WIOA. The administrator of the agency is Martha Anne Holt-Nichols. In addition to regular formula funding, WAEDA is currently working with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to provide core, intensive, and training services to unemployed and underemployed dislocated workers, as well as disadvantaged youth and adults.

WAEDA is here to help increase the employability of area residents with services that include assessment and testing, and job search and placement into productive employment through proper training with area institutions, businesses and industries. We also provide current labor market information, résumé writing software, career counseling, assistance with financial aid applications, referrals to adult literacy skills enhancement and more.

Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.waeda.org/>

Address: 1500 East Main
P.O. Box 1266
Van Buren, AR 72956

Phone: 1 (479) 474-7061

Fax: 1 (479) 474-4321

Free Online Scholarship Searches

American Indian College Fund	http://www.collegefund.org/
Arkansas Fund My Future	http://www.fundmyfuture.info/
Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund	http://www.apiasf.org/
CareerOneStop	http://careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/
CollegeNet	http://www.collegenet.com/
College-Scholarships.com	http://www.college-scholarships.com/
FastWeb	http://www.fastweb.com/
FinAid	http://www.finaid.org/
Gates Millennium Scholars	http://www.gmsp.org/
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/
Scholarships.com	https://www.scholarships.com/
United Negro College Fund	http://www.uncf.org/

Cost of Attendance

How Cost of Attendance is Determined

The UAFS Financial Aid Office has determined COA based on student enrollment and responses from student surveys and is adjusted annually based on national rates of inflation.

Since COA is based on a student's enrollment, it is possible for it to fluctuate if a student adds or drops classes. For this reason, COA is locked on the eleventh day of class based on the student's enrollment on that date, also known as Census Date. Any courses added after the Census Date will not be included in the student's COA.

NOTE: A student's financial aid award package may be affected if a student drops courses prior to the Census Date.

How Cost of Attendance is Utilized

COA is a budget used by any financial aid office to estimate the average student's cost to attend school. This is usually given as an annual amount. COA includes tuition and fees; room and board (or a housing and food allowance); and allowances for books, supplies, and transportation. It also includes miscellaneous and personal expenses. For students attending less than half-time, the COA includes tuition and fees and an allowance for books, supplies, and transportation.

COA is a limit to how much a student may receive in financial aid for any student receiving any federal, state, or institutional aid. If a student is only receiving privately funded awards, that student is not limited by COA unless specifically restricted by the awarding agency. COA is also used to determine a student's financial need.

Demonstrated Financial Need

Financial Need (Need) is calculated by the COA minus the EFC, determined by the FAFSA. Need may also be affected by any Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) including additional scholarships, grants, or other need-based aid the student is receiving. So, Unmet Need is Financial Need minus EFA. Several need-based awards are dependent on Unmet Need. Some of these awards include FSEOG, Federal Work Study, and Sub Loans.

Cost of Attendance (COA)	Financial Need
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	- Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA)
<hr/> Financial Need	<hr/> Unmet Need

Disbursement/Refunds

General Disbursement Information

Unless specifically directed by the awarding agency, aid will begin being disbursed to the student account on the eleventh day of class.

To view disbursements on your student account, you will need to log into your My.UAFS account at <http://my.uafs.edu> then click:

1. Students
2. Banner Self Service
3. Student Accounts
4. Account Detail

Disbursed aid will appear in the top portion under the payment column of the Term Detail.

NOTE: Once funds have been disbursed, those funds will no longer appear as Pending Aid.

Pell funds will be disbursed to the student account based on the dates of the student's enrollment. If a student is only enrolled in full-term courses, all eligible Pell funds will be disbursed on the eleventh day of class. If the student is enrolled in any courses that begin at any other point within the semester, a partial amount of eligible Pell funds will not be disbursed until that student begins attending those late starting courses.

Federal loans may be disbursed on or after the eleventh day of class. Students must satisfy all of the requirements for federal loans before those funds may be disbursed. All federal loans will be disbursed in two disbursements. For a full year federal loan, the first disbursement would be within the Fall semester and the second disbursement would be within the Spring semester. If a student has a single term loan, that loan will generally disburse half on or after the eleventh day of class and the other half would be disbursed after midterm grades are posted.

First Year, First-Time Loan Borrowers: Per federal regulations, students who are borrowing a Federal Direct Loan for the first time will have a 30 day delay, from the first day of class, on their first loan disbursement. This means that a student's loan disbursement, if they are a first-time borrower, will not be disbursed on the eleventh day of class with any other aid.

Late Start Classes

Late start classes can affect when a student's loan and Pell will be disbursed. If a student will not have half-time enrollment status until a later starting course begins, the loan funds will not be disbursed until that student begins attending that later starting course. If the student drops the late start course prior to attending, the student will not qualify for those federal loan funds. The Federal Pell Grant is based on a student's enrollment; therefore, if a student has some courses that start at the beginning of the semester and courses that start later in the semester, a portion of that student's Pell award will be disbursed at the beginning and the remaining eligibility for that semester would be disbursed once the late start classes begin.

Book Vouchers

Since the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is unable to disburse financial aid prior to the start of the semester, students may charge their book purchases, up to their amount of excess aid, to their student account from the campus bookstore located in the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center within the first two weeks of class. Students must have a complete financial aid file and financial aid must be awarded before books may be charged. Book vouchers will only be valued for the estimated amount of financial aid remaining after other qualified UAFS charges have been taken into consideration. Book vouchers may only be requested through the second week of the semester. Book vouchers will not be made available to those students who complete their financial aid file after the second week of the semester.

NOTE: Book charges will reduce the amount of available refund.

Refund Information

A refund will be generated on your account if you are scheduled to receive more refundable financial assistance than you have in allowable charges on your student account.

To view refunds on your student account, log into your My.UAFS account at <http://my.uafs.edu> then click:

1. Students
2. Banner Self Service
3. Student Accounts
4. Account Detail

Refunds will appear in the top portion under the payment column of the Term Detail.

Direct deposit refunds typically appear in your bank account within 48 hours from the time the refund is posted to your student account. You will receive an email notification in your UAFS email account when the direct deposit information has been sent to your bank.

Direct Deposit

Students may setup direct deposit for refunds from their UAFS student account. This allows students to receive their refund more quickly than waiting for a paper check to be mailed.

To Set Up Direct Deposit:

1. Log into My.UAFS at <http://my.uafs.edu>
2. Click Student
3. Click Banner Self Service
4. Click Online Business Center
5. Click Setup Refund Direct Deposit
6. Enter your banking information

NOTE: *Direct deposit should be set up at least 24 hours BEFORE your refund is posted to your student account. If not, you will be issued a paper check.*

Paper check refunds are typically processed once a week, which may delay the receipt of your refund due to processing and postal service. Refund checks lost in the mail will not be re-issued until 10 business days after it was mailed out.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) are the standards for satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate. The UAFS Financial Aid Office reviews SAP at the end of each semester, after grades have been posted for that semester for all students. Please review our complete SAP Policy at the link below:

<http://admissions.uafs.edu/sites/admissions.uafs.edu/files/Departments/Financial/documents/SAPfinalpolicy03-09-12.pdf>

Maximum Time Frame – 150%

Federal regulations only permit students to receive federal aid for the number of attempted credit hours up to 150% of the published credit hours required to complete the degree or certificate program. Therefore, if you have attempted credit hours in excess of 150% of your program's required credit hours, you are immediately terminated and ineligible for Title IV (federal) financial aid. We make every effort to notify students through their UAFS email when they are approaching their limit.

Number of credit hours required x 1.5 = Total number of allowed credit hours to attempt

Examples:

Typical Bachelor Degree: 120 required for degree X 1.5 = 180 allowable

Typical Associate Degree: 60 required for degree X 1.5 = 90 allowable

Qualitative Measurement – GPA

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) that is consistent with the graduation requirements for your program. For financial aid purposes, students are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Quantitative Measurement – Course Completion Rate

Students are required to maintain a 67% course completion rate for federal financial aid. This means that students must complete at least 67% of the credit hours that they attempt.

Course Completion Rate = Completed Hours ÷ Attempted Hours

Attempted Hours

A student's attempted hours include all attempted coursework, including withdrawals (W), failures (F), incompletes (I), and any accepted transfer coursework.

Completed Hours

A student's completed hours include only credit hours with grades of CR and D or better and accepted transfer coursework with grades of CR and C or better.

Repeated Hours

A student may only receive financial aid for a single class and one repeated attempt for that same class. Students will not receive financial aid for courses being repeated for a second time (or the third attempt) or more. University policy indicates that if a student repeats a course, the most recent grade will replace any previously earned grade for GPA calculation purposes; however, the previously repeated courses will still be counted in the students attempted hours but not in the students completed hours.

Financial Aid Clear Status

All students begin with a Financial Aid Clear Status when they are admitted to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and begin attending courses. A student will remain in Financial Aid Clear Status as long as they continue to meet SAP requirements outlined in the SAP policy.

Financial Aid Warning Status

If a student currently has a Financial Aid Clear Status but fails to meet the GPA or Course Completion Rate requirements upon completion of the current semester, that student will be placed on Financial Aid Warning for the following semester. Students may still qualify for financial aid while on Financial Aid Warning. If that student meets SAP requirements at the end of the Financial Aid Warning semester, that student will go back into Financial Aid Clear Status; however, if that student is not meeting SAP requirements at the completion of the Financial Aid Warning semester, that student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

Financial Aid Suspension Status

If a student is currently on Financial Aid Warning and fails to meet any of the SAP requirements upon completion of the current semester, that student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension for the following semester. Students do not qualify for federal or state financial aid while on Financial Aid Suspension.

If a student's attempted credit hours exceed the maximum time frame allowed for their degree program, that student will immediately be placed on Financial Aid Suspension for the following semester after they have exceeded the 150% Maximum Time Frame. A student may not receive a warning for exceeding the Maximum Time Frame, depending on that student's semester course load.

Regaining Financial Aid Eligibility

Students may regain financial aid eligibility in one of two ways:

1. Students may enroll and earn the required cumulative GPA and/or the required course completion rate while not receiving financial aid (enrolled at their own expense).

OR

2. Students may appeal to regain financial aid eligibility. An appeal form and required documentation must be submitted to the UAFS Financial Aid Office to be reviewed by the SAP Appeal Committee. The form can be obtained from the UAFS Financial Aid website: <http://admissions.uafs.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid-forms>. Please follow the steps closely on the appeal form. The committee will review all complete appeal requests. The decision of the SAP Appeal Committee is final.

NOTE: Submission of an appeal form does not guarantee reinstatement of financial aid. You are still responsible for payment of classes until the appeal committee has reviewed the appeal and supporting documentation. You may seek other funding sources or use your own resources to pay for courses. If the appeal is approved, you will be reimbursed accordingly.

If an appeal is granted, the student will be placed on an academic plan. That student will be monitored each semester to determine that requirements are being met. They will remain on the plan until they either meet the SAP requirements or they fail to meet the contingencies of their academic plan. If the student fails to meet the contingencies of their academic plan, they will become ineligible to receive financial aid for the following semester.

Withdrawing

Return of Title IV Funds

Title IV (federal) funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which assistance is awarded. If a student withdraws from all classes (official withdrawal) after beginning attendance or stops attending classes (unofficial withdrawal) during an enrollment period, that student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds originally scheduled to receive. For a full explanation of UAFS's R2T4 Policy please visit the link below:

<http://admissions.uafs.edu/sites/admissions.uafs.edu/files/Departments/Financial/documents/Return%20of%20Title%20IV%20Funds.pdf>

Returning title IV (federal) aid due to withdrawal is separate from any UAFS tuition, fee, room and board, and other qualified charges refund policy. When a student fully withdraws during the semester, a calculation to determine the amount of aid to be returned will be performed.

“When a student officially withdraws from a credit course(s), tuition may be refunded according to the following schedule: “

Date of Official Withdrawal	Fall/Spring Semesters	Summer Terms
Before the first day of the semester	100%	100%
During the first week of the semester	75%	50%
During the second week of the semester	50%	None
During the third week of the semester	25%	
After the third week of the semester	None	

**(2016-2017 Undergraduate Catalog, p. 19)*

Adjusting Aid Related to Withdrawals

1. The student is enrolled in a late starting class that begins after the census date and drops the class before it starts. Students are not entitled to receive financial aid for classes they have not attended and their financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.
2. The student is dropped from a class for non-attendance. Students are not entitled to receive aid for classes they have not attended and their financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.
3. If a student is dropped in error and is reinstated in the same class, financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. Please note: if a student enrolls in a different class from the one dropped in error, their financial will not be adjusted after the census date.
4. The student is identified as "never attending" the course(s). Students are not entitled to receive aid for classes they have not attended and their financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.
5. If the Instructor identified a student in error and confirms that the student has attended/participated in the same class, financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.

Students who receive a student loan(s) and withdraw from a course(s):

1. Students may have their loans cancelled or adjusted if they are enrolled in less than 6 credit hours.
2. If the student began attendance in 6 or more credit hours, and they received a portion or the entire loan, they are entitled to keep the amount already disbursed. However, no further disbursements will occur if they remain enrolled in less than 6 credit hours for that term and any remaining portions of the student loan(s) will be cancelled.
3. If the student did not begin attendance in 6 or more credits when they received a portion or the entire loan, the loan(s) will be removed entirely for that term and no further disbursements will occur.