Financial Aid

Financial aid refers to any grant, scholarship, loan or paid employment offered to help a student meet his/her college expenses. These monies can be merit-based and/or need-based. Merit-based financial aid is typically awarded for outstanding academic achievement, special talents such as athletics, leadership potential, or other personal characteristics. Need-based financial aid is awarded on the basis of a student’s financial need which is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.

Types of Aid Grants and Scholarships

Grants and scholarships are gift aid; they do not have to be repaid, nor do they have to be earned.

Work Study

Work-study programs help students earn money so they can pay for their educational expenses.

Loans

Loans constitute a form of financial aid that must be repaid with interest—the money charged for borrowing the loan amount (also known as the principal). However, unlike other kinds of loans, need-based student loans do not have to be repaid until a student leaves school, and these loans carry lower interest rates than most other kinds of loans because the government pays the interest while students are enrolled in school. These need-based loans are also known as subsidized loans.

Non-need based loans do not have to be repaid while students are enrolled, but unlike need-based student loans, students are responsible for paying the interest that accrues on the loan—even while in school. If interest payments are deferred, the interest charged for borrowing the money is added to the amount borrowed, resulting in a significantly higher amount of money to be repaid. These non-need based loans are also known as unsubsidized loans.

Note: Students should seek all OTHER available financial aid resources BEFORE applying for a loan. Applying for a loan should be a last resort option.

¿Qué es la Ayuda Financiera?

La ayuda financiera se otorga a través de subsidios, préstamos y becas, la cual es administrada por programas federales o estatales bajo la ley del Título IV -Ayuda Financiera Federal para Estudiantes. Se recomienda que los estudiantes soliciten la ayuda tan pronto como el primero de enero de cada año. Para solicitarla vía Internet, por favor vaya al sitio www.fafsa.ed.gov. El código federal para Citrus College es 001166. Con la excepción de los préstamos, la ayuda financiera no tiene que ser devuelta. Para obtener una lista de las oportunidades de ayuda financiera, por favor póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Ayuda Financiera.

¿Quién es Elegible?

Los requisitos más básicos son:

- Demostrar necesidad económica
- Ser ciudadano de EE.UU. o un no-ciudadano elegible con un número de seguro social.
- Contar con un diploma de escuela secundaria o un certificado de Desarrollo de Educación General (GED) o haber pasado la prueba ‘ability-to benefit’ (ATB). (Si no cuenta con diploma o un GED.)
- Haberse registrado con el Servicio Selectivo si es un varón nacido después del 12/01/59. Para Registrarse vía Internet vaya al sitio: www.sss.gov
- Ser un estudiante en clases de nivel bajo que está inscrito en un programa elegible encaminado a obtener un certificado, título de asociado o licenciatura.
- Mantener un estándar de progreso académico satisfactorio.

Cómo Solicitar Ayuda Financiera

Si necesita ayuda para pagar su educación en el colegio, visite la Oficina de Ayuda Financiera de Citrus College. Ahí le informarán acerca de los tipos de programas de ayuda financiera federales y estatales que están disponibles y le orientarán sobre las solicitudes necesarias y fechas de plazo. Animamos a los estudiantes a que soliciten estos tipos de oportunidades de ayuda financiera disponibles para ayudarles a obtener una educación superior.

Para solicitar ayuda en Español o para hacer una cita, por favor llame al 626-914-8592.
Financial Aid Sources
Financial aid monies come from four primary sources:
1. Federal aid is offered by the U.S. Department of Education and is the largest source of money for students who demonstrate financial need.
2. State aid is offered by the State of California.
3. Institutional aid is offered by the school’s Financial Aid and Scholarship Offices.
4. Private aid is offered by local organizations and civic clubs.

Some of the most common sources of financial aid for community college students include:
- Federal Pell grants
- Cal Grants (offered by the State of California)
- The Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver (offered by the State of California)
- The Chafee Grant (offered by the State of California to foster youth)
- Work Study Programs & Scholarships
- Student loans
- Certain individuals (e.g., military veterans and those entering the health and education field) may also be eligible for additional grants and loans.

Financial Aid Eligibility
Any student who is eligible for financial aid may receive it. To be eligible for federal financial aid, students must meet the following requirements:
- Be a US citizen, US national, permanent resident, refugee, asylee, or other eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid social security number
- Enroll in a minimum number of units
- Enroll in an undergraduate program that leads to a degree or certificate
- Register for the Selective Service (if male)
- Not be in default on a federal educational loan and not owe a refund on a federal grant
- Make Satisfactory Academic Progress (please see Section VII of this handbook)
- Demonstrate financial need

To be eligible for state aid, students must meet the following additional requirements:
- California residency
- Complete a GPA verification form (for Cal Grants)

Students with Bachelor’s Degrees
Students who hold a bachelor’s degree or higher are NOT eligible for a Federal Pell Grant or Cal Grant.

Students without a High School Diploma
First time college students who do not have a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED), or who have not passed the California Proficiency Exam (CPE), or who do not have a home school certificate are NOT eligible for federal or state financial aid.

AB540 Students
Students who meet AB 540 non-resident exemption requirement, including undocumented students, are eligible for some state aid. Eligible students can apply for the BOG Fee Waiver and will be able to receive the Cal Grant beginning Fall 2013 term. To learn more about these programs, please visit the California Student Aid Commission’s website.

Applying for Financial Aid
1. Complete the FAFSA application online every year at: www.fafsa.gov. List Citrus College’s school code: 001166. Complete or renew a FAFSA beginning in January. Financial Aid will consider applications after March 2nd. The IRS Retrieval Tool, you will be able expedite the processing of your financial aid file.
2. Once the financial aid office has received your application, you will be sent a “tracking” email to your Citrus College email account. This email will inform you of any documentation that will need to be submitted in order to process and complete your financial aid file.
3. Submit all required paperwork to the financial aid office in a timely manner, either via postal mail or in person. Once all forms have been submitted, the financial aid office will verify the information and make all necessary corrections. This process takes up to 8 weeks, so it is important to respond as quickly as possible and be patient.
4. If you receive a financial aid award, you will receive an “Award Notification” email to inform you. All awards are based on full-time attendance. If you do not attend full-time, your financial aid award will be adjusted based on the number of units you are enrolled in. Late Start and wait-listed courses are not counted towards awards until the class starts.
Maintaining Financial Aid Eligibility
To continue to receive financial aid, students must:
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Complete 67% of their cumulative units attempted
- Complete 67% of their term attempted units if they are on a Lock-in-List
- Not exceed 90 attempted units
- Develop or update an education plan every year

Aid Amounts
The amount of money awarded depends upon the type of aid for which students are eligible and is based upon their EFC (Expected Family Contribution) which is derived from their FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid). EFC takes into account household size, income, assets, the number of students attending college in the family, and other financial aid factors.

Listed below are possible awards. The amount received will depend upon a student’s financial situation. All awards are contingent upon students maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver (BOGW)
This award waives the enrollment fee per unit charged by a California community college. Students do not actually receive any money from a fee waiver unless they paid their tuition before their financial aid application was processed, in which case they will receive a refund for the amount they paid.

Federal Pell Grants
The maximum Pell grant award changes each year. As of the this printing, it is $5,550, but the amount students actually receive will be based upon their financial need, their costs to attend school, and their status as full or part-time students. Effective 7/1/12, all students are limited to 12 semesters of Pell grant eligibility.

Cal Grants
The amount of a Cal Grant, which is always contingent upon state funding, varies depending upon what type of Cal Grant award students receive. Cal Grant A recipients attending a community college, will not receive any payment. This award may be held in reserve for two years for use at a university. Cal Grant B award recipients may receive up to $1,551 at a California community college, and Cal Grant C recipients may receive up to $576 at a California community college.

Chafee Grant
Chafee grant recipients may qualify for up to $5,000 a year as long as they are current or former foster youth who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year.

Work Study
Students are paid an hourly wage that reflects the state’s current minimum wage for work performed on or off campus.

Scholarships
The amount of money students receive for scholarships varies depending on the donor and the award criteria, but some of the most common amounts range from $500 to $2,000.

Covered Expenses
Financial aid awards can be used to cover a variety of expenses, depending upon the type of award students receive. In general, financial aid is used to cover all education-related expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. It can also cover computer and dependent childcare expenses as well as housing. Different types of awards may cover different types of expenses. For example, Cal Grant A awards provide funds to help pay tuition and fees at qualifying institutions while Cal Grant B awards also cover living expenses, transportation, and books and supplies. Some scholarships likewise specify how the student may spend the funds.

Financial Aid Office
Located in the SS Building
Phone: (626) 914-8592
Email: financialaid@citruscollege.edu
http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday  8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
     Friday   8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Financial Aid Terms of Offer

Minimum Units
The number of units required to achieve full-time status, which results in the maximum amount a student may receive for an award, is at least 12. However, students may also receive funds for three quarter time (9-11 units) or half-time (6-8 units) enrollment. Financial aid eligibility is based on the number of units a student takes. A student must be enrolled in six units to receive a Cal Grant, a loan or work study, and he/she must be enrolled in at least one half of a unit to receive a Pell grant.

In accepting an offer of financial aid, you acknowledge responsibility for understanding and complying with all the laws, regulations and rules that govern the various financial aid programs. The TERMS OF OFFER is an official agreement between you and the Financial Aid Office and is in force throughout the term of the award.

Failure to comply with all of the laws, regulations and rules, may result in cancellation or an adjustment of the award and may require repayment of part or all funds disbursed to you. The TERMS OF OFFER is subject to change without prior notice due to the various laws, regulations, and rules that change frequently. The following general requirements apply to all financial aid programs:

1. **Availability of Funds:** All awards are made on condition that funds are available. In the event that the state or federal governments reduce or eliminate funds, the Financial Aid Office will reduce and/or cancel your award.

2. **Change in Information:** Any change in your legal name, address, social security number or telephone number must be immediately reported to the Admissions and Records Office AND the Financial Aid Office.

3. **Enrollment, Change in Enrollment Status, Late Starting Classes, Withdrawal:** Financial aid is based on full-time status and offered on the condition that you are enrolled and attending courses at this college. In order to receive a full-time award, you must enroll in and maintain a minimum of twelve units throughout the semester. You will receive an award for three-quarter time status if you enroll in and maintain 9 to 11.5 units. Half-time status is 6 to 8.5 units. *Less than halftime payments are based on 0.5 to 5.5 units.

Late-Starting/Short-Term Classes will not be counted towards your enrollment status until the class actually starts. As a result, your disbursement will be reduced or delayed until the actual class begins.

A change in enrollment status during a semester may change or cancel your award. Should you withdraw, your remaining financial aid award will be cancelled. Students will not be notified if changes occur.

Withdrawing From School: Any student who receives financial aid and withdraws from ALL classes prior to completing 60% of the semester/program and/or courses will be required to repay a portion of all federal financial aid received. CONTACT THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM ALL COURSES. (See Return of Title IV Policy at www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid).

4. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** By accepting financial aid, you have read and understand the Financial Aid Office Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards. Should you fail to meet the financial aid SAP standards your financial aid may be cancelled and result in an overpayment. See SAP Policy at www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid).

5. **Over-awards:** Regardless of the reason, any funds received in excess of the amount that the student is entitled to must be repaid by the student.

6. **Financial Holds:** Any student who has an outstanding financial balance at the college is subject to have his/her financial aid check held and/or delayed until satisfactory payment arrangements have been made.