Fullerton College

SUMMER 2026

Newsletter

FINANCIAL AID

No matter what your financial situation looks like, Fullerton College has a financial aid program to help you achieve your educational goals.

Topics

Summer Hours:

M	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
T	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
W	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
TH	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
F	CLOSED

BEYOND THE OFFICE: FINANCIAL AID IN THE COMMUNITY

The Fullerton College Financial Aid Office remained committed to advancing student success throughout the 2025–2026 academic year by expanding access to financial aid information, fostering meaningful campus and community partnerships, and providing personalized support to current and prospective students. **Through more than 100 in-reach and outreach initiatives, the Financial Aid team has served 7,043 students and families thus far**, equipping them with the knowledge and resources needed to successfully navigate the financial aid process and pursue their educational goals.

The Financial Aid Office strengthened partnerships with local high schools and community organizations by offering FAFSA and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) workshops, parent information nights, college fairs, tabling events, and financial aid presentations delivered both in person and virtually in English and Spanish. Outreach efforts included collaborations with Anaheim High School, Anaheim Independent Studies, Fullerton High School, Gilbert High School, Katella High School, La Habra High School, Loara High School, Western High School, and schools throughout the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. One of the year's largest outreach events was Loara High School Senior Fullerton College Day, where Financial Aid staff assisted 350 graduating seniors with financial aid and college enrollment preparation. Staff also participated in numerous community events, including FC Night, Cruisin' to College, First-Generation Celebration, Haunted Harvest, Sugar Rush, HBCU Caravan, Major Discovery Day, and the Grad Transfer Celebration, helping students and families better understand the financial aid process while increasing awareness of the resources available at Fullerton College.

The Office also supported future Hornets through comprehensive enrollment programming. Future Hornet Jumpstart presentations and workshops reached more than 1,300 incoming students during the spring semester, while Future Hornet Sessions were offered consistently throughout the academic year, with attendance increasing significantly during the summer as students prepared for the Fall 2026 semester. Together, these programs provided incoming students with the knowledge, resources, and confidence needed to begin their educational journey successfully.

In addition to community outreach, the Financial Aid Office collaborated with numerous campus programs to provide specialized financial aid education for currently enrolled students. Partnerships included Student Success Advocates, Counseling, Puente, EOPS, Grads2Be, Family Academy, NOCE, and New Student Group Advising. These collaborations integrated financial aid education into existing student support services, ensuring students understood available resources and remained on track toward achieving their educational goals.

To further promote financial literacy and student success, the Financial Aid Office expanded its educational programming through workshops and presentations, including the Financial Aid Fridays workshop series. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including Financial

Aid 101, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), maintaining financial aid eligibility, financial literacy, FAFSA and CADAA updates, California Dream Act information, Cal Grant and Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) eligibility, Course Program of Study (CPOS) requirements, and other important financial aid policy updates. These workshops empowered students to make informed financial decisions, maintain financial aid eligibility, and confidently navigate the financial aid process throughout their academic journey.

A cornerstone of the Financial Aid Office's student support services continued to be the Financial Aid Computer Lab, where students received individualized assistance with FAFSA and CADAA completion, Dynamic Forms verification, student loan requests, and other financial aid processes. **Throughout the academic year, the Computer Lab served more than 1,200 students, providing one-on-one guidance that helped students complete critical financial aid requirements, overcome barriers, and access the financial resources needed to support their education.**

The accomplishments of the 2025–2026 academic year reflect the Financial Aid Office's unwavering commitment to access, equity, and student success. Through more than 100 in-reach and outreach initiatives, innovative educational programming, and personalized student support, **the Financial Aid team has served 7,043 students and families across campus and throughout the surrounding community.** By meeting students where they are, whether in local high schools, on campus, in the Financial Aid Computer Lab, at community events, or through virtual workshops, the Financial Aid Office continues to remove financial barriers, increase financial literacy, and empower students to achieve their educational goals.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY: INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a campus-based program providing students with the opportunity to earn additional money, while working in approved FWS jobs. In addition to the money earned from FWS, students gain valuable work experience and knowledge, while departments receive additional assistance answering phone calls, replying to emails, and other important departmental needs. While working in a FWS job, students are given the opportunity to network with staff and faculty members and learn about office procedures.

Funding for FWS is very limited, so it is imperative that students meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and must remain enrolled in a minimum of 6 active units per term in order to participate in the FWS program. If at any point in the semester students do not meet SAP or fall below 6 units of enrollment, they will no longer be able to continue with their FWS position. Students may work up to 20 hours a week as long as they remain eligible for FWS and have not reached their maximum award allocation. Eligible students are awarded $5,000.00 for the academic year, to use towards payroll for the FWS position. How quickly the FWS award is expended depends on the number of hours worked each week and the hourly payrate. If a student does not work to earn the amount of the FWS offered, the money will be returned to the FWS program. Students must renew their FAFSA each year to be reconsidered for FWS eligibility.

Students awarded FWS for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 can accept or decline their awards on myGateway through the Student tab. Students will then click on Financial Aid Information, select the correct 2026-2027 fiscal year and scroll down to the Federal work Study award to accept or decline the offer before clicking the submit button. 48 hours after accepting the award, students can follow the same path to find a link for JobX and create an account to view and apply for available positions.

The FWS jobs are primarily on campus or with selected employers in the community. Students must apply and go through the interview and hiring process.

There are upcoming opportunities for FWS eligible students to work on-campus as well as getting some off-campus experience working with Raymond Elementary School as well as the Wooden Floor non-profit organization, and NOCCCD HR Offices. We are always looking for opportunities to make positive impact in our local community. Future on-campus and off-campus opportunities will continue to develop as the program grows with more department participation and off-campus partnerships.

In the 2025-2026 academic year, 130 students were employed through the FWS program with all participating employers. Ther FWS fund earned was over $469,000.00

For further information about FWS, please visit the Financial Aid Office website or contact Carmen Zapata (czapata@fullcoll.edu). You may learn more about financial aid at Fullerton College by visiting the Financial Aid website (https://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/).

FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION HAS A NEW HOME

NEW!

The Financial Aid Office has transitioned from Student Forms to Dynamic Verification, our new verification platform, effective April 2026.

After applying for financial aid, some students may be selected for the verification process. Verification helps confirm the information submitted on a financial aid application and may require documents such as tax returns, proof of high school completion, identity verification, or other documentation.

Students selected for verification will receive an email informing them of required tasks and a direct link to access their Dynamic Verification account. Students will log in using their myGateway credentials.

In addition to verification tasks, Dynamic Verification also provides access to two important financial aid forms:

- **Student Information Release (SIR) Form –** Required for students who would like the Financial Aid Office to discuss detailed account information over the phone or by email. This form must be completed annually.

- **Direct Loan Request Form –** Available for students who wish to request a Direct Loan. Completion of this form is optional.

The Financial Aid Office is committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. Staff are available to assist students in person, by email, or by phone.

2026-2027 FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN UPDATES: WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

NEW!

If you plan to borrow a Federal Direct Loan during the 2026–2027 academic year, there are important changes that may affect the amount you are eligible to receive. Beginning July 1, 2026, new federal regulations require colleges to prorate Federal Direct Loan eligibility based on a student's enrollment level. This means the number of units you are enrolled in will play a greater role in determining your loan eligibility than ever before.

So, what does this mean for you? Under the new regulations, students enrolled in 12 or more units may be eligible to receive their full annual Federal Direct Loan amount, while students enrolled in 6 to 11 units will receive a reduced loan amount that is proportional to their enrollment. Students must continue to be enrolled in at least 6 units (half-time) to qualify for a Federal Direct Loan. If you are enrolled in fewer than 6 units, you will not be eligible to receive federal student loans.

If you rely on Federal Direct Loans to help pay for tuition, books, transportation, housing, or other educational expenses, it is important to understand how these changes could affect your financial aid. If you plan to enroll in fewer than 12 units, you should expect your loan eligibility to be lower than it may have been in previous years. Planning your class schedule before accepting your loan can help you better estimate your available funding and avoid unexpected changes later in the semester.

Another important change involves what happens if you reduce your enrollment after your loan has already been disbursed. If you drop classes and your enrollment level decreases, your Federal Direct Loan eligibility may also be reduced. As a result, you may owe a balance back to Fullerton College if you received more loan funds than you were eligible for based on your revised enrollment. In some cases, the adjustment may instead be made by reducing a future loan disbursement during the same academic year.

The best way to avoid unexpected adjustments is to carefully consider your enrollment before making changes to your schedule. If you are thinking about dropping a class or changing your enrollment after receiving Federal Direct Loans, we encourage you to contact the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office first. Our staff can help you understand how your decision may impact your loan eligibility and other financial aid programs. Furthermore, we are committed to helping you understand these changes and make informed financial decisions so you can stay focused on achieving your educational goals.

STAY AID ELIGIBLE: TAKE CLASSES THAT COUNT

COMING SOON

Starting in Fall 2027, a new federal requirement called Course Program of Study (CPOS) will take effect and may impact financial aid eligibility for Fullerton College students. Although the changes begin in the 2027-2028 academic year, students should start preparing now by learning what CPOS means and how it may affect them.

What Is CPOS
Course Program of Study (CPOS) is a federal regulation that requires students to take classes that apply to their officially declared major, degree, or certificate program to qualify for financial aid. Under CPOS, if a course does not count toward a student's program of study, it may not be eligible for Pell Grants, Federal student loans, Cal Grant, Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG), and more.

This means students will need to stay on track with their academic plan - both to graduate on time and to receive their full financial aid package.

Why It Matters
In the past, students could take a variety of courses, even those not related to their major, without losing financial aid eligibility. With CPOS, financial aid will now be calculated based only on classes that directly support a student's educational goal.

If a student enrolls in courses outside of their declared program, those units won't be counted toward their financial aid enrollment status. This could result in receiving less financial aid if not enrolled in courses directly related to the student's program.

How Students Can Prepare
Although CPOS won't officially begin until Fall 2027, there are steps students can take right now to stay ahead:

1. Review and Update Program of Study
Students should ensure their declared major or program aligns with their academic and career goals. If not, they should meet with an academic counselor as soon as possible.

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Students should ensure their declared major or program aligns with their academic and career goals. If not, they should meet with an academic counselor as soon as possible.

2. Follow an Updated Educational Program Plan
Having a current Student Educational Program Plan (SEPP) is critical. This plan outlines the courses needed to complete a student's program and ensures those courses are eligible for financial aid under CPOS rules.

3. Be Strategic During Registration
Before registering for each semester, students should confirm that all selected courses align with their SEPP. Courses that aren't part of the plan may not be covered by financial aid.

4. Stay Informed
The Financial Aid Office will continue to share updates as more guidance is released. Students should keep an eye on their email, check the Financial Aid website, or stop by in person closer to the start of Fall 2027 registration.

When It Starts
CPOS will begin in Fall 2027, for the 2027-2028 financial aid year. While that may seem far off, preparing early will help students avoid last-minute surprises and stay fully eligible for aid.

More Information Coming Soon
The Financial Aid Office is preparing for the implementation of CPOS and will share more information as details are finalized. In the meantime, students are encouraged to attend the Stay Aid Eligible: Take Classes That Count workshop, offered live on Tuesday, September 15 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) and Thursday, September 24 (4:00–5:00 p.m.). Both sessions include a Q&A and will be recorded for later viewing. Visit financialaid.fullcoll.edu for workshop details.

Fall 2027 may seem far away, but with the right steps now, students can stay on track and make the most of their financial aid. Stay tuned for more CPOS news!

WORKFORCE PELLGRANTS OPEN NEW DOORS

COMING SOON

We are excited to share that a new federal financial aid opportunity–the Workforce Pell Grant–will be available in the future for eligible students enrolled in approved short-term workforce training programs.

Unlike the traditional Pell Grant, which is primarily available for degree and certificate programs, the Workforce Pell Grant is designed to help students quickly gain the skills needed for high-demand careers through eligible short-term training. Approved programs must prepare students for employment in fields such as healthcare, skilled trades, and other in-demand industries.

Like the traditional Pell Grant, Workforce Pell Grant funds do not need to be repaid. Students must complete the FAFSA and meet federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements to qualify.

The official start date and additional program details will be announced once eligible Workforce Pell Grant programs have been approved. We will share updates as more information becomes available.

NEED FINANCIAL AID HELP? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

The Financial Aid Office is here to support students every step of the way – whether it's applying for aid, checking on file status, or asking questions about disbursements.

Need assistance in person? Students are welcome to stop by the financial aid counter and computer lab.

- **Financial Aid Counter** - Building 100, Room 115
- **Financial Aid Computer Lab** - Building 100, Room 117

Can't make it in person? No problem! Students can request a Financial Aid Callback using our QLess system or emailing their questions directly to their assigned Financial Aid Technician.

- **Financial Aid Callback** - QLess System on our Contact Page
- **Financial Aid Technician** - Students are assigned a Financial Aid Technician based on last name. A list of staff members can be found on our Contact Page.

Summer 2026 Office Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Friday: CLOSED

Fall 2026 Office Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Stop By for Help With:

- FAFSA or CADAA questions
- Dynamic Verification account setup
- Financial aid file status
- Special circumstance appeals
- Understanding award letters
- BankMobile account setup
- Disbursement questions
- General financial aid guidance

We're here to make the financial aid process easier and that starts with being available when students need us!

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