

Graduate Programs Financial Aid Overview 2020 - 2021

Finding funding for graduate study can be a difficult task, but, believe it or not, getting money is not nearly as confusing as you might think. Sources of funding include Cal Poly Pomona, the federal government, state agencies, employers and academic departments.

Financial Aid for graduate students can be divided into three broad categories:

- **Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships** — "Free money" that does not need to be repaid upon completion of enrollment.
- **Loans** — Funds advanced to you by the federal governmental or a private lender, to be repaid (or possibly forgiven) after graduation.
- **Earnings** — Wages paid for research, teaching or other work performed during enrollment.

We strongly recommend that you investigate all possible funding options in order to maximize your grants and scholarships and minimize loan obligations. Our office is here to work with you in financing your graduate education at Cal Poly Pomona; members of our office are to assist you with any questions you may have.

Impact of Enrollment on All Financial Aid Awards for Graduate Students:

- In order to receive financial aid funding, you must be enrolled at least half-time (3 units for Master's Degree & Doctoral Students) in upper-division coursework. **Financial Aid is not available for prerequisite courses or courses at the 1000 or 2000 level.**
- Enrollment is reviewed at Census each semester. If you are enrolled less than half time in eligible coursework at Census, you may be required to repay some, or all, of the aid you previously received for the semester.

Graduate Aid Programs

The Financial Aid Office at Cal Poly Pomona is your main resource for questions related to paying for your education. We oversee the packaging and distribution of loans, grants, and coordination with other aid – such as scholarships.

- The types of financial aid available to students pursuing a graduate degree are very specific and differ from undergraduate or credential aid.
- Students who are working on a second Master's or second Doctoral degree are only eligible for federal loan funds or for private education loans. They are not eligible for any grant aid.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available to FAFSA and DREAM Applicants.

Scholarships are considered gift-aid; they don't need to be repaid! There are thousands of them, offered by schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, communities, religious groups, and professional and social organizations.

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, scholarships are worth applying for as they can help you cover your educational costs, and reduce your dependence on loans.

Our [Scholarships](https://www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/index.shtml) page (<https://www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/index.shtml>) is your resource for information on a variety of Cal Poly Pomona and outside scholarship opportunities.

Cal Poly Pomona Grants

Cal Poly Pomona Grants are available to FAFSA and DREAM Applicants.

State University Grant (SUG)

State University Grant (SUG) is available only to California residents working on their initial graduate degrees, who filed their FAFSA or Dream Application. Eligibility is determined by the FAFSA or DREAM Application – including meeting the Priority Filing deadline (March 2nd).

The State University Grant (SUG) is a state grant awarded by Cal Poly Pomona to California residents who have an eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Since funds are limited, you must have submitted your financial aid application by the March 2 priority deadline in order to be considered for SUG.

SUG awards are not available to students who are not charged the Systemwide Tuition Fee, which includes most CEU and Open University programs, or to students pursuing a second bachelor's degree or second graduate degree. Students who are already receiving a financial aid award designated to pay the tuition fee, such as a scholarship, a tuition/fee waivers, vocational rehabilitation, etc., are not eligible to receive a SUG.

Impact of Enrollment on SUG Awards:

SUG award amounts are based on enrollment in 7 or more units.

- If you are enrolled in 7 or more units, you will receive the full amount offered for the semester.
- If you are enrolled in less than 7 units, but are enrolled at least half-time for your program (3 units for a Master's Degree student), your SUG award will be adjusted to reflect the lower Tuition Fee.
- If you are enrolled in less than 3 units, your award will be cancelled for the semester

EdD Students Students: Students enrolled in the EdD program are not eligible to receive funding through the State University Grant (SUG), as the Systemwide Tuition Fee is not assessed to students in this program (and SUG only gets applied towards the Systemwide Tuition Fee).

Degree-Program Specific Grants

Degree Program Specific Grants are available to FAFSA and DREAM Applicants.

There are a few Cal Poly Pomona grant programs available for students who have been admitted to specific programs. Eligibility for these Degree Program Specific Grants is based on Cal Poly Pomona admission, program admission, CA residency, and financial need.

Graduate Business Grant

The Graduate Business Grant is available to students in the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Business Administration, and the Master of Science in Accountancy programs. Students in programs run through CEU are not eligible

The Graduate Business Grant assists eligible students in meeting the cost of the Graduate Professional Program Fee assessed by California State University professional business graduate programs. The per-unit fee (\$270/unit) is charged for required courses taken by graduate students enrolled in fee-authorized State-Supported Professional Business Graduate Programs.

Award amounts are set at \$1,620 per semester (\$3,240 per academic year). The grant amount is based on enrollment in 6 units of coursework that are assessed the Graduate Business Professional Fee. The grant amount is not increased even if you enroll in more than 6 units of GBP Fee coursework; however, if your enrollment drops below 6 units of GBP Fee coursework, you will lose eligibility for the grant.

To be eligible for the Graduate Business Grant Fee Grant, you must meet the following conditions:

- Have filed a financial aid application (FAFSA or CA DREAM Application) for the academic year

- Meet standard financial aid eligibility criteria for all Federal and/or California State financial aid
- Be a California resident for fee payment purposes
- Have been assessed a Graduate Business Professional (GBP) Fee
- Enroll in a minimum of 6 units of coursework (per semester) that are assessed the GBP Fee
- Not be receiving a waiver or exemption of the Graduate Business Professional Fee

Eligibility and awarding of the Grant occurs in the Fall semester – after Census (once we become notified of the funding allocation for the 2020 – 2021 year).

Education Doctorate Grant (EdD Grant)

The Education Doctorate Grant is available to students in the Education Doctorate (EdD) program.

The Education Doctorate Grant program was established in 2007 in the interest of equity to students enrolled in the EdD program, as these students are not eligible for SUG funding. The EdD Grant provides students enrolled in the EdD program access to grant funding similar to that of all other CSU students who demonstrate financial need (based on the FAFSA or DREAM application).

To be eligible for the Education Doctorate Grant, you must meet the following conditions:

- Have filed a financial aid application (FAFSA or CA DREAM Application) for the academic year by the priority filing deadline
- Meet standard financial aid eligibility criteria for all Federal and/or California State financial aid
- Be a California resident for fee payment purposes
- Enroll in a minimum of 3 units of EdD coursework (per semester)

Grant amounts vary – based on available funding. Awarding of the EdD Grant occurs at the end of the academic year and awards are applied retroactively.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS:

Direct Student Loans are available to FAFSA Filers only

[Direct Student loans](#) are available to all FAFSA filers and are offered as part of your financial aid package. Graduate Students are eligible for Unsubsidized federal loans. Loans offered through the Direct Loan program are for graduate students enrolled at least half-time (3 units for Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree), in eligible coursework for their program of study. For current interest rate and origination fee information, please visit the Federal Student Aid Website for Direct Student Loans (<https://studentaid.gov>).

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

The Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is a non-need, non-credit based loan. All students who meet general eligibility requirements may qualify for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Interest accrues at disbursement on the portion that has been disbursed; the accrued interest is not compounded or capitalized during periods of enrollment – it is only capitalized just prior to entering repayment (6 months after graduating/ceasing enrollment at least half-time). You are eligible to borrow up to \$20,500 each academic year (at Cal Poly Pomona, the academic year runs Fall through Summer).

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Limits For Graduate Students

Eligibility for Federal Direct Loans for Graduate Students is reflected in the chart below:

Annual and Lifetime Direct Loan Limits

	Loan Limit
Annual Limit – Graduate Students (Master’s or Doctoral Student)	\$20,500
Aggregate (or Lifetime) Borrowing Limit (for Graduate Students)	\$138,500

Includes all Direct Subsidized / Unsubsidized loans borrowed as an Undergraduate and/or Credential Student

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

The [Graduate PLUS Loan](#) is an additional loan available for those graduate students who need additional funds, beyond the Unsubsidized Loan, to cover their remaining education costs. Unlike the Unsubsidized Loan, PLUS Loans require credit approval.

Graduate PLUS Loans are not included in your initial financial aid package. The loan is not added to the award package until the request has been processed and Cal Poly Pomona receives notification that you have been credit approved. To apply, visit our Student Forms Portal (<https://cpp.verifymyfafsa.com>) to complete the Graduate PLUS Loan Request Form.

For current interest rate and origination fee information please visit the Federal Student Aid website for [Graduate PLUS Loans](#).

Impact of Enrollment on Direct Loans:

In general, Direct Loans are not pro-rated based on enrollment. However, you must be enrolled at least half-time (3 units for Master’s Degree Students or Doctoral Degree Students) in order to be eligible to receive funds from the loans. If you are not enrolled at least half-time in eligible coursework, you will not be eligible for your loan funds – and your loan will be cancelled for the semester.

All staff members of the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at Cal Poly Pomona adhere to [The California State University Student Lending – Code of Conduct](#) (pdf), which restricts activity that may lead to conflicts of interest in the area of student lending

Loan Fees & Interest Rates

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Fee:

- 1.059% (through 9/30/2020)
- 1.057% (NEW loans as of 10/01/2020)

Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Fee:

- 4.236% (through 9/30/2020)
- 4.228% (NEW loans as of 10/01/2020)

Direct Loan Interest Rates: The interest rates for Direct Loans are set each July 1.

Loan Type	Direct Unsubsidized	Graduate PLUS
Disbursed 7/01/20 – 6/30/2021	4.30%	5.30%

For complete details, including current fees & interest rates visit Federal Student Aid at <https://studentaid.gov>

How to Apply for Aid - Graduate Students

Which application do I file?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	California Dream Application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have a valid Social Security Number You are a U.S. Citizen; Permanent Resident; or eligible non-citizen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not meet criteria to file a FAFSA You meet the conditions of California AB540 status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a 2020-2021 FAFSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a 2020-2021 California Dream application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible to receive funding from federal, state, and institutional aid programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible to receive funding from CA State and CA institutional aid programs

The 2020-2021 financial aid applications are now live! Submit or renew your financial aid application between October 1 and March 2 for the following academic year. Be sure to file before the priority filing deadline of March 2 in order to be considered for the maximum types of aid. **Applications submitted after March 2 will not be eligible for CA State or Cal Poly Pomona Institutional Grants.**

Your financial aid application is used to determine your eligibility for all types of aid, and some scholarship providers may use your application information to determine whether you qualify for their awards. **You must reapply for financial aid each year.**

Reapply for Aid Each Year!

You must complete a new Financial Aid Application each year!

Things change every year: New jobs, graduations, marriages, births, and more. One small change in your circumstances can have a big impact on your eligibility for financial aid.

As a result, the financial aid application (FAFSA, or DREAM Application), determines your eligibility for only one academic year. The financial aid application for the next academic year becomes available every October 1st – and the Cal Poly Pomona Priority Filing Deadline is March 2nd. If you miss the Priority Filing Deadline, you will not be eligible for Cal Poly Pomona Institutional or CA State Aid for the upcoming academic year.

Getting Your Aid - Graduate Students

For the majority of students enrolled in classes, accepted financial aid will automatically be credited to student bills 10 days prior to the start of classes – each semester.

In order for your financial aid to be released (or disbursed for payment of university-related charges), you must:

- Have an Award Summary that contains “Official” awards, as opposed to estimated awards
- Have Accepted the Awards on Your Award Summary
- Complete your To-Do List on your [MyCPP Student Center](#)
- Loan borrowers – complete the required **MPN & Entrance Counseling** at <https://studentaid.gov>
- Enroll in classes
- Be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

When Is Aid Released

Most financial aid funds are released to Student Financial Services – and applied toward any outstanding university-related charges (including any installment plans). The primary (or first) possible date funds can be released is **10 days prior to the first day of classes** – each semester.

For 2020-2021, aid will begin releasing:

- Fall 2020: August 10, 2020
- Spring 2021: January 13, 2021

After the above dates, financial aid is released on a nightly basis throughout each semester.

Aid on a Varying Disbursement Schedule

Some aid programs follow a different disbursement schedule than institutional grants or federal loans, which follow the standard disbursement schedule listed above.

External Scholarships

External scholarships are posted to your account as a credit once the donor has sent the funding to Cal Poly Pomona. Once Student Accounting & Cashiering Services receives your scholarship check, your scholarship will be posted to your account. If there are no outstanding Cal Poly Pomona charges on your account, funds will be released to you through Direct Deposit. Note that the earliest that any funds can be released is the initial disbursement date for each semester; funds cannot be released to your account prior to this date – regardless of when funds are received by the University.

Private Loans

Disbursement of funds from private loans are dependent upon when that funding is received from the lender. Once Student Accounting & Cashiering Services receives the loan funding, your loans will be posted to your account.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Status (SAP):

Financial aid recipients are expected to make reasonable and timely academic progress toward their declared program objective (degree, credential or certificate) each semester in order for financial aid to be released. Once you have been enrolled for at least one semester in your degree program, your SAP Status will be reviewed at the end of each semester prior to releasing, or awarding, any additional aid.

- If you are on Financial Aid Warning, Financial Aid Probation, or are following an Academic Plan as part of an approved SAP Appeal, there may be a delay in your aid being released – until your continued eligibility can be confirmed.
- If you are not meeting SAP, your financial aid will not be released.

How Financial Aid Pays Your Cal Poly Pomona Charges

When your financial aid is released to Student Accounting & Cashiering Services, your funds are applied towards any University charges that are on your account for the semester.

- Financial aid will first apply to tuition and campus fees, including any installment plan you have signed up for
- Financial Aid will then apply to any housing charges
- If you have any financial aid credit remaining, this funding will be refunded to you as a direct deposit refund or as a paper check

Financial Aid Refunds

Once your financial aid has been applied toward your University charges, any remaining credit balance will be released to you as a Financial Aid Disbursement or refund.

You will receive an email from Student Accounting & Cashiering Services once your refund has been issued. Additionally, on your MyCPP Student Center, when you see a transaction posted on your student account that reads **Financial Aid Disbursement (or Financial Aid Refund)**, you will know your refund has been generated.

It takes up to 3 business days from the date of your Financial Aid Disbursement for the funds to show in your bank account. Be sure to sign up for Direct Deposit as this is the fastest, and most secure, way to receive your funds.

A Few Important Notes About Refunds

- Not cashing a refund check does not cancel any loans you have been awarded. Contact our office for details on how to cancel your loans
- If you made a payment towards your University charges prior to your financial aid being released, and your financial aid would have been sufficient to cover your charges, you will receive a refund of your payment; however, there is usually a 3 – 4 week processing time involved in issuing refunds of personal payments. For more details, contact [Student Accounting & Cashiering Services](mailto:sacs@cpp.edu) at sacs@cpp.edu
- If charges are added to your account after your refund has been issued, you are responsible for paying the charges
- If your aid is reduced after your refund has been issued (i.e., due to enrollment in aid ineligible coursework), you are responsible for paying the resulting charges.

Dropping Some Classes

The decision about whether or not to drop a class is an academic issue; however, it is your responsibility to understand the financial implications of this decision. Dropping a class may impact your aid eligibility for the current and future semesters. Your aid will be recalculated at Census based on your verified enrollment in classes required for your degree; you may have to return some, or all, of your aid for the current semester, depending on how your enrollment status is impacted.

The impact on your aid eligibility depends on the time during the semester that you drop a class:

Period I: First two weeks (Fall & Spring)

You will not receive a grade for a course you withdraw from during this time (the dropped course will not be recorded on your transcript).

Financial Aid Awards **may be adjusted** based on specific enrollment requirements for each award. Review [Credential Aid Programs](#) for details on how your enrollment will impact your specific awards.

You are responsible for any charges resulting from an enrollment change (and your aid eligibility).

Period II: Third through fourth week/Census (Fall & Spring)

You will receive a “W” grade for the course when you withdraw, which may impact your SAP Status

Classes with a grade of W impact both the PACE Standard and the Maximum Time Frame for financial aid, as these courses are considered to be Attempted – but not Completed.

Financial Aid Awards **may be adjusted** based on specific enrollment requirements for each award.

You are responsible for any charges resulting from an enrollment change (and your aid eligibility).

Period III: Fifth Week through the end of the semester (Fall & Spring)

You will receive a “W” grade for the course when you withdraw, which may impact your SAP Status

Classes with a grade of W impact both the PACE Standard and the Maximum Time Frame for financial aid, as these courses are considered to be Attempted – but not Completed.

Financial Aid Awards that were already released **will not be adjusted**.

New financial aid award amounts will be based on your enrollment at the time of awarding.

Dropping All Classes

The laws governing federal financial aid assume that a student must "earn" federal financial aid awards directly in proportion to the number of days of the term attended. In other words, you earn your financial aid as you attend class.

If you completely withdraw from all classes during a semester, the Financial Aid Office must recalculate your aid eligibility based on the amount of aid you "earned" (according to the **Return of Title IV Funds policy**). If you received (or the school received on your behalf) more aid than was earned, the unearned funds must be returned to the federal programs, **which may result in a balance due on your account**.

Additionally, withdrawing from all classes can also affect your Satisfactory Academic Progress, which ultimately affects your aid eligibility. For more information, review our [Satisfactory Academic Progress page](#).

Impact on Financial Aid if you withdraw from ALL classes

- Your financial aid will be recalculated based on "earned" aid
- You will be required to return the portion of aid that was not earned.

You will be notified by email (within 30 days of withdrawing from Cal Poly Pomona) with the results of the aid recalculation.

If you have received a loan (for the current semester, or in previous semesters), your loans will enter into their 6-month grace period. If you have previously used the entire 6 month grace period – your loans will enter active repayment. Log on to <https://studentaid.gov> to review the current status of your loans.

All classes that receive a grade of "W" may negatively impact your SAP Status (both the PACE Standard and the Maximum Time Frame for financial aid), as these courses are considered to be Attempted – but not Completed.

Signing Up for Direct Deposit at Bronco Direct

You need to log in to [Bronco Direct](#) to sign up for Direct Deposit. You can also view [step by step instructions](https://www.cpp.edu/student-accounting/forms/ACH%20Direct%20Deposit%20Instructions.pdf) (<https://www.cpp.edu/student-accounting/forms/ACH%20Direct%20Deposit%20Instructions.pdf>).

What do you need?

1. Bank account number and
2. Routing number

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO SIGNUP OR UPDATE YOUR DIRECT DEPOSIT

Direct Deposit now requires a 2 Step Authentication

2-Step authentication is used to verify your identity by requiring a password and passcode before access is given to an application or computer system. The passcode can be sent to your mobile device. The current service choice for 2-Step is called DUO .

- To self-enroll in DUO and activate your Bronco Account for 2-Step, refer to eHelp DUO self-enrollment instructions.
- Once 2-Step is activated on your Bronco account , your Bronco password & DUO passcode (2-steps) are required to access selected campus services. This includes BroncoDirect/PeopleSoft, MyCPP, Blackboard, Office 365, as well as others.

[Questions about 2-step authentication: Please contact the IT Service Desk.](#)

Account Security

- Cal Poly Pomona has adopted a new procedure to help keep your campus direct deposit account secure.
- Cal Poly Pomona will freeze your campus direct deposit account in the event of any change to your bank account or routing number. The freeze is for five business days in order to give you time to contact us and report any unauthorized changes.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) & GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Federal and State regulations governing student financial aid require that students receiving financial aid must maintain standards of reasonable academic progress toward the completion of their academic/degree objective. The information below is a **BRIEF SUMMARY** of Cal Poly Pomona’s policy: **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards for the Receipt of Financial Aid.**

It is each student’s responsibility to be aware of / familiar with the full SAP Standards policy – which is available on the “Policies” section of our website at <https://www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.shtml>.

Overview of the SAP Standards

Standard 1: The GPA Standard:

Students must meet the minimum cumulative grade point average in accordance with the Cal Poly Pomona catalog and existing Cal Poly Pomona Academic Policies:

Academic Level	GPA
Graduate (Master’s, Doctorate)	3.0

Standard 2: The Pace Standard:

Students must satisfactorily COMPLETE a minimum of 67% of **cumulative** (ALL) units ATTEMPTED. The completion rate is calculated by dividing **units completed** by **units attempted**.

Total Units ATTEMPTED (for all degree programs) include:

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, CR, RP, I, NC, RD, W, WU, WX, repeat, and all transfer credit hours.

PLEASE NOTE: *Students should refer to the full SAP Standards Policy for additional details on courses that may be included and/or excluded from the PACE Standard.* The full SAP Standards policy is available on the “Policies” section of our website at <https://www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.shtml>.

Standard 3: The Maximum Time Frame Standard:

Students are expected to complete their program of study after attempting a certain number of units – based on the number of units required in their program of study. The maximum attempted units allowed for degree, credential, or certificate completion is up to 150% of the units needed to complete that program of study. For most graduate programs, the Maximum Time Frame is 45 units (30 units x 150%)

Pre-Requisite Courses (Master’s Degree programs):

Pre-Requisite courses are included in the calculation of units attempted. However, these courses are typically required for admission into the program; therefore, the length of the program (Maximum Timeframe) **is not adjusted** to accommodate for students taking these additional “pre-admission” units.

PLEASE NOTE: *The above standards are separate from Cal Poly Pomona’s Academic Policies, as well as other aid program-specific requirements/limitations.*

Overview of SAP Statuses (Levels of Severity)

Meets SAP: You are meeting all three SAP Standards, and are eligible to receive financial aid for your next semester of enrollment.

Financial Aid Warning: The first time you fail to meet either the GPA or PACE Standard, you will be placed on “Warning” Status for the next semester of enrollment. This will allow you **one (1) semester** to return to a good SAP standing – while continuing to receive your financial aid.

Financial Aid Ineligible (Not Meets): The following result in not meeting SAP & being ineligible to receive further financial aid:

- Two consecutive incidents of failing to meet the GPA and/or PACE Standard.
- Exceeding the Maximum Timeframe.

Students may appeal their “Not Meets” status by submitting a SAP Appeal – details are provided in the SAP Policy.

Financial Aid Probation: If you submit a SAP appeal – and the appeal is approved - you will be placed on Financial Aid Probation for **ONE (1) semester** (your next semester of enrollment). This will allow you **one (1) semester** of financial aid eligibility. At the conclusion of your probation semester, you must meet all SAP standards in order to continue receiving financial aid.

Additional details on the various SAP Statuses and appeal process can be found within the SAP Standards Policy – which is available on the “Policies” section of our website at <https://www.cpp.edu/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.shtml>.

Frequency of SAP Evaluation

SAP is run at the end of each payment period / term of enrollment – once grades for that term have been finalized & posted.

Anticipated dates of SAP Evaluation for Cal Poly Pomona for the 2020 – 2021 academic year:

- **January 8, 2021:** After the Fall 2020 fully graded date (to determine eligibility for aid entering into the Spring term)
- **June 7, 2021:** After the Spring 2021 fully graded date (to determine eligibility for aid entering into the Summer term – if enrolled for Summer; or the Fall Term)
- **August 16, 2021:** After Summer 2021 grades have posted (to determine eligibility for aid entering into the Fall term)

Once the evaluation has been completed, you will receive an email informing you of the results & your current SAP status.