



GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND EQUITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

March 21, 2025

University of California Financial Aid Directors

Re: U.S. Department of Education and Federal Financial Aid

Dear Colleagues:

Recent federal actions, including the proposed elimination of the U.S. Department of Education, have raised questions among students, families, and the broader UC community about the availability of financial aid. The University of California remains committed to making a world-class education accessible and affordable for all students. While individual financial aid offers are subject to change, we do not expect this week's announcement about the U.S. Department of Education to impact our ability to award and disburse financial aid to our students.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Pell Grants, Federal Work Study, and federal student loans remain available for qualified UC students, with no anticipated changes to availability in the foreseeable future. In addition, UC undergraduate and graduate students received over \$3 billion in state and UC financial aid last year, which is not administered by the federal Department of Education.

Most of the FAFSA challenges that students and families experienced last year have been resolved, and we still encourage all students to apply for financial aid by the April 2 priority deadline. We are aware that some students whose FAFSA contributors lack a Social Security Number continue to have trouble with the FAFSA. Please see our guidance for those families [here](#) and feel free to share it with students and families at your location.

The University is closely monitoring developments at the Department of Education and proposals in Congress, and we will continue to advocate for investments in federal aid and student support and access programs. You can stay up-to-date on the latest information by visiting the [UC Federal Updates website](#).

Sincerely,

Shawn Brick  
Associate Vice Provost for Student Financial Support  
University of California, Office of the President