

A Guide to Financial Aid for Graduate Students

The CU Anschutz Financial Aid & Scholarship Office (FASO) provides advice to all Anschutz graduate students regarding student loans. For various reasons, ORE PhD students may benefit from advice about financial assistance available to them. Prior to 2023, financial assistance available to PhD students was very limited because the stipend was considered in financial aid calculations, effectively making most graduate students ineligible. However, interpretations of regulations changed in 2023, resulting in PhD students having increased eligibility for financial aid.

The majority of Anschutz graduate students are self-funded with financial situations that differ in some respects from those of PhD students who receive a stipend. ORE leadership met with FASO to review the unique needs and circumstances of ORE PhD students, in order for financial advising to be optimized to their specific situation.

CU Anschutz (FASO): <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid>

Advising Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 303.724.8039

Zoom: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/94641818363>

Office location: Education 2 North, 3rd Floor, Student Services Suite

We encourage students to reach out to FASO to discuss student loan options available to you as an ORE PhD student. FASO can also provide advice on managing or consolidating existing educational debt. Often, FASO will direct you to appropriate, recommended financial management and budgeting resources.

**** Note that applications to Financial Aid require at least 3-4 weeks to process.**

Eligible PhD students are offered Federal Loans up to the cost of attendance (COA), minus the amount that has been provided as payment of tuition, fees, and health insurance, in addition to any scholarship or other awards. What that means in practice is that, for an eligible Graduate Student, the **maximum** unsubsidized Federal Loan amount is currently **\$20,500 per year**, with a **lifetime maximum** of **\$138,500**. Preexisting federal loans from your undergraduate or other degree will factor into the lifetime maximum amount.

Federal Loans typically offer benefits and interest rates more favorable than those in the private sector. Graduate students may also be offered a Graduate PLUS loan up to the cost of attendance.

For a detailed list of possible federal and private loan options, please visit the are Financial Aid website: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid/types>.

Please note that Federal Loan rates adjust each year on July 1st. For more information about Federal Loan rates: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>

When interacting with Financial Aid, please identify yourself as an “ORE **PhD student receiving a stipend**” and inform them that your **tuition is covered** by ORE or your Department/Division. The process begins with completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). Our School Code is 004508.

Federal student loans can be placed in an in-school deferment when you are enrolled at least half-time, however, interest will continue to accrue on Unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans.

Am I eligible for financial aid?

Domestic Students

To qualify, students:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, e.g. permanent resident or refugee (visit [Basic Eligibility Criteria](#))
- Must be enrolled at least [half-time](#) in an eligible undergraduate, graduate or professional degree or certificate program
- Cannot be in [default](#) on any federal student loan or owe a refund on a federal student grant
- Must have a valid social security number
- Must meet the CU Anschutz [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) standards](#)
- Must provide consent and approval to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form
- Must sign the certification statement on the FAFSA form affirming that you're not in default on a federal student loan, you do not owe money on a federal student grant, and you will only use federal student aid for educational purposes
- Must provide evidence that you are qualified to obtain a college or career school education.

The amount of aid is based on the cost of attendance estimate, which is determined by the State of Colorado: Currently the allowance is \$36,252 for the 24/25 academic year. Cost of Attendance (COA) information is posted on the FASO [website](#) and updated each academic year. A student's total aid cannot exceed the estimated COA.

All sources of aid (including tuition and insurance remission, scholarships, awards and loans) are included in a student's aid package. Note that receiving a scholarship or award (e.g. ARCS Foundation) later in the academic year may impact and necessitate your aid to be adjusted (i.e. reduction in the loan amount) even after the funding has been disbursed to your billing account.

International Students

International students are typically not eligible for Federal loans. Students who do not meet the above criteria established to qualify for Federal Student aid can explore [private educational loan information](#). FASO cannot make a recommendation regarding a lender; students are encouraged to review the information posted online to determine their approach to selecting a lender of their choice. International student loan amounts, like their peers eligible for federal student loans, are limited to the Cost of Attendance for their program.

Additional Information for both Domestic and International Students

If you have unusual expenses that exceed those of a typical student, such as high medical or dental costs, required equipment purchases for a specific class, or disability-related expenses, not covered by other programs, please contact the FASO to discuss your options.

Note that dependents and related expenses are not factored into loan eligibility or amount.

These are general guidelines, and each situation is unique. If you are considering taking out loans to offset your living expenses, please reach out to FASO to speak to an Advisor about your specific circumstances.