

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial Aid

Student financial aid programs are intended to provide assistance to students who do not have the necessary financial resources to meet their educational costs. Most students qualify for some type of assistance. For resources that recognize academic excellence, refer to the following information on scholarships. Only United States citizens and eligible noncitizens can receive financial aid.

Information about all state and federal aid programs and institutional aid programs is available from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships located in Student Services, Room 3605. The phone number is 619-594-6323. The SDSU *Guide to Financial Aid* describes the available programs as well as the academic standards that a student must maintain in order to remain eligible for such aid. The *Guide to Financial Aid* can be accessed at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>.

Applying for Aid

Applicants who want to be considered for all types of state and federal financial aid should apply as soon after January 1 as possible by completing a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. Since new California grant program applicants must apply by March 2, we strongly encourage all applicants to apply by this date.

The FAFSA is all you need to begin the application process. You may apply by using FAFSA on the Web site at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Paper FAFSA applications are also available and may be picked up at high school counseling offices and college financial aid offices.

Applications are reviewed and awarded throughout the year based on available funding. January through May, however, is considered the optimum time period to apply for aid to receive funding at the beginning of the fall semester.

Cost of Living

San Diego State University establishes standard student budgets in coordination with the California State University system that meet federal requirements. Student budgets, updated annually to account for inflation are currently:

Costs of Attendance for the 2006-2007 Academic Year

	Living off Campus	Living on Campus	Commuting from Home
Registration fees	\$3,122	\$3,122	\$3,122
Books and supplies	1,283	1,283	1,283
Food and housing	9,352	10,093	3,429
Transportation	1,043	816	840
Miscellaneous/Personal	2,496	2,392	2,572
Total.....	\$17,296	\$17,706	\$11,246

The academic year registration fee for a postbaccalaureate student is \$3,704 and \$3,524 for a teaching credential student. In addition to the registration fee, nonresident (foreign and out-of-state) students pay tuition of \$339 per unit (see Schedule of Fees section).

All fees and costs are subject to change without notice.

Refund Policy

Information concerning the refund policy of San Diego State University for the return of unearned tuition and fees or other refundable portions of institutional charges is available from the University Cashiers Office, Student Services, Room 2620, 619-594-5253.

Information concerning San Diego State University policies regarding the return of unearned aid to the federal Title IV student assistance programs is available from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Student Services, Room 3605, 619-594-6323.

E-Mail and the Internet

The SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships uses e-mail and the Internet to communicate with aid applicants about documentation needed, disbursement holds, and awards. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships home page and secure Web site, *AidLink*, have been enhanced to streamline the application and award process for SDSU students. Go to SDSU's Web site at <http://www.sdsu.edu/portal> and select E-Mail/Address Update to make sure there is a valid e-mail address on record for you with the Office of the Registrar. Use *AidLink* at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid> to view your personal financial aid information, download and print documents you need to submit, activate your student loan, and more.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to students in recognition of outstanding achievement, community involvement, leadership, and promise. Scholarships are also awarded to students who have overcome significant challenges to obtain an education and to provide financial support to students for academic related activities, such as conference attendance and study abroad. All students, regardless of nationality, citizenship, residency status, area of study, or grade point average are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

Applications and specific requirements are available on the SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Web site at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>. The Web site offers students the ability to search for available scholarships in a variety of ways. Search results can produce a list of scholarships for a particular major course of study, scholarships that are available regardless of major, scholarships that are open for application now, and so on. Grade point average requirements vary and are listed in the eligibility description of each scholarship resulting from the search. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships coordinates the scholarship application and awarding process with the committees from the various academic departments and organizations responsible for selecting recipients.

Deadlines vary and new scholarship opportunities are added to the Web site throughout the year. Students may apply for scholarships after the deadline if the application is still open on the Web site. The main application filing period is November through early February for awards paid in the following academic year. A second filing period extends from early March through April. Applications accepted August through October offer awards paid in the current academic year.

Scholarship funds are provided by private donors, corporations, professional associations, and SDSU alumni. In addition to SDSU

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scholarships, the Marshall, Fulbright, Rhodes, and Rotary Scholarships are prestigious international scholarships that are given annually to students pursuing educational goals outside the United States. Eligibility and application information is available on the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Web site at

<http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>.

Fellowships Administered by Departments

Students receive fellowships or traineeships through the various departments. Federal, state, and private industry supporting programs of this nature are largely directed to students doing graduate work or to students preparing for some special field of work. Students who have decided on a particular area of study should check with an adviser in the department of their major to determine what fellowship support might be available to them.

