

*A Guide to  
Alternative Financing  
for USD Students*



**USD Office of Financial Aid**

Many students attending the University of San Diego utilize some form of financial assistance to help them meet their educational costs. Some USD students qualify for need-based federal or state financial aid. Some students who feel they need assistance do not have "documented need" according to federal or state criteria. This guide consists of information that can be helpful to both types of students, but especially to those who do not qualify for need-based financial aid.

The ***Guide to Alternative Financing*** is updated annually and made available to USD students throughout the year. We hope you find the guide helpful as you plan toward meeting your educational costs at the University of San Diego.

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# Alternative Financing Information

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# Alternative Financing Information

There are several options available to students and parents in addition, or as an alternative, to the "need-based" sources of financial aid. This brief summary provides information regarding some of the resources available to assist in paying for college.

## Scholarships

You may be eligible for a scholarship, grant, or fellowship that is not awarded directly by the University of San Diego. For example, many companies offer scholarships to the sons and daughters of their employees. Fraternal organizations, such as the Elks or Rotary International assist many students in meeting their educational costs. You may find local scholarship information on the internet by searching "scholarships in (your city)."

The USD Office of Financial Aid has prepared a guide to assist students in applying for outside/private sources of financial aid. A free copy of ***A Guide to Outside Resources of Financial Aid*** is available on the USD Financial Aid Web site ([www.sandiego.edu/financial\\_aid](http://www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid)) or upon request. The guide has information regarding references available on campus and explains how to initiate the process of applying for outside/private scholarships. It has an extended bibliography and is updated annually.

Current scholarship opportunities are posted outside the USD Office of Financial Aid as well as on the USD Financial Aid Web site. Additional scholarship sources and search programs can be found on the Internet. A good site for several sources is the Financial Aid Information Page at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

Note that all outside scholarships (including ROTC funds) must be coordinated with need-based aid. Depending on donor criteria and the documented need of the student, outside scholarships can usually reduce the amount of loans or employment in a financial aid package.

## Military Programs

### Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC)

There are two types of NROTC programs: the Scholarship Program and the College Program. The Scholarship program consists of two to four year scholarships including tuition, fees, and textbooks as well as monthly subsistence pay that varies based on your grade level. The College Program is designed for students who desire to qualify for a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps while pursuing normal courses of study, and have not been accepted into the Scholarship Program. Contact the NROTC unit Recruiting Officer at USD (Sacred Heart Hall, Room 112, (619) 260-2292/4811) or any Navy-Marine Corps Recruiting Office for more information and application materials. Further information is available on the NROTC Unit Web site at [www.sandiego.edu/nrotc](http://www.sandiego.edu/nrotc).

### Other ROTC Programs

Through an agreement with the Air Force and Army ROTC and San Diego State University (SDSU), qualified students at USD may participate in the Air Force or Army ROTC program at SDSU. For qualified students, AFROTC offers two to four year scholarships that may be applied toward tuition, various laboratory textbooks and incidental fees plus a monthly non-taxable allowance based on your grade level during the academic year. For more information, contact the AFROTC unit at SDSU at (619) 594-5545 or the Army ROTC unit at SDSU at (619) 594-4943 ext. 1236.

## Other Military Programs

If you want to go to college, there are a variety of financial aid programs to choose from. The most popular are the **Montgomery G.I. Bill** and the **Army College Fund**. Combined, they give you up to \$85,536 for college at the end of your active duty tour. Or you can be a full-time student and serve part-time in the **Army Reserve** and depending on the length of your enlistment you may receive up to \$12,132 to pay for college. The **College Loan Repayment Program** can help you pay your existing Perkins, Stafford or any other federally insured college loan when you enlist. For information on the above scholarships or loans, contact [GoArmy@usarec.army.mil](mailto:GoArmy@usarec.army.mil). You can also receive funding from the **Navy College Fund** in addition to the GI Bill. For more information, go to [www.navy.com](http://www.navy.com). The **U.S. Coast Guard** also offers scholarships. To find out about them, go to [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil). The University of San Diego has participated in the Yellow Ribbon Program since the beginning of 2009-2010.

## USD Monthly Tuition Payment Plan

USD offers a monthly payment plan to allow for payment in five (per semester) payments, subject to adjustments, covering actual expenses per semester. If you had a prior contract plan, your eligibility is subject to verification. The Monthly Payment Plan operates according to the following guidelines:

- The student's account balance with the University must not be delinquent and prior semester charges must have been paid on a current basis to be considered for the Monthly Payment Plan.
- To sign up for the monthly payment plan, you will need to log in to your MySanDiego portal account and go to the Student Accounts channel on the One Stop Services tab. Tuition and fees must already be billed for you to enroll online.
- Payments begin on August 1 for the Fall semester and on January 1 for the Spring semester plan.
- Adjustments are made to remaining contract payments as charges and/or credits occur. Charges for various fines, citations or other non-contractual charges are payable immediately and are not deferred over any remaining Payment period.
- In the event of a contract default, USD may refuse the student or contract buyer a subsequent Monthly Payment Plan.
- All payments, which are due on the first of the month (not postmarked) throughout the contract life, must be current. If a student's Payment plan is not kept current, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's class reservation and room and meal plan arrangements. If payments are not current at the time of the Fall and/or Spring semester fee payment/registration deadlines, the \$150 late payment/registration fee must be paid.
- A \$50 processing fee must be paid when signing up for each semester. The processing fee is charged per semester and is nonrefundable.
- Tuition payments received are refundable in accordance with the University's published refund policy. Please consult the Undergraduate or Graduate Bulletin.

- Monthly payment plans are not available for Study Abroad Programs, Summer Sessions or Intersession.
- The University reserves the right to change the terms of the monthly payment plan, including enrollment fee amount and number of payments, prior to the start of any given semester.

Additional information regarding the payment plans is available at the One Stop Student Center, located in UC-126 or at (619) 260-2700 and at [www.sandiego.edu/studentaccounts](http://www.sandiego.edu/studentaccounts).

### **Accelerating Graduation**

Students who complete Advanced Placement Tests (AP) or the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) with acceptable scores may receive college credit from the University. Refer to the Admission section of the ***USD Undergraduate Bulletin*** ([www.sandiego.edu/bulletin](http://www.sandiego.edu/bulletin)) for more specific information on this option.

Also, you may want to take Summer School, Intersession, or a heavier course load during the Fall/Spring Semesters in order to graduate in less time. Tuition costs at USD are the same for 12 – 18 units for undergraduate students. A separate financial aid application is required to be considered for summer or intersession financial aid.

### **Student Employment**

USD offers a limited number of on campus part-time job opportunities for students who do not qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program. Approximately 400-500 of these positions exist during an academic year, primarily in Dining Services, Banquets and Catering, Telefunding, the Bookstore and the Athletics Department. In addition, the University assists USD students in finding off-campus employment within the San Diego metropolitan area. Contact the USD Student Employment Center (Hughes Center Rm. 313 or (619) 260-4801) for more information regarding these work opportunities which do not require documented need.

### **Employer Paid Tuition Plans**

There are employers who provide Tuition Refund Plans to assist employees in obtaining an advanced degree. These plans often provide reimbursement of tuition costs and fees. The employer may require that the course be job related, and pre-approval by a manager or supervisor may be required. Some employers provide flexible work schedules for the student/employee. Check with your employer's Human Resources/Benefits office.

### **Life Insurance and Pension Plans**

In some instances, you and/or your parents may want to borrow on life insurance policies or on accumulations in retirement plans. Check your policies for the details on repayment and qualifications. The interest rates may be low and repayment terms may be flexible.

### **Real Estate Options**

You or your parents may want to consider a second mortgage, trust deed, or home equity line on your home or other real estate. Check with reputable lenders for exact interest rates and qualifications. Under the Tax Reform Act, interest on such loans may be 100% tax deductible, unlike consumer loans. In the case of 15-30 year loans, monthly payments may be quite manageable.

## **State Financial Aid Programs**

Many states have their own financial aid programs for eligible students. Contact the State Educational Agency in your state of permanent residence for more information. Some states have allowed their residents to use state-funded grants in California (e.g., Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont).

## **Private Loans (Non-Federal) Programs**

In addition to loans from the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (DL), Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford and Federal Direct PLUS Loans – parent PLUS & Grad PLUS), there are Private Loan Programs available to students and parents who can demonstrate credit worthiness.

Generally, the interest rates are higher for the Private Loans than for loans available under the DL Program, but lower than many consumer loans. Interest rates can be adjusted monthly or quarterly. Most offer a long repayment period (e.g., up to 15 or 20 years) and Private Loan Consolidation.

The Federal guidelines implemented as part of Regulation Z of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), require the lender to send three different Truth In-Lending Disclosures. An Application Disclosure, an Approval Disclosure and a Final Disclosure, are sent to the borrower throughout the loan application process. In addition, the lender will send the borrower an “Applicant Self-Certification Form”. Borrowers will need to review, complete and return the signed “Applicant Self-certification Form” to the lender in a timely manner to ensure the disbursement of their loan funds. Failure to return the “Applicant Self-Certification Form” will delay the disbursement of their loan funds.

For more detailed information and the Private Loan lender list, please go to [www.sandiego.edu/financial\\_aid/loans/](http://www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid/loans/) and click on the “Private/Non Federal Loan Application Process and Information” link.

## **Penalty-Free IRA Withdrawals**

Individuals may withdraw funds from IRAs to pay for tuition, fees, books, and if enrolled at least half-time, room and board without facing the 10 percent penalty for early (before age 59<sup>1/2</sup>) withdrawals. Taxpayers may use these funds for their education expenses or for those of their spouses, children, and grandchildren. Taxpayers making withdrawals from traditional before-tax or rollover IRAs would have to pay income tax on the full amounts withdrawn, but no penalty tax.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### ***A Guide to Outside Resources of Financial Aid***

This may be printed from the OFA Web site: [www.sandiego.edu/financial\\_aid](http://www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid)

Comparative Information Regarding ***Private (Alternative) Loan Programs*** and the ***Federal Direct PLUS Loan Programs*** is online at [www.sandiego.edu/financial\\_aid/loans/LoanComparison.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid/loans/LoanComparison.php)

### **USD Monthly Tuition Payment Plan**

Contact the USD One Stop Student Center at (619) 260-2700 or at [www.sandiego.edu/studentaccounts](http://www.sandiego.edu/studentaccounts)