

STUDENTS MUST REAPPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID EACH YEAR . . .



TIME TO REAPPLY FOR 2007/2008 FINANCIAL AID!

FREE APPLICATIONS (FAFSA/USD FAA)

To apply for financial aid at USD for 2007/2008, all students must complete the **FAFSA** (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) **On The Web** (FOTW) worksheet or a paper FAFSA available at the USD Office of Financial Aid (OFA), Hughes Center 319. The information on the FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal and USD funds. Note that students who began their current degree program before summer 2004 must ALSO complete the USD FAA (Financial Aid Application) in order to be considered for USD funds. A Guide to Applying for Financial Aid at USD is provided to assist students with questions related to the FOTW or the USD FAA. Students admitted from fall 2004 and later SHOULD NOT file the USD FAA.

Most continuing students who applied for financial aid for 2006/2007 should have received a reminder (e-mail or regular mail) in January from the U.S. Department of Education to file the Renewal FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, 2007. It is better to file early, based on **estimated** 2006 income, than to miss priority deadlines.

Envelopes with the appropriate forms are available outside the USD OFA. **They will not be mailed to students.** The forms, Guides and links to www.fafsa.ed.gov are available through the USD OFA web site at www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid.

DEADLINES

While applications are accepted as long as any federal funds are available, priority for USD and certain federal funds is given to students who submit a valid (non-rejected) application listing the USD Federal School Code by the appropriate **priority** postmark deadline for 2007/2008:

Freshman/Transfer/Re-admitted and

Continuing Undergraduates.....**March 2, 2007***
Applicants for Cal Grants**.....**March 2, 2007**
Graduate Students.....**April 1, 2007**

*USD Admissions provides deadline information for new students.

**Students have received up to \$9708 to help with USD tuition.

Note: New Cal Grant applicants must submit their **FAFSAs** and also the additional **GPA Verification Form** no later than **March 2, 2007**. A continuing USD student who is a California resident may apply for a first-time Cal Grant beyond freshman level. Cal Grant GPA Verification forms (required for all new Cal Grant applicants) are available outside the USD Office of Financial Aid prior to the **March 2** deadline.

New students, who entered USD Spring Semester 2007, must reapply for 2007/2008 financial aid by the appropriate priority deadline listed above.

To retain their priority status, applicants must – in addition to meeting the priority application deadline – submit by specified deadlines all documents requested by the Office of Financial Aid needed to complete their financial aid file.

Financial Aid for Summer 2007 requires a separate application. The free *Summer Financial Aid Application* is available starting the first week of February at the Office of Financial Aid.

WEB OFFERS (E-OFFERS)

When your 2007/2008 Offer of Financial Assistance is available, an e-mail notification will be sent to your USD e-mail account. If you have questions regarding your e-mail account, you must contact the USD Help Desk at 619-260-7900.

Note that follow-up information to complete need analysis prior to the E-Offer will be sent to the address on the FAFSA via regular mail.

All three pages of the E-Offer must be printed, signed and returned to the USD OFA before the deadline specified on the E-Offer. Forms and loan applications necessary to apply for the financial aid you were offered must also be printed and returned to USD by the deadline. If you have difficulty printing or navigating the E-Offer, follow the tips and instructions on www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid/tips_for_navigating_e_offer.pdf

GET A PIN!

The Office of Financial Aid recommends that students who have not filed a FAFSA in a previous year obtain a U.S. Department of Education Personal Identification Number (PIN) online at www.pin.ed.gov. This allows a student to electronically sign his/her FAFSA rather than having to mail a signed signature page to the Central Processor. In addition, students may make online changes to their FAFSA data if they have a PIN. Dependent students' parents may also apply for a PIN number at the above web site. Students who already have been issued a PIN, but who either cannot remember it or have lost it may also use www.pin.ed.gov to update their PIN.

FAFSA Alert! Students planning to submit the FAFSA online should go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you use www.fafsa.com, you will be charged a fee.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR FAFSA?

A Financial Aid Counselor will be available to answer questions about completing the 2007/2008 FAFSA and USD FAA on an *individual basis* at four Financial Aid Workshops offered for USD students. **Choose one of the dates below, bring your applications and get your questions answered!** The Workshops will be held on the following dates:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Thursday, February 15	Serra 212	12:15 – 1:15 p.m. for all workshops Snacks will be provided!
Tuesday, February 20	Serra 212	
Thursday, March 1	Serra 212	

While it is not mandatory to attend a workshop, USD students who would like assistance in completing the 2007/2008 financial aid application forms are invited to attend.

Note: Students may stop by any of the workshops at any time during the hours noted above.

Those who cannot attend a workshop and need assistance completing the FAFSA may go to the Federal Student Aid web site at:
studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing_fafsa/2007_2008/ques.html



ADDRESSES ARE IMPORTANT

While E-Offer Notifications are sent to USD email addresses, other financial aid notices are sent by postal mail. Financial Aid email and mail must be responded to within the specified deadlines. You cannot respond if you do not receive your mail. That is, non-forwarded mail can affect your application priority status and ultimately your financial aid eligibility.

Important information relating to 2006/2007 Financial Aid (e.g., notices regarding any loan checks, scholarships, Federal Pell Grant changes, Federal Work Study, etc.) is sent to your local address during the academic year. *It is important that the Registrar's Office has the correct address at all times.*

The **permanent address** you enter on the 2007/2008 FAFSA will be used for processing that application. Follow-up mail will be sent to the address on the FAFSA until 8/31/07. **If you are not residing at the permanent address, you will need to be sure your financial aid mail is forwarded to you promptly.** Beginning 9/3/07, mail from the USD Office of Financial Aid will be sent to the local address you have on record at the USD Registrar's Office. **If you move during the semester or summer, be sure to give the Registrar your correct address.**

HAVE YOU ATTENDED A MONEY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP?

If not, you should plan to attend the Spring Semester **Money Management Workshop** for USD students. The workshop will be held on **Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. in Serra 212.**

USD students who have attended Money Management Workshops had this to say:

- "Very Informative!"
- "Information I can actually use!"
- "It was sort of a reality check...I forget that I have to plan my future now."
- "Very important and helpful information."
- "Gets you prepared for your future."
- "The handouts were very helpful."



UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS HAVE YOU MISSED OUT ON OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS?

You have to **plan ahead** to have a chance, but it can be worth it. Private outside scholarships can usually replace loans and work.

- Complete a *Student Scholarship Questionnaire* at the USD Office of Financial Aid (OFA) for possible scholarship opportunities (ask about it at Reception Services, Room 319, Hughes Center).
- Watch the *Outside Resources Boards* near the USD OFA or visit the USD Financial Aid Web Site and click on **Scholarships**.
- Use the **USD Guide to Outside Resources of Financial Aid** for information about private scholarships available on the USD Financial Aid website. Click on **Guides**.
- Use all the resources in the Copley Library. In addition to the reference publications, use the computer search program available at www.fastweb.com and wiredscholar.com and the *Outside Resources Collection* (available at the Reserve Desk).

How to Apply for Outside Scholarships Workshop

Tuesday, February 13, 2007, Serra 212, 12:15-1:15
Thursday, February 22, 2007, Serra 212, 12:15-1:15

To date, over \$1.6 million has been received by USD students in outside scholarships for 2006/07!

NEED A PART-TIME JOB?

The Student Employment Center (SEC) has many part-time job listings in the San Diego area, many near USD. **Since new jobs are received daily, you should review the job board outside the SEC frequently.** The SEC is located in Hughes Administration Center, Room 313. Office hours are 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday (*February 26, 2007 – July 27, 2007*). 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday (*July 30, 2007 – February 22, 2008*). Telephones are answered 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

NEED A SUMMER JOB?

The Student Employment Center (SEC) also has information about very exciting summer job opportunities. Employers from across the country including U.S. National Parks and various summer camps have sent their application information to USD. Visit the SEC for details.



NEED A LOAN?

If you have not used your full loan eligibility for 2006/2007, you may still apply. Low-interest *Federal PLUS* loans are still available for parents of dependent students and Low-interest *Federal Stafford* and *Unsubsidized Federal Stafford* loans are still available for qualified undergraduate and graduate students. **Loan applications should be submitted no later than April 1 for 2006/2007.** Contact the OFA for more information and for application materials.

MONITORING YOUR LOAN BALANCE

Students are advised to track their loan balance through www.nsls.ed.gov with their federal pin number (the number received from the Federal Processor) or through ELM Resources. A link to ELM Resources is available on a student's E-Offer letter or at www.elmresources.com/login-students.php

For general repayment information visit www.studentaid.ed.gov

REMINDER TO USD GRADUATING SENIORS

Students who will be graduating from USD in May or August 2007 and have received a federal student loan (*Federal Stafford* or *Perkins*) must receive **Exit Loan Counseling** information prior to leaving USD. **Money Management** information for graduating USD students is also provided.

Federal Stafford and *Unsubsidized Federal Stafford* loan borrowers will receive repayment information from the OFA. Students who received *Federal Perkins* and/or *Trust* loans, will be contacted by the USD Loan Administration Office.

USD ALUMNI REPAY STUDENT LOANS

Current USD students owe a big "Thank You" to USD alumni who have consistently repaid their student loans on a timely basis. It is because of their repayment record that USD has one of the **lowest** default rates in the nation!

THANKS, USD ALUMNI!



Note that you will find answers to many of your questions through the OFA website at www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid

NEED HELP WITH YOUR TAXES?

Dr. Thomas Dalton, Professor of Accounting and Taxation in the USD School of Business Administration, will provide a tax preparation workshop for USD students before the April 15 tax deadline. If you want help completing your 2006 Tax Forms, you will need to attend this free workshop. No advance registration is required. The workshop will be held on **Thursday, April 12, 2007, 5:30p.m.- 6:30 p.m.** in Olin Hall 327. If you would like to download your tax forms, the IRS web site is www.irs.gov/forms_pubs

FREE GUIDES PROVIDED BY THE USD OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Guide to Applying for Financial Aid at USD

Guide to Financial Aid Consumer Information at USD

Guide to Outside Resources of Financial Aid

Guide to Outside Resources for International Students

Guide for Students in the Paralegal Program

Guide to Alternative Financing

Guide to Non-Federal Loan Programs
(Comparative information provided on line with non-federal application)

Guide to Money Management for USD Students

Guide to Money Management for Graduating USD Students

Guide for USD Student Employees

Guide for Supervisors of USD Students Employed Under the Federal Work-Study Program

Most Guides are available on the USD Financial Aid Website. Click on Guides.

USD Office of Financial Aid HOURS

Hughes Administration Center 319 (619) 260-4514

February 26, 2007 – July 27, 2007

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday for Graduate students

July 30, 2007 – February 22, 2008

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday (4-6 for Graduate students)

Telephones will be answered:

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday

USD OFA BULLETIN BOARD

DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING QUICKLY!

- **March 2, 2007 – Priority Deadline for entering freshmen, undergraduate transfer students, and returning undergraduate students**
- **April 1, 2007 – Priority Deadline for all graduate and credential students**

It's important to **apply early** for outside scholarships for 2007/08!

For current scholarship opportunities, don't forget to check the USD website at www.sandiego.edu/financial_aid

Watch out for scholarship scams!

BEST OF LUCK!

-RUMORS-

You may have heard or seen information that says the USD FAA is no longer required. This is **ONLY** the case for students who entered USD as a first-time undergraduate or graduate/credential student in Summer 2004 or later.

IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED USD BEFORE THIS TIME, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE USD FA BY THE PRIORITY DEADLINE, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR USD GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS!!

IMPORTANT: CAL GRANTS

USD Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors may apply for first-time Cal Grant awards. **The Cal Grant postmark deadline is March 2, 2007.** See details on the first page of this newsletter.

MONEY MATTERS

The value of checking your credit report cannot be overstated!

You can order your free credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion - by visiting just one web site www.annualcreditreport.com. You can also order by calling toll free (877)-322-8228 or writing to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

Student Loan Consolidation

Graduating Students may want to consider consolidating their student loans. The USD Office of Financial Aid (OFA) advises USD students to compare the benefits offered by lenders and consolidating companies. Direct marketing to students can be persuasive, but each offer needs to be reviewed carefully.

The USD OFA refers students to the following web site to quickly compare offers made by various lenders and companies:

The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org/loans/educationlenders.phtml