

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 achievement, 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. Information about the available programs as well as the academic standards that a student must maintain to remain eligible for such 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 at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

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 2009-2010 Academic Year

	Living off Campus	Living on Campus	Commuting from Home
Registration fees	\$4,228	\$4,228	\$4,228
Books and supplies	1,638	1,638	1,638
Food and housing	10,388	11,485	3,810
Transportation	1,690	1,320	1,360
Miscellaneous/Personal	2,772	2,657	2,856
Total.....	\$20,716	\$21,328	\$13,892

The academic year registration fee for a post-baccalaureate student is \$5,010 and \$4,770 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

San Diego State University awards scholarships to students to recognize and encourage individual talents, academic achievement, leadership skills, and the determination to succeed in spite of significant hardships. Scholarships are also awarded to students to support participation in SDSU approved study abroad programs, community service programs, and faculty approved conference attendance that is part of a student's SDSU curriculum. All students, regardless of grade point average, area of study, citizenship, or residency status are encouraged to apply for all scholarships for which they may be eligible.

Application materials and eligibility information can be accessed on the SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Web site at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>. Deadlines vary and new scholarship opportunities are added to the Web site throughout the year. Students should check the Web site regularly to learn about continuing and upcoming scholarship opportunities, application and essay writing tips, and more.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships coordinates the SDSU scholarship application and awarding process with the committees from the various departments and organizations responsible for selecting recipients. Scholarship funds are provided by private donors, corporations, professional associations, and SDSU alumni. In addition to SDSU 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>.

Other Scholarship Resources and Links

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Web site also lists resources and links to outside scholarship information and free scholarship search Web sites.

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.



Courtesy of Stan Liu