Finding Financial Options for Your Student

UVU’s Financial Aid Office Can Help

Funding their college education is a common issue among university students. In The Project on Student Debt Report, two-thirds of graduating U.S. college seniors had an average debt of $25,250 in 2010. While some debt may be unavoidable, students can decrease their debt amount by understanding financial options that are available to them.

Financial Aid Process

UVU’s Financial Aid office is an informative resource for understanding what financial options are available to your student. Whether your student wants to apply for a grant, work study, loan, or scholarship, they need to learn and understand the process.

Your student will first need to register for a Federal Financial Aid pin. One parent of each dependent student will also need to register for a pin. Students will then be asked to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA). The next steps include completing the Financial Aid Data form and loan counseling, along with the Verify Your Plans to Attend form (VYPA). Students are encouraged to check their UV Link accounts often in order to stay updated on the status of their application and forms.

If a student is offered financial aid, they will need to accept the award on UV Link before being able to receive funding. Funding for financial aid is not always instantaneous, and it is the student’s obligation to make sure their tuition payments are made on time.

To view a detailed list of general financial aid instructions, navigate to the Financial Aid website, click on “Start Here” and then “Apply Now.” The web site offers great assistance tools, including forms and tutorials on how to fill out applications.

Deadlines come faster than expected, so start the application process now! Make sure to keep
Utah Valley University announced that it has accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference. UVU will begin athletic competition in the conference next fall at the start of the 2013-2014 season.

"This move recognizes the many years of effort that have gone into building UVU’s excellent athletics programs. Aligning with a nationally recognized conference partner like the WAC allows us to more fully reflect who we have become as an institution and athletics program," said UVU Athletics Director Mike Jacobsen. "As we enter a new era for UVU Athletics, I am excited about the opportunities that await UVU and its student-athletes as we develop fruitful partnerships and athletic rivalries with regional sister institutions."

UVU Joins the WAC!

track of re-application deadlines as some forms require yearly or semesterly submittal. [Financial Aid Office: BA 105. 801.863.8442 (www.uvu.edu/financialaid/)]

Scholarships

UVU offers a variety of scholarship opportunities for students. A list of scholarships and qualifying criteria can be found on the scholarship website. The website also contains a list of outside sources for scholarships. Do your homework and take the time to explore all options available to your student. As you research scholarships, make sure personal information is submitted to reliable sources. Plan ahead when applying for scholarships, many students are simply unaware of deadlines and miss out on funding that could otherwise be theirs.

As with any form of financial aid, students should ask questions and fully understand the process and commitment that comes with their scholarship. Directly contact the scholarship office to understand all of the options that are available to your student.

Scholarships Continued

[Scholarship Office: BA 105. 801.863.8443 (www.uvu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/)]

Tax Credits and Benefits

There are currently a number of tax credits and benefits that are specifically geared towards students and their parents. Visit www.irs.gov and enter “Publication 970” in the search box to explore all of your options. To get the best outcome, talk with a tax preparations specialist and make sure to run the numbers for claiming your student as a dependent and a non-dependent. Credits include the American Opportunity Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit. Benefits include items such as loan assistance, tax assistance, an education savings bond program, students loan interest deduction, and more.

Make yourself a reminder to complete tax credit and benefit information the next time you submit your taxes, this is one piece of advice you won’t want to forget!

Employment

If your student needs to work while attending college, encourage them to find a job that will support their college goals. Student’s schedules can fill up quickly, so help them maintain a healthy balance between work and school schedules. [Career Development Center: LC-409. 801.863.6364 (www.uvu.edu/cdc/)]

There are a many ways to help your student have a strong financial foundation while going to school. Continue to be supportive in helping your student be financially wise. Be aware of options and encourage your student to be a proactive agent in the process.

UVU athletes were excited to hear that they are going to be able to compete in the WAC next season.
UVU strongly encourages students to be engaged in their education. The university’s “Engage” website defines an engaged learner as one who participates in traditional classroom learning along with hands-on educational experiences. Parents can play a key role in positively influencing their students to stay interested in school through their own example of being an engaged learner. Talk with your student about books you are reading, talents you are developing, and goals you would like to accomplish. Help your student understand what it means to be a life-long learner.

Find activities to do as a family that will encourage your student, while allowing the whole family an opportunity to try something new. There are many cost effective learning opportunities that can be targeted towards your student’s interests. Visit local companies, meet with people that are working in your student’s field, find tailored volunteer opportunities, and attend applicable local events. You can help your student get excited about their education by helping them find ways to experience and implement what they are learning.

Students can visit the Student Government website where they will discover a list of engaging and educational events. The website includes everything from joining clubs to getting involved with politics. Students can follow the website to keep up to date on when and where events are taking place. [Student Government: SC 105. 801.863.9652 (www.uvu.edu/studentgovernment/)]

About the Freshman Reading Program

The Freshman Reading Program aims to provide a common academic experience, to introduce students to intellectual life at the university, and to create a greater sense of community among students, faculty, and staff, emphasize the value of reading, and establish the connection between reading, intellectual development, and other cultural events on campus. For more information visit www.uvu.edu/firstyear/freshmanreading/faq/.

You can learn more about William and his foundation by visiting: www.movingwindmills.org.
Graduate with More than a Degree

Students can Build a Resume While Getting Their Education

UVU offers a number of opportunities for students to get involved in research, internships, and service. By encouraging your student to be involved, you can help them strengthen their abilities while building a resume.

Research

UVU supports both undergraduate and graduate students in participating in research projects, allowing them to gain a stronger passion for their studies while obtaining valuable experience. Not only do students get to learn new information while putting what they’ve learned into practice, but they can be involved in scholarly opportunities such as presenting at conferences. Students also learn how to successfully work with people in their field, while becoming confident in their abilities. Your student can contact the Office of Engaged Learning on how to get involved with or propose a research project. [Undergraduate Research: BA-216. 801.863.8471 (www.uvu.edu/undergrad-research/)]

Internships

Internships provide students with valuable “on-the-job” experience and assist them in getting a broader understanding of their career goals. Internships also provide incredible networking benefits, strong references, and build a student’s resume.

Students should begin to consider where they would like to intern towards the end of their sophomore year. For students interested in traveling, internships can be a productive way to see new places while earning school credit.

Students can arrange an appointment with their Internship Coordination and also with a Career Services Counselor. For more information on internship providers, related scholarships, and how to complete the online orientation, visit the Internship website. [Internships: LC-409. 801.863.6589 (www.uvu.edu/internships/)]

Service

Service is another ideal way for students to gain experience while building a resume. Last year, UVU students donated a total of 137,332 service hours. Nearly $300,000,000 was put back into the community through the student’s efforts.

UVU honors students obtained a better understanding of marine biology along with valuable field experience.

A new field station has been established at the Capital Reef National park, allowing students to conduct in-depth research.

UVU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Office is continually posting new activities and opportunities for students to be involved in on their website including opportunities that exchange service hours for tuition (http://www.uvu.edu/volunteer/success.html).

Be an example of service to your student and find ways for your family to do service together. Service is a good way to help your student feel connected to your family while they are involved in school. Even if your family is separated by distance, plan regular or annual projects to be involved in. You don’t have to be under the same roof be working on a project together. [Volunteer & Service Learning: LC-205. 801-863-8786 (www.uvu.edu/volunteer/)]

Encourage your student to get out and get involved in something that interests them! Whether it’s through research, an internship, service or another means, your student will be more prepared to meet their future while gaining the experience and connections needed to create a solid resume.