

## How is My Aid Calculated?

When you complete the FAFSA, you will get a Student Aid Index (SAI). This number helps the Financial Aid Office calculate your aid offer. [What is SAI?](#)

For some Title IV programs, eligibility is limited to students who have financial need. Students are considered to have financial need if their Cost of Attendance (COA) exceeds their SAI. These “need based programs” include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work Study, Direct Unsubsidized Loan, ND State Grant and ND Supplemental Grant are also need based programs. The total aid that a student receives from need-based programs may not exceed the student’s financial need. Pell Grants are the first source of aid for students with financial need. A student’s eligibility for aid from the other need-based programs is then determined by subtracting the student’s SAI and Other Financial Assistance (OFA) including the student’s Pell Grant from the COA.

$COA - SAI - OFA = \text{remaining need}$

*Beginning with the 2026-2027 year, students who are fully covered by non-federal grants & scholarships will not be eligible for Federal Pell Grant.*

*o Students who receive grants or scholarships from non-federal sources (institutional, state, or private) that cover their entire cost of attendance (COA) are ineligible to receive a Pell Grant, even if otherwise eligible for the program.*

*o Previously, a Pell-eligible student whose full COA was covered by non-federal sources could still receive a Pell Grant in addition to the non-federal aid.*

For other *Title IV* programs, eligibility is not based on the student’s financial need. These “non-need-based” programs include Direct Unsubsidized Loan, and Direct PLUS Loan programs. A student’s eligibility for non-need-based aid is determined by subtracting OFA (including any need-based aid) from the COA:

$COA - OFA = \text{eligibility for non-need-based aid}$

In general, the total amount of need-based aid cannot exceed the student’s financial need and the total amount of all aid cannot exceed the student’s COA.

## I received an aid offer and then it changed. Why?

LRSC reserves the right to adjust your award at any time based on additional information that becomes available. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Notification of additional resources such as a scholarship, grant, or tuition waiver, etc., affecting your eligibility for need-based aid or exceeding your COA budget.
- Change in enrollment status (you enroll for less than 12 credits).

When a student receives more aid than their financial need or our cost of attendance, the result may be an overaward. To correct an overaward the Financial Aid Office will first reduce/cancel student loans. If the aid still exceeds COA, institutional grant and/or scholarship will be reduced.

*It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of all financial assistance expected to be received.*