What kind of financial aid is available?

Federal financial aid is available to United States citizens and eligible non-citizens (permanent U.S. residents with an I-551 Permanent Resident Card; conditional permanent residents with an I-551C; various designations on the I-94 record such as “refugee,” “asylum granted,” “parolee,” “T-Visa holder,” “Cuban-Haitian Entrant”; or “victims of human trafficking”). To be eligible you must be admitted to UNC in a degree-seeking program (Bachelor’s, Master’s, or doctoral program). Qualified undergraduate students will be awarded the Federal Pell Grant (if eligible), Federal Direct Subsidized (the interest is paid on your behalf while you are enrolled) and Unsubsidized (you are responsible for paying all of the accrued interest) Stafford Loans, and Federal Direct PLUS Loan (for parents of dependent students). Students in graduate programs will be awarded Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans and Grad PLUS Loans.

Students in the Center for Urban Education programs (at our Denver Center at Lowry) who qualify for federal student aid are also considered for state grants and federal loans if eligible. Students in these programs who are classified as “residents” for tuition purposes must also apply for the Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF). COF is a state fund that pays a portion of the tuition for Colorado residents. Apply for COF at www.collegeincolorado.org.

*UNC has a new payment plan effective January 2012. This allows students who do not have financial aid or those who still owe a balance after financial aid has paid to spread the bill over the semester instead of paying a lump sum. You may get more information on the Bursar’s website at www.unco.edu/acctservices/bursar/bearpay.

How much can I receive?

Each college or university is required to establish a “cost of attendance.” It includes an average amount for tuition, fees, textbooks, and living expenses. UNC will award financial aid to a maximum of the cost of attendance.
Current costs of attendance for 2015-16 are:

Undergraduates – approximately $16,924 to $22,772 (based on half-time enrollment for cash funded or full-time resident students)

Graduates - $18,924-$22,698 (based on half-time enrollment for cash funded or resident students)

Keep in mind that your financial aid will likely be in the form of student and/or parent loans.

Federal loan limits apply based on your year in school:

Freshmen - $5,500  Sophomores - $6,500  Juniors - $7,500  Seniors - $7,500

(Undergraduate students who are classified as “independent” on the FAFSA may be eligible for an additional $4,000-$5,000 in Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.)

Graduate Students - $20,500 (all Unsubsidized Stafford Loan)

How do I apply for financial aid?

The first step in applying for financial aid is to apply for a federal FSA ID and password. The FSA ID and password serves as your electronic signature on the financial aid application. You will use the same FSA ID and password each year you apply for financial aid. You can apply for a FSA ID and password at https://fsaid.ed.gov. The second step in applying is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. Be sure to list UNC as the school that should receive your FAFSA information. Our school code is 001349.

Once UNC receives your FAFSA record, we will put together your financial aid “package.” You will be notified via your Bear e-mail account when your financial aid package is ready for review and acceptance on URSA. We will also notify you by Bear e-mail if we need additional information. After you accept your award, you may be required to complete Loan Entrance Counseling and/or complete a Promissory Note. Watch for red flags on URSA and comply with requests in a timely manner.

When should I apply?

The FAFSA can be completed any time after January 1 for the upcoming academic year. *The academic year begins with fall semester and ends with summer semester.*

What are the deadlines?

UNC uses a priority application date of March 1 for on-campus students and for students in the Center for Urban Education programs. However, these funds are not available to students in other
Extended Studies programs so you may complete the FAFSA at any time. We recommend completing the FAFSA at least 4-6 weeks prior to enrollment so we will have time to process your financial aid.

If you apply for financial aid after the semester has started make sure you complete the FAFSA at least 4-6 weeks before the end of the semester. We have to process and pay financial aid before the end of the on-campus semester. We do not disburse financial aid between fall and spring semesters during the holiday break. If you apply late and do not pass your fall classes, we will not be able to disburse funds for fall semester. Similarly, funds intended for spring semester must be processed and paid before the end of the on-campus semester. *You can find the beginning and end dates for the semester on the UNC calendar at [www.unco.edu].*

**What are the enrollment criteria?**

Students must be enrolled at least half-time each semester in order to receive financial aid. For undergraduate students that is 6 credits; for graduate students that is 5 credits. Full-time enrollment is 12 credits per semester for undergraduates and 9 credits per semester for graduate students.

Undergraduates who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant should note that the amount of the grant will be prorated depending on the number of credits enrolled – ½ payment for 6-8 credits; ¾ payment for 9-11 credits; full payment for 12 or more credits. Pell Grant payments will be based on the number of credits for which you are enrolled on the 10th day of the on-campus semester. Additional payments will not be made if you add credits after that time.

**How and when are the funds disbursed?**

Financial aid funds are disbursed beginning on the first day of on-campus classes each semester. You must be enrolled and all paperwork must be completed before financial aid is disbursed. Financial aid is sent to the Accounts Receivable Office (Bursar’s Office) and applied to your balance due to the University. If the amount of your financial aid is more than your bill, the remaining funds will be given to you, either through direct deposit or a paper check that will be mailed to you. You can sign up for direct deposit by printing a form that is available on our website at [www.unco.edu/ofa/forms]. Look for “Direct Deposit Form” under the “Loan Forms” section. You will have to complete the form, attach a voided check, and send it to the UNC Payroll Office. If you do not sign up for direct deposit then a check will be mailed to the address on file in URSA. Make sure your address information is updated if you move.

If you enroll for additional classes after funds have disbursed for the term then you are responsible for paying the bill. Payments are due the 10th day of on-campus classes each semester. A 1.5% service charge is added each month to the balance due after the payment due date.
How do I access my personal financial aid information?

Directions for accessing your financial aid information in URSA:

http://www.unco.edu/aboutursa/resources/helpsheets/accessing_bills.pdf

Are there any scholarships available?

Students in Extended Studies programs can complete the UNC Universal Scholarship Application each year to compete for privately donated funds from the UNC Foundation. The application is available through URSA from January until early August for the upcoming academic year. Most undergraduate scholarships have a March 1 deadline. Undergraduate transfer scholarships have a June 15 deadline and graduate level scholarships have deadlines from June 1 to August 1. You must be admitted to a degree-granting program at UNC in order to access the application. Since the funds are privately donated, the criteria are established by the donor(s).

Only undergraduate students in the Interdisciplinary Studies programs in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education at the Lowry campus are eligible for the admissions-awarded scholarships based on high school or transfer gpa. Students in other undergraduate programs through Extended Studies are not eligible for the admissions-awarded scholarships.

What if my employer or someone else is paying for my education?

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if your employer or someone else is helping to pay your expenses. We will need the name, address, phone number, or e-mail address, and contact name if your sponsor needs an invoice or additional information in order to send a check. All checks should be made payable to University of Northern Colorado or UNC and sent to: Office of Financial Aid, ATTN: Scholarships, Carter Hall 1005, Campus Box 33, Greeley, CO 80639.

Is assistance available for Veterans?

UNC has a designated staff member in the Registrar’s Office to assist veterans, active duty military, and dependents of veterans to access appropriate assistance for which they qualify. Contact the UNC Veterans’ Services office at (970) 351-1403 for more information.

What if I need financial aid for summer classes?

Since summer is the end of our academic year, we use the current year FAFSA record to establish eligibility for summer financial aid. If you have already received the annual maximum amount in Federal
Pell Grant (if eligible) and student loans, then you would only be eligible for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan (for parents of undergraduate, dependent students) or the Grad PLUS Loan (for students in graduate level programs) for summer up to the summer cost of attendance. This cost of attendance is calculated separately from fall/spring.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students who receive financial aid are expected to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. Generally speaking, undergraduate students must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative gpa and graduate students must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative gpa. All students should complete at least 67% of all courses for which they enroll with grades of A, B, C, D or S.

Students who fail some or all of their classes may be required to prove course attendance and/or participation to avoid having to repay all or part of their financial aid. You may access the “Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress” on our website at www.unco.edu/ofa/aid/maintaining/index.asp.

Students should respond to requests for additional information or accept financial aid awards in a timely manner. We also encourage you to ask questions when you don’t understand something that is being requested or a specific step in the process. The Office of Financial Aid staff is available to assist you with processing and to answer your questions at the following:

University of Northern Colorado

Office of Financial Aid

Carter Hall 1005, Campus Box 33, Greeley, CO 80639

Phone (970) 351-2502 Fax (970) 351-3737

E-mail ofa@unco.edu or fabian.garcia@unco.edu

Visit our website at www.unco.edu/ofa for additional information.

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