

**University of Puerto Rico**



# **Financial Aid Packaging Policy**

## **2025-2026**



**Official Document**  
**Revised & Approved by**  
**Directors of Financial Aid Offices**

## Financial Aid Packaging:

True to the commitment of aiding all students in their access to an education of excellence, the University of Puerto Rico administers diverse financial aid programs to address the needs of students admitted to its institutional units. All of which come from federal, legislative, institutional and private funds. They are offered through scholarships, loans and the Work-Study Program to undergraduate students who meet the requirements to receive the grant.

The general rule for financial aid packaging is that it be based on the student's needs; it must not exceed financial need. The total amount of financial aid and Other Financial Assistance (OFA) must not exceed the Cost of Attendance (COA).

The University of Puerto Rico will establish its packaging policy in accordance with federal regulations. The granting of aid without exceeding the economic need is what known as financial aid packaging. The formula used is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{-Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ & \text{– Student Aid Index (SAI)} \\ & \text{– } \underline{\text{Other Financial Assistance (OFA)}} \\ & \text{= Economic Need} \end{aligned}$$

Financial aid packaging is done after the parameters for granting aid have been configured on the platform used by the Institution. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (*FAFSA*®) to be eligible for the financial aid package, which includes federal, state and institutional aid.

### **General requirements for Financial Aid eligibility:**

- Be a student at the University of Puerto Rico.
- Be a US citizen, national, or foreigner with rights.
- Have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be registered in an academic degree study program.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in accordance with the institutional standards established in Certification 55-2016-2017 of the UPR Governing Board and its amendments.

- Demonstrate financial need, as established by Federal and State regulations (Does not apply to Direct Unsubsidized Loan and Plus Loans).
- Not be in debt to federal scholarship programs.
- Not be in default on student loan payments.

The granting of funds will be done in the following order:

- **Pell Grant**

- This is the main source of financial aid for students who have not obtained a bachelor's degree.
- Eligibility for the Pell Grant is determined through a standard formula established by the United States Congress which is applied to information submitted by the student on the *FAFSA*®.
- The formula produces a number known as the Student Aid Index (SAI). This number, in conjunction with study costs and academic load, determines the scholarship amount to be granted.
- This grant may not be used simultaneously in different educational institutions.
- It is the basis used for granting other aid.
- Students who have reached 600% of eligibility limit (*Lifetime Eligibility Used* - LEU) will not be eligible to receive this aid.

- **Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH)**

- It is a student whose father, mother, or legal guardian passed away during active duty as a Public Safety Officer as defined under United States Code Title 42, Section 3796b.
- The student can receive the maximum Pell Grant and other Federal aid if he/she was under the age of 24 when his/her father, mother, or legal guardian passed away or registered in a post-secondary education institution at the time of that person's passing.
- A SAI of zero (0) must be used for all Federal aid if the student meets the previous criteria.

- **Service in Iraq and Afghanistan**

- The student may be eligible to the maximum Pell Grant if his/her father, mother, or legal guardian passed away as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of September 11, 2001.

- He/She must be under the age of 24 when the father, mother, or legal guardian passed away or registered in a post-secondary education institution at the time of that person's passing.
- **Work-Study Program\***
  - Funds are assigned by the Federal Department of Education.
  - The main goal is to promote employment to students with financial need.
  - Program promotes employment in community service.
  - The job positions may be in the Institution or a private non-profit organization whose work is in the public interest.
  - The student will earn the current state or federal minimum wage, whichever is higher. It is the prerogative of each Unit to establish a higher amount.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) \***
  - It is a scholarship for undergraduate students demonstrating extreme financial need.
  - Federal regulation establishes that priority will be given to students eligible for the Pell Grant with a SAI of zero (0) or less.
  - Students who exceeded the 600% will be considered after those students who are still eligible for the Pell Grant have been granted aid.
- **Institutional Scholarships\***
  - Regulations for the Granting of Financial Assistance from the Special Fund for Scholarships of the University of Puerto Rico, Certification 49-2018-2019 (known as Law 44) of the UPR Governing Board:
    - Financial assistance up to \$1,000 per beneficiary per academic year.
  - Endowment Scholarship Fund
    - This is made up of contributions from public and private entities, alumni, budget surpluses, legislative assignments, the sale of University of Puerto Rico properties or any other entity or natural or legal person who wants to contribute to the growth of the fund.
    - Undergraduate students may benefit from the following aid according to the availability of funds:
      - General Fund Scholarship (Unrestricted)
      - Rosa E. Axtmayer Scholarship

- Sixto Moreira Scholarship
  - It is financial aid from the scholarship program to mitigate the increase in tuition from the University of Puerto Rico Fiscal Plan under Certification 148-2021-2022, known as Law 4.
    - It will cover the cost of credits who meet the established requirements.
    - It will be granted to students who do not exceed \$100,000.00 in income.
  - Financial aid for payment of credits under Certification 47-2019-2020 of the UPR Governing Board.
    - It will cover the cost of credits (not repetitions) for full-time students who meet the established categories and requirements.
    - Students who are employees, spouses of employees, children of employees may be eligible for payment of laboratories.
    - It will be granted to students who do not exceed \$100,000.00 in income.
  - Merit Scholarships
    - Financial assistance of up to one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00) per beneficiary per academic year.
    - It will be granted to students who meet the requirements established in Certification 47-2019-2020 of the UPR Governing Board.
- **Direct Loan with Subsidy (William D. Ford)**
  - The Department of Education pays the interest during the following periods:
    - While the student is enrolled in a minimum half-time course load
    - Following the six-month period after the student has stopped studying.
    - During a deferment period.
- **Direct Loan without subsidy (William D. Ford)**
  - Students are not required to demonstrate economic need.

- The amount of the loan requested is based on students' study costs, year of classification and other financial aid received.
- Students are responsible for paying interest during all periods.
- **Plus Loan**
  - Parents of students registered with a minimum credit load of six (6) credits are eligible.
  - The amount of the loan depends upon the students' study costs and other financial aid received, if any.

Students may see the financial aid granted on the platform of the Institution.

\*Subject to the availability of funds.



## Financial Aid Packaging Policy for Graduates

### Financial Aid Packaging

True to the commitment of aiding all students in their access to an education of excellence, the University of Puerto Rico administers diverse financial aid programs to address the needs of students admitted to its institutional units. These aids come from federal, legislative, institutional and private funds. They are offered through scholarships, loans and the Work-Study Program to graduate students who meet the requirements.

The general rule for financial aid packaging is that it be based on the student's needs; it must not exceed financial need. The total amount of financial aid and OFA must not exceed the COA.

The University of Puerto Rico will establish its packaging policy according to federal regulation. The granting of aid without exceeding the financial need is what known as *Packaging*. The formula used is the following:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ &- \text{Student Aid Index (SAI)} \\ &- \text{Other Financial Assistance (OFA)} \\ &= \text{Economic Need} \end{aligned}$$

The process of packaging is done after the parameters for granting aid have been configured on the platform used by the Institution. Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for the aid package, including federal, state and other institutional aid.

### General Requirements for Financial Aid Eligibility:

- Be a student at the University of Puerto Rico.
- Be a US citizen, national, or foreigner with rights.
- Have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be enrolled in a study program leading to an academic degree.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in accordance with the institutional standards established in Certification 55-2016-17 of the UPR Governing Board and its amendments.
- Demonstrate financial need, as established by Federal and State regulations. (Does not apply to Direct Unsubsidized Loan and Plus loans.)
- Not be in debt to federal scholarship programs.
- Not be in default on student loan payments.

The granting of funds will be made in the following order:

## **Federal Aid**

- **Work-Study Program\***

- Funds are assigned by the Federal Department of Education.
- The main goal is to encourage and promote employment to students with financial need.
- Program promotes employment in community service.
- The job positions may be in the Institution or a private non-profit organization whose work is in the public interest.
- The student will earn the current state or federal minimum wage, whichever is higher. It is the prerogative of each Unit to establish a higher amount.

- **Institutional Scholarships\***

- Regulations for the Granting of Financial Assistance from the Special Fund for Scholarships of the University of Puerto Rico, Certification 49 -2018-2019 of the UPR Governing Board, also known as Law 44:
  - Financial assistance up to \$1,000 per beneficiary per academic year.
- Endowment Scholarship Fund
  - This is made up of contributions from public and private entities, alumni, budget surpluses, legislative assignments, the sale of University of Puerto Rico properties or any other entity or natural or legal person who wants to contribute to the growth of the fund.
  - Graduate level students may benefit from the following aid according to the availability of funds:
    - Trías Monge Scholarship
    - General Endowment Fund Scholarship
    - Rosa E. Axtmayer Scholarship
    - Sixto Moreira Scholarship



- It is financial aid from the scholarship program to mitigate the increase in tuition from the University of Puerto Rico Fiscal Plan under Certification 148-2021-2022, known as Law 4
  - It will cover the cost of credits for students who meet the established categories and requirements.
  - It will be awarded to students who do not exceed \$100,000.00 in income.
- Merit Scholarships
  - Financial aid of up to one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00) per beneficiary per academic year.
  - It will be granted to students who meet the requirements established in Certification 47-2019-2020 (known as Certification 4) of the UPR Governing Board.
- **Direct Loan Without Subsidy (William D. Ford)**
  - Students are not required to demonstrate financial need.
  - The educational institution attended will determine the loan amount based on the student's study costs and other financial aid received.
  - Students are responsible for paying interest during all periods.
  - If student opts for not paying interest while at the educational institution and during the grace periods and periods of payment postponement or of temporary suspension of payment, interest will be accrued (accumulated) and capitalized (in other words, interest will be added to the total principal of the loan).
- **Plus Loan (Students)**
  - Students enrolled at least half time (six credits) are eligible for this aid.
  - The amount of the loan depends on the costs of the study program and other aid granted to the student, if any.
- **Other Aid- Exclusive to the Medical Sciences Campus**
  - Legislative Scholarship and Loan (subject to availability of funds)
    - Students enrolled in the following doctorate programs are eligible: Medicine, Dental Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and those who are registered in duly accredited Schools of Medicine in private universities in or out of Puerto Rico.
    - Applicants for this aid must demonstrate economic need and have a minimum academic index of 2.50.

- These funds are assigned by the Puerto Rico Commonwealth's Legislative body under Law 17 with the aim of helping low-income students.

Students may see the financial aid granted on the platform of the Institution.

\* Subject to availability of funds, which may vary by Unit.