University of Puerto Rico

Financial Aid Packaging Policy

2026-2027

Official Document
Revised & Approved by
Directors of Financial Aid Offices

Financial Aid Packaging for Undergraduates

Committed to ensuring that every student has access to an excellent education, the University of Puerto Rico administers various financial aid programs to meet the needs of students admitted to its institutional units. These programs are funded by federal, legislative, institutional, and private sources. Financial aid is offered through scholarships, loans, and the Work-Study Program to undergraduate students who meet the established eligibility 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 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 aids without exceeding the economic need is known as financial aid packaging. The formula used is as follows:

Cost of Attendance (COA)
– Student Aid Index (SAI)
– Other Financial Assistance (OFA)
= Economic Need

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 117 (2025-26) of the UPR Governing Board.
- 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.

- **Special Rule Section 401(c) of the HEA**
  - By answering "yes" to question 16 of the FAFSA®, "Did the student's parent or guardian die in the line of duty while (1) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001, or while (2) performing official duties as a law enforcement officer?", the institution will request documentation confirming the information provided, which will establish eligibility for the maximum Pell Grant regardless of the student's Student Aid Index (SAI).
  - To receive the maximum Pell Grant under the Special Rule eligibility, the student must meet the following requirements:
    - Be the child of a parent or guardian who died in the line of duty while

      (a) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001; or

      (b) was on active duty and performing the duties of a public safety officer; and be under 33 years of age as of January 1 of the year preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested (for the example, for the 2026-

2027 academic year, the student must be under 33 years of age as of January 1, 2026, to be eligible).

    - or Public safety officers include all law enforcement personnel: firefighters, chaplains, civil defense employees, ambulance personnel, and members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
  - Other aid for these students will be based on their calculated Financial Aid Index (FAI).

- **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.

  - 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.

- 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 requirements.
    - It will be granted to students who do not exceed $100,000.00 in income.

- Financial aid for payment of credits under Certification 4/47-2019-2020 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.

- **Direct Loan with Subsidy (William D. Ford)**

    - Proof of financial need is required.
    - The amount a student can borrow is based on their tuition costs, year of classification, other financial aid received, and number of credits enrolled.
    - The Department of Education pays interest during the following periods:
        - While enrolled in at least half-time courses.
        - For six months after the student has left their studies.
        - During any deferment period.

- **Direct Loan without Subsidy (William D. Ford)**

    - The Student Aid Index (SAI) is not required to be considered as part of the financial need calculation.

- The amount a student can borrow is based on their tuition costs, year of classification, other financial aid received, and number of credits enrolled.
- The student is responsible for repaying the interest for all periods.

- **Parent Plus Loan**
  - Parents of students enrolled in at least half-time academic programs are eligible for this aid.
  - The loan amount depends on the costs of the program of study and any other financial aid the student receives.
  - You can borrow up to $20,000 per dependent student per academic year, not to exceed $65,000 over their entire college career. (A legacy provision applies to loans taken out on or before June 30, 2026, if there has been no interruption of studies.)

- **Endowment Scholarship Fund**

  It is comprised of contributions from public or private entities, alumni, budget surpluses, legislative allocations, proceeds from the sale of University of Puerto Rico properties, or from any other entity or individual or legal entity that wishes to contribute to the fund's growth.

  • Undergraduate students may benefit from applicable aid according to the availability of funds.

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

*Subject to the availability of funds and may vary amongst campuses.

Financial Aid Packaging Policy for Graduates

Committed to ensuring that every student has access to an excellent education, the University of Puerto Rico administers various financial aid programs to meet the needs of students admitted to its institutional units. These programs are funded by federal, legislative, institutional, and private sources. Financial aid is offered through scholarships, loans, and the Work-Study Program to students who meet the established eligibility requirements and is available to graduate students.

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 known as Packaging. The formula used is the following:

Cost of Attendance (COA)
– Student Aid Index (SAI)
– <u>Other Financial Assistance (OFA)</u>
= Economic Need

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 or an Eligible non-citizen.
- 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 117 (2025-26) of the UPR Governing Board.
- 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 Board of Trustees as amended, known as Law 44.
        - Financial aid of up to one thousand dollars ($1,000) per beneficiary per academic year.
    - 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 4/47 (2019-2020) of the UPR Governing Board.
    - 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 be awarded to students who do not exceed $100,000.00 in income.

        - Financial aid of up to one thousand dollars ($1,000) per beneficiary per academic year.

- **Direct Loan Without Subsidy (William D. Ford)**

    - The Student Aid Index (SAI) is not required to be considered as part of the financial need calculation.
    - The educational institution you attend determines the amount you can borrow based on your tuition costs and any other financial aid you receive.
    - The student is responsible for paying the interest during all periods.
    - If you choose not to pay the interest while at the educational institution and during grace periods, payment deferral periods, or temporary suspension of collections, your interest will accrue (accumulate) and be capitalized (i.e., your interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan).

- **Plus Loan (Students)**

    - The loan amount depends on the program's tuition costs and any other financial aid the student receives.
    - A legacy provision applies to loans taken out on or before June 30, 2026, if there has been no interruption of studies.

- **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 any aid according to the availability of funds.

- **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 campus.