

UC San Diego

HEALTH SCIENCES FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

2026-2027

FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

**Atkinson Physician Assistant Education
Program**

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FINANCIAL AID STAFF

John Benefield: Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Financial Aid

David Hillery: Director of Financial Aid

Laura Trax: Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Elvee Froehlich: Business Systems Analyst

Kathleen Hallisy: Financial Aid Counselor and Scholarship Coordinator

Maricela Santacruz: Financial Aid Counselor

Whitney Griffiths: Financial Wellness Coordinator and PAE Financial Aid Counselor

UCSD Health Sciences Financial Aid Office

9500 Gillman Drive, Dept.0606

La Jolla, CA 92093-0606

Phone:(858) 534-4664

Email: hsfinaid@health.ucsd.edu

1. General Statement and Application Procedures

- Students interested in financial aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov> using school code 001317.
- Upon accepting admission to the Atkinson Physician Assistant Education Program, students will receive instructions to create a Student Forms Portal account and complete the UCSD Health Sciences Financial Aid Application.
- Students who do not have sufficient financial resources should expect to fund a majority of their education through loans.
- Application Procedures
- Students complete the FAFSA and Health Sciences Financial Aid Application.
- For Federal Direct Loans, the Financial Aid Office certifies eligibility and submits the loan for processing. Students must complete a Master Promissory Note, complete Entrance Counseling, and resolve any holds before funds are disbursed to their student account.

2. Eligibility for Financial Aid

- Federal eligibility requirements include citizenship or eligible non-citizen status, enrollment at least half-time, satisfactory academic progress, and no default or outstanding federal grant overpayments.
- Funds must be used only for educational purposes and all required application materials must be submitted.
- Educational loans may be used to cover standard costs as well as approved budget increases such as documented medical or dental expenses.
- Effective 2026-2027:
 - New borrowers who do not have a Direct Loan disbursed before 7/1/2026 are not eligible for Graduate PLUS Loans due to federal legislative changes. The new lifetime maximum Direct Unsubsidized Loan limit will be \$100,000

- Graduate-level Direct Unsubsidized Loans remain limited to \$20,500 annually.

3. Student Budgets

- Student budgets are available on the UCSD Health Sciences Financial Aid website.
- Budgets are based on single student expenses and cannot be increased for spouses or partners.
- Adjustments may be made for documented childcare expenses.
- Students enrolled in UC SHIP will have insurance costs included unless waived with comparable coverage.

4. Method of Payment

- Financial aid is disbursed at the start of each enrollment period.
- Funds are applied to student accounts and offset charges including tuition and fees.
- Students are responsible for any remaining balance or will receive a refund if aid exceeds charges.

5. Sample Award Packaging

Sample Award

Scholarship \$1900

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan \$20,500

Graduate Plus or Private Loan \$87,600

Remaining need may be covered through private loans, outside scholarships, or personal resources.

6. Student Employment

- The PA program is full-time and students are not permitted to work while enrolled.

7. Listing of Specific Scholarships and Loans

- Scholarships may be awarded based on academic performance, service, or other criteria.
- Students may pursue outside scholarships through organizations such as:
 - National Health Service Corps
 - PA Foundation
 - CAPA
 - Indian Health Services
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Military Health Professions Scholarship Programs

- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available up to \$20,500 annually and are subject to aggregate limits.
 - Graduate PLUS Loans are available only to borrowers prior to July 1, 2026.
- Private alternative loans are available through participating lenders and are credit-based.
 - More information: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>
 - UC Code of Conduct: <http://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/files/loans/codeofconduct.pdf>

8. Loan Counseling/Debt Management

- Students are required to complete entrance and exit counseling.
- Additional debt management sessions are provided during orientation and prior to graduation.
- Students receive individualized loan summaries and repayment estimates.

9. Ability to Benefit

- The Admissions Committee evaluates each applicant's academic background, experience, and overall qualifications to determine their ability to benefit from the program.

10. Drug Abuse Prevention, Voter Registration, Campus Safety, and Copyright Infringement Policy Information

- Counseling services are available through UCSD Psychological and Counseling Services.
- Campus safety information:
 - <http://police.ucsd.edu/alerts/index.html>
 - <https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/personal-safety/index.html>
 - <https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/personal-safety/emergency-phone-numbers.html>
- Copyright policies:
 - <http://acms.ucsd.edu/files/sharing/university-policies.html>
- Sexual violence resources:
 - <http://sos.ucsd.edu/resources/policies-law/index.html>
- Voter registration materials are available through the Program Office of Student Affairs.

11. Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress

See Financial Aid [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#).

12. Refund/Return of Aid Policy

- Students must notify the Financial Aid Office of any enrollment changes.

- Students who withdraw or take a leave of absence may be required to return financial aid funds and may be billed for any remaining balance.
- Details are available in the UCSD Schedule of Classes.

13. Use of Social Security Numbers

- Social Security Numbers are required to verify identity, process financial aid, coordinate funding, and manage loan repayment.

14. Nondiscrimination Statement

- The University of California does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, or orientation.

15. SB1289 Loan Disclosure

- Federal loans offer flexible repayment and forgiveness options.
- Private loans are credit-based and may have variable rates and fewer protections.
- More information: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types#loans>

16. Tax Reform Act

- Scholarships and grants may be taxable except for qualified expenses such as tuition and required materials.
- Students are responsible for reporting and should consult IRS guidance.
- IRS: 1-800-829-1040
California FTB: 1-800-852-5711
1098-T: www.tsc1098T.com

17. Where You Can Find Consumer Information

- Accreditation: <https://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-university-of-california-san-diego/>
- Disability services:
 - <https://disabilities.ucsd.edu/>
- Program information:
 - <https://paeducation.ucsd.edu>
 - <https://medschool.ucsd.edu/Pages/default.aspx>
- Vaccination policies:
 - <https://medschool.ucsd.edu/admissions/Pages/Health-Requirements.aspx>
- Course materials:
 - <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/>