

Tips to keep all of your student aid:

When you receive a private, outside scholarship



What is scholarship displacement?

Award displacement occurs when receipt of one form of financial aid, such as a private scholarship, leads to a reduction in other forms of student financial aid.

If displacement is happening, you would see that even with an outside scholarship applied to your financial aid, your overall aid does not increase.

Reasons why it often happens

Federal student aid policies such as overaward regulations, definitions of Cost of Attendance (COA); and institutional policies.

Campus missions to assist **as many students** as possible complete a degree or certificate program.



Scholarship Displacement: Getting started

Locate and read the *outside scholarship policy* at the campus website – usually at financial aid page or portal.

Find your *final* financial aid award offer, not always what you were initially offered at the time of acceptance.

Look at your scholarship requirements – i.e. applied to tuition-only vs. all parts of the cost of attendance? Is it one-time vs. renewable?

If you suspect displacement, *ask* your aid office to first consider applying your scholarship toward...

Tuition, fees, books, equipment, supplies, room and meal plan, transportation and other college expenses like child care *

Any loans - borrowed money for your education

Any expectation to earn money – summer job, work study

More than one semester, or summer school, or intersession

Another academic year

* If restricted by your scholarship terms and conditions, contact your scholarship provider to request scholarship be applied to any part of the cost of attendance.



If displacement is occurring, check actual costs.

Check out the online stated Cost of Attendance (COA) allocation for college expenses like books or technology. If you paid more than the campus estimates, **appeal to your financial aid office to increase the COA** listed in your financial aid award.

By increasing the COA, your additional scholarship can be applied and your overall financial aid would not be reduced.

You will need to provide actual receipts to your aid office.



If displacement is occurring, contact us.

We can inquire into any restrictions set by your program sponsor to see if there is any further flexibility on how your scholarship can be spent.

We will work with your campus financial aid office to request your scholarship be used for future academic terms or years.

Deferring your scholarship to a future term may be the only way to keep your entire financial aid award from being reduced.

If you need to write a formal letter of appeal, check out Swift Student, a free resource at <https://formswift.com/swift-student>



Help with financial aid award terms:

Cost of attendance (COA):

Total estimated price for one year of college before financial aid is applied (tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment, housing, food, and other additional personal and educational expenses.)

Financial aid package vs award letter:

A collection of different types of financial aid from multiple sources that a college offers students to attend their college. The **financial aid award letter** comes from the college you have been accepted to, and lists all of the financial aid offered for the first year.

Demonstrated Financial Need:

The difference between total college costs and the family's ability to pay. It is the amount of money the family **needs** for the student to enroll at the college.



Help with financial aid award terms:

Gift aid:

Grants and scholarships that do not need to be repaid. Each may have specific requirements to maintain eligibility or to renew.

Loans:

Borrowed money that must be paid back, often with interest. You can choose to reduce or decline the amount offered.

Net cost:

The cost of attendance minus *all* types of financial aid awarded to the student, such as scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, work, and loans.



Help with financial aid award terms:

Net price:

An estimate of the **actual cost you and your family need to pay in a year** to cover education expenses for you to attend a particular college or career school. It is the institution's cost of attendance minus any grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible.

Financial aid overaward:

An **overaward** exists when a student's financial aid package exceeds the student's demonstrated financial need by more than \$300.

