

## FAFSA Guidelines for Student Residential Assistants Who Apply for Financial Aid

These guidelines are for students who live and work in campus-owned residence halls and who receive reduced housing charges in exchange for their services (at UCSC this is known as a “perquisite”). This includes students who serve as:

Resident Assistants (RAs), Community Assistants (CAs), Neighborhood Assistants (NAs)  
Graduate Housing Assistants  
Food Service Advisers  
Duty Monitors (DMs)  
Village Residential Assistants  
Family Student Housing Resident Assistants

Similar to wages earned, the reduced charges/perquisite must be reported as income received when applying for financial aid in future years. The perquisite does not affect your aid for the current year. It is factored into the EFC calculation for future academic years.

When completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you must report the value of the perquisite you receive as untaxed income under **“Student’s Untaxed Income”** when you submit the FAFSA. The FAFSA collects calendar year income which crosses 2 academic years. The following examples provide a guide for when to report the perquisite on the FAFSA.

### Example #1 - Maria Is an RA in 2010-11 Only

She works as residential staff in 2010-11	Submit a 2011-12 FAFSA	Report Fall 2010 perquisite as untaxed income on the 2011-12 FAFSA
She doesn’t work as residential staff in 2011-12	Submit a 2012-13 FAFSA	Report Winter 2011 and Spring 2011 perquisites as untaxed on 2012-13 FAFSA.

### Example #2 - Tom Will Work As an RA in 2010-2011 and In 2011-2012

He works as residential staff in 2010-2011	Submit a 2011-12 FAFSA	Report Fall 2010 perquisite as untaxed on the 2011-12 FAFSA
He works as residential staff in 2011-2012	Submit a 2011-12 FAFSA	Report Winter 2011, Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 perquisites as untaxed income on 2012-13 FAFSA
He doesn’t work as residential staff in 2012-13	Submit a 2012-13 FAFSA	Report Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 perquisites as untaxed income on 2012-2013 FAFSA.

The UCSC Housing Office provides a list of perquisite recipients to the Financial Aid Office each year. Using this information, we will remind each financial aid applicant of the FAFSA reporting requirement at the end of fall quarter. In addition, we will review your future year FAFSA’s to ensure the correct amount is reported. It is important to understand that the benefit you receive this year may reduce the amount of aid you are eligible to receive in future years.