Student Rights and Responsibilities

Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Privacy - all records and information submitted with your application for financial aid are confidential, and subject to legal requirements concerning disclosure of such information.
- Receive equitable consideration of your application for financial aid. Awarding policies are established annually based upon availability of funds. The guidelines for eligibility and award packaging are applied consistently to all students.
- Request and receive information about the types of aid available at UC Santa Cruz and the right to know application procedures, requirements for eligibility and how aid is disbursed. You may also request and receive information about UCSC’s academic programs, faculty, physical facilities, and student retention rates. See also the UCSC General Catalog.
- Know how your financial aid eligibility was determined. This includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, travel, and personal and miscellaneous expenses were determined in your estimated cost of attendance. It also includes what resources were considered in the calculation of your financial aid eligibility (such as parental contribution and other financial aid or personal assets).
- Appeal for a revision of your financial aid award. In situations where your financial circumstances have changed please refer to our appeal procedures. If you disagree with a financial aid related decision made by your financial aid adviser, you have a right to appeal to the financial aid advising committee. The last step in the appeal process is an appeal to the Director of financial aid.
- Know the terms of your loan, including the interest rate, the total amount to be repaid, repayment procedures, when repayment begins, and the length of the repayment period.
- Know the method by which financial assistance disbursements will be made to students and the frequency of those disbursements and if you are a Pell Grant eligible student, how aid refunds are to obtain or purchase required books and supplies by the 7th day of the term.
- Know the University’s policy regarding the refunding of fees to students who withdraw during the quarter. This policy is in the UCSC General Catalog, The Navigator, and the Graduate Student Handbook.
- Cancel your loan before it is disbursed or within 14 days of disbursement. You may do this online by “declining” your loan or you may contact the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office.
- Request a reduction of student loan. Remember that a student loan is a debt that must be repaid; borrow only what you need.
- Know how UC Santa Cruz determines whether you are making Satisfactory Academic Progress, and what happens if you are not.
- Know specific consumer information such as, campus crime statistics and athletic information.
Your Responsibilities

- Undergraduates at UCSC must enroll in at least 12 course credits per quarter to maintain full-time enrollment status. If you are a graduate student, you must enroll in two upper division or graduate-level, full-credit courses each quarter unless you have advanced to candidacy or have been approved for part-time enrollment.

- If you will be receiving a student loan from UC Santa Cruz for the first time, you are required to complete online pre-loan counseling. You also must complete exit counseling before you graduate or withdraw (even temporarily) from UCSC.

- If you accept a loan as part of your financial aid package, you are also accepting the legal and moral responsibility of repaying the loan. Be sure to read all the conditions of the loan very carefully. Failure to repay will not only damage your credit rating but will prevent you from receiving additional financial aid. It may also prevent future students from attending UC Santa Cruz with help from the loan program.

- You must use financial aid for education-related expenses at UCSC only. If you fail to comply, your aid may be cancelled and you may have to repay funds you have already received.

- Generally, you may not receive financial aid concurrently from two or more schools. You must notify us if you are receiving financial aid for attendance at another institution while attending UC Santa Cruz.

- Permanent, mailing, and e-mail addresses must be updated on MyUCSC any time they change, each time you or your parents move, if you take a leave of absence, or if you participate in a special program that takes place away from campus, such as Education Abroad or field studies.

- You must inform the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office if you receive any scholarships or other awards that do not appear in your financial aid award. You must notify us in writing if the information reported on your financial aid application has changed (including the number of family members attending college). These changes may result in an adjustment to your financial aid award.

- If you accept a Federal Work-Study job, you must perform the work agreed upon and notify your employer if the amount of your award changes.

- You must demonstrate Satisfactory Academic Progress according to established policies and standards of UC Santa Cruz.

- You must notify the UC Santa Cruz Registrar’s Office and any lenders if there are changes in your name, anticipated graduation date, or enrollment status.

- You must provide correct information at all times. Reporting false information is a violation of the law and may be considered a criminal offense.