Financial Aid Award Next Steps

Your award letter is ready, here is some supplemental information you may need to navigate securing your financial aid for the academic year.

General Notice Regarding Financial Aid

Eligibility for financial aid awards is based on full-time enrollment, your awards will be adjusted or removed. If you are not enrolled full-time or withdraw during the enrollment period. These awards are also based on the review of your financial aid application, cost of attendance, and program of study information. Cost of attendance includes direct (tuition, fees, etc) and indirect (transportation, personal expenses) costs. Room and board is the average costs of all living expenses while attending California Institute of the Arts for on campus, off campus or living with parents. Therefore, these award amounts are reflective of your eligibility, not your actual cost. Students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards to maintain aid eligibility.

Missing Information

Once you access financial aid via the Self-Service portal you will want to check to see if you have any missing information requests from the Office of Financial Aid listed under the Checklist. Missing documentation will need to submitted and resolved before your financial aid can be finalized. Missing information may include verification documentation, requests for proof of citizenship or income certification, etc. Please allow 10 business days for submitted missing document requests to be marked as "completed" in the "Complete Required Documents" section of your Checklist. If you were awarded an estimated award letter prior to the completion of missing information documentation or verification, please note that your financial aid package may change and if it does, you will be notified via email that a change has been made.

View Your Award

To view your award package please select "Review and Accept your Financial Aid Award Package". Under "My Awards" you will be able to accept or decline each award. Please note that the Office of Financial Aid auto-accepts any form of grant or scholarship for each student, as that is a form of financial aid that provides financial assistance that does not need to be repaid. Please use the drop down menu for each type of aid that presents the option "accept or decline" and make your selection. If you change your mind at a later date, please contact our office for steps on how to make changes.

Cal Grants

Cal Grant awards are awarded as estimated until the California Student Aid Commission confirms the recipients. The Office of Financial Aid may also reach out to you to complete necessary steps to receive your Cal Grant (such as the G-6 form, etc) if there is any steps needed to be completed on your part.

Steps to Borrow Federal Student Loans

If a student would like to accept and borrow the Federal Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Direct Loans, there are additional steps that must be taken to complete the loan process and receive the loan(s). These steps include completing Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note via studentaid.gov.

Plus Loans

Please note that Plus Loans are on 'hold' as they are credit based and require an application to be completed with the Department of Education at studentaid.gov to be process and subsequently disbursed. Plus Loans are awarded up to the total Cost of Attendance which includes direct and indirect education related costs, borrowers are not required to borrow this amount and can request a lower amount, if desired, during the application process.

Steps to Borrow Federal Parent Plus Loans

For dependent undergraduate (BFA) students, Parent Plus Loan applications must be submitted using the parent applicant's FSA ID and information. Parents must also complete a Master Promissory Note to accompany the credit application.

For Steps to Borrow Federal Graduate Plus Loans

Graduate Plus Loans, the student will log into the site and use their FSA ID and information to apply for the Plus Loan. Graduate Plus Borrowers must also complete a Master Promissory Note to accompany the credit application and Graduate Plus Entrance Counseling.

Notes About Borrowing Federal Loans

Parent Plus Loan and Graduate Plus Loan borrowers can complete their applications as early as April 1st for the following academic year. It is recommended that loan steps are completed for all loans students (or parents) plan to borrow by June 1st, this will ensure priority processing. Please note that federal loans cannot be processed until July 1st and that any Master Promissory Notes and Entrance Counseling completed before this date will not appear as completed on the Financial Aid Self-Service Checklist.

Disbursement of Aid

Financial aid can disburse early as the Thursday before each semester begins and throughout the enrollment period. Aid will be eligible to disburse as soon as all steps have been completed on or after the earliest disbursement date for the semester. All aid must disburse within academic period that it has been assigned, prior to the last date of the semester.

Any financial aid that is excess of the balance due to CalArts for any semester will be refunded to you by the Accounting Office within two weeks after the disbursement of aid.

Withdrawals

Once the term begins, if you withdraw from your courses your aid eligibility may change, it is recommended that you reach out to the Office of Financial Aid to discuss this prior to dropping your courses.