

# Middle Class Scholarship program

---

Starting in the 2014-15 academic year, the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program will provide scholarships to undergraduate students with family incomes up to \$150,000.

## How it works

Each year, the state will allocate funding to help middle-class students attend UC and CSU. For UC students, the goal of this funding is to provide scholarships that help cover up to 40% of UC's systemwide tuition and fees. What this means for you:

- Make sure you apply for financial aid. There are no separate forms required to apply for the Middle Class Scholarship Program, but remember — you will need to apply for financial aid **every year** by the March 2 deadline.
- If your family's income is under \$150,000 per year and you qualify for this scholarship, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and your UC campus financial aid office will let you know your actual scholarship amount.

## What to expect

The Middle Class Scholarship program will phase in over four years, starting with the 2014-15 academic year.

The maximum amount of the scholarship will increase each academic year until 2017-18. At that point, the maximum scholarship amount will be:

- 40 percent of systemwide tuition and fees for students whose family income is up to \$100,000, and
- between 10 percent and 40 percent of percent of systemwide tuition and fees for student whose family income is up to \$150,000 per year (based on a sliding scale).

Until 2017-18 when the program is fully phased in, the maximum amounts will be lower. In 2014-15, the maximum award for UC students is \$1,707 (subject to state funding).

## Things to keep in mind:

- Award amounts are determined after a student is awarded any federal Pell Grant, Cal Grant and UC need-based grants for which the student is eligible. A student will be awarded a scholarship only if these awards, taken together, do not already exceed the amount that the student is entitled to under the MCS program.
- The final award amount will be based on the number of students eligible for the scholarship statewide and the funding allocated for the program by the State Budget.

- Many students with financial need will qualify for UC grants or Cal Grants that are worth even more than the amount provided by the MCS program. Think of the MCS award as a minimum level of grant and scholarship assistance – you may qualify for more, depending on your circumstances.

## **Who's eligible**

New, transfer and returning undergraduate students to the University of California or California State University with a family income of up to \$150,000 who also meet the following requirements may be eligible:

- California resident or have AB 540 status
- Not in default on a student loan
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Meet income and other financial aid standards
- File a FAFSA/California Dream Act Application and GPA verification form by March 2nd.

[Learn more about applying for financial aid »](#)