Financial Aid for graduate students is in large part provided by individual departments based on the mission and goals of the unit. The Office of Financial Aid does not award scholarships, grants, fellowships, or GTA/GRA waivers for graduate students. The student should contact the academic unit in which the student is enrolled or plans to enroll. The Office of Financial Aid offers Federal Work-Study and Federal Direct loans and provides information on additional financing options, including Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans and alternative (private) loans.

DU graduate students are eligible for two types of aid:

- Federal and state aid (available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents), which includes the Colorado Graduate Grant, Federal TEACH Grant, Federal Work Study, Federal Direct loans, Federal Graduate PLUS loans, and

- Merit-based aid, which includes divisional/departmental scholarships, graduate assistantships, fellowships and other merit-based aid awarded or initiated by the student’s program of study.

To apply for federal aid and certain types of institutional need-based aid, a student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (https://fafsa.ed.gov) (FAFSA). Only U.S. citizens, permanent residents and eligible non-citizens can submit a FAFSA. International students are not eligible.

The FAFSA (https://fafsa.ed.gov) is available on October 1st, starting in the 2017-18 academic year and is submitted online. The University of Denver’s school code is 001371. Applicants and students are encouraged to meet the University of Denver’s priority deadline for FAFSA submission. The U.S. Department of Education Central Processing system receives and processes the FAFSA. Once the FAFSA is processed, the student receives an email that allows access to an electronic Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR summarizes the FAFSA information and provides a dollar amount for the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Students should review the SAR comments and make any necessary corrections. The University of Denver Office of Financial Aid will receive the SAR information electronically from the U.S. Department of Education. Students do not need to send the University of Denver a copy.

Each academic year approximately 30% of financial aid applications are selected by the U.S. Department of Education for review. This process of review is known as verification. If a student is selected for verification, a comment will appear on the SAR. In addition, the Office of Financial Aid will send an email to a new student’s FAFSA email address or a continuing student’s University of Denver account requesting verification documentation.