

Video Guide: Getting Financial Aid to Pay for UCSB

The following is a text summary and transcript of the video presentation "Getting Financial Aid to Pay for UCSB," organized by topic.

1. Accessing Your Aid Status

To begin, you must access your "**My Aid Status**" portal.

- **Where to log in:** Visit the UCSB Financial Aid website at finaid.ucsb.edu.
- **What to check:** Once logged in, you can view the status of your application.
- **Note:** If you have not applied yet, you can still fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* at any time during the school year.

2. Your Award Letter

The dashboard is where you will view important notifications. Click on the **Award Letter** tab to see exactly what you have been offered.

- **Accepting Aid:** Grants and scholarships are accepted automatically. However, if you need student loans, you can start the acceptance process through this portal.

3. Disbursements (How You Get Paid)

You can check the status of your payments on the **Disbursements** tab.

- **Automatic Payment:** Most financial aid pays directly to your **BARC Student Account** (your university billing account).
- **Timing:** Grants and scholarships are credited to BARC automatically at the start of each quarter. You do not need to take action to "claim" these specific funds.

Important: Health Insurance Grant

If your award letter includes the **Health Insurance Grant**, this money is specifically designated to pay for the *UC SHIP* (University of California Student Health Insurance Plan).

- **Waiving Insurance:** If you opt out of UC SHIP by submitting an insurance waiver, you are **no longer eligible** to receive this specific grant. We will revise your award letter to remove those funds.

4. Work-Study Explained

Work-Study functions differently than grants. You do **not** receive a lump sum payment at the start of the quarter.

- **How it works:** You must find a job on campus and get hired.
- **Receiving Funds:** You will earn regular paychecks for the hours you work, just like any other part-time job.
- **The Benefit:** UCSB uses government Work-Study funding to pay a portion of your wages, which makes you a highly desirable candidate to campus employers.

5. Special Circumstances & Appeals

If your financial situation changes, or if the aid offered does not meet your needs, you may be eligible for an appeal.

Cost of Attendance Appeal

Use this if you have unusually high education-related expenses (e.g., a new computer requirement) or high living expenses that your current award does not cover.

Family Contribution Appeal

Use this if your family experiences a **loss or reduction of income** (e.g., job loss, medical emergency) and the tax information on your original FAFSA no longer reflects your current financial reality.