



Financial Aid 101

Spring 2021

In partnership with



Nevada State Treasurer's Office

Given the unprecedented events of the last few months and the impacts COVID-19 has had on families across our State, this year, the Nevada State Treasurer's Office is refocusing its College Savings Division's efforts in reaching families virtually and responding to the needs and challenges of a new learning environment. It is the Office's goal to be a resource in assisting families as they navigate through their post-secondary journey and beyond.

About the Guinn Center

The Guinn Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research center that seeks to identify evidence-based solutions through research, public engagement, and strategic partnerships.

Guinn Center has published various reports and blogs on educational attainment and college affordability.

**A STEP UP:
ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL SECURITY
FOR NEVADA'S
FAMILIES**

JUNE 2017

POLICY REPORT

www.guinncenter.org



**CLOSING THE GAP: STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING
HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IN NEVADA**

Executive Summary

Despite recent gains, the high school graduation rate in Nevada continues to be one of the lowest in the nation and falls well below the national average. In addition, enrollment in post-secondary education and college attainment rates continue to lag in the Silver State. These are troubling statistics given that by 2020, 49 percent of jobs in Nevada will require some sort of post-secondary degree or certificate, but less than a four-year degree ("middle skilled jobs").

Purpose of Today's Discussion

- ❖ Summarize the value of higher education
- ❖ Describe different types of financial aid
- ❖ Review Nevada opportunities
- ❖ Highlight important considerations



What is the Value of a College Education?

Employment & Earning Trends

Unemployment Rates during the Great Recession:

- ❖ Individuals with less than a High School Diploma – 15.8%
- ❖ Individuals with at least a bachelor's degree – 4.9%

Unemployment Rates During the COVID Recession

- ❖ Individuals with less than a High School Diploma – 21.2%
- ❖ Individuals with at least a bachelor's degree – 8.4%

Earnings

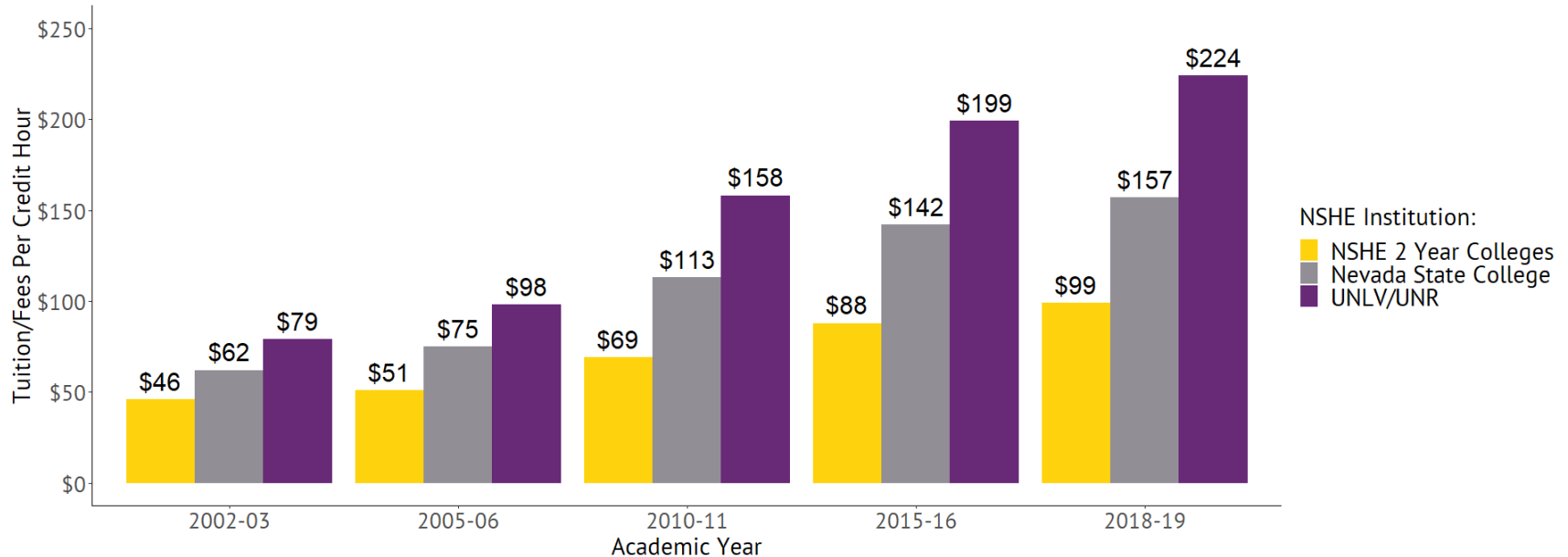
- ❖ Individuals with less than a High School Diploma earn about \$590/week
- ❖ Individuals with at least a bachelor's degree earn about \$1,250/week



Higher education is important, but it is also becoming increasingly expensive

Tuition and Fees at NSHE have increased over 100% since 2002-03

Tuition/Fees Per Credit at NSHE Institutions
Select Academic Years 2002-03 to 2018-2019



What is Financial Aid?

A source of money that helps students & parents fund a college education and pay for expenses.

Need-based aid: Awarded based on a family's financial need.

Merit-based aid: Awarded for academic achievement & other talents.

Federal Aid: Awarded through the school after completing the FAFSA. Comes in the form of grants, work-study, and loans.

State Aid: Awarded directly through the colleges after completing the FAFSA. Comes in the form of grants.

Institutional Aid: Scholarships/grants awarded through school financial aid office. Institutional aid will vary by institution.

Private Aid: May be provided by churches, nonprofits, community organizations. Comes in the form of grants, and scholarships, primarily.

What are types of financial aid?

Grants

- ❖ Money that does not have to be paid back.
- ❖ Federal, state and institutional (state and institutional is limited and funding runs out early)

Loans

- ❖ Money that must be paid back with interest.

Scholarships

- ❖ Money that does not have to be paid back, usually awarded based on merit and essays. The value of awards varies.

Work Study

- ❖ Money that is earned from working a work study job on campus.

Grants & Scholarships

Federal

Federal Pell Grant:

For undergraduates with financial need. For 2020-21, maximum Federal Pell Grant award was \$6,345.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG):

For undergraduates with financial need. Pell Grant recipients. Awards range from \$100-\$4,000 per year.

State

Millennium Scholarship

Nevada Promise Scholarship

Silver State Opportunity Grant

We'll discuss these shortly

Institutional

Varies by Institution

Grant treated as a gift from the school. May be awarded based on need, academic merit, or some other factor.

Private Scholarships

By Application

Offered by community organizations, churches, etc. May be based on academic achievement or some other factor.

www.studentaid.gov **October 1 Every Year!**



- ❖ The **FAFSA application** determines your eligibility for Federal Aid.
- ❖ Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- ❖ Undocumented Parents can complete a FAFSA by using all 'zeros' for the social security number.
- ❖ DACA students can file a FAFSA if they have a Social Security Number.
- ❖ DACA and Undocumented students may apply for the Alternative Scholarship (at CSN and other NSHE institutions).
- ❖ **You can apply for financial aid before you submit your college admissions applications, so do not worry if you are still deciding between schools.**

What determines how much and what type of aid I will receive?

Financial aid is determined by:

Cost of Attendance (COA)

– **Student Aid Index (SAI)**

Financial Need

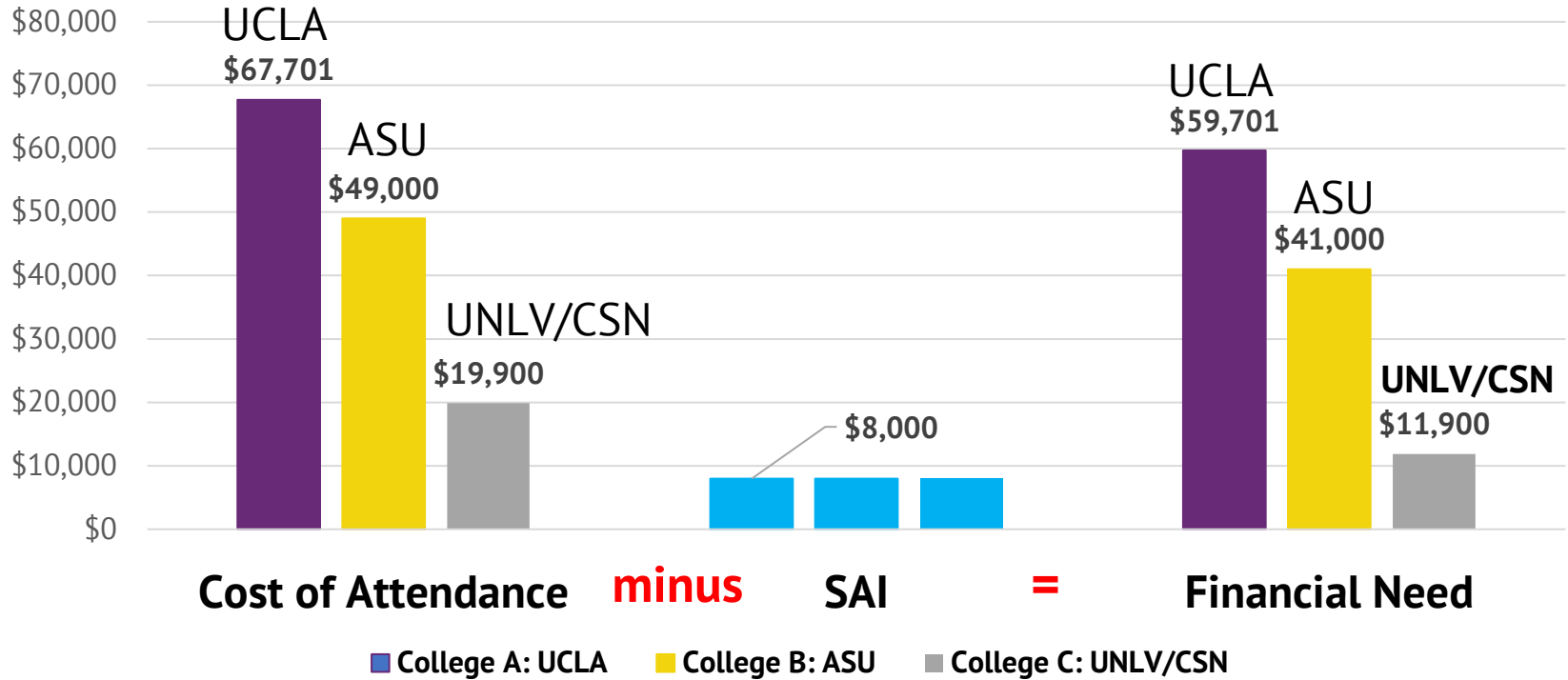
Cost of Attendance includes tuition, as well as books, living expenses

Student Aid Index (SAI) is determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Based on:

- ❖ Parent income and assets & Student income and assets
- ❖ Age of parents
- ❖ Number of children in college and number in the household



Determining Financial Need: An Example



www.studentaid.gov

October 1 Every Year!

- ❖ The FAFSA application determines your eligibility for Federal Aid.
- ❖ Undocumented Parents can complete a FAFSA by using all zeros for the social security number.
- ❖ Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- ❖ DACA and Undocumented students may apply for the Alternative Scholarship (at CSN and other NSHE institutions).

Verification

- ❖ U.S. Department of Education will determine if the FAFSA has been selected for verification.
- ❖ Then the institution is required to confirm the information on the FAFSA.
- ❖ Verification must be completed for Financial Aid to be awarded.
- ❖ Students are notified through their institutional account (e.g., MyCSN).
- ❖ Be prepared to submit a Verification Worksheet & Tax Return Transcripts.
- ❖ Verification can delay you in receiving your aid. Please submit all requested documents as soon as possible.



FAFSA Priority Submission Deadlines for NSHE Colleges/ Universities

The priority FAFSA deadlines are early for our schools, and they should always try to meet priority deadlines in order to **maximize financial aid**. NSHE's priority FAFSA deadlines for the 2021-2022 FAFSA are as follows:

1. **University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV):** November 1, 2020
2. **Nevada State College (NSC):** January 15, 2021
3. **University of Nevada, Reno (UNR):** February 1, 2021
4. **Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC):** Mid-February 2021
5. **College of Southern Nevada (CSN):** unspecified, but no later than February 2021
6. **Great Basin College (GBC):** unspecified, but no later than February 2021
7. **Western Nevada College (WNC):** unspecified, but no later than February 2021

How do I apply for Financial Aid? What are the steps?

1. **Apply for an FSA ID.** Apply at fsaid.ed.gov. Parents & students must each apply for FSA ID, using different email addresses.

2. **Submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid ASAP!**

Note: FAFSA opens on October 1 and closes on June 30!!

Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Undocumented students can't file a FAFSA.
- However, DACA students can file a FAFSA if they have a Social Security Number.
- You can apply for financial aid before you submit your college admissions applications, so don't worry if you are still deciding between schools.
- You can apply after February of the year in which you plan to enroll in courses, but you may receive less money.

3. **Submit Other Aid Forms.** Colleges may have additional forms.

4. **Apply for Scholarships.** Check with school guidance office, libraries.

5. **Compare Your Awards.** Awards will vary by school.

6. **Apply for Loans.** Some schools include federal loans in their financial aid package. You can explore other options.



A Few Notes about Loans

Federal Loans

- ❖ Loans made by the federal government
- ❖ Typically, lower interest rates
- ❖ Loan repayment may be deferred until after graduation
- ❖ Interest may not accrue until after graduation
- ❖ Repayment plans based on your financial situation

Private Loans

- ❖ Loans made by a private bank
- ❖ Interest rates based on market rate
- ❖ Loan repayment begins immediately
- ❖ Interest begins to accrue immediately
- ❖ No deferment based on college enrollment
- ❖ Repayment plans based on bank terms, not your financial situation

Federal loans are preferred over private loans as much as possible

Borrow what you need!

Education Loan Comparison: What to Look For

	Federal Education Loans			Non-Federal Education Loans	
	Subsidized Stafford Loan	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	PLUS Loan	State-Based In-School Loan	Other Private Student Loans
Borrower	Undergrad student	Undergrad or graduate student	Parent of Student	Student & Co-Signer or Single Borrower	Student & Co-Signer or Single Borrower
Interest Rate	2.75%	2.75%	5.30%	4.24% or 5.49%	Varies
Upfront Fees	1.059%	1.059%	4.236%	None	Varies
Repayment Term	120 months	120 months	120 months	120 or 180 months	Varies
Monthly Payment <small>(per \$10,000 disbursed to school)</small>	\$96	\$107	\$113	\$104	Varies

Note: Direct Subsidized Loans don't charge borrowers interest during certain periods of deferment, while Direct Unsubsidized Loans charge interest for the duration.

An Example Financial Aid Award Package

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

Category	2020 Fall	2021 Spring	Total
Tuition & Fee	\$1,681	\$1,681	\$3,362
Transportation	\$951	\$951	\$1,902
Room & Board	\$4,467	\$4,467	\$8,934
Personal Fees	\$1,423	\$1,423	\$2,846
Loan Fees	\$19	\$19	\$38
Book & Supplies	\$640	\$640	\$1,280

Total Estimated COA	\$9,181	\$9,181	\$18,362
Less Financial Aid Offer			\$3,630
Estimated out of pocket expense*			\$14,732

*Out-of-pocket expense is what you might be expected to cover on your own.

FINANCIAL AID OFFER

	Fall	Spring	
Enrollment Level	Full-Time	Full-Time	
Award (Message Code)			Total
MILLENNIUM - NEVADA (MILL)	\$560	\$600	\$1,160
Nevada Promise Scholarship (PROM)	\$1,235	\$1,235	\$2,470
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (SUB)	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,795	\$1,835	\$3,630

Private scholarships may lower the amount. Private loans can also assist.

Institutional scholarship

Federal loan

Where can I find scholarships?

(Non-federal aid)

1

Start with your college
(institutional scholarships)

2

Check the Nevada State
Treasurer's website

3

Check with your guidance office
and local community organizations

4

Use Scholarship Websites

- [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)

State of Nevada Opportunities

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

Maximum \$10,000 award paid on a per-credit hour basis, up to 15 credits each semester.

Requirements (No deadlines):

- ❖ Student must have graduated from a Nevada public/private high school & have attended a NV high school for at least 2 years.
- ❖ Cumulative GPA of 3.25 OR
- ❖ Receive a qualifying score on a college entrance exam
 - SAT Combined Reading, Writing & Math Score - 1070
 - ACT Composite Score - 21
- ❖ High school course requirements

Nevada Promise Scholarship

May cover up to 3 years of costs at community colleges for registration fees & other mandatory fees not covered by other gift aid. Considered a “last dollar” scholarship.

Requirements for Students beginning Fall 2021:

- ❖ In 12th grade, complete Promise Scholarship application prior 10/31/2020.
- ❖ Complete FAFSA by 03/01/21
- ❖ Complete 8 hours of community service by 06/01/21

Silver State Opportunity Grant

Need-based financial aid program designed to pay for a portion (up to \$5,500) of the cost of attending a Nevada community college or state college. Awards provided on first-come, first-served basis.

Requirements (No Deadlines):

- ❖ Have an Expected Family Contribution less than \$8,500. (Students with \$0 SAI are prioritized).
- ❖ Determined to be “college-ready.” (Not enrolled in remedial English or Mathematics coursework)
- ❖ Attending Nevada community college or State college

What if I am DACAmented or undocumented?



- ❖ Undocumented students can't file a FAFSA.
- ❖ DACA students can file a FAFSA if they have a Social Security Number
- ❖ Scholarships are available for DACA and undocumented students.
- ❖ Talk to your college's financial aid office for help.
 - ❖ Financial aid administrators will help you no matter your status.
 - ❖ They will know what opportunities are available.
 - ❖ You WILL NOT be reported.

Nevada Financial Aid for DACA or Undocumented Students

- ✘ DACA or Undocumented Students are **NOT** eligible for **Federal** financial aid.
- ✔ **Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship**
 - Eligible (no application) (Based on academic achievement)
- ✔ **Nevada Promise Scholarship** (Nevada Community Colleges)
 - DACA students must submit the FAFSA
 - Students who are not able to complete the FAFSA must submit a “Non-FAFSA Filer Declaration.”
 - Obtained from individual institutions (e.g., CSN, TMCC, GBC, WNC)
- ✔ **Silver State Opportunity Grant** (Nevada Community Colleges/State College)
 - DACA students must submit the FAFSA and then contact the financial aid office of the institution the student wishes to attend.

Nevada Resources to Offset Costs

For Younger Students (Elementary/Middle School)

- ❖ Nevada College Kick Start
- ❖ Nevada Prepaid College Tuition
- ❖ Silver State Matching Grant

For Students Near High School Graduation

- ❖ Millennium Scholarship
- ❖ Nevada Promise Scholarship
- ❖ Silver State Opportunity Grant



Important Reminders!

- ❖ **Tip #1:** Start EARLY! SAVE. Research colleges and financial aid options.
- ❖ **Tip #2:** Maintain good academic standing (many scholarships are based on academic achievement).
- ❖ **Tip #3:** Talk to your guidance counselor early to find out about scholarships.
- ❖ **Tip #4:** Fill out the FAFSA your senior year (opens October 1). Apply even if you think your family will not qualify. Seek out resources to help.
- ❖ **Tip #5:** Apply for financial aid as soon as you can (first come, first serve)!
- ❖ **Tip #6:** Get involved and ask your community organizations (e.g., churches) if they offer scholarships.
- ❖ **Tip #7:** Keep a notebook to track scholarships and financial aid deadlines.
- ❖ **Tip #8:** Apply to schools first. Then compare financial aid offers.
- ❖ **Tip #9:** If you are a DACA or undocumented student, fill out the FAFSA and talk to the financial aid officer at the institution you want to attend.
- ❖ **Tip #10:** Contact the Nevada State Treasurer's Office or the institution if you have questions.

But Remember: It's Not Over once you get the aid!

- ❖ Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Performance (SAP) to be eligible for financial aid
- ❖ SAP requirements vary by institution
- ❖ Two examples:

UNLV

GPA:	3.0
Completion Rate:	70 percent
Maximum Time:	186 credits

CSN

GPA:	2.0
Completion Rate:	67 percent
Maximum Time:	90 credits

Questions!



This workshop reflects a partnership between the Nevada State Treasurer's Office (STO) and Guinn Center. Nevada STO is committed to helping families in Nevada plan, pay and save for their post-secondary education. If you are interested in learning more about our programs and resources, please feel free to contact the Nevada State Treasurer's Office.

website: <http://www.nevadatreasurer.gov>

email: collegesavings@nevadatreasurer.gov