

ACADEMY of ART UNIVERSITY®

FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO 1929
BY ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS

2026-2027

Guide to Financial Aid Programs

A Message from the Student Financial Services Office

Paying for college is an important investment in your future, and we understand that financing your education can feel overwhelming. The good news is that financial aid is available to help make your educational goals more affordable.

This guide is designed to help you understand the financial aid programs available at Academy of Art University, explain the application process, and outline the resources available to help you pay for your education. Whether you're just beginning your educational journey or continuing your studies, our Student Financial Services team is here to help you navigate each step of the financial aid process.

Financial aid may include grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, and federal student loans. Every student's financial situation is unique, and our goal is to help you understand your options and determine the types of aid for which you may be eligible.

Throughout this guide, you'll find information about:

- Types of financial aid available
- Eligibility requirements
- How to apply for financial aid
- Student rights and responsibilities
- Maintaining financial aid eligibility
- Important policies and procedures
-

Please keep in mind that federal and state financial aid regulations are subject to change. While we strive to keep this guide current, the Student Financial Services Office is always available to provide the most up-to-date information and answer any questions you may have.

We are committed to helping you achieve your educational goals and encourage you to contact us if you need assistance at any point during the financial aid process. We look forward to partnering with you on your academic journey.

Educational Costs

Your financial aid eligibility is based on your **Cost of Attendance (COA)**, which includes more than just tuition and fees. The COA also estimates the cost of books and supplies, housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses based on your living situation (such as living with your parents, on campus, or off campus).

The Student Financial Services Office compares your Cost of Attendance with your financial information to determine your financial need. Students with greater financial need may qualify for more financial aid to help cover the cost of attending ArtU.

Chart of Typical Student Expenses 2026-2027

The cost of attendance budget includes the costs of tuition and fees, books, supplies, monthly allowances for room and board, transportation to and from school, and personal expenses such as clothes. While your tuition and fee costs are fixed, the amount you spend on living costs will depend largely on your own actions as well as your individual circumstances. To estimate what these expenses might be, we have prepared the following chart created by the California Student Aid Commission’s research on a modest, but adequate standard of living under various conditions. (To

these figures we add the cost of tuition, fees, books and supplies for the program in which you intend to enroll.)

Estimates of (**Monthly**) Living Expenses:

	Student Living With Parents	Student Not Living With Parents	Student Living On Campus (avg.)
Food & Housing	$1393	$2729	$4133
Personal Expenses	$507	$634	$441
Transportation	$134	$184	$154

If you have any unusual costs such as expenses for child-care or for a disability, we may be able to adjust your budget for these circumstances.

Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility

Beginning with the 2025-2026 award year, a student may qualify for a Pell Grant in one of three ways:

- Maximum Pell Grant (Max Pell)
- Minimum Pell Grant (Min Pell)
- Calculated Pell Grant, based on SAI (Calculated Pell = Max Pell minus SAI)

The first two paths to Pell Grant eligibility are briefly discussed below. However, most of this chapter is spent discussing how the SAI is calculated.

General SAI Information

The FAFSA Processing System (FPS) uses data provided by the applicant and contributors on the FAFSA form to determine Max or Min Pell Grant eligibility and calculate the SAI.

Maximum Pell Grant Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for a Maximum Pell Grant if any of the following is true:

Dependent Student

- The student's parent(s) is not required to file a federal income tax return; or
- The student's parent is a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 225% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence; or
- The student's parent is not a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 175% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.

Independent Student

- The student (and spouse, if applicable) is not required to file a federal income tax return; or
- The student is a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 225% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence; or
- The student is not a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 175% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.

Determining Independent Student Status

When we speak of your parents below, we mean natural or adoptive mother or father or stepparent. An independent student is one who meets one of the following criteria:

1. The student was born before January 1, 2003.
2. The student is married (not separated) or remarried as of the application date.
3. The student is a graduate or professional student during the award year.
4. The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.
5. The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
6. The student has children or dependents other than a spouse.
7. The student is (or was at any time after reaching the age of 13) an orphan, foster child, or ward/dependent of the court.
8. The student is (or was when the student reached the age of majority) an emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship, as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence.
9. The student was at any time on or after July 1, 2025, determined to be unaccompanied and (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless with a determination from one of the entities listed on the FAFSA form.

Other Eligibility Requirements

For all of the Federal aid programs, students must have need in order to qualify. But in addition to the requirement of "need," there are several other eligibility factors you must meet:

- You must be a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, or in the United States for other than temporary purposes. Acceptable visas would be the I-551 or I-94, if it is stamped "Refugee," "Indefinite Parole," "Asylum Granted", or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant". If you have another visa type, the Student Financial Services Office will be able to help you in determining whether or not you are eligible.
- Not be in a default on any FFELP/SLS/PLUS LOAN, FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS or PERKINS (NDSL) received at any school, and not owe a refund on an FSEOG, Pell, ACG, SMART or state grant.
- Make satisfactory progress as defined in the school catalog.
- For the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Pell Grant, you may not have previously received a bachelor's degree.

Financial Aid Programs

Your financial aid eligibility is determined based on the information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), along with any additional documentation requested by the University. Our Student Financial Services Office will review your information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid for which you may be eligible.

A financial aid offer may include one or more of the following:

- **Grants** – Financial assistance that generally does not have to be repaid.
- **Federal Student Loans** – Borrowed funds that must be repaid, with interest.
- **Federal Work-Study** – Part-time employment that allows eligible students to earn money while attending school.

Financial aid funding may come from a variety of sources, including:

- Federal government

- State government
- Veterans benefits
- Private organizations and lenders

Federal Programs

The Academy of Art University participates in the following programs:

Pell -	Federal Pell Program
FSEOG -	Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
Direct Subsidized/ Unsubsidized Loans -	Federal Student Loans that must be repaid
Direct Parent Plus Loans (Undergraduate Students) -	Federal Student Loans for parents of Dependent Students that must be repaid
Direct Graduate Plus Loans -	Federal Student Loans for Graduate Students that must be repaid
FWS -	Federal Work Study Program
VA -	Veterans Administrative Benefits Including Post 9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Program

How to Apply for Financial Aid

The process of applying for financial aid will vary with the types of aid for which you wish to be considered. Let us look at the forms that must be filed and the procedures used for each of the various sources of aid.

The Federal Grant Program

All students who are applying for any type of financial assistance are required to first complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which collects family income and asset information. This form is available online at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. Be sure that you are completing the form for the correct year. If you will begin your training at any time during the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; you need to complete the 2026-2027 application. If your education will extend beyond June 30, 2027, you also need to complete the 2027-2028 FAFSA Aid when it becomes available in October of 2026.

In addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, you need to complete your Financial Aid Checklist, which is available from the school. This includes, among other things, information on your previous postsecondary education so that data may be secured on any financial aid you have received in the past.

Federal student loans have several unique features. If you decide to borrow, our Student Financial Services Office will discuss these features with you in detail. Of particular importance to you should be the standard repayment schedule you will need to follow in repaying the loan. To give you an idea of the total amount you will need to repay, we have prepared the following chart for loans with 6.52% interest rate (current interest rate for Direct Subsidized/ Unsubsidized Undergraduate Loans). You can get a repayment schedule based on the amount you have borrowed at the Federal Student Loan Repayment Option Loan Simulator: https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/

Total Amount Borrowed	Total Number of Payments	Total Monthly Payments	Total Interest Charges
$5,000	120	$56.82	$1818.99
$10,000	120	$113.66	$ 3,637.98
$20,000	120	$227.33	$ 7,275.96
$30,000	120	$340.99	$ 10,913.94

If you borrow under the Direct Plus Program at 9.07 % (current interest rate for Direct Plus Loans), the following is information on the amounts your parents or Grad Plus borrower would repay.

Total Borrowed Borrowed	Total Number of Payments	Total Monthly Payments	Total Interest Charges
$5,000	120	$63.32	$2598.40
$10,000	120	$126.64	$5196.80
$20,000	120	$253.28	$10,393.60
$30,000	120	$379.92	$15,590.40

Since the amount of interest, you will need to repay increases with the amount you borrow, you will want to restrict your loan only to the amount you actually need to attend school. If you pay

more than the required monthly payment your interest accrued will be less. There are also repayment plans that can adjust to fit your income. These different types of repayment plans are offered by your federal loan servicer. It is very important to note that, should you receive a loan, you are responsible for notifying the loan servicing center immediately of any change in your name or address. You should also be aware that you may make early repayments on the whole loan or any portion of it without a penalty. Your loan obligations will be canceled if you die or become permanently disabled.

All of these special provisions are explained in the promissory note that you must sign when you apply for your loan. Be sure to get a copy, read it, and keep it for future reference.

Where Do I Send the FAFSA?

Complete your FAFSA online at: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa Instructions are provided on the website. Please remember to include the Federal Code under school selection on the FAFSA. The Federal Code for the Academy of Art University is 007531.

What Happens after My Financial Data is sent to the FAFSA Processing System (FPS)?

1. The FPS will analyze the income and asset information which has been provided according to a formula that has been approved by Congress. This formula determines the amount of Federal funds you will receive.
2. An Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) will be sent to the school indicating whether you are eligible for a grant under the Pell program. The FPS selects a sample of applications for a process called verification. If your application has been selected for verification, a remark will be found in the comments section of your FAFSA Submission Summary/ISIR. If this is the case, we will assist you with the additional required documentation.
3. The financial administrator will calculate next the amount of federal grants, student loans, and/or parent loans for which you are eligible, based upon the length of your loan period, the cost and the portion of your training which has been designated in the award year. An awards letter will be generated and sent to each student along with other required financial documents.

Disbursement of Pell Grant Funds

The amount of your Pell grant will be determined by the SAI calculated by the FPS, your cost of attendance and your enrollment status. Awards are pro-rated for three-quarter time, half-time and less than half-time enrollment. Pell grant funds are applied directly to your tuition account for each term that you are eligible.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

You should first apply for grants by completing the FAFSA before you apply for The Direct Loan Program. The Direct (Subsidized) Loan program is also based upon the need concept that was discussed on the first two pages.

You need to complete and sign a Master Promissory online at: https://studentaid.gov/mpn/
Be sure to list two complete references with two different addresses in the United States. If the Direct Loan Servicing Center has a Master Promissory Note on file, you do not need to complete another promissory note.

What is the difference between a Subsidized Direct loan and an Unsubsidized Direct loan?

The terms of subsidized and unsubsidized loans are generally the same with one exception: The Federal Government will pay your interest while you are in school at least half time on any **Subsidized** portion of your Direct loan. The Federal Government does not pay your interest during any in-school periods on the **Unsubsidized** portion of your Direct loan.

What Happens Next?

When the promissory note is accepted by the servicer, the school will request your loan funds from the U.S. Department of Education after verification of your enrollment status. If your promissory note is not accepted by the servicer, you will be notified by the school as to what action is necessary to re- submit your promissory note (i.e., references are incomplete, or your signature cannot be read or does not match the name on the promissory note). It is very helpful to sign your name as it appears on the promissory note. For example, if your first name is David, do not sign "Dave", or if your name is Elizabeth, do not sign "Beth".

What is Academy of Art University's Cohort Default Rate (CDR)?

The Cohort Default Rate (CDR) indicates the percentage borrowers at a school who enter repayment on certain federal loan programs during a particular federal fiscal year and default or meet other conditions before the end of the second following fiscal year. The rates are released by the U.S. Department of Education annually. The University's most recently published official Cohort Default Rate (FY 2022) is 0%.

Disbursement of Funds

Enrollment status is verified prior to each loan disbursement. If your loan eligibility changes due to a change in your enrollment status the school may need to adjust any subsequent disbursements to avoid an over award.

Direct loan funds will be applied directly against your tuition account. When the loan funds applied towards your account exceed your tuition balance, a credit balance will be created, and you will receive a refund for the credit on your account* Please allow 2 weeks for processing.
***Note:** The parent must receive the refund if the credit is from a Parent PLUS loan. If parent wants refund to go to student, that option must be selected when completing Plus Application.

You will be notified by the school whenever Direct Loan funds are applied toward your tuition account, and you will have 14 days to cancel the loan if you choose.

Please go to: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans for more information on Direct Loans. Please pay particular attention to:

- Repayment options (2 different repayment plans)
- Deferments/Forbearance
- Loan Consolidation - allows you to make 1 easy monthly payment for all of your outstanding loans.

Direct Loan Confirmation

For Direct Loans made under the multi-year feature of the Master Promissory Note the Academy of Art University requires active confirmation to determine loan amounts for all Direct loans. Active confirmation requires receipt of the following information:

For Direct Loans and Graduate PLUS Loans - accepting the specified Direct or Graduate PLUS loan amount for each loan period.

For Parent PLUS Loans – The Parent PLUS Borrower must apply at https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing indicating the amount of the Parent PLUS loan for each loan period.

Summer Terms

The University treats summer terms as a trailer to the scheduled academic year (Fall/Spring).

Year-Round Pell

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Pub. L. 115-31) was enacted on May 5, 2017. The law changed section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to allow a student to receive Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) funds up to 150% of the student's Pell Grant Scheduled Award for an award year.

Transfer Students

If you transfer from another institution where you received Federal Financial Aid for the same academic year your awards may be adjusted to reflect the amount already received. For example, if you start during our spring semester and received financial aid during the previous Fall semester at another institution, your awards will be reduced accordingly.

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

How Do I Qualify?

Your eligibility for an FSEOG will be determined by your Student Aid Index produced by the FPS. Because of the limited amount of funds available to the school, only students with a -1500 SAI who qualify for a Pell Grant will receive an FSEOG. There is a limited amount of FSEOG. Once the limit is reached students will not be awarded.

How Much Will I Receive?

Awards range from $500 to $800 per academic year depending on the funds that are available to the University.

Disbursement of SEOG Funds

FSEOG funds are applied directly toward your tuition account. Your award letter indicates the amount and term, for which funds will be disbursed. FSEOG are not adjusted for less than full time enrollment.

Federal Work-Study (FWS)

What is Federal Work-Study?

FWS provides jobs for undergraduate and graduate students who have financial need. FWS gives you a chance to earn money to help pay for your educational expenses.

How Do I Qualify?

Eligibility for FWS is calculated by using the need analysis formula on page one of this document. Only students with "unmet need" will be considered for FWS.

How Much Will I Be Paid?

Generally, Federal Work Study Students are paid the minimum wage, which is currently $19.61 per hour in San Francisco, CA.

When Will I Be Paid?

You will receive your paycheck every other Friday.

How Do I Apply?

Positions are coordinated by the Student Financial Services Office and each department Director/Representative. A Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) must be completed before eligibility can be evaluated. Priority is given to continuing students who have some experience in the field for which the job is available. Students who are interested in FWS can request information by sending an email to workstudy@academyart.edu

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans

What Are Federal Direct Parent Plus Loans?
Federal Direct Plus loans allow parents of dependent students to borrow for each child that is enrolled at least half-time. Credit checks are conducted by the Dept of ED to determine the parents' credit history.

How Much Can They Borrow?
The loan limit is $20,000 per year and a lifetime limit of $65,000.

What if my parent is denied a Federal Direct Plus Loan because of poor credit history?
If your parent gets denied a Federal Direct Plus loan, see a Student Financial Specialist at the school. Your parent can obtain a co-signer or you may apply for an additional unsubsidized Direct loan.

Note: Grandparents, legal guardians or other relatives may not borrow under the Parent PLUS program.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

Federal Direct Graduate Plus loans are available to graduate students enrolled at least half-time (6 units). Credit checks are conducted by the Dept of ED to determine the students' credit history.

How much can I borrow?

You can borrow up to your cost of education (including an allowance for food and housing, personal expenses, and transportation) minus any other financial aid received for the academic year.

What if I am denied the Graduate Plus loan because of poor credit?

You may obtain a credit-worthy co-signer if your loan is denied.

Effective July 1, 2026, new borrowers are no longer eligible for Grad Plus loans.

NON-FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Cal Grant

All students who are applying for Cal Grant must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and a GPA Verification Form. The deadline to file is March 2nd of each year for the upcoming academic year. The GPA Verification form must be certified by a high school or college official before it is sent to the California Student Aid Commission. You do not need to complete a GPA Verification form if you are currently a Cal Grant Recipient.

What are the requirements?

Cal Grant Recipients must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen as specified in the FAFSA instructions or qualify for California Dream Act.
- Be a California resident.
- Not exceed income or asset ceilings for parent or student.
- Enroll in and attend an eligible California vocational school, college or university.
- Maintain no less than half-time enrollment.
- Have financial need
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Not be in default on a student loan or owe a grant repayment.
- Not have a bachelor's or greater degree (e.g. M.A.) or the equivalent

How Will I Know If I Received a Cal Grant?

You may check your Cal Grant status at https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/

Cal Grant B Recipient? All Cal Grant B Access awards are applied towards the tuition account. If a credit results, you will be issued a refund. If you would like to access these funds directly, please contact the Student Financial Services Office.

Veterans Affairs Benefits

The Academy of Art University is authorized by the Department of Veterans Affairs to certify students enrolled in our degree programs for benefits under Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty), Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation), Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill) Chapter 35 (Veteran's Spouses or Dependents), and Chapter 1606 (Selected Reserve). Eligibility and chapter is determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (888-442-4551). ArtU does participate in the VA-Yellow Ribbon Program.

Private Alternative Loans

The Academy of Art University works with many different lenders who offer private education loans to students. A credit check and verification of income is required. A list of lenders that have worked with our students in the past can be found on our website here. You may also use a participating lender of your choice.

Does the School have any deadlines for turning in financial aid paperwork?

Yes! In order to use financial aid to cover your tuition and fees you must have your award letter prior to the Saturday before the term begins. It usually takes between 2-3 weeks to receive an award letter. Any additional paperwork required must be turned in to the Student Financial Services Office no later than 14 days after the start of the semester (10 days for summer term). The school will process financial aid applications after the deadline date, but the student must pay all tuition/fees and on campus room/board from personal resources.

What Must I Do to Continue Receiving Financial Aid?

Once your aid has been determined for the year, you have two major responsibilities:

1. Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress

- In order to receive financial aid funds, you must meet the GPA and completion rate requirements as defined in the University Catalog.

2. Reapply for Aid Each Academic Year

- You have the responsibility to complete the FAFSA and subsequent paperwork each year for all federal and state programs. The FAFSA is available online each October for the following academic year.

Fraudulent Information

The institution is required by federal regulations to make referrals to the Department of Education and the Department of Justice if it is suspected that aid was requested under false pretense. This institution takes very seriously the proper stewardship of Federal funds and will cooperate with government agencies in the full prosecution of students who were found to provide falsified information. If a student received financial aid because information was reported incorrectly, any portion of that aid which should not have been received must be repaid. Providing false or misleading information may result in fines, imprisonment, repayment of aid, and referral to federal authorities.

Exit Interview

All students who have received Federal Loans are required to have an exit interview with financial aid prior to leaving school or dropping your enrollment to less than half-time (defined as 6 units). Your rights and responsibilities concerning your financial obligations will be discussed at that time.

Treatment of Title IV Aid When a Student Withdraws

The law specifies how the Academy of Art University (ArtU) must determine the amount of Title IV program assistance that you earn if you withdraw from school. The Return of Title IV calculation is separate from the institution's tuition refund policy. The Title IV programs that are covered by this law are: Federal Pell Grants, Direct Loans, PLUS Loans and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOGs).

When you withdraw during your payment period (defined as the semester) the amount of Title IV program assistance that you have earned up to that point is determined by a specific formula. If you received (or parent received on your behalf) less assistance than the amount that you earned, you may be able to receive those additional funds. If you received more assistance than you earned, the excess funds must be returned by the school and/or the student.

The amount of assistance that you have earned is determined on a prorated basis. For example, if you completed 30% of your payment period, you earn 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed more than 60% of the payment period, you earn all the assistance that you were scheduled to receive for that period. The percentage that is earned is calculated by dividing the number of days that have lapsed from the first day of the semester to your last day of attendance by the total number of days in the payment period.

If you did not receive all of the funds that you earned, you may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. If the post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, ArtU must get your permission before it can disburse any Federal Student Loan funds. You may choose to decline some or all of the loan funds so that you don't incur additional debt. ArtU may automatically use all or a portion of your post- withdrawal disbursement (including loan funds, if you accept them) for tuition, fees, and room and board charges (as contracted with the school). For all other school charges, ArtU needs your permission to use the post-withdrawal disbursement. If you do not give your permission, you will be offered the funds. However, it may be in your best interest to allow ArtU to keep the funds to reduce your balance.

If you receive excess Title IV program funds that must be returned, ArtU must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of:

1. Your institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of your funds, or

2. The entire amount of excess funds.

ArtU must return this amount even if it didn't retain this amount of your Title IV program funds.

If ArtU is not required to return all of the excess funds, you must return the remaining amount. Any loan funds that you must return, you (or your parent for a PLUS Loan) repay in accordance with the terms of the promissory note. That is, you make scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time.

Any amount of unearned grant funds that you must return is called an overpayment. ArtU will pay the grant overpayment on your behalf.

The requirements for Title IV program funds when you withdraw are separate from the ArtU refund policy. **Therefore, you may still owe funds to ArtU to cover unpaid institutional charges.** ArtU may also charge you for any Title IV program funds that we were required to return. If you don't already know what ArtU's refund policy is, you can ask us for a copy. We can also provide you with the requirements and procedures for officially withdrawing from school.

If you have questions about your Title IV program funds, you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243). TTY users may call 1-800-730-8913.

Information is also available on Student Aid on the Web at https://studentaid.gov/.

Professional Judgment

In the event where special conditions or unusual circumstances should arise to the student or parent, the Student Financial Services Office at the Academy of Art University can review, evaluate, and exercise professional judgment on a case-by-case basis. Special circumstances may include drastic change in income due to unemployment, medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance, elementary or secondary school tuition expenses, unusually high childcare costs, or other changes affecting a family's financial situation. The student/parent must submit a letter of explanation along with information pertaining to the situation. Such documentation may include most recent pay stub with year-to-date earnings, employment termination letter, statement of unemployment benefits, etc. Also, the law authorizes us to use professional judgment to override the student's reported dependency status to make an otherwise dependent student independent. The student needs to submit a letter and must include statements from relatives, friends, etc. who have knowledge of the situation. The reason for the override must show *special extenuating circumstances*. For instance, a student who had not been in contact with his parents for over five years with a probable cause can be considered as extenuating circumstances. However, self-support is not a sufficient basis for a dependency override nor can we do an override simply because your parents are unwilling to provide their information on the application or documents needed for verification. It is our full discretion to approve or deny such request and our decision is final and cannot be appealed. Requests are reviewed

individually and approval is not guaranteed.

2026-2027 Verification Policy and Procedures

Selected students are provided a clear explanation of the documentation that is needed to satisfy the verification requirements in the Student Financial Aid Portal. Submission deadlines and the consequences of failing to provide the requested information are thoroughly discussed. Students who do not complete their financial aid file within 14 days from the start of the semester (10 days for Summer semester) must pay any tuition/fee or room/board balance from personal resources. If verification is completed by the deadline listed below, federal funds will be disbursed and any credit balance will go directly to the student. Students are periodically reminded of any documents which have yet to be submitted. Students selected to verify the information used in the determination of their aid eligibility should submit the required documentation upon request. This will prevent a delay in the disbursement of their financial aid awards. No grants or Federal Subsidized Direct Loan proceeds are disbursed prior to receiving all required verification documents. The student is to comply with the verification requests noted in the comment section of the FAFSA Submission Summary/ISIR, and any additional requests made by the school. If additional documentation is required, the institution must request the documentation from the student in writing.

It is recognized that sometimes it is necessary to contact outside sources which could result in delays in obtaining the required documentation. Therefore, as long as the student is making every effort to obtain the documentation, the school's submission deadline is the same as the Federal submission deadline, the earlier of 120 days from the last date of attendance or September 17, 2026. Students who do not meet this deadline are not eligible for any Federal aid from the award year.

When verification is complete, the institution disburses any funds that may have been withheld awaiting completion of the verification process. The institution will notify the student of his/her verification results only if the student's award or loan amount changes as a result of verification.

The institution may refer any instance in which there is reason to believe that an applicant has applied for Title IV, HEA program funds under false pretenses to state or local law enforcement agencies for investigation and report the referral of that instance to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

How Can I Get Additional Information on Financial Aid Programs?

This brochure and the student guide prepared by the U.S. Department of Education should clear up most of your questions. But you will very likely have others and answering them is the role of our Student Financial Services Office. Please feel free to contact us as often as is necessary throughout the financial aid process.

Below is our **Student Financial Services Office** contact information:

Prospective students who have questions about completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and other new financial aid documents:

Phone: 1-800-544-2787 x 6300 or 1-415-618-6300

Fax: 1-415-618-6273
Email: SFSintake@academyart.edu
Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:30pm PT

First semester students and current students who have questions regarding their tuition account, financial aid, and finance questions:

Phone: 1-800-544-2787 ext. 6190 or 1-415-618-6190
Fax: 1-415-618-6273
Email: SFS@academyart.edu
Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:30pm PT

Key Personnel:

Maximo Vasquez **Financial Aid Officer**	**(415) 618-8643**
Airene Jacinto **Manager, Accounts Receivable**	**(415) 618-6396**
Raeanna Martin **Associate Director, Student Financial Services**	**(415) 618-6462**
Jerald Santos, **Director, Financial Aid Operations**	**(415) 618-6398**
Trisha Shelabarger **Director, Financial Aid Operations**	**(415) 618-6274**

We understand that financial aid can seem complex, especially if you're navigating the process for the first time. Our Student Financial Services team is here to answer your questions, explain your options, and help you through each step of the financial aid process.

Our goal is to make your financial aid experience as simple and straightforward as possible so you can focus on achieving your educational goals. If you need assistance at any point, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're here to help.

We look forward to supporting you on your educational journey!