The Office of Student Financial Aid

utep.edu/financialaid

studentfinancialaid@utep.edu

The Office of Scholarships

utep.edu/scholarships

scholar@utep.edu

Schedule a virtual appointment with a UTEP Financial Aid and/or Scholarships advisor: financialaid.utep.edu/virtualappointment

Mike Loya Academic Services Building, Room 204
Corner of Schuster and Hawthorne
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

To speak with someone from The Office of Student Financial Aid and/or The Office of Scholarships

Call 915-747-5204
SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us for:

- In-person and Virtual Events
- FAFSA Reminders
- Scholarship Raffles
- Office Updates
- Deadlines
- Financial Aid Workshops (FAFSA, Verification, Loan Debt, etc.)
- Financial Education Sessions (Loans, Loan Repayment, FAFSA Facts, Money Management, etc.)
EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EVENTS

Join us to learn more about financial aid, financial education topics, and a Q&A forum at the end of each presentation.

The virtual sessions are open to everyone so be sure to share with friends and family!

Visit our website, financialaid.utep.edu, for a schedule of upcoming sessions:
WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money that helps the student pay for college and educational expenses.

Financial aid can come from federal, state, school, and private sources.
Some schools won’t consider you for merit scholarships (scholarships based on academic achievement or other talents or skills) until you’ve submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), so complete one even if you think you won’t qualify for federal aid.
What is a FAFSA?

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a free application to be completed by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

Who can complete a FAFSA?

Only U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents with a Social Security Number may apply. Foreign students or noncitizens residing in Texas may complete a TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid).

When can it be completed?

A FAFSA must be completed every year for the upcoming school year. The FAFSA is available starting October 1st for the upcoming school year. It is recommended that students complete their FAFSA’s by the State Priority Deadline, January 15th.

Where can it be completed?

A FAFSA can be completed online by visiting www.fafsa.gov or through the mobile app myStudentAid.
GET STARTED!

Follow the 3-step process to begin

1. Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID
Before you can complete a FAFSA, you must create a Federal Student Aid ID also known as FSA ID. The FSA ID is a username and password that you create to serve as your electronic legal signature. Your FSA ID will be used to sign the FAFSA electronically. Personal indefinite information such as your name, date of birth and social security number are used to create the FSA ID.
If you are a dependent student, your parent will need their own FSA ID to be able to sign your FAFSA at the end of the application. If your parent already has an FSA ID that they used for themselves or someone else, they will need to use that same FSA ID.

Parents that **do not** have a social security number cannot get an FSA ID, however, there is another option to sign the FAFSA. Parents will be able to print and mail in a signature page through U.S. mail.
Gather the documents needed
GATHER THIS INFORMATION

The FAFSA asks questions about you and your finances, so have the information below handy.

If you are a dependent student, you will need this information from your parent(s).

If you are an independent student, you will need this information from your husband/wife (spouse).

How do you know if you are a dependent or an independent student?
DEPENDENT OR INDEPENDENT

For financial aid purposes, the federal definition of an independent student is one who meets at least one of the following criteria:

Are you:

- At least 24 years old?
- Do you have a child or children, or other legal dependents, who receive more than half their financial support from you?
- Married (or separated but not divorced)?
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness as determined by the director of a HUD approved homeless shelter, transitional program, or high school liaison?
- At any time since you turned 13, both your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or were a ward of the court?
- Currently on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes?
- A veteran of the United States Armed Forces?
- An emancipated child as determined by a court judge?
- Working on a master’s or doctorate degree?

If you do not meet any of those criteria, you are required to report parental information on your FAFSA, meaning you are classified as a dependent student.
Complete the FAFSA
Complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA at www.FAFSA.gov

Download the myStudentAid mobile app
FAFSA QUESTIONS

Student Demographics & Dependency Status

Parent Demographics

School Selection
UTEP School Code: 003661

Student Financials & Parent Financials

TAX form
After you submit your FAFSA form, you’ll get a Student Aid Report (SAR) to the e-mail you provided on your FAFSA. The SAR summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA application.

When you get your SAR, review it carefully to make sure it's correct and complete. If you don’t have any changes to make to the information listed on your SAR, just keep it for your records.

If you review your SAR and find a mistake, you will need to correct or update your FAFSA form. You'll need to log into your account using your FSA ID, select "Make FAFSA Corrections."

Your correction will be processed and you will receive a revised SAR.
Verification is a process by which the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) may request additional financial or tax information from the student (and parents for dependent students).

Complete the process online with ProVerifier
- utep.proed.org
- (915) 250-0157

Basic Documents Requested:
- Dependent or Independent Verification Worksheet
- 2019 Federal Tax Return (2021 - 2022 academic year)

Students may check if they have been selected for verification
- Goldmine Student Portal
- Email Notification
YOUR FINANCIAL AID STATUS

- Financial aid status
- Pending requirements
- View and accept financial aid awards
- Student loan requirements
- Next steps after accepting awards
When a student completes a FAFSA, the student is applying for these types of student aid:

**Grants**
Federal, State, and Institutional financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (unless, for example, the student drops some or all classes for the semester);

**Scholarships**
Free money that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are often awarded based on merit and other criteria.

**Work-study**
A work program through which the student can work part-time to earn money to help pay for school expenses; and

**Student Loans**
Borrowed money for college; loans must be repaid.
“Free” money. Funds that do not have to be repaid. Grants are usually awarded on the basis of financial need and completing the FAFSA by the priority deadline.

• Federal Pell Grant
• TEXAS Grant
• Pay Dirt Grant
PAYDIRT PROMISE

If so, you may be eligible to attend UTEP without having to pay out-of-pocket for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees.

The Paydirt Promise grant covers tuition and mandatory fees based on the student’s financial need through a combination of federal financial aid, state and institutional funds (Federal Pell, state funds, scholarships and other gift aid).

Any remaining tuition and mandatory fees not covered by these programs will be covered by the Paydirt Promise.

IS YOUR FAMILY INCOME $50,000 OR LESS?

Eligibility Requirements:

- Adjusted Gross Income of $50,000 or less
- Texas Resident
- Admitted to UTEP
- Complete 2021-2022 FAFSA by January 15, 2021
- Full time enrollment
- First Bachelor’s degree

Renewal Criteria:

- Maintain 2.0 GPA
- Complete 24 credit hours per year (fall, spring, summer)
- Maintain good academic standing
SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit the Office of Scholarships website: utep.edu/scholarships

- External Scholarship Bulletin
- International Student Scholarships
- Essay Writing Tips & More!

National Scholarship Search Engines:
- fastweb.com
- finaid.org
- hsf.net
- studentscholarshipsearch.com
- collegegreenlight.com

Departmental Scholarships

Each college and various departments have grants and scholarships available

- Study Abroad
- Honors Program
- College of Education
- College of Health Sciences
- Music scholarships
- Art scholarships

Contact your college/department and apply with them directly
EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN

VARIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FUNDED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS VARY

TO VIEW A FULL LISTING OF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES VISIT: UTEP.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS
Once students have been admitted to UTEP, students may access the online scholarship application by logging into https://utep.awardspring.com/.

Click on “Sign in with Your School Account”
You will need to login with your UTEP credentials – username and password
  - Visit https://newaccount.utep.edu/ to activate your UTEP credentials
  - For help with UTEP credentials, please contact the UTEP Helpdesk at 915-747-4357 or e-mail helpdesk@utep.edu.

Click on “Application” and complete all questions and click next step. Be advised:
  1. The application requires a personal essay, so please write out your 500-word personal essay in a MS Word document. Once you finish writing your essay then you can then cut and paste it back into scholarship application section that requests your essay.
  2. You may need to complete some follow up questions particular to certain donor requirements.

After all sections have been completed, click on “Submit Application” and you’re done.
Part-time employment opportunities on- and off-campus to earn money for educational expenses. At UTEP, student positions are usually limited to working 19 hours per week.

Email studentfinancialaid@utep.edu for a Work-Study Application.
STUDENT LOANS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan – 3.73% Interest Rate
• Available to undergraduate students with financial need.
• The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while:
  • the student is in school at least half-time, and
  • for the first six months after you leave school (referred to as a grace period).

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan – 3.73% Interest Rate
• No requirement to demonstrate financial need.
• Loan interest accrues as soon as the loan is disbursed to the student.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan – 6.28% Interest Rate
• A loan available to parents of dependent undergraduate students
• A credit check will be performed during the application process.
• The parent is fully responsible for paying the loan and the interest.
**KEEP IN MIND:**

- Awards received one year, are not guaranteed *every* academic year!
- Academic year refers to fall, spring, and summer.
- Every award type has maximum amounts that can be awarded to the student for the academic year.
- Financial aid awards are divided equally between the fall and spring semesters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Amount</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If interested in attending summer, be sure to budget accordingly for student loans.
- Grants for the summer semesters are subject to remaining eligibility and fund availability.
BUDGETING & RESOURCES

• A budget is a plan that helps you prioritize your spending. It ensures that you cover your essential costs first (housing, food and transportation) With a budget, you can focus your money on the things that are most important... Going to college!

• Purchase only what you need, not what you want...
  – Eat in instead of out
  – Make your own coffee
  – Save a $1.00 a day

• Setting aside emergency savings is also important, but if you are like most people, you do not save enough money... However:
  – UTEP has emergency assistance and resources:
    • Paydirt Loan – help with rent and utilities
    • Food pantry
    • Student Career Closet – borrow business clothes
    • Counseling services

https://www.utep.edu/university-communications/did-you-know/
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

• Read all of your correspondence (UTEP e-mail and U.S. Mail).
  ▪ All UTEP students are required to set up a UTEP account to access e-mails and student portals. After you attend orientation, all official university communication will be sent to your new UTEP e-mail.
  ▪ Activate your new email at newaccount.utep.edu.
• Complete and submit any pending documents and requirements. See Financial Aid in Goldmine video.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES CONT.

Enroll in courses that are part of your degree plan.

- View degree plan in Goldmine
- Course eligibility for financial aid
- Check for non-contributing courses
- Next steps if non-contributing courses are identified.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES CONT.

Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards. A student must meet SAP standards to receive and maintain financial aid eligibility.

- Requirements needed to remain eligible
  - GPA
  - Pace/Completion Rate
  - Maximum Timeframe
- When SAP is evaluated
- SAP Appeals
BILLS, DISBURSEMENTS, WHAT’S NEXT?

Electronic Bills: July 19, 2021

Financial Aid Disbursement: August 16, 2021

Financial aid pays towards UTEP balance

Financial Aid > Balance
Refund issued to student via direct deposit or paper check.

Balance > Financial Aid
Students is responsible to pay remaining balance.
STUDENT BUSINESS SERVICES (SBS)

- Electronic Bills
- Pete’s Payment Options portal
- Payment deadlines
- Paying your tuition
- Payment Plan and Tuition Loan
- How to enroll in a payment plan
- Book Loan
- Refunds
- Set up direct deposit
- Check your refund status
GOOD LUCK MINERS!