

Financial Aid Packet

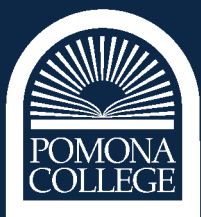
Understanding Your Financial Aid

Award Year 2009–10

The Pomona College financial aid program is designed to offer admitted students sufficient financial aid, based on the College's determination of each student's financial need, to enable them to enroll in the College. The amount of aid each student receives varies according to each family's particular circumstances; consequently, financial aid is available to families the College determines are unable to pay the full cost of college expenses. Pomona is committed to offering financial aid to continuing students in the same manner that entering first year students are offered aid—based on the College's determination of each student's financial need and each family's particular circumstances.

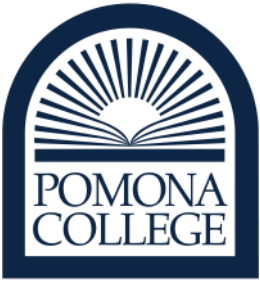
Financial aid at Pomona College compares favorably with aid at other institutions, both independent and public. Comparisons between college financial aid awards should take into account the total volume of loans a student will borrow over four undergraduate years. Fall 2009 marks the start of the second full year that Pomona College will not award loans as part of need-based student aid.

Pomona College is grateful for the generous support of student financial aid by private donors, including many Pomona alumni who were aid recipients themselves. Funding sources outside the College, including Federal and State grants, and outside scholarships, are subject to regulations that ensure that each type of aid is offered only to students who qualify for those programs and will make proper use of the funds. In general, these funds are offered for educational expenses as defined by the Department of Education as applied to all students enrolled at the College. By accepting these funds, both the College and the student aid recipient incur responsibilities. All students who accept financial aid for study at Pomona College should keep this pamphlet for ready reference. It explains what to expect and what is required—the rights, as well as the responsibilities—of all students with assistance.



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A Guide to Understanding Your Financial Aid

Determination of Family Contribution

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students and their parents are required to file applications from which family contributions can be derived. To apply for all federal student aid programs and many state aid programs, students and their parents are required to file the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. For Pomona College aid, applicants must also complete the **PROFILE Application** published by the College Scholarship Service, a division of the College Board.

The factors that determine the parents' contribution to college costs are: income, assets, total number of family members, and the number of family members attending college. The computation allows for necessary family expenditures such as taxes, reasonable living costs, college savings for other children, and unusual medical expenses. A portion of the family's assets is protected for family emergencies and college savings for younger children. A part of the remaining income and assets is assumed to be available for college expenses. An adjustment to the parent contribution may be made if there is more than one child in the family enrolled in college.

Students are also expected to contribute from their summer earnings and a fraction of any personal trusts they may have.

In situations where the mother and father of the applicant are separated or divorced, the parent with whom the applicant lives is asked to complete the FAFSA and the PROFILE Applications along with the student. The other parent is asked to complete the

Noncustodial Parent's Statement. The income and assets of both parents are considered, as well as all of the extra expenses their special situation may require. In its review, the College strives to be neither too demanding nor too lenient. Our concern is with relative fairness from one applicant to another.

All financial aid applicants must submit signed copies of their parents' and their own 2008 federal income tax returns, complete with all schedules and copies of W-2 and 1099 forms. If you or your parents will not file a federal return for 2008, you should request a **Statement of Non-Filing Tax Status** from the Office of Financial Aid. This form is also available on our Website.

Appeals

A student or parent who believes an aid offer does not meet their financial need should request that the Office of Financial Aid review the award. Generally, appeals for additional assistance are based on the same factors that affect a family's ability to pay for educational expenses outlined in the previous section: income, assets, total number of family members and the number of family members attending college. If a change in one of the factors that affects the family's ability to pay for college has occurred since the initial offer was made, or there are factors which affect the family's financial strength which were not clear in the initial application, the office of financial aid will review the new information to determine if an adjustment in the offer of financial aid is warranted.

A Note About Self-Supporting (Independent) Student Status

Pomona expects families to continue the financial support of their children throughout their enrollment at the College, according to their ability to pay. Should parents simply discontinue their financial support or refuse to complete the aid application, it is not possible for Pomona to assume the parental share of financial support.

Cost of Attendance

	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS	AT HOME
Tuition	\$36,710	\$36,710	\$36,710
Fees	307	307	307
Room & Board	12,651	7,181	3,431
Books	900	900	900
Personal	1,100	1,100	1,100
TOTAL	\$51,668	\$46,198	\$42,448

Complete information on independent and part-time student budgets is available on request.

Personal Expenses

The total cost of attending Pomona College includes an estimation of what students will spend on personal items including, but not limited to laundry supplies, telephone expenses, recreation, and other items which are not billed to the student's account. This estimate does not include the cost of travel to and from the College, which may range from \$150 to \$450 per semester. This portion of the cost to attend the College represents the amount Pomona expects the family will spend, as a part of their family contribution, for the student's travel to and from the College. For eligible students who do not have a family contribution, travel—2 round trip tickets for the academic year—will be fully covered with assistance from the Financial Aid Office.

Students facing unanticipated personal needs or personal emergencies can apply for help from the Dean of Students Office or by requesting a student loan from the Office of Financial Aid.

There are no travel allowances for students living in foreign countries.

Student Health Insurance

Every student is required to have health insurance coverage while enrolled at Pomona College. This health insurance must cover off-campus medical or specialty care and hospitalization not provided through the Claremont University Consortium (CUC) Health Services. All enrolled students may elect to enroll in the CUC Health Plan or choose to waive out of automatic enrollment into the CUC Health Plan by providing comparable insurance coverage on or before June 30, 2009.

Students who are not covered by a family health insurance policy must purchase the CUC Student Health Plan. The CUC Health Plan is expected to cost \$1,224 for the 2009–10 academic year. In June, all matriculated students will receive a student health insurance brochure from the Dean of Students Office with the final cost of the CUC Health Plan. All students may request loan assistance to help pay for this expense.

If a student who is enrolled in the CUC Health Plan incurs medical expenses not covered by the CUC Health Plan, a request for assistance may be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. Most requests will be met with a College Loan. Students requesting assistance should submit a health insurance claim form with an explanation of benefits.

The Financial Aid Package

After reasonable parent and student contributions have been determined, the family contribution is deducted from the cost of attendance; the difference equals financial need. Using the various sources of aid described in this brochure, Pomona College prepares individual financial aid packages that include grants and scholarships, which are gift aid, and a work stipend.

There are three steps in determining a student's financial aid package. They are:

Step 1: The inclusion of any Federal and State grants for which a student is eligible, for example, a Cal Grant or Federal Pell Grant. Please note that outside scholarships from private sources including tuition grants from employers, universities, or foundations, and awards from organizations like the Elks, Rotary, or other private clubs are coordinated with Pomona aid, replacing a student's campus employment allowance. If the private scholarship exceeds the amount of the employment allowance, Pomona Scholarship is reduced by the remaining outside award.

Step 2: The inclusion of a work stipend of up to \$2,000. Most students work 8 to 10 hours per week to cover personal expenses throughout the term. If a student has outside scholarships, the entire work allowance may be replaced by the outside scholarship.

Step 3: The inclusion of a Pomona College Scholarship, if there is remaining financial need after packaging steps 1 and 2.

Types of Financial Aid Assistance

There are three basic categories of financial aid available to college students:

1. **Gift aid** (i.e., scholarships and grants) is assistance which eligible recipients do not repay after graduating or leaving school.
2. **Subsidized employment** enables recipients to work part-time during the academic year in order to earn a portion of educational costs. These include packaged work stipends.
3. **Low-interest loans** give borrowers the opportunity to defer a portion of cost by taking out low-interest loans that are generally repaid after the recipient graduates or leaves school.

At Pomona College, financial aid packages include only gift aid and subsidized employment, but some students and parents may choose to take out loans to cover a portion of the family contribution.

The above types of aid are derived from a variety of sources. The following are common:

Federal Funds include need-based grants, loans and work. Information provided on the FAFSA and the applied Federal Methodology are used to determine a student's eligibility for all federal awards. The number and amount of each federal award may vary due to specific program funding. To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens, demonstrate financial need (except for the unsubsidized Federal Stafford and Federal PLUS Loan programs), meet specific enrollment criteria, and make satisfactory progress toward a degree.

State Funds can include need-based and merit scholarship assistance. California, for example, offers need-based state grant programs that rank among the best in the nation. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) administers these programs

from funds appropriated each year by the State Legislature. Awards for undergraduate study are made through two grant programs: Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B. Other states, such as Pennsylvania, Vermont and Rhode Island, offer grant assistance that can be used for attendance at Pomona College. Students are strongly encouraged to explore their eligibility for state grants. The name and address of each state grant agency is available on request from the Office of Financial Aid.

Pomona College funds include scholarships, loans, and term-time work stipends. The amounts and types of college aid in an aid package depend on the student's financial need and the specific instructions governing each separate fund. In some instances, students are required to complete special documents to receive highly restrictive scholarship aid.

Outside awards include scholarships and loans that students obtain on their own initiative.

The following is a discussion of the provisions and eligibility requirements for the various aid programs available to Pomona College students.

Gift Aid

Federal Grants

Federal Pell Grants are federal funds for middle and lower income students who are admitted and enrolled in good standing. Awards may range from \$400 to \$5,350 in the 2009–10 academic year. Students must reapply annually by filing the FAFSA.

Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) are funds assigned to the College under federal campus-based programs to provide gift assistance to exceptionally needy students. The grants range from \$100 to \$4,000 per academic year and are awarded to students with the greatest need.

Grants Awarded by the State of California

Pomona requires all applicants who are California residents seeking financial assistance from the College to apply for Cal Grants. **College grant assistance will not replace Cal Grant funds lost through a student's negligence in completing state application procedures.** However, students who do not meet Cal Grant eligibility requirements, but who have sufficient need according to Pomona's analysis, will receive College grant funds according to the packaging policies outlined in this booklet.

During the 2009–10 academic year, **Cal Grant A** awards for new winners may range from \$700 to \$9,708 depending on the winner's financial need as determined by the California Student Aid Commission. It is expected that renewal awards will also range from \$700 to \$9,708.

Cal Grant B awards are made to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The first-year students receive a stipend for living expenses but seldom a tuition allowance. During the first year, Pomona College awards grant assistance in the amount of the tuition stipend. In following years, students holding Cal Grant B awards receive both the living stipend and a tuition stipend. In any year, Cal Grant B recipients may request that their living stipends be released directly to them or credited to their student accounts. For new recipients in 2009–10, the living expense stipend was \$1,551 and the tuition stipend was \$9,708.

To apply for the Cal Grant, an applicant must file a FAFSA and a GPA Verification Form, postmarked by March 2, 2009.

If a student has already been awarded a Cal Grant and is enrolled at Pomona College, the renewal evaluation will be con-

ducted by the Pomona College Office of Financial Aid. Renewal students are not required to file a new GPA Verification Form.

Pomona Scholarships

Pomona College has income available from the endowment and annual gifts to the College to fund need-based College scholarships. All such awards are given based on need and on the information provided on the **Scholarship Data Sheet**.

Private Outside Scholarships

There are numerous scholarships that are not administered by Pomona College. They include awards from civic organizations, banks and various educational foundations. Students apply directly to the sponsoring organizations for consideration for these awards. Please refer to the section of this brochure titled "Coordination of All Sources of Aid," for the policy regarding the coordination of outside scholarships with College administered aid.

Subsidized Employment

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides funds for on- and off-campus employment enabling students to meet term-time work stipend expectations. Students with the greatest financial need have priority for Federal Work-Study funding. The Office of Financial Aid will notify students if their need qualifies them for Federal Work-Study funding. Federal regulations require that FWS earnings be monitored to avoid over awarding. If a student earns more money in a given year than is expected in the aid package, the financial aid staff will be required to reduce the amount of grant, scholarship or loan the student received.

FWS wages generally range from \$8.00 to \$9.75 per hour, depending on job skills and experience. Students funded with FWS to meet their term-time earnings stipend usually work approximately 8 to 10 hours each week.

The Office of Financial Aid cooperates with the Career Development Office in establishing jobs with agencies both on- and off-campus.

Pomona College Student Employment is a need-based work program and is packaged in financial aid awards. The provisions are similar to those of the Federal Work-Study program. However, this program is funded solely by Pomona College.

Low-Interest Loans

Although Pomona no longer awards loans as part of a student's need-based financial aid package, some students may choose to borrow to help with their family share of expenses. All loans share a common feature: they must be repaid. The advantage to a student who borrows from one or more of the funds described below (with the exception of the unsubsidized Federal Stafford loan) is that (1) interest does not accrue, and (2) repayment does not begin as long as the borrower maintains minimum enrollment status stipulated by each loan program. Fact sheets describing each loan, including deferment and cancellation provisions and sample repayment schedules, are available from the Office of Financial Aid.

It is important for borrowers to maintain records of their indebtedness in order to plan for the future, when loan payments will figure in with monthly expenses, along with food, rent and other essentials. Pomona provides loan counseling for all students at entrance and upon graduation or leave, to ensure that the borrower understands all the details of how and when to repay educational loans.

Federal Stafford Loans

The Federal Stafford loan program is available to matriculated students, enrolled at least half-time, who have filed a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). First year students may borrow up to \$5,500. Second year students may borrow up to \$6,500. Third and fourth year students may borrow up to \$7,500. The actual loan amount is based on the length of the period of enrollment (1 semester or 2) and the student's enrollment status. For students who qualify for the subsidized Stafford loan, interest on the outstanding loan is paid by the government during the in-school period. The maximum subsidized Stafford loan is \$3,500 for first year students, \$4,500 for second year students, and \$5,500 for third and fourth year students. An additional \$2,000 of unsubsidized Stafford loan is available to students who qualify for the subsidized loan, regardless of year in school. If a student does not qualify for the interest subsidy, interest accrues on the loan during the student's enrollment. The student may pay current interest, and any unpaid interest is capitalized to the loan at the end of the six month grace period after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time, whether the student graduates or is on a leave of absence. All Stafford borrowers begin to repay their loan principal balance and accrued interest six months after they graduate, drop below half-time, or withdraw from school.

The interest rate for new subsidized Stafford loans disbursed after July 1, 2009 is fixed at 5.6%, while the interest rate for unsubsidized Stafford loans is fixed at 6.8%. From July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2010, lenders may charge a loan origination fee on all Stafford loans of up to 0.5%, and an insurance fee not to exceed 1.0% of the loan principal may also be charged at the time of disbursement. Fees are deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement.

Federal Perkins Loans

Federal Perkins Loans are awarded by the College Office of Financial Aid based on available funding and application of the Federal Methodology. Federal Perkins loans are long-term, low interest (5%) loans. No interest is charged or accrued, nor is repayment required, on Federal Perkins loans while a borrower is enrolled in school at least half-time. Repayment begins 9 months after a student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment. Depending on the amount borrowed, the repayment period can be up to 10 years. The annual Federal Perkins loan limit is \$4,000 for undergraduate students. The aggregate loan amount available for undergraduate study is \$20,000.

Pomona College Loans

Any full-time Pomona student with financial need is eligible to apply. Quarterly repayment begins after the student completes an educational program or drops below half-time status. There is a maximum repayment period of 10 years.

Student Loan Exit Interviews

All students who elect to borrow student loans during their course of study at Pomona College are required to attend an exit interview before leaving the College. This is a requirement for graduation, taking a leave of absence or withdrawing completely. It is the student's responsibility to see that this requirement has been met. Several exit interview sessions are scheduled during the spring semester. An individual appointment should be made with the Student Loan Administrator if you are a September or

December graduate, or if you take a leave prior to the end of a semester. Questions concerning exit interviews can be directed to the Student Loan Administrator in the Business Office or the Financial Aid staff.

Coordination of All Sources of Aid

Pomona College offers financial aid to meet need. In the event that a student receives aid from private outside sources, these funds will be coordinated with College-administered awards. The total aid received by students from all sources cannot exceed their computed need; therefore, some sources of aid may be reduced.

Many Pomona students win privately sponsored scholarships from outside organizations. The entire outside award(s), **with the exception of State scholarships/grants or Federal Pell Grants**, will reduce the student work stipend. For example, if a student receives a \$1,000 outside scholarship, the work stipend will be reduced by a total of \$1,000. If the outside scholarship is greater than the work stipend, it will then reduce grant or other scholarships.

Miscellaneous Awards

When a student receives a Tuition Benefit or Subsidy from the employer of his or her parent(s), this award will first reduce work. If the tuition benefit is greater than the sum of work, it will then reduce grant or scholarship awards.

Accepting the Offer of Financial Aid

Admitted students must (1) accept admission by sending the deposit to the Office of Admissions, and (2) accept financial aid by signing and returning the **Offer of Financial Aid** to the Financial Aid Office. The deadline for returning these materials is established by the Office of Admissions.

Continuing Pomona students must return their signed Offers of Financial Aid within three weeks from the date they are received.

After reading this entire pamphlet, students must do the following to accept the offer:

1. Review the costs as outlined in this brochure and on the Offer of Financial Aid.
2. Become familiar with the particulars of each type of aid in the financial aid package.
3. Read the ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT, CONSENT AND CERTIFICATION.
4. List any OTHER RESOURCES not included in the offer. These would include any privately sponsored outside scholarships or parent employer sponsored tuition benefits.
5. Sign the Offer of Financial Aid (student signature required).
6. Fill out the Scholarship Data Sheet, if one accompanied the offer.
7. Submit, if not previously done, signed copies of the student's and parents' 2008 federal income tax returns, including all schedules and copies of the W-2 and 1099 forms.

If there is a difference of more than \$2,000 between the income reported on the aid application and that reported on the tax return, a revision in the family's contribution may be necessary. Pomona College is aware that aid applications are often

completed before tax returns are filed. If a revision is to be made, the Office of Financial Aid will notify families, in writing, of any changes in the aid offer.

Appropriate loan papers will be prepared for the students who have accepted such assistance. Federal Perkins and College loan recipients will receive their promissory notes in their campus mailboxes, located in the Smith Campus Center. Promissory notes must be signed and returned to the Pomona College Business Office. Details regarding the Federal Stafford Loan process will be sent to Stafford borrowers in June.

Award Revisions

If a family's financial situation changes during the year to the extent that a review of aid eligibility is in order, the student may request such a review. A letter addressed to the Office of Financial Aid should contain a detailed itemization of changes that affect the family's ability to pay. Complete documentation should be included to substantiate the request. The counselor will provide timely written notification regarding the request and appropriate action to be taken.

How You Receive Financial Aid

Prior to each semester, the College Student Accounts Office issues a bill that lists the semester charges for tuition, fees, and, for on-campus residents, room and board. The bill also shows "expected aid" credits for one-half of the total of any grants or scholarships and any elective loans the student will receive (all financial aid is split evenly between the two semesters). The amount the family owes the College for the semester will be a result of charges minus **all** expected aid, with the **exception of work stipends**. Work awards are paid to students after hourly time sheets have been submitted to the payroll department on a bi-weekly schedule throughout the semester.

All grants, scholarships and loans will be listed on the bill as "expected aid." These financial aid funds will convert to "actual aid" once we receive the required forms from the student or once the funds have been received by the College from outside agencies. In many instances, specific types of "expected aid" do not convert to "actual aid" until certain documents are completed and submitted by the student to the College or to other granting or lending agencies. These are described below:

1. If a student has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education for **Verification**, the procedures and documents involved in that process must be completed before any federal funds become actual aid. The Office of Financial Aid will guide applicants through this process.
2. **Students who are not U.S. citizens** must provide proof of their eligible non-citizen status (i.e., alien registration cards or other documents designated by the Office of Financial Aid) before they can receive federal funds.
3. **Term-time work stipend earnings are paid directly to the student by check rather than credited to a student account.** Students receive bi-weekly paychecks for the hours of work submitted on time sheets signed by their supervisors. These earnings generally cover personal expenses and book fees throughout the year.
4. The Office of Financial Aid coordinates all **outside awards** with the student's Offer of Financial Aid from Pomona College. Most often, outside agencies make awards with the

understanding that the student's school will coordinate all sources of aid. In addition, many scholarship sponsors require proof of registration or GPA verification prior to releasing funds. The student is responsible for obtaining proof of registration or GPA verification from the Registrar in a timely manner. If the College does not receive a scholarship check within two months from the start of the fall semester, the Office of Financial Aid will attempt to contact the student to facilitate the processing of any outstanding outside awards. If Pomona College does not receive the outside scholarship funds, the student's award will be reconfigured. **Please note that if the student receives the outside scholarship check directly, the student must forward the proceeds to the Office of Financial Aid.**

How to Compute Your Payments to the College on the Payment Plan

The following is a sample payment calculation. The amount the family owes the College is based on the total cost of tuition, fees, room and board, and direct credits the student has in scholarships, grants and loans. **The student's earnings from work are usually to be used for books and personal expenses throughout the year. They are not included as credits on the student's bill.**

Families may pay the College in two payments, one each semester, or in eight installments (four each semester) on the **College's Payment Plan**, which commences in August 2008, and ends in April 2009 with no payment due in December. There is an application form for this plan, and there is a \$50 per semester service charge (\$100 annually). You may request this form from the Student Accounts Office.

After reviewing the sample case, use the separate payment worksheet that is included with this pamphlet to compute your family's payments.

Sample Case

This student lives on campus in a residence hall.

DIRECT COLLEGE CHARGES:	Tuition	\$36,710
	Fees	307
	Room and Board	12,651
	Total Direct College Charges	\$49,668

DIRECT CREDITS:	Cal Grant*	\$9,708
	Federal Pell Grant	500
	Pomona Scholarship	24,960
	Total Direct Credits	\$35,168

Net Cost Payable to the College
(charges less credits): \$14,500

The monthly payment calculation is:

Amount payable to College	\$14,500
Annual Service Charge	+100
Total amount payable to College	14,600
Number of monthly installments	÷8
Monthly payment amount	\$1,825

* *Expected Cal Grant maximum.*

Students Living Off-Campus

For students living off-campus, the only charges paid directly to the College Student Accounts Office are those covering tuition and student fees. If a student's total grant and loan aid is greater than the sum of the charges for tuition and fees, the student will receive a refund of the excess amount to assist with payment of off-campus living expenses.

See the Office of Financial Aid to start the process of withdrawing the excess funds. Students should note that the budget for off-campus housing is less than the budget for on-campus room and board (see "Cost of Attendance" on page 2).

Refunds When a Student Withdraws and is Not Charged Full Tuition and Room and Board

A student who withdraws, takes a leave of absence, or changes the number of course enrollments after the first day of classes in a semester can receive credit against the semester's fees. Whether any cash refund will result from the credits received will depend on the payments made and the amount of financial assistance that has been received by the student.

After the Office of Student Accounts determines the enrollment period and the refund of charges for the student who withdraws, takes a leave, or changes the number of course enrollments after the first day of classes in any semester, the Office of Financial Aid calculates the amount of funds to be returned to the federal, state, and institutional aid programs, and to the student.

When returning federal funds, the U.S. Department of Education "Return of Title IV Funds" policy is applied and funds are returned in the following order: 1) Unsubsidized Stafford Loan; 2) Subsidized Stafford Loan; 3) Perkins Loan; 4) Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student (PLUS); 5) Pell Grant; 6) Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG); and 7) Other Title IV programs.

State funds are returned according to the individual state program requirements.

When returning Institutional funds, the office calculates the amount of aid so that a student receives the same percent of costs in aid as he received in his original financial aid award. Institutional scholarships and work are awarded so that the revised aid package reflects the same percent of aid for each of these as was awarded in the original aid package.

The Office of Financial Aid publishes a more detailed description of the refund policies. Sample refund calculations are also available to students upon request.

Renewal Procedure

Financial aid is awarded on an annual basis. **No offer is renewed automatically.** To be considered for renewal of College administered aid, including California state and federal aid, each student is responsible for filing the appropriate applications. Continuing Pomona students must submit **signed** copies of their parents' and their own tax returns, including **all** schedules and W-2 and 1099 forms, prior to their aid renewal.

After winter break, renewal information is sent to students currently receiving financial aid who will need to apply for aid for the following academic year. Generally, renewal aid forms must be filed by **mid-April**. Students will be notified of their renewal aid eligibility by mail in mid-June.

If another application is required by an outside agency, the

student is responsible for filing necessary materials by the agency's deadline. Students currently awarded Cal Grants do not need to file a new GPA Verification Form.

Students who are on an off-campus program or leave of absence, must take special care to obtain and complete their renewal forms by the deadline.

Number of Semesters of Eligibility

The number of semesters of financial aid eligibility is equal to the number of semesters required to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree at the normal rate of progress. An entering freshman making normal progress will require eight full-time semesters of college work. The *Pomona College Catalog* states that a total of 32 courses is required to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. To earn this degree in 8 full-time semesters, the normal rate of progress is completion of an average of 4 courses each semester.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students are expected to make satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Academic Standards Committee, which are published each year in the *Student Handbook* and the *Pomona College Catalog*. In general, to remain in good standing, students are expected to maintain a "C" (6.0) average. The Academic Standards Committee notifies students who have dropped below the minimum grade average and course completion levels, and establishes requirements an individual must fulfill to be reinstated to good standing. These requirements are set out in an individual contract.

A student who is under contract with the Academic Standards Committee is considered to have mitigating circumstances and, therefore, is still considered to be maintaining satisfactory academic progress for the purpose of financial aid eligibility. If a student does not fulfill the terms of the contract, the Committee will decide whether the student must withdraw from the College. Students who are re-admitted to Pomona by the Committee after withdrawing are eligible to apply again for financial aid.

Students who maintain a "C" average and who complete courses according to the following schedule are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress; therefore, they maintain normal financial aid eligibility. At the end of each year in college, the minimum number of units earned must be:

- Freshmen – 7 full courses
- Sophomore – 13 full courses
- Junior – 23 full courses
- Senior – 32 full courses

Petition for a Ninth Semester of Aid

If a student has a set of unusual circumstances that prevent earning the Bachelor of Arts degree in eight semesters, a petition may be submitted to the Financial Aid Committee requesting consideration for a ninth semester of aid.

Such a request must be a result of extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control and cannot be simply the result of a poorly planned academic program.

If students feel that they are falling behind the normal rate of progress (completion of an average of four courses per semester) they should consult with their academic advisors and also with a member of the Dean of Students staff for advice about ways to make up courses and avoid the need for a ninth semester.

Petitions for a ninth semester of aid must be submitted within the first month of their eighth semester of aid.

Semesters Abroad or College Exchanges

As long as a student is registered at Pomona full-time and pays tuition and fees to the College while participating in a Pomona approved abroad or domestic off-campus program, eligibility for financial aid will continue. Students may arrange to borrow unused campus work stipend funds. For more information, check with the Office of Financial Aid.

Leaves

A student's aid is discontinued when the student is not enrolled in school. A student planning to return from a leave will be considered for financial aid subject to the same deadlines, procedures and guidelines as any currently enrolled student applying for aid administered by the College. Cal Grants, National Merit Scholarships and some federal programs have special regulations concerning students on leave. A student planning to take a leave of absence should check with the Office of Financial Aid (and with the sponsors of any outside aid) before going on leave to make arrangements for consideration for aid upon returning to Pomona. Outside funds "lost" through failure to obtain a leave of absence from the funding agency will not be made up by College funds. Students also need to inquire about their loan obligations during the time they are on leave.

Students Who Do Not Qualify for Aid or Who Need More Aid than is Awarded

All families, whether receiving aid from Pomona College or meeting costs on their own, may consider obtaining a Federal PLUS Loan to assist with the payment of their family share of costs.

The **Federal PLUS Loan** program offers parents the opportunity to borrow up to the full cost of education each year, less any financial aid. Interest on PLUS loans begin to accrue immediately once the loan is made and repayment must begin within 60 days. Some lenders offer deferment of interest and principal while the student is in school. The repayment term is usually 10 years.

The interest rate for PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2006 will be fixed at 8.5%. Lenders may collect fees of up to 4% of the loan principal at the time the loan is disbursed. Many lenders waive fees so we advise borrowers to compare lenders. All fees are deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement.

Student Responsibilities

The offer and acceptance of financial aid is an agreement between Pomona College and the student. This agreement is based upon certain conditions and expectations that students should clearly understand before they apply for, or accept, financial assistance.

The offer of aid assumes truthful and correct information on the part of the student. A student's eligibility is determined by the information provided by the applicant and the parents. Should students be successful in receiving outside assistance, they are required to notify the Office of Financial Aid as soon as possible. If any individual deliberately falsifies information, that person will be refused all aid. If funds have been advanced on falsified dates, the individual will be obligated to repay all money received and is subject to criminal fraud prosecution.

Students in default on Federal Perkins or Federal Stafford Loans, or who owe an overpayment on a Federal Grant, may be excluded from financial aid. These obligations are sufficient reason for the College to refuse a student registration privileges and to refuse to release a transcript if the student in default desires to transfer to another institution.

General College Information

Information about the College's academic programs, admission requirements, enrollments, and retention is included in the **Pomona College Catalog**, or may be obtained from the Office of Admissions, the College Registrar, and the Career Development Office.

Pomona College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, and age to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the College. It does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, or age in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, or other programs administered by the College.