

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All the answers you need about financing your higher education at Dominican



DOMINICAN
UNIVERSITY
of CALIFORNIA

1890

THE ANSWER IS YES! A DOMINICAN EDUCATION IS WITHIN YOUR REACH.

Dominican Value

Dominican University of California embodies the Dominican ideals of study, service, community, and reflection. We guarantee that a student will graduate in four years and we provide students with the personal attention they need to succeed:

- Hands-on learning
- Direct access to faculty advisors and mentors
- Staff support for academics, tutoring and career planning

An Affordable Education

Dominican commits over \$13 million each year for institutionally-funded scholarships and grants that directly reduce cost of attendance. Scholarships and grants from other sources (federal, state, or private) also directly reduce the cost to attend Dominican. In addition, educational loan programs can help to finance part or all of any remaining costs.

Developing A Financial Plan

Families often find it is a combination of resources and payment options that help make a private education affordable. We will help you pull together merit scholarships, grants, loans, and payment options into a single comprehensive financial plan tailored to your specific circumstances.

Q *What is the average financial aid award at Dominican?*

A For fall 2009, the average Dominican gift award (scholarships and grants) was approximately \$15,600. Students who applied for need-based aid also received an average of \$5,000 in federal and state grants in addition to Dominican gift aid. As with any average, some students received less and some students received more depending on factors such as academic merit and financial need.

Q *How do I apply for grants?*

A Completing the financial aid process at Dominican is easy. First, complete the 2010-11 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Second, complete the 2010-11 Dominican Financial Aid Application. To meet our priority deadline, complete both forms after January 1 but before March 2, 2010. Once we receive your FAFSA results, we will let you know by e-mail if you need to send us anything else.

Q *What kinds of scholarships are available?*

A Dominican offers scholarships based on academic accomplishments, athletic abilities, musical talent, and participation in our Honors program:

- Valedictorian scholarship
- Trustee, Presidential, Deans, and Dominican scholarships
- Scholar in the World awards
- Coaches awards
- Music scholarships

Q *How are merit scholarships determined?*

A At the point of admission, each undergraduate day student is automatically considered for a renewable Dominican merit scholarship. For new freshmen, scholarships are based on high school academic achievement, SAT (Critical Reading and Math only) or ACT scores, and high school grade point average (GPA). For new transfers with more than 12 transfer units, scholarships are based on college GPA for all transferable coursework.

Q *Are there scholarships for continuing students?*

A Yes. Most of our scholarships are renewable. In addition, Dominican offers a limited number of competitive scholarships for students in their second, third, and fourth years. These scholarships require a strong GPA (generally 3.5 or above) for coursework completed at Dominican, and a demonstrated commitment to community service or campus leadership. The scholarship competition is open to all full-time students after one year of attendance.

Q *I don't think I'm eligible for financial aid. Should I apply?*

A The best strategy is for you to apply for as many sources of scholarship and grant aid as possible, even if you do not think you may qualify. Applying ensures you may be fully considered for all types of aid. There is no cost involved in submitting a financial aid application!

GRANTS, LOANS, AND OTHER RESOURCES

Dominican Grants

The amount varies depending on financial need.

California State Grants (Cal Grant)

The state of California offers grants up to \$9,708 for private college tuition (2009-10) to eligible California residents.

Federal Grant and Loan Programs

- Federal Pell Grants – up to \$5,350 for the 2009-10 academic year.

Pell eligible students will also be considered for:

- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) – awards of \$200 to \$2,000 per year.
- Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) – \$750 for qualifying first-time freshmen and \$1,300 for qualifying continuing or transfer sophomores.
- Smart Grants – Third and fourth year biology majors.
- Perkins Loans – Up to \$2,000 per year.

All students who meet general eligibility criteria will be offered:

- Federal Stafford Loans – provides up to \$5,500 for freshman students, \$6,500 for sophomores, and \$7,500 in subsequent years of undergraduate study. Students who demonstrate need through the FAFSA are eligible for a subsidized portion.

Parent and Private Loan Programs

- Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – a low-interest, credit-based loan for parents, who may borrow up to the cost of attendance less other aid.
- Private loans for education – vary by lender, variable interest rates.

Student Employment

- Federal Work-Study Program (FWS) – a federally funded, need-based student employment program with potential for students to earn money through part-time employment while enrolled.
- Non-federal part-time student employment opportunities are also available.

Payment Plans

Families who choose to make direct payments can enroll in Dominican's payment plan, which spreads semester charges, less any aid, over four equal installments for each fall and spring semester. There is no cost to enroll in the program. Finance charges on outstanding balances will apply.

PLANNING FOR AND MANAGING COSTS

Q *How much does it cost to attend Dominican?*

A Costs are determined annually and are subject to change. For the 2009-10 academic year, tuition and fees total \$33,840. On campus housing and board is about \$12,000. Books, supplies, transportation and other expenses average about \$5,000 per year.

Q *Should you consider student loans?*

A Student loans represent a manageable way to access funds you need now to invest in your future. Consider this: the sticker price for a premium automobile can be about \$30,000 or more but depreciates in value over time. Borrowing the maximum in federal student loans totals \$27,000 and the value of a private college education lasts a lifetime.

Q *What if you need other loans?*

A Parent and private credit-based loans can help families finance their share of the cost of education after any student aid. The choice to borrow reflects a family decision. Credit-based loans generally require a two-year credit and employment history. Students generally borrow with an eligible co-signer. Please visit our website for specific information on these types of loans and for links to comparison sites.

Remember to include Dominican's federal school code on the FAFSA

001196

Dominican's priority deadline is March 2, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 1 Submit the FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible (The FAFSA is available online beginning January 1.)*
- January 30 Attend Campus Visit Day, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- February 27 Attend Admitted Student Open House, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- March 2 California residents submit Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
- March 2 FAFSA must be filed by March 2 (online or postmarked) to receive notification of aid eligibility by April 1 (for freshman applicants)
- March 27 Attend Admitted Student Open House, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- August 23 First day of classes, fall 2010

* All undergraduate applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. However, it is strongly recommended that all candidates apply as early as possible for preferential consideration for merit scholarship opportunities.

HELPFUL WEBSITES ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA on the Web
www.fafsa.ed.gov

US Department of Education
www.college.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov

FinAid: The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

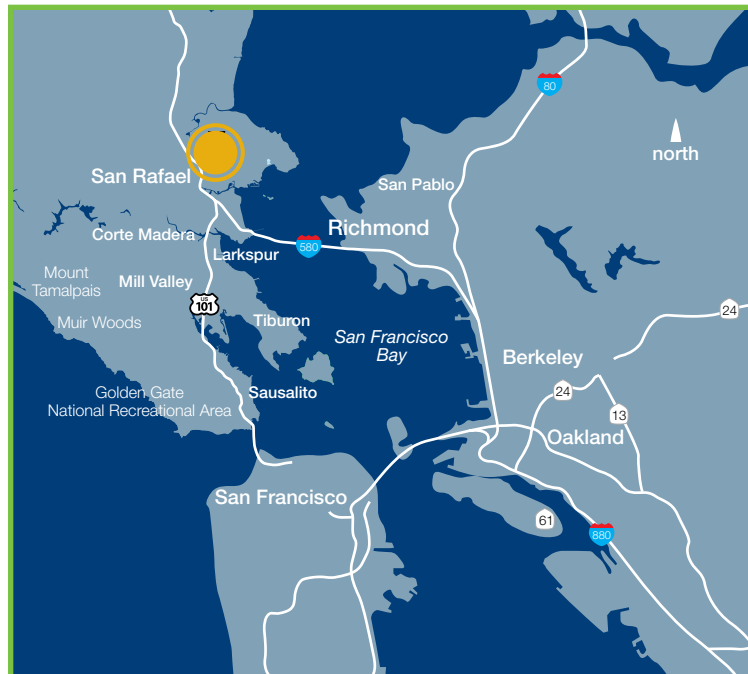
California Student Aid Commission
www.csac.ca.gov

EdWise: Online Financial Planning Guide
www.edwise.org

Scholarship Experts: Database of Scholarships
www.scholarshipexperts.com

FastWeb: Database of Scholarships
www.fastweb.com

Peterson's Database of Scholarships
www.petersons.com



Dominican University of California's campus is on Acacia Avenue in San Rafael, 12 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge. From Highway 101, north or south, take the Central San Rafael exit, turn east on Mission Avenue, then left on Grand Avenue to Acacia Avenue (about one mile). Free parking is available at the University parking area at the corner of Grand and Acacia.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

Dominican University of California welcomes applications from all students without regard to race, age, religion, color, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.



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