

Guide to Changes in Student Enrollment and the Impact on Financial Aid Eligibility

The purpose of this guide is to provide information on the impact that dropping classes can have on your financial aid award. In addition to the [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) requirements, a UCR student must also adhere to the published [quarterly unit](#) requirements.

The UCR Financial Aid Office is required to check and freeze enrollment data on the census date at the end of the third week of classes (Census date). Enrollment below full-time on the Census date might result in a reduction/cancellation of some financial aid funds and billing for funds received. If a student drops a class or withdraws from all classes after their disbursement was received, the student may need to pay back some, or all, of the money that was disbursed.

If a student receives financial aid and subsequently withdraws from all courses, they may be required to return financial aid funds received. The calculation of return of grant aid is based on published schedules and the date the student withdraws, cancels their registration or drops all of their classes. For detailed information regarding the withdrawal process, please view our [Withdrawals Guide](#).

Federal Pell Grant, Cal Grant and UCR Merit Scholarships require enrollment in 12 units at the time of the Census date to receive a full payment. Enrollment below 12 units on the census date will result in reduction of and billing for these awards. If you are eligible for these awards, the amount of grant funding that you can receive each quarter is directly related to your [enrollment status](#) at the time of disbursement (Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, or Less than Half-Time). Cal Grant awards for students enrolled less than half time (in fewer than 6 units) as of the third week census date must be cancelled per state regulations.

UCR Merit Scholarships recipients have strict annual renewal standards, as outlined in the Scholarship Terms provided in your first year of scholarship receipt, where the total number of units completed and GPA are critical. Students in this situation should always reach out by email to their financial aid counselor before they drop courses below their full-time enrollment requirements.

UCR Grant, USHIP Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and Federal Direct Loans require enrollment in at least 6 units at the time of Census date to receive a full payment. Middle Class Scholarship awards for students enrolled less than half time (in fewer than 6 units) as of the third week census date must be cancelled per state regulations.

If a student is enrolled full-time on the Census date and their financial aid awards are already disbursed to their account, and the student subsequently drops to part time enrollment status, their financial aid awards will not be adjusted due to the dropped course. The student will be eligible to keep their full-time payment.

However, in the rare case that the student has not met Satisfactory Academic Progress standards, and they have been approved to have their financial aid eligibility reinstated on a contingency basis, dropping units below full time might cause them to lose eligibility for financial aid in the next quarter. In this case, the student in this situation should email the Financial Aid Office at fnaid@ucr.edu to request a virtual meeting with their counselor to discuss the potential consequences of dropping a course prior to doing so.