



FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
A-129 MURPHY HALL
BOX 951435
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1435

March 14, 2024

Dear Current and Prospective UCLA Students:

We understand that recent changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) have caused significant stress and uncertainty for many current and prospective students and their families, particularly those “mixed status” students with undocumented parents. We want to acknowledge the challenges students are facing and provide assurances that we are actively monitoring the situation and advocating for solutions.

The 2024-2025 FAFSA rollout has faced delays and technical issues. We know mixed status students encountered system errors when attempting to start or contribute to their student’s FAFSA application. We recognize that this situation adds yet another layer of stress and anxiety to an already challenging process.

The good news is as of today, the Department of Education seems to have fixed almost all of the technical issues facing mixed status students and issued [new comprehensive FAFSA filing guidance for mixed status students](#).

We want to emphasize that students who are U.S. citizens or other [eligible non-citizens](#) are eligible for federal, state, and/or institutional aid by completing the FAFSA, regardless of their family member’s immigration status. Please know that you are not alone in facing these difficulties. We are committed to supporting students.

We want to acknowledge that students and families may be concerned about providing information and documents for the FSA ID verification process, especially if they are undocumented. However, we want to elevate information about the data and privacy protections for information provided in the FAFSA application:

1. The FAFSA does not ask questions about parents’ immigration status. This means that if your parent or spouse is undocumented, they will not be asked to disclose that information as part of the FAFSA.
2. [Federal law](#) prohibits the use of data collected through the FAFSA for anything other than calculating federal and state financial aid.
3. The US Department of Education will not share FAFSA information with anyone except the schools the student indicates they want to attend (so they can use the information to offer financial aid) and a few federal and state government agencies (so they can check to be sure the information is accurate or determine financial aid eligibility). Entities with access to this data are also required to protect the data.

On behalf of the entire UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships team, we understand the importance of financial aid, and we are committed to helping current and future Bruins navigate these challenges.

Sincerely,

Marvin Smith

Marvin Smith
Executive Director
UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships