



## Funding and Financial Aid - Frequently Asked Questions

### What types of funding are available?

Students use a variety of resources to fund their education. Our website has more information about additional funding resources external to the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Visit [sph.unc.edu/students/financial-aid/](https://sph.unc.edu/students/financial-aid/)

- The following are the types of funding offers students may receive:
  - **Schoolwide Donor Funded Awards:** Privately funded awards which are used to recruit and retain students and support educational costs. Award amounts and criteria vary.
    - Students cannot apply directly. They must be nominated by their department or concentration area during the schoolwide awards cycle which begins in **December**. Recipients are notified in **March** via e-mail. Admitted students are asked to accept or decline funding offers no later than the enrollment deposit deadline.
  - **Department Awards, Scholarships and Fellowships:** Merit and financial need-based awards are managed by each department. Some of these awards are donor-funded and have additional criteria specified by the donor(s). Awarding processes and deadlines vary by department.
    - **Schoolwide School Based Tuition (SBT) Public Health Scholarships:** Awards funded out of SBT which are used to recruit and retain students and support educational costs. Only available to DRPH, MPH, MSPH, MHA, and MSEE students. Award amounts and criteria vary. Awards may have a work requirement and cannot be used for student travel. Students cannot apply directly.
  - **Training Grants:** Stipends provided to students as they receive training in a research setting. Award amounts and criteria vary. Application processes and deadlines vary by department.
  - **Assistantships:** Students assist with teaching, research, or other academic work. Positions are paid hourly or through monthly stipends which may include student health insurance, fees, and some tuition coverage. Gillings offers the following assistantships:
    - **Research Assistant (RA):** Students engage in research activities under the supervision of faculty.

- Teaching Assistant (TA): Students teach or co-teach classes and assist with grading under the supervision of faculty.
- Graduate Assistant (GA): Students provide research, program, and administrative support to their department. Students are typically paid hourly and do not receive tuition, fees, or health insurance benefits.

Visit [sph.unc.edu/students/job-postings/](https://sph.unc.edu/students/job-postings/) to view available assistantship opportunities.

### **When will I be notified of funding?**

When incoming students apply to Gillings they are automatically considered for the merit-based funding that we have. Each department has its own process for reviewing and selecting students to receive scholarships and assistantships. The awarding process for newly admitted students begins in **January**, and award recipients are typically notified by your department or MPH concentration around **mid-March**.

### **I did not receive funding from my department, what are my other options?**

If departmental funding becomes available at a later date, your department will notify you. UNC's Graduate School and Office of Scholarships and Student Aid are also great resources for funding and financial aid. We have updated our [Awards and Funding](#) website with additional resources that are available, including a Student Jobsite which will advertise research, graduate, and teaching assistantship positions. [Handshake](#) is another website that is used for employment opportunities. The [Graduate Funding Information Center](#) will advertise available funding throughout the year via their listserv. Be sure to join it for updates if you have not done so already. If you decide to use federal aid, the [FAFSA](#) is available.

### **What is the cost of attendance for Gillings students?**

Visit the Cashier's Office website for the most recent tuition and fee information.  
<https://cashier.unc.edu/tuition-fees/>

### **When will I receive federal or departmental award disbursement?**

Federal and other financial aid awards from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid are disbursed no earlier than 7-10 business days prior to the first day of class due to federal regulation. Departmental awards take additional processing time, especially at the beginning of the semester, in general these awards disburse around 30 business days prior to the first day of class. If compensation is paid via stipend, the Payroll Office has a separate payment timeline. Students expecting financial aid, departmental funding or other third-party support may request deferment of their term bill that is due prior to the start of each term.

<https://cashier.unc.edu/payment-options/financial-aid/>

Students with an emergency need at the beginning of a semester while waiting for federal or departmental aid to disburse may apply for an emergency loan from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. Examples of expenses covered can be found on their website along with the application.

<https://studentaid.unc.edu/special-circumstances/emergency-loans/>

### **When will I receive a refund for departmental and/or federal aid?**

Scholarships are typically applied to your student account by your department and/or the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. If other funding/aid has covered the current charges on the account, a refund should be generated. It can take up to 5-7 business days for award refunds to be generated after they are entered by the department, especially at the beginning of the semester. If compensation will be paid via stipend, the Payroll Office has a separate payment timeline. Students expecting financial aid, departmental funding or other third-party support may request deferment of their term bill that is due prior to the start of each term.

<https://cashier.unc.edu/payment-options/financial-aid/>

### **Is funding available for international students?**

Funding is limited for international students. However, you may qualify for departmental funds or private scholarships and loans. Visit our [Awards and Funding](#) website and the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid's website for [international students](#) for additional resources.

### **How do I obtain in-state residency?**

The UNC Registrar's Office and NC Residency Determination Service (RDS) would be best able to advise you on how to receive North Carolina Residency for tuition purposes. Links to their websites are included below, along with a link to the Graduate School's residency information. You will qualify for in-state tuition once you are classified as a resident by RDS.

<https://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/>

<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/home>

<https://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>

### **Are online students eligible for funding?**

Yes. Incoming MPH@UNC students that receive fellowship offers will be notified by their MPH@UNC admissions counselor. Fellowships are merit based and awarded at the time of admission or soon after. Please contact your admissions counselor if you have additional questions about the fellowship process. Current students in MPH@UNC and other online

programs will be notified by their department if they are selected to receive additional schoolwide or departmental funds.

### **Are dissertation awards available?**

We do not have a schoolwide dissertation award that students can apply for directly. A few departments have funding for dissertation awards that they manage and select students for, however, the selection process and timeline varies for each department.

### **What are the typical award amounts?**

Award amounts vary each year based on available department funding, funds received from donors, and other factors. Many students combine funding from a variety of sources including Gillings, UNC Graduate School, UNC Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, assistantships, employer contributions, etc. to fund their education.

### **Is summer aid available?**

Summer aid is available through the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. If your FAFSA is completed by **mid-May**, you will automatically be considered for summer aid. The summer is considered a part of the prior academic year, so you will need to complete an earlier FAFSA to be considered. Visit the university's [financial aid website](#) for more information.

### **What emergency resources are available for students?**

Visit the following links for emergency resources:

The Carolina Cupboard

<http://carolinacupboard.web.unc.edu/visit-the-pantry/resources/>

Gillings Funding and Financial Aid

<https://sph.unc.edu/students/financial-aid/>

Office of Scholarships and Student Aid

<https://studentaid.unc.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

<https://caps.unc.edu/>

Dean of Students Office

<https://odos.unc.edu/>

### **Are application fee waivers available?**

Application fee waivers are available through UNC's Graduate School. Please visit the link below for more information about the requirements.

<https://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/feewaiver.html>

### **I am a military affiliated student, where can I find information on VA Benefit Payments?**

Please visit the following link for more information on the process for VA Benefit Payments. If you still have questions after reviewing the information, contact the GI Bill Services Official in the Office of the University Registrar.

<https://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/veteran-affairs/>

### **How do I qualify for tuition remission and other benefits?**

Visit the Graduate School's website for more information on the eligibility requirements for tuition and fee coverage.

<https://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/stipends/>

### **I did not complete my FAFSA before the priority deadline. Will I still be considered for aid?**

Yes, you will still be considered for aid while the FAFSA is open.

### **I submitted my admissions application after December, will I still be considered for aid?**

You must apply before **mid-December** to be considered for certain Graduate School merit awards; however, it is still possible to receive other schoolwide and departmental awards.