

Middle Class Scholarship
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What is the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)?

A. The Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) helps make college more affordable for California students and their families who meet income, asset and enrollment requirements. For 2026-27 the income and asset maximums can be as high as \$250,000 per category. To learn more about eligibility and how the award is calculated, visit the income and asset page [California Student Aid Commission \(CSAC\)](#).

Q: Why was I billed for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) after it was already disbursed?

A: MCS eligibility is based on several factors, including your cost of attendance, other financial aid you receive (like grants or scholarships), and your expected family contribution (based on income). If any of these factors change after your MCS is awarded—for example, if you receive an additional scholarship—your MCS amount may be reduced or canceled.

In some cases, this adjustment can result in a bill. While we do our best to coordinate your financial aid to avoid this, changes in your overall aid package may still lead to a balance owed.

Q: When will I know if I am eligible for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)?

A: If you are eligible for the MCS, you will receive an official notification via email from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). To monitor your award status, we recommend creating an account at [MyGrantinfo.csac.ca.gov](https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov).

UC San Diego will verify MCS awards between August and October. Once verified, MCS funds will be disbursed beginning late in the Fall 2026 term. These funds will first be applied to any outstanding charges on your student account. If your scholarship amount exceeds your outstanding balance, the remaining funds will be refunded to you. To receive your refund promptly, please ensure you are enrolled in Direct Deposit.

You can view your complete financial aid package at any time through your [Financial Aid Student portal](#).

If you are determined ineligible for the MCS award, CSAC will notify you directly. In that case, you will remain responsible for covering any remaining charges for the 2026–27 academic year, either out-of-pocket or through other financial aid options such as student loans.

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Q: Why isn't the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) showing in my Financial Aid Student portal even though WebGrants and CSAC say I was awarded?

A: The information you see on WebGrants and the CSAC site reflects your initial, estimated eligibility based on early data. However, UC San Diego finalizes MCS awards after the university census date (usually during the second week of the quarter), once your enrollment and other eligibility factors are confirmed.

CSAC requires us to review your record again to make sure you still qualify. This includes checking your enrollment status, other grants or scholarships you've received, and any changes that could affect your award.

Please note: MCS amounts can change throughout the year, even after they've been disbursed, depending on updates to your eligibility.

Q: My Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) has been awarded, but it hasn't been disbursed. What should I do?

A: If your MCS award is on hold, please allow 2–3 weeks for our office to review your file, make any necessary adjustments, and process the disbursement.

If you don't see any updates or changes after 4 weeks from the date the hold was placed, we recommend contacting our office for further assistance.

Q: I was eligible for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS), but it was canceled. Can I appeal to have it reinstated?

A: You may be able to submit an appeal if you or your family are experiencing extenuating circumstances, such as a loss or reduction of income (after the 2023 tax year) or unexpected living expenses. In that case, you can file a [Student Aid Index \(SAI\) Appeal or a Cost of Attendance \(COA\) Appeal](#).

Please keep in mind: Submitting an appeal does not guarantee that your MCS will be reinstated. Other factors may still affect your eligibility.

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Q: I was considered ineligible for the Middle Class Scholarship due to submitting my FAFSA or CADAA after the March 2nd 2026 priority deadline. Can I appeal ?

A: Yes, you may [contact the California Student Aid Commission \(CSAC\)](#) office for instructions on how to appeal for the MCS award. Once approved, CSAC will notify our office and we will award it within 2-3 weeks. For 2026-27, CSAC extended the deadline to March 3rd for FAFSA applicants.