

FINANCIAL AID

General Information

Mills College offers a comprehensive financial aid program of scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment to achieve several goals: to assist excellent scholars who could not otherwise afford to attend Mills, to enhance the existing cultural and economic diversity of the College, and to increase the opportunities for higher education available to low-income students.

For the 2020-2021 academic year the College awarded over \$8.5 million in scholarships from its own funds. In addition, many students also receive assistance from federal and state aid programs, civic groups, private foundations, and other charitable organizations. While most grants and scholarships are awarded based on demonstrated financial need, others are based solely on academic achievement, ability, and promise. From all sources, our undergraduate students received more than \$14.8 million in aid in 2020-2021. Other student or parent loan programs are also available to assist students in meeting educational expenses.

A financial aid award offer lets students know their total aid eligibility. It may include funds like scholarships, grants, loans, and/or work study. After a student receives their financial aid offer, they will be able to determine any out-of-pocket expenses.

The Financial Aid Office makes decisions about financial aid packages each spring for first-year and transfer applicants who are admitted for the upcoming fall semester. Financial aid decisions for spring semester applicants are made later in the year. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/>) or the California Dream Act (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>) from continuing undergraduates is reviewed once spring grades have been submitted to ensure that students have met the financial aid satisfactory academic progress (<https://inside.mills.edu/financial-aid-accounts-records/financial-aid/undergraduate/understanding-aid-award/satisfactory-academic-progress.php#undergrad-sap-policy>) standards. Appeals of financial aid decisions can be made to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee in the Financial Aid Office in Carnegie Hall.

How to Apply for Need-Based Financial Aid

To be considered for all financial aid programs administered by Mills, including institutional scholarships, students must file the applicable forms listed by the deadlines shown.

These forms may be obtained from high schools and colleges, online, or directly from the Financial Aid Office.

Aid Application Forms and Deadlines

Fall Applicants

Type of Applicant	Application Form	Apply By
First-Year	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) ¹	Feb. 15
	CA Dream Act Application (AB540 students) (https://dream.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2

Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (CA residents only) (<http://www.csac.ca.gov/>) Mar. 2

Transfer	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) ¹	Mar. 2
	Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (CA residents only who do not currently have a Cal Grant) Note: Submit form to most recently attended college, not to Mills. (http://www.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2

¹ The Federal School Code for Mills College is 001238.

Spring Applicants

Type of Applicant	Application Form	Apply By
First-Year	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) ¹	Nov. 1 (CA residents applying for a Cal Grant must file FAFSA by Mar. 2)
	CA Dream Act Application (AB540 students) (https://dream.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2 of the year preceding spring term
	Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (CA residents only) (http://www.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2 of the year preceding spring term
Transfer	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) ¹	Nov. 1 (CA residents applying for a Cal Grant must file FAFSA by Mar. 2)
	Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (CA residents only who do not currently have a Cal Grant) Note: Submit form to most recently attended college, not to Mills. (http://www.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2 of the year preceding spring term

¹ The Federal School Code for Mills College is 001238.

Continuing and Returning Students

Forms Required	When to Apply
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (https://fafsa.ed.gov/)	Mar. 2
CA Dream Act Application (AB540 students) (https://dream.csac.ca.gov/)	Mar. 2

Cal Grant GPA Verification Form Mar. 2
(CA residents only) (<http://www.csac.ca.gov/>)

Online Verification Form¹ and IRS May 15
Tax Return Transcript(s)²

¹ Verification Worksheet (<https://inside.mills.edu/financial-aid-accounts-records/financial-aid/undergraduate/financial-aid-forms.php>)

² IRS Tax Return Transcript(s) (<https://www.irs.gov/>)

Students selected for verification after filing the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application must complete a verification form online via the Student Verification Site (<https://mills.verifymyfafsa.com>) and may need to submit supporting documents. See instructions here (<https://inside.mills.edu/financial-aid-accounts-records/financial-aid/docs/Online-Verification-Instructions.pdf>).

In most instances, students selected for verification must also submit IRS Tax Return Transcripts for the student and/or parent(s) unless the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA is used to transfer tax data from the IRS to the FAFSA after federal tax returns have been filed. Copies of federal tax returns do not meet this federal government documentation requirement.

Dependent students selected for verification must submit IRS Tax Return Transcripts for the student and parent(s).

Independent students selected for verification must submit IRS Tax Return Transcripts for the student (and spouse, if applicable).

Application forms and deadlines (subject to annual change) for continuing undergraduates may be obtained online or directly from the Financial Aid Office each January for aid consideration for the next academic year.

Merit-Based Mills Scholarships for Entering Students

Scholarship Eligibility & Requirements

Financial aid based solely on merit is awarded upon entrance to Mills. Awards are renewed on the basis of satisfactory academic progress and, in the case of some scholarships, contingent on continued studies in music or science. There is no requirement to file a FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application for renewal of merit-based financial aid. Scholarship aid is applied to College fees in two equal installments—one-half at the beginning of each semester.

Full-time enrollment (12-18 units) is required each semester to receive these awards. For new first-year students, merit scholarships provide up to 8 semesters of tuition assistance. For transfer students, these funds are available for up to 6 semesters for tuition assistance. Awards are not available for summer enrollment or enrollment in study abroad programs. The College reserves the right to remove or adjust financial aid at any time if the recipient's personal or academic record is unsatisfactory, if financial resources change, or if they fail to complete all requirements for disbursement of aid in a timely manner.

Financial aid recipients who withdraw for any reason are subject to the College's Tuition and Fees Adjustment Policy (<https://>

catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/college-expenses/) and Return of Federal, State, and Institutional Financial Aid Policy.

Presidential, Provost, Faculty, and Eucalyptus Scholarships

These scholarship programs recognize entering fall-term first-year students who have demonstrated scholastic achievement. These scholarships are awarded up to \$14,000 each to contribute toward tuition charges of full-time first-year students. These awards, based on merit, are renewable annually as long as the recipient maintains full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic progress for financial aid.

Eligibility is limited to a maximum of eight semesters. To qualify for consideration, a student must apply for admission by February 1. There are no special applications for these scholarships.

A California resident who is also awarded a Cal Grant may have a portion of her merit scholarship reduced to remain in compliance with government student aid regulations.

Janet L. Holmgren Presidential Scholarships

The Janet L. Holmgren Presidential Scholarship recognizes undergraduate and graduate students selected for academic merit and promise as leaders, while honoring President Emerita Janet L. Holmgren's 20 years of leadership of Mills College. Five awards are made each year to entering first-year, transfer, and graduate students, with the awards ranging from \$1,000–\$10,000 each (\$1,000–\$5,000 per semester), depending on financial need. These scholarships are renewable annually based on availability of funding and as long as the recipient has documented financial need, maintains full-time enrollment, and continues to satisfy the financial aid academic progress standards. Students must submit a FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) or California Dream Act Application (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>) to be considered for this scholarship.

A California resident who is also awarded a Cal Grant may have a portion of her merit scholarship reduced to remain in compliance with government student aid regulations.

Osher Reentry Scholarships

The Osher Reentry Scholarship Program recognizes entering undergraduate students who have experienced a cumulative gap in their education of five or more years and therefore face the unique challenges that come with pursuing a degree at an age older than traditional undergraduates. Students must have demonstrated financial need and academic promise, be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree, anticipate workforce participation for a significant period of time after graduation, and show a commitment to obtaining their degree. Awards of up to \$6,000 (up to \$3,000 per semester) are awarded to select entering students each year to contribute toward full- or part-time tuition charges. These scholarships are renewable annually as long as the recipient has documented financial need, maintains full- or part-time enrollment, and continues to meet the financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards. For transfer students, the number of semesters of eligibility is established by the initial graduation date defined by the Financial Aid Office upon entrance to Mills. Students must submit a FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) or California Dream Act Application (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>) to be considered for this scholarship.

A California resident who is also awarded a Cal Grant may have a portion of the institutional scholarship reduced to remain in compliance with government student aid regulations.

Crankstart Reentry Scholarship

The Crankstart Reentry Scholarship Program recognizes entering undergraduate students who have experienced a cumulative gap in their education of five or more years and therefore face the unique challenges that come with pursuing a degree at an age older than traditional undergraduates. Students must have demonstrated financial need and academic promise, be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree, anticipate workforce participation for a significant period of time after graduation, and show a commitment to obtaining their degree. Awards of up to \$5,000 (up to \$2,500 per semester) are awarded to select entering students each year to contribute toward full- or part-time tuition charges. These scholarships are renewable annually as long as the recipient has documented financial need, maintains full- or part-time enrollment, and continues to meet the financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards. For transfer students, the number of semesters of eligibility is established by the initial graduation date defined by the Financial Aid Office upon entrance to Mills. Students must submit a FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) or California Dream Act Application (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>) to be considered for this scholarship.

A California resident who is also awarded a Cal Grant may have a portion of the institutional scholarship reduced to remain in compliance with government student aid regulations.

Science Awards

Arthur Vining Davis Science Scholarships

These scholarships recognize entering students who have demonstrated strong ability and interest in science, mathematics, and/or computer science. Up to two scholarships of up to \$10,000 (up to \$5,000 per semester) are awarded to contribute toward the tuition charges of full-time students entering in the fall semester. This award, based on merit, is renewable annually, providing the student continues her study in science, mathematics, and/or computer science; maintains full-time enrollment; and continues to satisfy the financial aid academic progress standards. The number of semesters of eligibility for entering first-year students is limited to eight semesters, while eligibility for transfer students is established by the initial graduation date defined by the Financial Aid Office upon entrance to Mills. To qualify for consideration for the Arthur Vining Davis Science Scholarship, a student must apply and submit all required credentials by February 1. There is no special application for this scholarship.

Scheffler Pre-Medical Science Scholarships

The Scheffler Pre-Medical Science Scholarship Program recognizes entering students based on academic achievement and demonstrated interest in pre-medical science. Up to five Scheffler Scholarships of up to \$5,000 each (up to \$2,500 per semester) are awarded to contribute toward the tuition charges of full-time students entering in the fall semester. This award, based on merit, is renewable annually, providing the student continues her study in pre-medical science, maintains full-time enrollment, and continues to meet the financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards. The number of semesters of eligibility for entering first-year students is limited to eight semesters, while eligibility for transfer students is established by the initial graduation date defined by the Financial Aid Office upon entrance to Mills. To qualify for consideration for the Scheffler Scholarship, a student must apply and submit all required credentials by February 1 and indicate

her pre-medical interest on her admission application. There is no special application for this scholarship.

Vera M. Long Scholarship for Women in Science

The Vera M. Long Scholarship recognizes entering or continuing undergraduate women studying or majoring in chemistry, environmental science, or biochemistry/molecular biology who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement. Students selected for this award must also have demonstrated leadership and collaboration abilities and/or have made meaningful contributions to their previous educational institutions or community. A number of scholarships are awarded to contribute toward the tuition charges of full-time students. This award, based on merit and need, is renewable annually, providing the student continues her study in chemistry, environmental science, or biochemistry/molecular biology; maintains full-time enrollment; and continues to meet the financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards.

This scholarship honors the memory of Vera M. Long, a Mills alumna from the Class of 1935 and beloved Lifetime Trustee of the College, who cared deeply about the education of women at Mills.

International Students

Financial aid for international students is available only in the form of a Mills College merit-based scholarship. The scholarship awards are based on academic performance in school, school examination results, and the results of standardized tests. Unfortunately, these scholarships do not meet the total cost of tuition, fees, books, and living expenses. International students are expected to meet these costs with their own funds. There is no separate application form for scholarships. All students who submit admission applications and all required credentials by the published deadlines are considered for scholarships.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, we estimate the international student educational and living expenses to be \$45,917. To indicate the amount of funds available, students should submit the Certification of Finances form (https://www.mills.edu/admission-aid/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply/docs/international_supplement_application.pdf), available on the Mills College website, and bank statement(s) with the application for admission.