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## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

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- Create an FSA ID from the United States Department of Education at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
- Complete the **2020-2021** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](http://www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) include **USC Aiken school code: 003449**
- Check your USC Aiken email account for notification (7-10 business days after submitting the FAFSA) stating USC Aiken has received your FAFSA.
- Log into your **Self Service Carolina (SSC)** account to view your financial aid award status and any outstanding **Requirements**.

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## VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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**Self Service Carolina will list Verification Requirements. All requirements must be satisfied before awarding will occur.**

- Complete the required Verification Document listed in SSC.
  1. Do not leave any questions unanswered or blank.
  2. Make sure all required signatures are complete.
  3. Submit to the Office of Financial Aid along with any required tax documents either in person, by fax at 803-643-6840, or by U.S. Mail to the address on the form. For your personal protection, do not send by email.
- For tax return transcript, you have three options:
  - A. Request the tax return transcript at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov):
    1. On the homepage, click **Get Your Tax Record**
    2. Click **Get Transcript Online** (recommended) or **Get Transcript by Mail** (fill out 4506-T form)
    3. Follow the instructions to order a **Tax Return Transcript** for 2018
  - B. Request the tax return transcript by telephone:
    1. Available from the IRS by calling **1-800-908-9946**
    2. Follow the prompts to request an **IRS Tax Return Transcript** for 2018
  - C. Complete the IRS Data Retrieval in the FAFSA:
    1. Log into your account at [www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](http://www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa)
    2. Select **Make FAFSA Corrections**
    3. Click **Next**, then the **Financial Information** tab at the top of the application page
    4. From there you should read carefully until you see the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** option to transfer 2018 tax information.

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## APPLYING FOR EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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- Some great resources for students include the following: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.scholarshipmonkey.com/](http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com/), [www.collegeboard.org/](http://www.collegeboard.org/), and [www.scholarships.com/](http://www.scholarships.com/). You can apply for scholarships throughout the academic year as deadlines range the entire year.

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## ACCEPTING YOUR FINANCIAL AID

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Once USC Aiken has received your FAFSA and all verification requirements have been completely satisfied, the Financial Aid Counselors will package your financial aid.

- View your award package:
  1. Log into your **Self Service Carolina** account at: <https://ssb.onecarolina.sc.edu/>
  2. Select the **Financial Aid** tab
  3. Select **Award**, then **Award for Aid Year**
  4. From the "Select Campus" dropdown, select USC Aiken and click Continue
  5. From the "Select Aid Year" dropdown, select USC Aiken 2020-2021 and click Continue
  6. Select the **Award Overview** tab to view your awards
  
- Accept a **Federal Direct Loan**
  1. Log into your **Self Service Carolina** account at: <https://ssb.onecarolina.sc.edu/>
  2. You can accept a partial amount, accept the full amount, or decline the loan offer.
  3. Once you have accepted your loans, you must complete your **Master Promissory Note (MPN)** and your **Entrance Counseling**. Use your FAFSA log-in information to complete these loan requirements on <https://studentaid.gov/>
  4. When you have completed your **MPN** and your **Entrance Counseling**, allow 24-48 hours for the system to update your account. Loans will not disburse until the week before classes begin.
  
- For **Fee Authorization** navigation:
  1. Log into your **Self Service Carolina** account at: <https://ssb.onecarolina.sc.edu/>
  2. Select the **Financial Aid** tab
  3. Select **Award**, then **Award for Aid Year**
  4. From the "Select Campus" dropdown, select USC Aiken and click Continue
  5. From the "Select Aid Year" dropdown, select USC Aiken 2020-2021 and click Continue
  6. Click on the **Resources/Additional Info** tab, and then choose Agree/Disagree

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## SC STATE SCHOLARSHIP (HOPE, LIFE, PALMETTO FELLOWS) OR SC NEED-BASED GRANT

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- Sign **State Scholarship/Grant Certification**:
  1. Log into your **Self Service Carolina** account at: <https://ssb.onecarolina.sc.edu/>
  2. Select the **Financial Aid** tab
  3. Select **Award**, then **Award for Aid Year**
  4. From the "Select Campus" dropdown, select USC Aiken and click Continue
  5. From the "Select Aid Year" dropdown, select USC Aiken 2020-2021 and click Continue
  6. Select the **Terms and Conditions** tab, then Agree/Disagree
  7. Select the **Accept Award Offer** tab, then accept the award
  
- Complete your **SC Residency**:
  1. Log into your **Self Service Carolina** account at: <https://ssb.onecarolina.sc.edu/>
  2. Select the **Admissions** tab, then **South Carolina Residency Certification**
  3. Complete the residency certification for the correct term