

# Overawards

An overaward (OA) is when:

1. A student's total need-based awards\* exceed their calculated Financial Need, as determined by the FAFSA using a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This is called a Need-Based Overaward, OR
2. A student's total awards exceed their estimated Cost of Attendance (COA). This is called a COA Overaward.

Students could have one or both types of overawards.

\*Need-based awards include all free money that does not need to be paid back.

## Overaward Policy

Per Federal Regulations, the University of Arizona is required to resolve all OAs before additional financial aid can be released. OAs are resolved by reducing and/or canceling financial aid offered. Undisbursed loans will be reduced before any reduction is made to other awards. You may be asked to submit a [COA Appeal Form](#) to assist in resolving your OA.

OAs typically occur when the Financial Aid Office is not aware of financial assistance a student is receiving at the time of awarding their aid package. Students are responsible for notifying the COM-Tucson Financial Aid Office as soon as they are aware of additional aid they will receive.

OAs can also occur as a result of verification being completed or other changes being made to a student's FAFSA and/or account status (i.e. Residency, Housing). You should complete all necessary To Do items as soon as possible to prevent changes from having to be made to your aid package.

## Overaward Examples

Examples of Overawards	
<b>EXAMPLE 1: NEED-BASED OA</b>	
Estimated Cost Of Attendance (COA)	\$26,500
-Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)	-\$1,500
<b>Eligibility for Need-Based Aid</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
-Need Based Aid	-\$26,000
<b>=Need-Based OA</b>	<b>-\$1,000</b>

*This student has a Need-Based OA because their need-based aid is greater than their eligibility for need-based aid as calculated above. To resolve this OA, need-based aid may need to be reduced or canceled.*

**EXAMPLE 2: COA OA**

Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)	\$26,500
-Total Aid	-\$28,000
<b>=COA OA</b>	<b>-\$1,500</b>

*This student has a COA OA because their total aid is greater than their COA. To resolve this OA, aid may be reduced or canceled.*

**EXAMPLE 3: NEED-BASED OA AND COA OA**

Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)	\$26,500
-Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)	-\$2,000
<b>Eligibility for Need-Based Aid</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>
-Need Based Aid	-\$25,000
<b>=Need-Based OA</b>	<b>-\$500</b>
Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)	\$26,500
-Total Aid	-\$28,000
<b>=COA OA</b>	<b>-\$1,500</b>

*This student has both a Need-Based OA and a COA OA because their need-based aid is greater than their eligibility for need-based aid as calculated above and their total aid is greater than their COA. To resolve this OA, aid may need to be reduced or canceled.*

## Overawards – Important Terms

**EFC:** The **EFC** is an index number that is used to determine how much need-based financial aid a student is eligible to receive. The information reported on the FAFSA is used to calculate the EFC.

**COA:** The **estimated COA** represents the average expenses paid by Arizona students in various student circumstances. Total financial aid cannot exceed the estimated COA.

**Need-Based Financial Aid:** Any "free money" and/or aid that takes a student's EFC into consideration. Examples include grants, Federal Work Study, Federal Direct Subsidized Loans and certain departmental stipends.

**Non-Need-Based Financial Aid:** Aid that does not take a student's EFC into consideration and typically requires repayment. Examples include Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, Federal PLUS Loan and the Teacher Education Access for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant.