

FINANCIAL AID FOR DEN STUDENTS

General Information

- Students may enroll at the university in a degree-granting program, a graduate certificate program, or as limited status. Limited status means the student has not been admitted to either a degree or graduate certificate program at USC, but has been allowed to enroll.
- To receive financial aid, students must be admitted to a degree-granting program or an eligible graduate certificate program.
 - Students enrolled as limited status are not generally eligible for financial aid because they are not admitted to an eligible program.
 - Exception: Students admitted to a eligible program at another school who are taking classes at USC that will transfer to their home school will appear on SIS as limited status students, but are eligible for federal financial aid if the student has an approved Financial Aid Consortium Agreement.
- To receive financial aid, students must also be enrolled at least half-time, as determined by the University Registrar.
 - Although an academic department may consider a student “half-time” or “full-time” with fewer units, for federal aid purposes we are required to observe the University Registrar’s definition of half-time status. For master’s students, this is 4 units. For doctoral students, it’s 3 units. There are some exceptions, as defined on the attached Exception Criteria List from the Registrar.

DEN Program

Some DEN students are admitted to a master’s program, so they meet the requirement of being in an eligible program. They are eligible for financial aid as long as they enroll at least half-time as defined by the University Registrar.

Other DEN students are not yet admitted to a master’s program and choose to enroll as limited status students to get a jumpstart on their degree. They are not eligible for federal aid, even if they enroll half-time. For many DEN students this is not an issue, because they receive employer support. For those who need to borrow, their only option is a private loan, but their options may be limited as some private loan programs require students to be admitted to degree or graduate certificate program, and some require half-time enrollment as well.