

6 Steps to Appeal your Financial Aid



Has your family's financial situation changed since filled out your financial aid forms?

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unprecedented strain on the economy and has resulted in loss of income for families across the country. Your current financial situation may be different from what was listed on the financial aid forms you filled out just a few months ago. **If you and your family's financial situation has changed, you should consider appealing, which will allow the college to consider your current financial circumstances when determining your financial aid offer.** uAspire recommends the 6 steps listed below.

1. Talk to your parents. Learn more about your family's finances (e.g. income, college savings) to see if there have been any changes. If it has changed, you may have a case for appealing.

? Have my family's financial circumstances changed?

2. Contact your college(s) financial aid office. You will need to explain the financial changes your family has experienced. Identify what has changed and explain that you would like to know more about the appeals process. Make note of the appeals process as it can be different at each college. *Check out the college website to figure out the best way to contact the financial aid office.*

? What does the college need from me to consider my appeal?

3. Gather supporting information. You will need to gather financial documents and other materials that will support your case for an appeal. The list of documents needed may vary based on the financial changes your family has experienced, but could include a letter explaining what has changed, W-2's, layoff notices, unemployment documents, etc. You should send the college copies or photos of all documentation. Hold on to the originals for your own records.

For help crafting a letter check out this free resource: <https://formswift.com/swift-student>

? What materials do I need to gather?

4. Submit your appeal. Depending on the college, the submission process could be via email, college portal, or regular mail. When submitting, follow up and ask if they can give you an expected timeline to hear back about their decision.

? When will I hear back about the status of my appeal?

5. Read your email. Keep an eye out for communication from the college in case they need further documentation, have additional questions, or have made a decision. If you don't hear from the college within the time you expected you should follow-up.

? Have I heard from the college yet and do they need any additional info?

6. Stop and review your financial aid offer. Whether your appeal was approved or not, you should review your aid offer to see if you can afford the college bill. Do not make any college decision without knowing the cost. If this college is still too expensive, you may need explore other college options.

? Can you afford this college?