

USC

UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Financial Aid Expands!

We've rethought our financial aid – top to bottom. As a result, we expect more middle class students will qualify for need based aid, which should be welcome news to many.

These scholarships merit a look!

USC offers 17 different merit scholarships for your students. Visit www.usc.edu/admission/fa/sgl

Mark your calendars for our two big days

December 10

Applications due for merit award consideration; supplemental applications due for most talent-based schools

January 10

Regular admissions applications deadline

Counselor News

Quarterly Updates for Guidance Counselors

Winter 2007



Focus on Financial Aid

A conversation with Susan G. Ikerd, new Director of Financial Aid

Financial aid has recently received a good deal of attention from governmental organizations and in the national press. This scrutiny relates to issues regarding student lending practices as well as a general crisis of confidence in the financial aid process. This past summer, USC appointed Susan Ikerd as its new Associate Dean and Director of Financial Aid. Having previously served as Director of Graduate Admission at USC, Ms. Ikerd brings to her new position a solid understanding of the university and its approach to awarding financial aid packages. With 20 years of experience in higher education management, Ms. Ikerd shares USC's commitment toward helping students and their families understand the financial aid process. Recently, CQ sat down with Ms. Ikerd to discuss the specifics of how and to whom financial aid is awarded at USC.

Will a student's chances of being admitted to USC be affected by applying for financial aid?

USC is completely need-blind. This means that a student's ability to pay has no bearing on the admission decision.

Please explain the difference between need-based and merit-based aid.

Need-based assistance is based on an evaluation of the family's ability to contribute from its own income and assets. Merit aid is awarded without regard to financial need, on the basis of academic excellence, demonstrated talent in creative or performing arts, or athletics. At USC, such awards are renewable annually for up to eight semesters based on academic performance.

Is it possible to receive a combined need-based and merit-based package?

Yes! Although 20% of our incoming students this year received a merit award, over 60% of all undergraduates receive a need-based financial aid award, and many of these students have a merit component to the award.

Are applicants required to complete special forms to be considered for merit-based aid at USC?

Students are considered for scholarship support as part of the admission application process. Academic departments may have additional criteria for awarding scholarships, such as an audition or the review of a portfolio, and may require a supplemental application. Students should meet the December 10th admission application deadline to be considered for merit awards.

What kinds of jobs are available for work-study?

On-campus jobs range from working in a research lab to computer assistant to lifeguarding! USC also has a strong commitment to community service, and over 100 students are employed as reading and math tutors in neighborhood schools. These are all funded through work-study.

What can students expect to earn in a campus-based work-study job?

Students can earn up to the amount of their work-study award, which usually ranges from \$2500 to \$3500 for the academic year. Hourly rates vary according to the level of skill required by the position, with a base rate equal to the federal minimum wage. Don't forget – there are campus jobs available for other students who want to earn money even if they don't qualify for work-study.

What forms are required for need-based financial aid at USC?

USC requires that students complete both the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the CSS Profile. Both forms can be completed online, and we encourage students to complete

continued on next page

“It is a myth that USC is an elitist institution. We admit more low income students than any private research institution in the nation. It’s obvious to students who visit that there are others here with backgrounds and life experiences similar to theirs.”

– Katharine Harrington,
Dean of Admission
and Financial Aid

Some Guiding Principles of USC Financial Aid

- **USC is committed to providing the most aid to those least able to afford a USC education.**
- **If a student is offered a place in the class, we will work with him or her to assist in financing 100% of the cost of education at USC.**
- **We strive to have USC students graduate with loan balances at or below the national average.**
- **In addition to need-based aid, we are also dedicated to providing a wide range of merit scholarships.**

Conversation with Susan Ikerd, continued from page 1

these forms as soon as possible after January 1st of their senior year in high school. USC also verifies 100% of all financial aid applications, so we require tax returns from all families.

Some parents are uncomfortable about providing their tax forms. Who has access to this information?

We respect the confidentiality and trust families place in us. Only members of the financial aid staff have access to documents that a family provides, to verify the student’s income information. Personal information we may receive for students who are not admitted is shredded after the application review cycle, and all other documents are secured while a student is enrolled, according to federal regulations.

If a student lives far away from Los Angeles, is there any allowance made for the cost of travel when financial aid is awarded?

Yes, we include travel, along with tuition, fees, room and board, allowances for books and supplies, and personal expenses when we calculate the student’s expense budget.

What kinds of low-interest loans are available to students and parents?

A typical financial aid package will include a work-study award, a loan recommendation, and a university grant and/or scholarship. All students are eligible for an unsubsidized Stafford loan, which currently has a fixed interest rate of 6.8% (this rate will actually be reduced by half over the next three years). Students with financial need may also qualify for the subsidized Stafford loan, which has the additional benefit of deferred interest during the time the student is enrolled at USC, and the Perkins loan, which is another low interest loan with an interest deferment option. All of these loans are backed by the federal government and offered by a number of lenders.

What does USC do to ensure that students are getting the best deal on loans? Are there multiple lenders available?

Students and families have the option of selecting any lender, and USC does not recommend lenders. However, as a service to students and families, we have evaluated all lenders our students have used over the last five years. Using an independent third party, we have identified the lenders that offer the best options to USC students and families, in terms of benefits and repayment. The top lenders are listed on the USC website, in alphabetical order, and the list is updated annually based on a rolling five year performance.

Some students are concerned that the level of financial assistance they receive for their freshman year may not continue in subsequent years. What factors influence whether aid continues at the same level, is raised, or reduced?

We understand that families need to plan for a four-year commitment and so we strive to maintain consistency in the level of financial assistance offered from year to year. Returning students need to file the FAFSA and Profile and meet all financial aid deadlines. If a family’s income and assets remain constant, with the same family size and number in college, and the student meets all application deadlines, he or she can expect to receive a similar award from year to year. We also take changes in financial circumstances into account, such as a parent’s job loss, and encourage families to contact us early so we can reassess the student’s award if necessary.

What happens if an applicant for freshman admission misses the filing deadline for financial aid? Is there anything that high school counselors can do to be sure that this does not happen?

We encourage all freshman applicants to apply for financial aid by early March so they will be able to consider the amount of aid they receive as part of the decision to enroll at USC. Freshmen receive scholarship and need-based awards by early April, well in advance of the May 1st Candidate Reply Date. Upperclassmen are required to meet application deadlines to maintain aid eligibility.

Does USC have any kind of arrangement that allows one to spread out the tuition, room and board payments across the entire school year, one month at a time?

USC offers a payment plan that allows families to pay their fee balance in equal installments over ten months with no interest. The Parent PLUS loan, with a fixed interest rate of 8.5%, is an attractive option for parents who need more flexibility in meeting the family contribution, and it allows repayment over the course of ten years.

A Word From Our Students – *The Convergence of Learning and Earning*

While the schedules of college students seem busier than ever, a surprising number of full time USC students seek out work opportunities, where the rewards go far beyond the financial. We talked with several students to find out what else the experience has added to their education.

Christian Kitamura, Junior from Honolulu, Hawaii, majoring in Biological Sciences with a pre-med emphasis, minoring in dance. **Works 12 hours per week as a Student Intern in the Office of Admission.**

When you come to college and suddenly have more time on hand, it can be hard to get organized. I like to be busy and noticed that as soon as I found a job, I had better time management, and everything fell into place for me. My mother had also advised me to work because it would be a place to hang out on campus, a sanctuary. I have to say it has definitely worked out that way – it has become a second home for me. If I don't want to go home between classes I can hang out there and chat with friends. And being inside the Admission Office has taught me all about the school – I've found out about lots of special programs, scholarship opportunities and other resources that I never would have known otherwise. I have personal relationships with the Dean and the counselors, which I know will be important when I am applying to medical school. I can see that college is just another chapter in your life where you are forced to grow up and be independent. A campus job is a stepping stone that gives you great experience along the way.

Jeff Nobbs, Senior from Encinitas, CA, majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship. **Co-founder of Extrabux.com, works 15-30 hours per week.**

Ever since I can remember, I've been an entrepreneur – doing things like selling customized music CDs in middle school or pre-ordering Harry Potter books and being the first to list and sell them on eBay when I was in high school. When I got to USC, my freshman roommate and I wanted to do something entrepreneurial, so we started exploring ideas. We came up with the concept for our Internet shopping portal business and started putting the website together at the end of Freshman year. When I started taking entrepreneurship classes I discovered that we had basically done it all wrong. So I took classes, learned about doing research, what the principles of marketing are and how to apply them, how to set up the operational side. My professors have been incredibly helpful – they have great connections and have put us in touch with people that we are setting up alliances with. I've also found that, rather than being competitive like other business school students, the entrepreneurship students really want to help each other succeed. Hearing their stories is really motivating, because I want to be able to tell *my* success story. Having started a business has made my education amazing. Before, everything we learned was just an abstract concept, but since starting Extrabux, it's all so applicable. As soon as the professor introduces a concept, I start thinking about how to apply it to my own

situation – which I can usually do that same day. Without a doubt, it's the best way to learn.

Jeanette Acosta, Senior from Pasadena, CA, majoring in Political Science, double minor in Spanish and Psychology. **Works 12-15 hours per week as Chair of the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund Governing Board.**

I got involved with the governing board as a Junior, after I kept encountering Topping Scholars and saw the benefits they were getting. USC always emphasizes service learning, and this position is the epitome of that – I oversee policy changes, manage the “exceptional funding” program, work with the director and with students who are so inspiring. What we do immediately changes lives, and I can't think of anything I'd like to do more. At first my parents were quite hesitant about me taking on this job, since they know I tend to overextend myself. I had to really explain the purpose, and invite them to events so they could see that it really is a serious position, and that we are making a difference. Now they are part of the Topping family. Also, working here, everyone understands that first and foremost we are students, and classes come before anything else. And, while it's great to earn money, that was not the determining factor – it was more that I loved the challenge. As I look to a future in the public-sector and possibly getting a Ph.D. in education or public policy, I know this job has done a lot to prepare me to realize my vision.

Peter Nussbaum, Senior from La Jolla, CA, majoring in Business with emphasis in Entrepreneurship, minor in Communication Design. **Co-founder of a fashion sunglass business.**

My interests are in fashion and apparel, and as a hobby, I started painting crazy designs on sunglasses. After spending my sophomore year abroad in Spain, I came back to LA, got active in the entrepreneur club and decided to turn my sunglasses into a business. I've gotten a lot of inspiration from the club, networking with kids my age, and finding some great resources. I also talk to all my professors in the Marshall School, who help me get in touch with many kinds of people. Our assignments often have us using the Trojan network – for example, I recently went out to lunch with an alumnus who has several apparel companies. Schoolwork comes first, but I find there is a lot of overlap between my studies and my work. I write papers about the sunglass industry, and instead of talking in theory about some case study I read, I am able to directly relate them to my own business problems and get advice from my professors. Also in my design classes, it can be hard to choose a direction for your portfolio. But having my own company has given a focus to my design aesthetic. And the value of being a USC student is huge. When you talk to people in the business community, as soon as you say you are in the Marshall School you get more respect, they open up, listen and help you.

Campus Job Fair – The Fast Track to Opportunity

At USC, career opportunities for students begin, literally, on Day One. Less than 24 hours after students arrive on campus for Move-In Day, the Enrollment Services Human Resource Office hosts the always popular Fall Campus Job Fair. The Fair focuses on providing work-study opportunities, but is open to all students, and even parents who are dropping off their children are welcome to come and enjoy the festive atmosphere. The line up of possibilities reflects the breadth and depth of the University community. **This year's Fair offered over 1200 part-time job openings at 115 different campus departments, plus 23 nonprofit agencies from the local neighborhood, notably, all of the world renowned museums located right across the street.**

Job descriptions range from assisting in breakthrough research to driving the Campus Cruisers that offer students free late night transportation around campus. Students who take advantage of the Job Fair, and the yearlong opportunities posted at the Career Center, find themselves working for employers who know their first priority is their studies, and have a place to go that often becomes a campus home away from home. They learn responsibility, new skills and are sometimes exposed to unexpected career pathways, in addition to building their resumes and putting money in their pockets. It all adds up to a richer college experience, in every sense.

More about USC Financial Aid

Student Power in Action!

A Unique Approach to Financial Aid

In 1970, USC students rose up to protest the lack of diversity on their campus. It was not very different from what was happening on other campuses around the country – with one twist. In an unprecedented response, students opted to put their money where their values were. With the support of President Topping and a matching grant from the Board of Trustees, the student body voted that, from that moment on, everyone enrolled at USC would pay a nominal fee each semester to a student-run scholarship fund. The money would be used to provide financial assistance to students who demonstrated both a high level of community awareness, and strong financial need. **Today, the student contribution stands at \$8 per semester, the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund has grown to more than \$14 million, and more than \$600,000 will be distributed to over a hundred incoming and continuing students next year.** How is the money spent? The board of governors, the majority of whom are current students, awards money for a variety of purposes, from tuition assistance to underwriting student travel to conferences around the world. We think it speaks volumes about the commitment of young people to developing a diverse campus community and their ability to devise creative solutions. Please encourage your students to consider applying for a grant. Deadline for applications is February, 2008. For more information visit www.usc.edu/ntsaf, call (213) 740-7575 or email ntsaf@usc.edu

The Big Picture on College Costs If you are interested in a comprehensive look at the national trends, facts and figures relating to the cost of college, you can read the College Board's just released report on this topic, at www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/news_info/trends/trends_pricing_07.pdf

Getting a Jump Start on those All-Important Financial Aid Forms

No matter where students apply to school, the FAFSA is required for any form of federal aid and we recommend that all families complete it in order to qualify for all possible financial aid. It's best to fill out the FAFSA electronically – it's processed more quickly and there is immediate confirmation that it has been submitted correctly. While the form cannot be submitted before January 1 of the year of application, there are a couple of steps that families can take before then that will take some of the stress out of the process.

First is to get the PIN taken care of in advance, by going to www.fafsa.gov and applying for PINs for both the student and a parent. The PIN makes it possible to sign the form electronically, otherwise the certification page must be printed, signed, and mailed after completing the rest of the form electronically, all of which can take time while stress builds and deadlines are looming.

Secondly, families can print out the FAFSA worksheet from the website. Parents don't have to wait until their income taxes are prepared, but can submit the form using best estimates. The electronic application goes much more quickly with a filled-out worksheet as a guide. There are helpful FAQ sections that cover issues from how to start to how to follow-up the filing. USC's Federal School code is 001328.

Most importantly, like many private universities, USC also requires the CSS/PROFILE form. This requires registering online, which also can be started early. Select "Pay for College" under "For Students" at www.collegeboard.com to reach the Profile online site and download the worksheet. Though this form requires more detail than the FAFSA, it provides us with factors that we use in awarding financial aid beyond what the FAFSA may calculate. USC also has its own Business Supplemental form for families that own their own business. The FAFSA and Profile use different school codes, our CSS Profile School Code is 4852.

We know it seems like a lot of paperwork to contend with, but since USC's financial aid is being expanded to include more middle class families next year, your parents might find it's a great investment!

Counselors Make New Discoveries about USC

It's common wisdom that a campus visit is a key factor in choosing which college to attend. So, on October 5, we were delighted to welcome more than 400 high school counselors to our annual High School Counselor Conference. The first stop was breakfast at our new sports arena, the Galen Center, followed by a full schedule of visits to academic units around campus, seminars on financial aid, athletic recruitment, and what really happens during application review. After lunch, meetings with their recruitment officer, an information fair, and campus tours, we asked many attendees what they had learned. As one counselor remarked, "There really are endless majors!" Here's a sampling of programs counselors told us they discovered for the first time:

- Public policy students attend a semester in Washington DC
- Several departments have "progressive degree" options, where students earn both bachelors and masters degrees in a 5 year program
- The Keck School offers a BS/MD degree, where students are guaranteed acceptance into USC's medical school after earning their bachelor's degree.
- There is an undergraduate program in gerontology – and for grad students, an immersion option to live rent-free at a local retirement home
- Students can get a degree in video games design – and find related work study jobs at USC's Institute of Creative Technologies

We were glad so many counselors chose to spend the day with us, and hope that you can do the same next year.

New free tools for Counselors!

Another thing counselors requested was new information and tools that address their concerns. In response, our Center for Higher Education Policy & Analysis is making available two recent publications:

- *Getting There and Beyond – Building a Culture of College-Going in High Schools*
 - *The College & Financial Aid Guide for AB540 Undocumented Immigrant Students*
- For your free copies, write to dianeflo@usc.edu or visit www.usc.edu/dept/chepa

USC Admission Directory

How to Contact Us You can find the USC admission officer responsible for working with your students by referencing the list below. **These individuals will serve as your primary point of contact with our Office of Admission.** Please note that many new staff members joined our office this year.

U.S.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee	Michael Gulotta, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-2165	gulotta@usc.edu
Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah	Aaron Brown, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1882	aaronbro@usc.edu
Arizona	Bruce Grier, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-6630	bgrier@usc.edu
Connecticut, New York	Kim Cragg, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-5844	kcragg@usc.edu
Delaware, Maryland, North & South Carolina, West Virginia	Angela Whitenhill, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6613	whitehni@usc.edu
Hawaii	Ben Lah, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7449	benjamjl@usc.edu
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North & South Dakota, Ohio, Wisconsin	Risa Tewksbury, <i>Director, Midwest Region</i>	(217) 356-1854	tewksbur@usc.edu
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	Maureen Gelberg, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-8925	gelberg@usc.edu
New Jersey, Pennsylvania	Rakin Hall, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4019	rakin.hall@usc.edu
New Mexico	Chris Tokuhama, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1127	tokuhama@usc.edu
Oklahoma, Texas	Shannon McHugh, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1704	slmchugh@usc.edu
Oregon, Washington, Wyoming	Stefanie Potts, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-0865	admitusc@usc.edu
Virginia, Washington D.C.	Gary Clark, <i>Senior Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4926	gary.clark@usc.edu

California

Far Northern California, Valley of the Moon	Stefanie Potts, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-0865	admitusc@usc.edu
Marin County	Mark Rasic, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-3040	rasic@usc.edu
Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Sacramento County, San Francisco	Alejandra Bonilla, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4752	ambonill@usc.edu
San Mateo County, Santa Clara County	Joe Beltran, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6611	jbeltran@usc.edu
Central Coast	Mark Rasic, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-3040	rasic@usc.edu
Santa Barbara & West Ventura County	Becky Chassin, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 821-1128	chassin@usc.edu
Central Valley	Aaron Brown, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1882	aaronbro@usc.edu
San Fernando Valley (East)	Michael Gulotta, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-2165	gulotta@usc.edu
San Fernando Valley (West), South Bay	Anne Aubert-Santelli, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7421	auberts@usc.edu
Glendale & Pasadena	Ben Lah, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-7449	benjamjl@usc.edu
Hollywood & Wilshire	Mel Preimesberger, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-1779	preimesb@usc.edu
West Los Angeles & West Beach	Mark Rasic, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-3040	rasic@usc.edu
Los Angeles (east)	Rakin Hall, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-4019	rakin.hall@usc.edu
South & South Central Los Angeles	Mel Preimesberger, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-1779	preimesb@usc.edu
Covina & West Covina	Angela Whitenhill, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-6613	whitehni@usc.edu
Long Beach	Kim Cragg, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-5844	kcragg@usc.edu
Orange County (central)	Therese Sandoval, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4042	tsandova@usc.edu
Orange County (north & south)	Chris Tokuhama, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1127	tokuhama@usc.edu
Riverside & San Bernardino	Therese Sandoval, <i>Assistant Director</i>	(213) 740-4042	tsandova@usc.edu
San Diego County	Bruce Grier, <i>Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-6630	bgrier@usc.edu
Greater Imperial Valley	Shannon McHugh, <i>Senior Assistant Director</i>	(213) 821-1704	slmchugh@usc.edu

International

Judith Jurek, <i>Senior Associate Director</i>	(213) 740-5684	jurek@usc.edu
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Counselor News

Quarterly News for Guidance Counselors Winter 2007

Do we have your correct information?
If not, please e-mail us at scounsel@usc.edu

The University of Southern California admits students of any race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical disability or mental disability.

Counselor News *Quarterly Updates for Guidance Counselors*

USC's Codes

ACT Code: 0470
Used for sending ACT scores

CEEB Code: 4852
Used for PROFILE Application and SAT scores

Federal School Code: 001328
Used for FAFSA application

Overview of 2007-08 Important Dates and Deadlines


2007

- Oct 1** First date to file the 2008-2009 CSS Profile Application. *File as soon as possible.*
- Oct 15** Part I Application Deadline for Freshmen and Transfer Students
(USC's Part I application is optional)
- Nov** Apply for PIN for student and parent for FAFSA use
- Dec 1** Applications due for Thornton School of Music
- Dec 10** **Freshman Application Deadline for Scholarship Consideration**
Supplemental Applications/portfolios due for Cinematic Arts, Theatre, Fine Arts, Architecture

2008

- Jan 1** First date to file FAFSA online
- Jan 10** **Freshman application deadline**
- Feb** California residents apply for CalGrant
- Feb 1** Transfer Application Deadline for Scholarship and Regular Consideration
- Jan-Feb** Auditions for BFA applicants to Theatre School, Thornton School of Music
- Early Feb** Admission notification for merit scholarship recipients
- Mar 1** Student and family tax returns submitted for financial aid
- Apr 1** Admission notification
- May 1** National candidate reply date

Note: USC does not offer early action or early decision admission programs



The Trojan Shrine
pictured in our masthead is
a campus landmark fondly
nicknamed "Tommy Trojan."
This life-size bronze statue of
a Trojan warrior was unveiled
in June 1930, as part of USC's
50th birthday celebration.
On the statue's pedestal are
inscribed the qualities our
students still strive to achieve:
***Faithful, Scholarly, Skillful,
Courageous, Ambitious.***