



The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan is a new UC financial aid program intended to expand access to the University for lower-income students by establishing a minimum level of grant aid for undergraduates with financial need and household incomes below the state median of \$60,000.

### **How does it work?**

- For California residents whose families earn less than \$60,000 a year and who qualify for financial aid, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will fully cover UC's systemwide fees. Qualified students must be in their first four years of attendance (first two for transfer students).
- The Blue and Gold program provides a *minimum* amount of grant money that students can receive. Students with sufficient financial need can qualify for *even more* grants to cover other educational expenses, such as room and board, books, and transportation. UC currently provides grant and scholarship assistance averaging \$10,300 per student to 54 percent of undergraduates.
- The financial aid estimators available at [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying.html) can give families a better idea of the total amount of financial aid they might expect to receive based on their unique circumstances.

### **How do students apply?**

- Students should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2 of the year they plan to enter the University in order to qualify for the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan and to receive the highest possible financial aid award. No separate application is needed for the Blue and Gold plan; students will receive the benefits automatically if they qualify.

### **Why did UC create the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan?**

- Although the University already offers a robust financial aid program and enrolls more low-income students (about a third of all undergraduates) than any other top research university, President Mark Yudof spearheaded this new plan out of concern that UC needs to do more to convey a simple but powerful financial aid message that would encourage more low-income students to apply.

### **Where will the money come from?**

- Implementing the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will cost UC an estimated \$3.1 million per year. The additional expense will not reduce funding available for UC's existing aid programs, but will be funded by federal stimulus dollars. The program will be reviewed annually, and its continuation beyond 2009-10 for both new and enrolled students will be subject to the University's determination of financial feasibility.