UTAH · STATE AID REFERENCE

Utah State Aid Cheat Sheet (2027–2028)

A two-page reference for counselors and families. Free to copy, print, and share.

Written for the Class of 2027, entering college in fall 2027 on the 2027–28 FAFSA. Utah has two front doors: the **FAFSA** and the **college**. The one exception is the **Opportunity Scholarship**, which has its own USHE application in January and February of senior year. Older handouts are wrong in three places: the Regents' four-years-of-math list was retired after 2022, the Opportunity award covers **four semesters**, not four years, and PRIME is now the **First Credential Scholarship**. Verified against the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), October 2026.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays and who qualifies
Opportunity Scholarship (merit, USHE)	A per-semester maximum set for each class, up to 4 semesters, toward tuition and general fees after other state aid. Class of 2026: $800/semester. Class of 2027: not yet set. Needs a **3.3 GPA**, one AP, IB, or concurrent enrollment course each in **language arts, math, and science**, a Utah high school diploma, and the FAFSA. **No ACT or SAT.** Usable at the 8 public universities and colleges, BYU (Provo), Ensign, WGU, and Westminster.
Utah Promise Grant (need-based, USHE)	Varies with funding; can be used up to the full cost of attendance, the only state program that can reach housing. Utah residents with need, recent graduates or adults, until a first bachelor's or 120 attempted credits. FAFSA, then the campus financial aid office. Public universities, technical colleges, and the four privates above.
First Credential (formerly PRIME)	One-time, toward tuition, fees, books. Class of 2026: $625 for 5 GE concurrent enrollment courses, or 6 courses / 300 hours of technical college CTE, or 300 hours of a youth apprenticeship. **Class of 2027 rules not yet published.**
T.H. Bell Education	Tuition, fees, and books for up to four years for future Utah public school teachers and speech-language pathologists. **First-generation students get priority.** Apply through the college, not USHE.
Campus full-tuition (last-dollar)	University of Utah: **For Utah** (Pell, 3.2 GPA) and **Utah Promise** (3.5 GPA, income and assets each under $100,000). USU: **Utah State Promise** (Pell). Weber: **Dream Weber** (Pell, separate application). UVU: **Greenlight** (Pell, tuition only). None cover housing.
Also worth knowing	Technical Education Scholarship (certificates). Veterans Tuition Gap. Adult Learner Grant (online, high-need fields). Karen Mayne Public Safety Officer. Talent Development Award. WICHE PSEP (optometry, podiatry).

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Date	What	Where
Open now	2027–28 FAFSA (opened September 2026)	studentaid.gov
Dec 1, 2026	Admission for merit and full-tuition programs at the University of Utah and USU; SUU President's Scholarship; SUU T-Bird Promise priority	College admission application
Dec 4, 2026	Dream Weber priority (first Friday in December)	Weber Scholarship Universe
Dec 15 / Jan 2	BYU admission / BYU scholarship application (BYU also lists Feb 1; meet Jan 2)	BYU
Jan 5, 2027	Opportunity Scholarship application opens	USHE online application
Feb 1, 2027	U of U FAFSA priority; USU Utah State Promise admission; UVU and Weber merit; UVU Greenlight file	College + FAFSA
Feb 5, 2027	**Opportunity priority deadline** (paid first if funding falls short)	USHE
Mar 1, 2027	Utah Tech and SUU automatic merit	College admission application
Mar 19, 2027	Opportunity final deadline (application and FAFSA)	USHE
May 7, 2027	USHE emails every Opportunity applicant. No email: call 801-646-4812.	Student's email

Utah Promise Grant, T.H. Bell, and Technical Education deadlines are set by each campus. Ask the financial aid office for its date in the fall of senior year.

The Rules That Trip Families Up

- **Three classes, not four years.** The Opportunity course rule is one AP, IB, or CE course per subject, with a USBE core code starting 06, 07, or 08. USU 1320 Humanities is coded social science and does not count.
- **The FAFSA is required for a merit award.** Both the student and parent sections must be submitted by the Opportunity deadline. USHE does not look at income; it only needs the form.
- **Full time, every fall and spring, from the fall after graduation.** A semester off without an approved deferment (mission, military, medical, technical college) forfeits the Opportunity Scholarship.
- **One GPA miss is probation, two is the end.** Typically a 3.0 semester GPA. No probation for failing to earn credit in a course the scholarship paid for. Expires five years after high school graduation.

Opportunity Scholarship: Check These Things Early

1. Does the transcript have one advanced course in each subject? Any grade 9 to 12. Spring of senior year still counts if it finishes before graduation.

- **Language arts (06):** AP English Language or Literature, CE English 1010 or 2010, CE Communication 1010, IB English.
- **Math (07):** AP Calculus, AP Precalculus, AP Statistics, CE Math 1010 through 1210, IB Mathematics.
- **Science (08):** AP Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics; CE Biology, Chemistry, Geology; IB sciences. CE lecture credit is required, lab optional for the scholarship but often required for graduation.

2. Is the GPA at 3.3? Cumulative, not weighted by AP. **3. Will the student enroll full time the fall after graduation, or need a deferment?** Missions, military service, major medical issues, and Utah technical colleges are generally approved; the request goes to the college, on the college's deadline.

Graduating class	Maximum per semester	Maximum over four semesters	Applied to
2022 through 2025	$1,000	$4,000	Tuition and general fees, after other state aid
2026	$800	$3,200	Tuition and general fees, after other state aid
2027	Not yet set	Not yet set	Set by USHE from funding and the number of qualified applicants

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	What to tell them
9th to 11th grade	Plan one AP, IB, or CE course each in English, math, and science. Concurrent enrollment also counts toward First Credential (Class of 2026 rules) and USU's Advanced Coursework Scholarship.
Fall of senior year	FSA IDs for student and parent; file the 2027–28 FAFSA. Apply for admission by Dec 1 to the U, USU, and SUU. Submit Dream Weber and T-Bird Promise applications. Use a personal email.
December to January	BYU admission Dec 15 and scholarship application Jan 2. Opportunity application opens Jan 5; check the transcript for the three courses first.
February to March	Opportunity priority Feb 5, final Mar 19. University of Utah FAFSA priority Feb 1. Ask each campus for its Utah Promise Grant and T.H. Bell process.
May to August	Watch for the USHE email May 7 and the acceptance form. Request any deferment from the college before fall. Enroll in 12 or more credits.
Every semester after	Full time, 3.0 semester GPA, earn credit in every class paid for, new FAFSA each year.

Three Mistakes That Cost Utah Students Money

- Believing the Regents' list. A 3.5 student with AP English, AP Biology, and CE Math qualifies, even with only three years of math. Start every Opportunity conversation by checking the three courses.
- Applying to the University of Utah in January. For Utah, Utah Promise, and the U's merit awards are decided by admission on Dec 1. A strong FAFSA in February cannot fix a late admission.
- Treating a two-year start as free. The Opportunity Scholarship covers four semesters in total. Use them all at a two-year college and none are left for the university. Notify both financial aid offices before transferring.

Five programs named Promise

The **Utah Promise Grant** is the state's need-based grant, awarded by every campus (Utah Tech calls it Trailblazer Promise). **Utah Promise** at the University of Utah is a separate full-tuition scholarship for a 3.5 GPA and income and assets each under $100,000, decided by Dec 1 admission. **Utah State Promise** is USU's Pell-based program. **T-Bird Promise** is SUU's need-based award with its own essay application. A student can qualify for more than one. When calling a financial aid office, say the full name and who runs it.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

All Utah state aid programs	**ushe.edu/state-scholarships-aid**
Courses that count for the Opportunity Scholarship	**ushe.edu/concurrent-enrollment-master-list**
USHE scholarship office	**801-646-4812 · scholarships@ushe.edu**
Our Utah state aid guide	**collegereadyparent.org/utah**
Scholarships at 400+ colleges, all 50 states	**collegereadyparent.org/college-scholarships**

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