Glossary of Financial Aid Terms

**Aid, Athletic**: Awards (a.k.a. athletic grants-in-aid) based on athletic team participation. Funded through institutional resources including endowment, gifts, and tuition and fee revenue. Renewed annually based on athletic department policies.

**Aid, Tuition Benefits**: Award (a.k.a. tuition remission) based on employment benefits policy which provides tuition waivers or discounts for eligible faculty, staff, and dependents at Richmond and at a number of partner universities. Funded through tuition revenue. May be automatically renewed each semester based on employment status.

**Aid, Merit Based**: Awards (a.k.a. scholarship) based on an applicant’s achievements prior to UR enrollment. Funded through endowments, gifts, and tuition and fee revenue. Renewed annually if academic progress standards are met.

**Aid, Need based**: Awards based on a student’s family financial situation. Funded by UR, federal, and state agencies through grants, loans, and self-help. Aid amount based on estimated family contribution (EFC) from FAFSA and CSS:Profile. For some students, 100% of need may be met through merit, athletic, and tuition benefit aid. Must reapply annually.

**Award Package**: Combination of all aid awarded to reduce the cost of attendance. Students may receive a combination of awards from athletic, employee tuition benefit, merit, and need based aid.

**Cost of Attendance (COA)**: An estimate of the total cost for one year of study including tuition, fees, room, board, and other expenses (travel, personal costs, loan fees, textbooks, and school supplies.) Students may have higher actual costs due to additional fees, meal plan selection, etc.

**Cross Apps**: The other colleges / universities to which applicants most frequently apply. The average applicant at UR applies to over 7 schools. UR’s most common cross app schools include Boston College, Georgetown, Notre Dame UNC, U Michigan, UVA, Villanova, Wake Forest, William & Mary, and Washington & Lee.

**CSS:Profile**: The form students complete to be considered for UR funded need based aid. Must be completed annually; can be completed using prior year tax returns.

**Discount Rate**: Calculation of the amount spent on total aid funded by the university divided by gross tuition and fee revenue at that institution.

**Discount Rate, NACUBO (National Association of College University and Business Officers)**. The NACUBO discount rate calculation equals total university spending on undergraduate aid, including awards funded from endowment and annual gifts, divided by gross undergraduate tuition and fee revenue. Undergraduate spending in this calculation includes spending from tuition and fee revenue, endowment, and gifts. Undergraduate aid in this calculation includes merit aid, need based aid and athletic aid but does not include employee tuition benefit aid. This is a nationally standardized calculation which and can be used to compare institutional spending.

**EFC**: Estimated family contribution for educational expenses calculated following federal guidelines using data from the FAFSA. The CSS:Profile provides additional information used to calculate an EFC using institutional guidelines. UR uses the FAFSA to award federal and state need based aid and the CSS:Profile to award UR need based aid; this is called using “institutional methodology.”

**FAFSA**: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form required to apply for federal and state funded aid. Must be completed annually using current tax returns.

**Federal/State Funding**: Aid based on federal or state policies awarded to students with need. Funded by federal or state governments in the form of Pell grants and the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG),
work-study, and federally backed loans. Federal aid is limited to US Citizens and Permanent Residents. State aid is limited to state residents who are US Citizens or Permanent Residents. Federal and state aid are not available to international students attending college on student visas.

**Funding Sources for Aid:** Aid may be funded through government, institutional, or external resources.

- **Federal/State Funding:** Funded by federal or state agencies through tax revenue.
- **UR Funding:** Funded through endowment, annual gifts, tuition revenue, fee revenue, or other university resources.
- **External Funding:** Funded by private agencies or organizations (i.e. Rotary Club, Gates Foundation).

**Gap:** The amount of unmet need in a financial aid award package which students are expected to fill this gap through personal resources beyond EFC. UR does not “gap” aid packages; the university meets the full demonstrated need of admitted domestic students provided they enter UR directly from high school.

**Ghost Schools:** The schools attended by applicants who were offered admission to UR, but who chose to attend another university. Ghost schools are identified through an annual admitted student survey and through checking enrollment data through the National Student Clearinghouse.

**Need or Demonstrated Need:** The amount by which the Cost of Attendance (COA) exceeds a student’s Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Need equals COA minus EFC.

**Need Aware:** An admission policy that considers ability to pay when making admission decisions. UR is need aware for a small number of decisions, including international applicants and students admitted from the wait list.

**Need Blind:** An admission policy that does not permit the university to consider if an applicant can afford to attend the university when making an admission decision. UR is need blind in the application review of domestic applicants in early decision and regular action, but need aware for students admitted from the wait list and for international applicants.

**Net Tuition Revenue:** Income from tuition and fees less institutionally funded spending on financial aid.

**Preferential Packaging:** A policy of providing the most attractive award packages to students with the best academic credentials. UR does not practice preferential packaging; instead UR funds the full demonstrated financial need for all domestic students admitted directly from high school.

**Richmond’s Promise to Virginia:** The University of Richmond will provide a financial aid award of full tuition, fees, room, and board to students who are Virginia residents and whose family income is equal to or less than $60,000 per year. To participate, applicants must be admitted to UR as new freshman (direct from high school), must complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile with demonstrated need, and must meet residency requirements prior to entering UR.

**Self-help:** Need based aid that must be earned or repaid, including loans and work-study.

**Yield:** The number of students who enroll divided by the number admitted. Higher yield is considered desirable.