

behind the MONEY

UCCS FINANCIAL AID NEWS **SPRING 2021**



WHY YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a federal form you need to fill out every year in order to receive financial aid. As a student, you should be prepared to file your FAFSA **every year after October 1** to be considered for the most federal financial aid opportunities possible.

The **UCCS priority filing date is on March 1**. You should submit the FAFSA as early as possible before the priority filing date to be considered for the best possible financial aid opportunities. **This is one of most important and potentially money-saving tips you can do!** Eligible UCCS students can potentially receive thousands of free grant dollars to help pay for their education, but **many of these grants are available only to students who complete the FAFSA early!** Said another way, students who delay in submitting the FAFSA may have access to less grant funding — grants they could have otherwise received if the FAFSA was turned in early.



Also, submitting the FAFSA early lets you **obtain your Student Aid Report (SAR) sooner**. This gives you a better idea of where you stand with your financial aid awards. The faster you have that report, the sooner you can start planning for how you'll pay for the rest of your upcoming academic year, allowing you more time to apply for scholarships, discuss financial plans with your family, and look for the best educational loan opportunities if needed.

Lastly, completing the FAFSA early allows you the **time to focus on other things** as you approach the upcoming academic year. One of the most frustrating experiences for students is to be dealing with the FAFSA while trying to register for classes, pay for books, and preparing to move in. Completing the FAFSA early takes one very big thing off an already large to-do list you might have when beginning a new year of college!

If you are a student beginning your college education in the spring, remember that you will need to complete both the 2020-2021 FAFSA and the upcoming 2021-2022 FAFSA at the same time in order to maximize your financial aid opportunities!

NEW LOAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT COMING IN 2021-22!

Beginning for the 2021-2022 academic year, there will be a new process that requires student and parent borrowers to view and acknowledge their loan history before schools can make the first payment of their Direct Loan each academic year. This process is called the **Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement**, and will be available at studentaid.gov for the upcoming school year. Students and parents will be required to complete this simple acknowledgement each year. More information to come as we approach the fall semester!



We understand that college is expensive, and we want to make sure that you take advantage of all your financial resources. We also want you to know that there are limits to federal aid, and it is very important to understand that federal aid does exhaust. This information is very important when making decisions about your education, so that you are not caught unprepared if your education is extended.

There are federal **Pell Grant Lifetime limits** for all undergraduate students pursuing a certificate, associates, or bachelor's degree. Students are only eligible to receive up to 12 semesters of Pell Grant aid at full-time enrollment. Part-time enrollment may increase the amount of eligible semesters. Using your Department of Education issued FSA User ID, you can log on to <https://studentaid.gov> to view your Lifetime Pell Grant usage. You can find this information in the "My Aid" section, located in the dropdown menu when you click your name after logging in.

There are also **annual** and **aggregate loan limits** for all students based on their current grade level, as well as limits on the total amount of subsidized loan a student can borrow during the course of their education. You can get more information about Direct Loan limits on our website:

<https://finaid.uccs.edu/types-of-aid/educational-loans/direct15>.

You can also view your total loan history as well as other important loan information by logging in to the studentaid.gov website, and clicking on "My Aid" from your profile dropdown menu.

Important Financial Aid Information for Summer 2021

There is no special summer application needed (except to apply for work study). You just need to be enrolled at least half-time and have a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA. You will **automatically** be considered for summer financial aid. If you are interested in work study for the summer, **the summer work study application will be available on April 26** in your myUCCS Portal.

The financial aid office will determine your eligibility for federal aid and you will be notified via your UCCS email account.

Please remember **the amount you borrow during the fall and spring semesters will affect what is available to you in the upcoming summer term!**



Office of Financial Aid, Student
Employment, and Scholarships
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Top Floor, Cragmor Hall
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Phone: 719-255-3460
Fax: 719-255-3650
Email: finaidse@uccs.edu
Web: <https://finaid.uccs.edu>



facebook.com/uccsfinaid



twitter.com/uccsfinaid



instagram.com/uccsfinaid



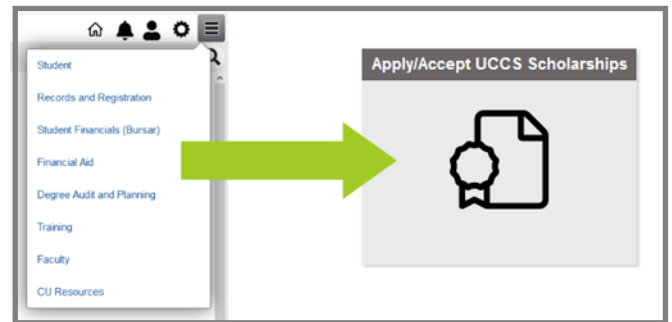
2021-2022 Scholarships!

The time for scholarships is upon us, and applying for scholarships at UCCS is easier than ever thanks to the UCCS Scholarship Application (which opens every year on **December 1**).

To begin, log into the myUCCS portal and select the Financial Aid link from the dropdown menu in the top corner of the page. On the next page, click the **Apply for and Accept UCCS Scholarships** option.

This leads to the General Scholarship Application, which will allow you to apply for multiple UCCS scholarships at one time. Please keep in mind that some scholarships may require supplemental information after completing the General Scholarship Application. You will be directed to do so after completing the general application.

Remember that you can also click on the **Opportunities** dropdown menu and select **External** to view scholarship opportunities offered outside of UCCS.

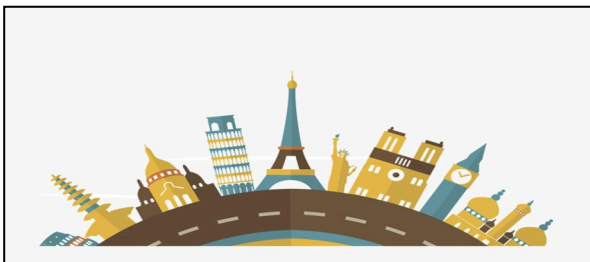


Be sure to check out the **Frequently Asked Questions** section (by clicking the link in the top right corner of the application, directly under your name) to get updated scholarship information as well as some fantastic tips and tricks!

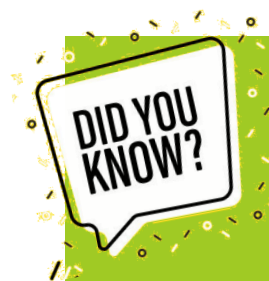
Most scholarships have a February 1st or March 1st deadline, however there is no reason to wait. Apply early and take advantage of all the scholarship opportunities you can. Give yourself time to fix issues and to seek help if you need assistance. **Don't wait until the last minute!**

The 2021-2022 UCCS Scholarship Application is available NOW.

Studying Away in 2021?



If you are planning to take courses at UCCS and another institution for the spring and/or summer semester, there are details you need to be aware of! Please visit <https://finaid.uccs.edu> and mouse over the **Policies** link at the top of the page. Select **Taking Courses Elsewhere** from the dropdown menu for more information.



You can call the office any time during our business hours (**Monday—Friday, 8am to 4pm**) and speak to a financial aid professional with any questions or concerns you have, no appointment necessary! You can also email us (finaidse@uccs.edu) at any time and will generally receive a response to your email the same day!

We can also set up virtual appointments on Microsoft Teams at your convenience. Please email us at any time to inquire about setting up an appointment!

During the spring semester, we will be open on **Mondays from 8am to 4pm** for walk in assistance.

Spring 2021 Calendar of Events

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| January 19 | First day of spring semester classes |
| February 1 | 1st UCCS scholarship deadline! |
| February 3 | Census Date/Tuition due date <i>This is the last day to register (for regular semester courses). Complete withdrawals and course drops through this date will be refunded at 100% tuition.</i> |
| February 4 | Financial aid awards may be adjusted based on enrollment. |
| February 5 | FAFSafest (free assistance with filing your FAFSA and UCCS scholarship application) |
| February 12 | FAFSafest (free assistance with filing your FAFSA and UCCS scholarship application) |
| February 17-19 | Spring Break #1 (no classes; offices open) |
| February 19 | FAFSafest (free assistance with filing your FAFSA and UCCS scholarship application) |
| March 1 | UCCS Priority Filing Date/UCCS scholarship deadline! |
| March 22-23 | Spring Break #2 (no classes; offices open) |
| April 11-17 | National Student Employment Week |
| April 20 | Spring short-term loan due date |
| April 26 | Summer work-study application available in myUCCS portal |
| May 1 | UCCS Transfer scholarship deadline |
| May 14 | Spring 2020 Commencement |
| May 26 | Summer award notices emailed to summer enrolled students |
| July 1 | Financial Aid funds for the 2021/2022 year available in myUCCS portal |
| July 9 | Fall 2021/Spring 2022 award notices emailed to current students |
| July 12 | Annual acknowledgement of student/parent loans |
| July 15 | Fall 2021 student employment positions available on SEAN |

STUDENTAID.GOV: THE ONE-STOP SHOP FOR FEDERAL AID!

Studentaid.gov is where it's at to find out everything you need to know about federal student aid. There you can find information about the different types of federal aid, financial aid tips and tricks, and so much more. There you will also find the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as other supplemental applications for aid, and can log into to view all kinds of information specific to you (total grant and loans used, servicer information, and repayment information). It's all held in one convenient website! **Log in with your FSA ID** and check it out!

