



TOGETHER, WE ARE **STRONG**

On behalf of the UCCS Office of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Scholarships, I would like to **welcome you to Fall 2020**, and to the fall semester edition of the UCCS Financial Aid Newsletter, *Behind the Money*.

This year has been a wild roller coaster of ups and downs and ever-changing environments in all areas of our life—from home to school to work. The one constant for our office is that **we are always here to assist you!** Whether it is via email conversations or a Microsoft Teams appointment or call, regardless of the vehicle of our communication, I am here to promise that **our commitment to assist you is never going to change.**

We recommend that you conduct your transactions with our office electronically as much as possible, but if you need to come in person, please do so while wearing your face covering and maintaining your physical distance as recommended. **We all need to do our part to #ProtectThePride and keep UCCS safe and healthy!**

We provide a secure file upload system (www.uccs.edu/finaid/upload) to submit your information and safeguard your personal data, and we continue to suggest using this system for submitting documentation whenever possible. Please do not email sensitive information such as tax returns listing social security numbers or other personally identifiable information. You should always redact social security numbers, but do remember to list the UCCS student ID number and student name on all documents submitted.

Additionally, I hope you will also **follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter** to ensure you have the most up to date information.

We wish you a most successful 2020-2021 academic year and all the best in your future educational and financial endeavors. Remember to Protect the Pride!
Stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Jenita R Rogers

Senior Executive Director-UCCS Office of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Scholarships



Next Year BEGINS NOW

The best financial aid opportunities to take advantage of in the fall semester

Did you know that you could miss out on **thousands of dollars in free grant money** by doing the FAFSA even **one day too late**?



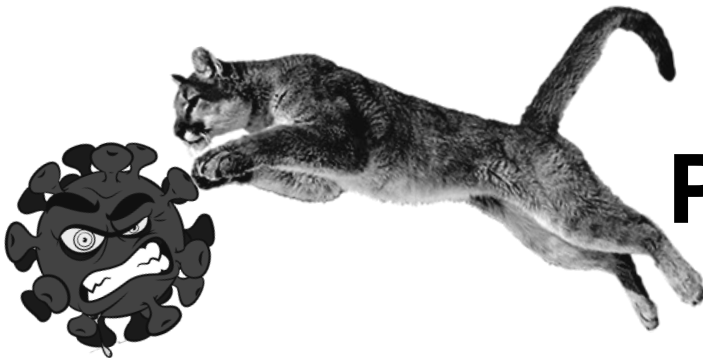
It's true! It's part of the reason you want to complete the FAFSA in the **fall semester** of each year! Applying for financial aid **early** is one of the best things a student can do to **maximize their financial aid opportunities** and have **greater peace of mind**. It also allows the financial aid staff the most amount of time to assist you if you have questions or concerns. Here are the **two most important financial aid dates** for the fall semester. Take out your planner, open your calendar app on your phone, or find a piece of paper to jot these dates down now. Go ahead. We'll wait...

Ok ready? Here they are:

October 1: The 2021-2022 FAFSA can be completed (www.fafsa.gov).

December 1: The UCCS Scholarship Application is available.

You want to get started with these **as soon as possible** and complete them both no later than **March 1**. Remember, some aid is first come, first serve!



Protect The Pride

Doing our part

Our office is doing everything we can to **#ProtectThePride** and to continue providing excellent service to our students, families, and visitors. Your health and safety are our topmost priority, so here are just a few of the measures we've taken to help protect your health and safety while still being able to provide excellent customer service:

- Frequent hand washing and modified cleanliness standards.
- An entirely new office layout designed with the wellness of our students, families, and staff as the top priority.
- Increased online tools and resources.
- Modified office hours.
- And so much more!

Please remember to reach out to us any time at finaidse@uccs.edu for quick and reliable service and assistance!



Budgeting as a college student is an important part of making college affordable. Without the right tools to succeed, you may find yourself stressed about finances and balancing your needs and wants.

Creating a monthly budget worksheet or using an online budgeting tool /app can help you meet personal goals (such as buying a car or new computer). It also can help you prepare for emergencies and stay out of debt. Keeping track of your spending can seem like a lot of work, but with the following tips, it may be easier than you think:

Differentiate between your wants and needs: Living expenses, such as housing and food, are “needs” and should be a priority. When thinking about other expenses categorized as “wants”, such as a new cell phone, consider saving up first to avoid using credit or over extending your finances..

Organize your records: Decide what system you are going to use to track your expenses. Using a budgeting app or online budgeting tool can make it easy for you record your spending habits throughout your day.

Record your actual expenses: Don't forget to include spending such as music, movie, and gaming downloads. These small things can add up and throw a wrench in your budgeting plans.

Create a routine: Manage your money and record your expenses on a regular basis. Do you have some extra time between classes? Use it as an opportunity to update your budget!

Be smart with your financial aid refund: Remember that your financial aid is supposed to help you cover your educational costs for an entire year, so be sure to make that refund stretch over time rather than spending it all as soon as you get it. Having this mentality about your refund can really make a huge difference in your finances (and future stress-levels)!

Remember, it is possible to enjoy life while on a budget. If you notice that your expenses are more than your income, look for money-saving alternatives to help you meet your needs. As a UCCS student, you may be able to save money on transportation by taking advantage of the shuttle bus system, and you may save on food expenses by signing up for Clyde's Cash and by visiting Clyde's Cupboard (the UCCS student food pantry). Looking for ways to increase your income? Consider a part-time hourly or work study position., which is a great way to keep your student loan borrowing down and earn extra cash. You can apply for student employment positions at seans.uccs.edu!

Get PIPn!

PIPs stands for Positive Impact Points, and is an application that **rewards you for your positive sustainability and wellness** actions. These PIPs can be redeemed for gift cards, discount codes, and **even scholarship funds!**

The Office of Financial Aid has partnered with PIPs to reward you for coming to any of our events. Download the PIPs App, scan this QR Code and come back to our events for more! **Get PIPn!**

Check out the NEW Services Status Board!

You can find this one-stop shop about the status of various offices, departments, and services on www.uccs.edu. Just look for the link at the top of the page!



Services Status Board

Friday, 08/21/2020

Last updated 2:09 pm, Friday, 08/21/2020

111
services

● 1 down
● 27 interrupted
● 83 operational

Download PIPs
Rewards app HERE



PIPs are 'positive impact points' that reward the good you do every day.

New to PIPs?



1. Scan the QR code above to download the PIPs Rewards app.
2. Once you've installed the app, scan the QR code again to earn PIPs for the earn action indicated.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs | sustain@uccs.edu | 719.255.3658 | uccs.edu/pips

Fall 2020 Calendar of Events

August 21

Short-term Loans Available (**students now apply online in the student portal, under the "Student Financials-Bursar" tab at the top of the page**).

August 24

First day of UCCS regular classes (GPS starts 8/20)

August 30

Last day to add full semester course without instructor permission

September 7

Labor Day Holiday – UCCS Offices closed

September 8

Labor Day Holiday – no classes, UCCS offices open

September 10

Census Date/Tuition due date

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.

September 11

Financial aid awards may be adjusted based on enrollment.

October 1

The **FAFSA** for the Fall 2021/Spring 2022/Summer 2022 available at www.fafsa.gov.
Federal Direct Loan origination fees adjust

October 30

Last day to drop/withdraw without special permission from college Dean

November 20

Short-term loans due

Nov 25– 29

Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes, offices open Wednesday, closed Thurs & Fri)

December 1

UCCS 2021-2022 Scholarship application available in the myUCCS portal
Spring 2021 Student Employment Jobs Begin Posting on SEAN.

December 18

Fall 2020 Commencement

December 19

Semester Ends

December 24-30

Winter Break (no classes; UCCS offices closed)

UCCS STUDENT EMPLOYMENT VIRTUAL JOB FAIR



Virtual Sessions held via
Microsoft Teams

August 25, 26, and 27th

For more information:

719-255-3464

jjzolling@uccs.edu

askUCCSfinaid

Q: What is the best way to receive contactless assistance from the office?

A: The best way is to email us at finaidse@uccs.edu during our business hours (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm). We are able to provide fast, friendly, and same-day service through email! We can also set up virtual appointments via Microsoft Teams.

You can reach us by phone as well at **719-255-3460** during business hours!

Please note that while we do provide in-person office support, we encourage all visitors to consider our contactless options before coming into the office as we navigate through the current pandemic.

#ProtectThePride