

# behind the MONEY

UCCS FINANCIAL AID NEWS FALL 2019



the **fall**  
semester  
is the **time** to  
**pounce**  
on the **best**  
financial aid  
**opportunities!**



Not spring. Not summer. **This semester!** Check out **pg. 3** for more!

## WELCOME TO FALL 2019!



*We are so glad you are here!*

On behalf of the UCCS Office of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Scholarships, I would like to wish you all the best for this fall 2019 semester. Our office mission is to assist students and their parents in financing their college education and to help them become educated consumers as well.

Our staff and student employees are here to answer questions, guide you through the financial aid process and be available to you on a walk-in basis anytime you need assistance. Our newsletter comes out every fall and spring semester with helpful tips for you to assist you in topics from applying for scholarships to budgeting and financial literacy articles.

Our office is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm and you are welcome to stop by, call us or email us. We are here to assist you throughout your time here at UCCS and our office is committed to helping you fund your success at UCCS. We wish you a successful fall semester.

Sincerely,

*Jovita R. Rogers*

Sr. Executive Director



Office of Financial Aid, Student  
Employment, and Scholarships

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



# Fall Financials AT A GLANCE

Financial aid funds will begin applying toward fall bills on **Friday, August 16th**. This will occur for students who have accepted financial aid and completed their financial aid file (no outstanding financial aid to-do items to complete). This will continue to occur 4 days a week for the remainder of the semester, so students who have missed the August 16th date will have their financial aid funds paid toward their bill as soon as all financial aid to do items are completed, and processed.

The Student Financial Services office has posted fall tuition and fees to the myUCCS Portal on July 28. **Students can now log into their myUCCS portal and view their balances.** Simply click on the "Student Financial Services" link and then "View Your Balance" in the dropdown menu.

The Fall 2019 census date (the date when the fall bill is due in full) is **September 12th**. Students can connect with the Student Financial Services office to sign up for an automatic deduction payment plan to split up their payments over a period of months (if needed). For more information about this and other billing and payment information, visit: [www.uccs.edu/bursar](http://www.uccs.edu/bursar).

# FERPA

FERPA stands for the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act** passed in 1974. FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of students' education records, including their financial aid files. It governs the release of these records and the access to these records. In other words, a college or university and its various departments, including the Financial Aid Office, must have authorization from a student to be able to release information to any third party (this includes parents, spouses, and people paying the tuition bill). It's similar to how HIPPA Privacy protects your health information at a hospital or doctor's office.

Due to FERPA, if a student does not complete the **FERPA Consent to Release** form, **we cannot communicate with anyone but the student** regarding a student's financial aid or other sensitive information. Students can complete the FERPA Consent to Release in the **Records and Registration** tab of the **myUCCS Student Portal**. There a student can list the name and information of anyone they wish to give this consent to. Students will also need to create a password that must be given to the person(s) whom they are giving consent. Third parties will be asked to identify themselves and to give us the password listed in order for us to release financial aid information.

If a student does NOT elect to give this authorization or fails to complete the release form, **only the student** will be able to inquire about their financial aid information in detail.

## Holiday Time is Scholarship Time!

On **DECEMBER 1st**, the **2020-2021 UCCS Scholarship Application** opens and the scholarship hunt for next year begins! Here are just a few tips to keep in mind while applying for scholarships:

- **APPLY FOR EVERYTHING!**

If you think you are eligible to receive the scholarship, apply for it!

- **COMPLETE THE APPLICATION**

If something is not applicable on the application, mark it as N/A or "does not apply." Do not leave lines blank.

- **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS**

Do not supply things that are not requested (i.e. transcripts and resumes).

- **NEATNESS COUNTS**

Make photocopies for working drafts. Save everything!

- **MAKE SURE TO LEAVE AN IMPRESSION**

Be personal and specific. Be complete and concise, but also creative!

- **WATCH ALL DEADLINES**

Do not wait until the last minute!

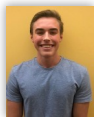
- **GIVE YOUR APPLICATION A "ONCE-OVER" BEFORE SUBMITTING**

Proofread (and have someone else proofread) the entire application carefully!

For more useful tips, a list of frequently asked questions about scholarships, and to begin your scholarship search, visit [www.uccs.edu/scholarships](http://www.uccs.edu/scholarships).

# Tips from Financial Aid <sup>Student</sup> Professionals

The financial aid office has many employees who care about student success inside and outside of the classroom. Many of these staff members are **UCCS student employees** who have valuable first-hand experience as financial aid experts **and** as UCCS students. Here are a few financial aid tips that some of our student employees have to share:



*"The biggest thing is to keep track of deadlines."*

**Max W.**, Biomedical Sciences



*"Do your FAFSA early! Do it in October."*

**Kiley M.**, Accounting



*"Don't be afraid to ask for help."*

**Shiann T.**, Sociology



*"Use your student portal. You can find almost everything you need there!"*

**Mickey M.**, Criminal Justice



*"Apply for as many jobs as possible to maximize your work opportunities."*

**Sharla W.**, Film Studies



*"It REALLY helps to write down important dates. Use a planner!"*

**Bailey M.**, Nursing



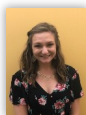
*"Always complete the FAFSA each year. You never know what opportunities may be available to you."*

**Julissa R.**, Communications



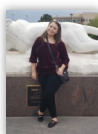
*"Be careful not to over borrow! Budget for college so you borrow only what you need."*

**Sam T.**, Accounting



*"Keep up with your holds and to do items in the student portal!"*

**Ashleigh N.**, Exercise Science and Nutrition



*"We are here to help UCCS students and their families! Take advantage of that resource!"*

**Madison F.**, Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy



*"If you have a name change, make sure to update your name with the school and in the FAFSA."*

**Rose B.**, Health Sciences



*"Don't let your parents contact us without a FERPA. It saves them so much time and frustration."*

**Janessa C.**, Theatre Arts

## Now is the Time to **POUNCE** on Financial Aid Opportunities!

Did you know that you could miss out on **over \$9000.00 of 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...

You ready? Ok, here they are:

**October 1:** The 2020-2021 FAFSA can be completed.

**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**

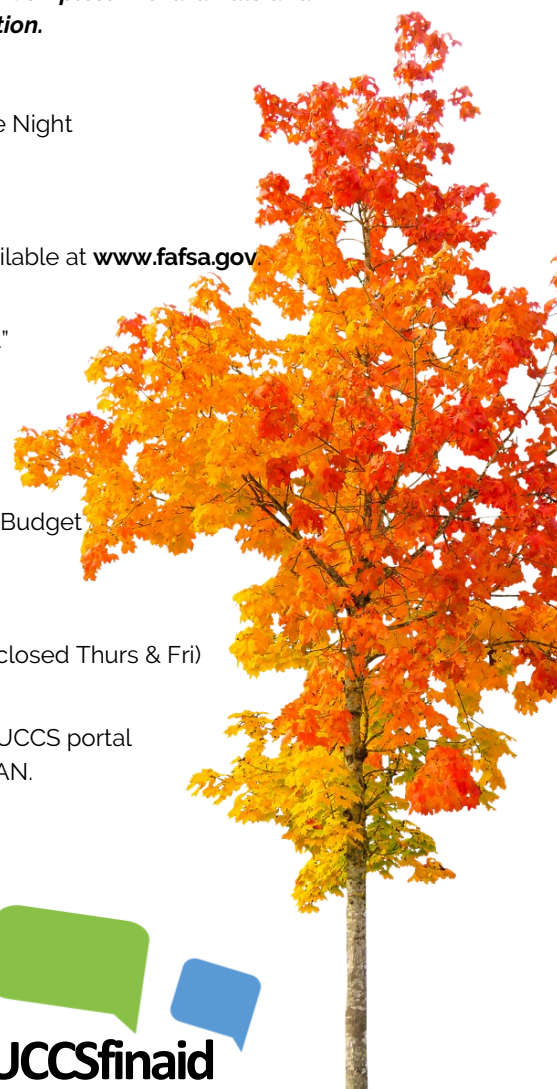
Yes, that is **every year**!





# Fall 2019 Calendar of Events

August 16	<b>First Fall 2018 Financial Aid Disbursement</b> (funds released to student accounts)
August 18	First E-bills Available on myUCCS portal
August 21	Short-term Loans Available
August 26	First day of UCCS regular classes (GPS starts 8/22)
August 27	Student Employment Job Fair – Berger Hall 11am-2pm
September 1	Last day to add full semester courses without instructor permission
September 2	Labor Day Holiday – UCCS Offices closed
September 3	Labor Day Holiday – no classes, UCCS offices open
September 12	<b>Census Date/Tuition due date</b> <b><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></b>
September 13	Financial aid awards may be adjusted based on enrollment.
September 18	Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop: Financial Aid Game Night UC 124, 5-6pm
October 1	The <b>FAFSA</b> for the Fall 2019/Spring 2020/Summer 2020 available at <a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a> Federal Direct Loan origination fees adjust
October 16	Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop: "The Walking Debt" UC 124 5-6pm
November 1	Last day to withdraw without special permission from Dean
November 13	Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop: Building a Holiday Budget UC 124, 5-6pm
November 20	Short-term loans due
Nov 27– December 1	Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes, offices open Wednesday, closed Thurs & Fri)
December 1	UCCS 2020-2021 Scholarship application available in the myUCCS portal Spring 2020 Student Employment Jobs Begin Posting on SEAN.
December 20	Fall 2019 Commencement
December 21	Semester Ends
December 23-27	Winter Break (no classes; UCCS offices closed)



**Q:** Do I need to make an appointment to talk about financial aid with a financial aid counselor?

**A:** Not at all! You can come in any time during our office hours (**M-F, 8-5pm**) to speak with a financial aid staff member who will be able to answer all of your financial aid questions and concerns! **No appointment needed!**

**Welcome Back UCCS!**  
Please join us for the  
Fall 2019  
**Student Employment  
Job Fair**  
Berger Hall  
August 27th  
11 am - 2 pm

To Register Click on  
Events in  
**SEAN**  
Student Employment  
Assistance Network

Questions?  
719-255-3454  
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