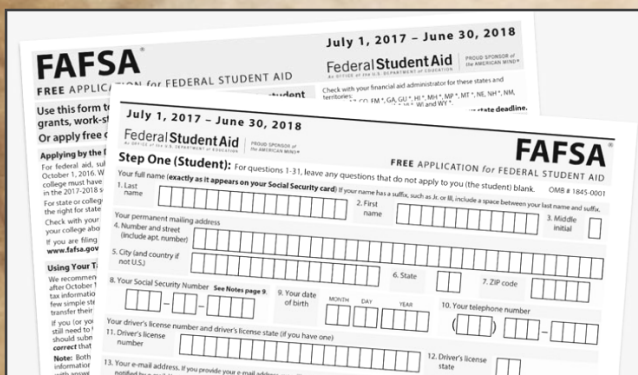


UCCS FINANCIAL AID NEWS

— SPRING 2017 EDITION —

EXTRA! EXTRA!

THE FAFSA CHANGES FOR 2017-2018 AND BEYOND!



The 2017-18 FAFSA is here, and there are some big changes this year! On **October 1, 2016** the Department of Education made the **2017-18 FAFSA** available to students, allowing them to complete and submit the financial aid application earlier than ever before! This will be a permanent change, allowing students and families to complete and submit the FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

Starting with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year (i.e., students and parents would report their 2015 tax information on the 2017-18 FAFSA). This allows students and parents to use tax information that is already completed by the time they submit the FAFSA, no longer needing to estimate tax

information that has not been submitted and processed by the IRS. This change will also allow more people to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import tax information in the FAFSA.

Please note that the **UCCS priority filing date of March 1st** has not changed, and to be considered for **maximum financial aid eligibility**, students will need to submit their 2017-18 FAFSA **as soon as possible**.

For more information about these FAFSA changes, please scan the QR code on the right or contact us anytime!



Office of Financial Aid, Student
Employment, and Scholarships

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



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WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

IT'S FAFSA TIME!



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a federal application students need to fill out to receive most types of financial aid at UCCS. Students should file your FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 to be considered for priority funds. Here's some things to keep in mind:

Students will use their 2015 federal tax information, as well as their parents 2015 tax information if they are considered a dependent student ([yes, that's the same tax information provided in the 2016-17 FAFSA, for those of you who are renewing the application this year](#)). Most students and families will be able to provide this information easily by using the IRS Data Retrieval tool within the FAFSA, which will allow you to electronically import this information into the FAFSA directly from the IRS.

[The UCCS priority filing date is on March 1](#). Students should submit the FAFSA as early as possible before the priority filing date to be considered for the best possible financial aid opportunities. **Don't be late**, as many financial aid programs, such as state grants and work study, are limited to on-time applicants (called priority aid) and are only awarded as funds remain available.

Remember to add UCCS to your list of schools on the FAFSA. [The UCCS school code is 004509](#).

If you are a new or transfer UCCS student for the Spring 2017 semester, don't forget to complete the 2017-18 FAFSA as soon as possible! This means that you may be doing two FAFSA applications back-to-back (the 2016-17 FAFSA and the 2017-18 FAFSA).

Also keep in mind that the student **AND** parents will need **their own** individual FSA ID, which is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. **Don't give your FSA ID to anyone**, not even someone helping you fill out the FAFSA! Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft!

Lastly, if you need any assistance with the FAFSA, please feel free to contact us at any time. We will also be providing personalized assistance with the FAFSA during our FAFSAfest, which is held every Friday in February!

The UCCS Priority Filing Date and scholarship deadline is on March 1 at 11:59pm MST! Be sure to **file early** to maximize your financial aid eligibility!

To complete the FAFSA visit:
www.fafsa.gov

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

No special summer application is necessary! All you need to do is be enrolled at least half time and have a completed 2016-2017 FAFSA on file. You will **automatically** be considered for summer financial aid! If you are interested in work study for the summer, that application will be available on April 1st in your myUCCS Student Portal.



The financial aid office will determine your eligibility for federal aid and you will be notified at 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!** If you are offered and you accept the annual maximum limits of loans and receive your maximum Federal Pell Grant eligibility for the fall and spring semesters, your financial aid for the summer term may be limited to private loans.

UCCS FINANCIAL AID PRESENTS MOUNTAIN LION MONEY MATTERS SPRING WORKSHOP EVENT SCHEDULE

The Amazing Trip

MON/FEB 13 UC 122 @ 4:30PM

Don't eliminate trips from your budget. Learn about ways to save money while traveling in college.

CSI: College Student Investor

MON/MAR 13 UC 122 @ 4:30PM

Want to start investing? Find the clues you need to help you get started.

The Collegiate Apprentice

WED/APR 5 UC 122 @ 4:30PM

You're fired... from not having enough money. Learn about side jobs that can earn you extra cash.

Game of Loans

THURS/MAY 4 UC 122 @ 4:30PM

Prepare for post-graduation by learning the ins and outs of federal student loan repayment options.

UCCS Free Food and Prizes

Email: money@uccs.edu for more information



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME, TOO!

Let's get some scholarships! The 2017-18 UCCS Scholarship opened on December 1, 2016. Remember, most UCCS scholarships have March 1 deadlines or earlier, so NOW is the time to apply. You can access the UCCS scholarship application via your myUCCS portal, under the financial aid section at the top of the page.

Here are a few frequently asked scholarship questions students ask us:

How do scholarships differ from other types of financial aid?

Scholarships are classified as gifts and do not need to be repaid. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, or a combination of the two. Many scholarships have additional requirements as well. For example, you may have to be resident of a particular state, be involved in extracurricular activities, have a special talent, or be pursuing a specific major.

When is the best time to start looking for scholarships?

The sooner the better! Searching for scholarships does take time so start early and search often. Eligibility requirements vary in addition to deadlines, so do not limit yourself or become discouraged if the results are not exactly as you expect right away.

How quickly will I be notified on the status of my application?

After the deadline has passed, the scholarship committee will begin to meet and select the student(s) to receive the scholarship. Every effort will be made to thoroughly evaluate all applications and notify applicants as soon as possible. An exact time frame is hard to give but typically, you should hear from us within four to six weeks. Private donors and organizations may have a different timeline for notifying applicants, and it is typically stated on the application when the recipients will be notified.

How are scholarships paid?

Most scholarships, both institutional and private, are credited to your UCCS bill each semester. Some may be sent directly to you, but this is rare. UCCS must confirm you have been accepted and have enrolled in the appropriate number of course hours before payment will be made. If your scholarship arrives after your bill is already paid for the semester, or if the scholarship is more than your bill, a refund may be issued to you. In order to receive any refunds, if applicable, it is recommended that you set up direct deposit through the Bursar's office to expedite the process.

Visit www.uccs.edu/scholarships for more information. Also, scan this QR code to be taken to our UCCS Scholarship Application How-To Guide.



REPEATED COURSEWORK

How many times can you repeat a course and still receive financial aid?

There is no limit for students who receive failing grades in a course: You may continue to take the course until you pass it. (So, no limit on the number of times a course is repeated when receiving F, I, or W grades.)

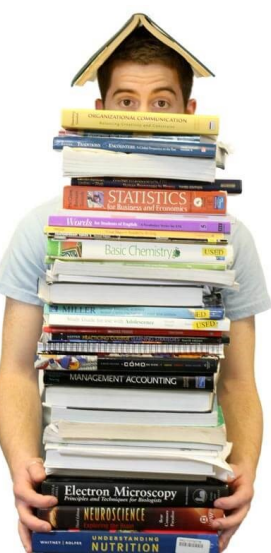
Once a student receives a grade of D- or higher in a course, they may only take the class one additional time and remain eligible for aid for that class. Once enrolled for it a third time, there will be no financial aid offered for the course. Following are some examples:



Student 1 takes an math course and passes it with a D grade, but wants to get a better grade and takes it again. The student receives a B on the second attempt. This student will not receive aid if they enroll in this course a third time, as a student can only repeat a course once after receiving a passing grade.



Student 2 takes a writing course and withdraws from the class, receiving a W. The student takes it again and receives a C (financial aid is allowed). The student takes it again and receives a D (is still able to receive aid for the course). If this student takes the class a fourth time, they will not receive aid.



PAYING FOR BOOKS

One question students often ask is how can they use their financial aid to pay for books. Books are not an expense that can be charged to your UCCS bill, therefore students use the following ways to pay for their books:

- Pay out-of-pocket for books. Students who receive financial aid in excess of their bill will receive a refund, which can be used to "pay back" any out-of-pocket costs for books or other personal expenses.
- Use financial aid refunds. Students with completed financial aid files are awarded financial aid 10 days prior to the start of the semester, and receive their refunds usually within 2-3 days of that time (if they have set up direct deposit).
- All students, as a last resort, may be able to request a temporary short term loan from the financial aid office at a fee. If you are interested in this option, feel free to contact us for more details.

IMPORTANT SPRING DATES

- Dec 1 UCCS Scholarship application available in myUCCS portal
Student employment openings for spring post in SEAN
- Jan 3 Spring 2017 Tuition can be viewed in myUCCS portal
- Jan 9 Financial Aid awards adjusted due to non-full time enrollment
- Jan 9 First Spring 2017 Financial Aid Disbursement (funds released toward UCCS bills)
- Jan 11 Short-term loans available
- Jan 12 First E-bills Available in myUCCS portal
- Jan 17 First day of spring semester (regularly scheduled spring classes begin)
- Jan 25 UCCS Scholarship Fair - UC 116
- Feb 1 UCCS scholarship merit deadline
- Feb 1 **Census Date!**
**Last day to register for regular semester courses
Complete withdrawal from UCCS through this date receive 100% adjustment.
Partial schedule drops through this date receive 100% refund, but receive no refund after this date.*
- Feb 2 Financial aid adjustment if not enrolled full-time.
- Feb 3 FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Feb 10 FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Feb 10 Final day to completely withdraw (drop all classes) and receive 80% refund.
- Feb 13 Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "The Amazing Trip"
UC 122 @ 4:30pm
- Feb 17 FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Feb 24 Final day to completely withdraw (drop all classes) and receive 60% refund.
- Feb 24 FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Mar 1 UCCS Financial Aid priority filing date/UCCS scholarship deadline!
- Mar 13 Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "CSI: College Student Investor" UC 122 @ 4:30pm
- Mar 27 Spring Break begins (March 26–April 1)
- Apr 1 Summer work study application available in myUCCS portal
- Apr 5 Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "The Collegiate Apprentice" UC 122 @ 4:30pm
- Apr 10 National Student Employment Week
- Apr 20 **Spring short-term loans due in full!**
- May 4 Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "Game of Loans"
UC 122 @ 4:30pm
- May 12 Spring 2016 Commencement
- May 13 Semester Ends
- May 31 Summer award notices emailed to summer enrolled students
- Jun 12 Fall 2016/Spring 2017 award notices emailed to current students



Congratulations 2017 Graduates!

To complete your Loan Exit Counseling, please visit:

<http://nslds.ed.gov>

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH FERPA?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of students' education records. The law applies to all schools that receive federal funding.



The FERPA Consent to Release allows a parent or authorized third party to contact UCCS on behalf of the student about educational or financial records. The Financial Aid Office **will not** release any information to someone other than the student without the student's express consent via the FERPA (that includes parents, spouses, people paying the UCCS bill, or people who have been given CU guest access). We will always review the FERPA consent to determine what information can be released to a person other than the student inquiring about the student's financial aid.

Students can find the FERPA release under the Records and Registration tab of the myUCCS portal.

@UCCSFINAID



4000+ likes and going strong!

Did you know that you can find us online via **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and now **Instagram**? Our social media pages are an excellent way for students and families to keep up with the latest UCCS financial aid news with a click of a button. Everything from national financial aid news, scholarship spotlights, student pay day notifications, to reminders of big UCCS concerts and events can be found on our social media pages. We even periodically host contests and giveaways! Now that's worth a

