

# behind <sup>THE</sup> money

UCCS FINANCIAL AID NEWS **SPRING 2018**

## THE TIME IS NOW

Now is the time to start working on your financial aid applications for the 2018-19 school year! It's FAFSA time!

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

Students will use their 2016 federal tax information, as well as their parent's 2016 tax information if they are considered a dependent student. 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 them to electronically import their tax information into the FAFSA directly from the IRS. Using this tool, completing the FAFSA is quicker and easier than ever!

**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.** Otherwise you'll file your FAFSA but we never receive it, which is probably not what you had in mind.



If you are a new or transfer UCCS student for the Spring 2018 semester, don't forget to complete the 2018-19 FAFSA as soon as possible! This means that you may be doing two FAFSA applications back-to-back (the 2017-18 FAFSA and the 2018-19 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 the first three Fridays in February (see the spring calendar in the back for more information).

## EARLY STARTING CLASSES?

Are you taking a winter or early starting spring course? **No worries!** You will be charged for these courses during the normal Spring 2018 billing along with your other spring courses. The spring semester census date is on **January 31, 2018**.



Office of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Scholarships

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**



# NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Did you know that we accept "Walkens"? Most questions and concerns about your financial aid and student employment can be handled without an appointment. You can come into the office anytime during normal business hours, (Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm) and speak one-on-one with a financial aid administrator. Of course, you can always arrange an appointment as well.



## DON'T FORGET ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Let's get some scholarships! The 2018-19 UCCS Scholarship opened on December 1, 2017. 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 the 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. The "Award Status" section for each scholarship found on the scholarship website will list the approximate dates when you will hear back about the results of each selection process. 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, although 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](http://www.uccs.edu/scholarships) for more information. Also, you can view our UCCS Scholarship Application How-To Guide in our "Resources" section at [www.uccs.edu/finaid](http://www.uccs.edu/finaid).

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Federal regulations require UCCS to establish, publish and apply Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards to monitor your progress toward completion of your degree program. Cumulative GPA, Completion Rate, and Maximum Hours are the standards which this measured.

**GPA:** You must maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average. For undergraduate students, a 2.0 or higher is required. For graduate students, the minimum GPA is 3.0.

**Completion Rate:** You must complete a required percentage of the credits you attempt (attempted credits are any credits you are enrolled in after the semester census date). All UCCS students must successfully complete at least 67% of their attempted credits.

**Maximum Hours:** You must complete your degree or certificate program within a maximum timeframe, which may vary according to your degree program. Students can take 150% of the courses needed in order to graduate in their chosen degree program or certificate.

If a student does not meet these SAP requirements, the student will be given a single semester warning period and will continue to be eligible for financial aid. If the student is still not meeting the SAP requirements by the end of this period, he or she will become ineligible for financial aid.

Students who are ineligible for financial aid due to not meeting SAP requirements may submit an appeal to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC).

For more information about the UCCS SAP policy, please visit: <http://www.uccs.edu/finaid/policies/sap.html>



## ASK #UCCSFINAID

**Q:** Do I have to pay taxes on the money I earn through Federal work study or an hourly student employment position?

**A:** Yes. Student employment income is taxable. You will receive a W2 form from UCCS at the end of the year, which indicates how much money you earned from your position(s).

Although you should list those earning as income on the FAFSA, please note that you may also report any need-based Federal work study earnings as exclusions on the "Additional Financial Information" section of your FAFSA.

PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR THE

## STUDENT JOB FAIR

SPRING 2018

Tuesday 11 AM  
01/23/18 TO  
2 PM  
BERGER HALL

QUESTIONS?  
719-255-3454  
stuemp@uccs.edu

## FIND A JOB!

Sign up today on SEAN!  
seans.uccs.edu

- **NETWORK!**
- **MEET ON AND OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYERS!**
- **DRESS TO IMPRESS!**
- **BRING YOUR RESUME!**
- **POSSIBLE ON-SITE INTERVIEWS!**

## EMPLOYERS

**RESERVE A TABLE TODAY!**

Register using the  
Events tab on SEAN!

seans.uccs.edu/employer

UCCS

**FAFSafest**

**FREE FAFSA AND UCCS SCHOLARSHIP HELP!**

February 2, 9, and 16, 10am-4pm

Cragmor Hall 201

No appointments necessary!

# FINANCIAL AID FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER

There is no special summer application necessary. All you need to do is be enrolled at least half time and have a completed 2017-2018 FAFSA on file. You will be **automatically** considered for summer financial aid. If you are interested in work study for the summer, that application will be available on April 2nd 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!* 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.



**AUTHORIZE  
DIRECT  
DEPOSIT  
IN THE  
STUDENT  
FINANCIALS  
SECTION OF THE  
myUCCS portal**

Student Financials (Bursar) Financial Aid

Estimate Your Bill  
Pay Your Bill  
View Your Balance  
Authorize Others to View and Pay Your Bill  
Authorize Direct Deposit  
Authorize COF  
Enroll in Payment Plan  
View 1098-T  
Grant Title IV Permission

WWW.UCCS.EDU/~PORTAL

**UCCS  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FAIR 2018**

**WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 31**

**11 AM - 1 PM IN UC 303**

UCCS Scholarships from  
each college will be  
represented along with  
opportunities for military,  
non-traditional students and  
study abroad scholarships.  
**FREE FOOD AND DRINK  
WILL BE PROVIDED!**

**CONTACT INFO:**  
scholarships@uccs.edu  
719.255.5164

# IMPORTANT SPRING DATES

- Dec 1** UCCS Scholarship application available in myUCCS portal  
Student employment openings for spring post in SEAN
- Jan 2** Spring 2018 Tuition can be viewed in myUCCS portal
- Jan 8** Financial Aid awards adjusted due to non-full time enrollment
- Jan 8** First Spring 2018 Financial Aid Disbursement (funds released toward UCCS bills)
- Jan 11** Short-term loans available
- Jan 11** First E-bills Available in myUCCS portal
- Jan 16** First day of spring semester (regularly scheduled spring classes begin)
- Jan 23** Student Employment Job Fair, Berger Hall, 11-2pm
- Jan 31** UCCS Scholarship Fair, UC 116, 11-1pm
- Jan 31** **Census Date!**  
*\*Last day to register for regular semester courses*  
*Last day to withdrawal or drop courses and receive 100% refund of tuition and fees.*
- Feb 1** Financial aid may be adjusted if not enrolled full-time.
- Feb 1** UCCS merit scholarship deadline
- Feb 1** Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "My Big Fat Budgeted Wedding" UC 122 @ 5pm
- Feb 2** FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Feb 9** FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Feb 16** FAFSAfest (free FAFSA Help, Top Floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm)
- Mar 1** UCCS Financial Aid priority filing date/UCCS scholarship deadline!
- Mar 8** Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "Up! There's An Adventure Out There" UC 122 @ 5pm
- Mar 26** Spring Break begins (March 26–April 1)
- Apr 2** Summer work study application available in myUCCS portal
- Apr 8** National Student Employment Week (April 8–April 14)
- Apr 12** Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "2 Fast 2 Broke" UC 122 @ 5pm
- Apr 20** Spring short-term loans due in full!
- May 3** Mountain Lion Money Matters Workshop "Game of Loans" UC 122 @ 5pm
- May 11** Spring 2018 Commencement
- May 18** Summer award notices emailed to summer enrolled students
- July 5** Fall 2018/Spring 2019 award notices emailed to current students



## Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

To complete your Loan Exit Counseling, please visit:  
[studentsloans.gov](http://studentsloans.gov)



## UPCOMING MLMM WORKSHOPS

[WWW.UCCS.EDU/~MONEYMATTERS/](http://WWW.UCCS.EDU/~MONEYMATTERS/)

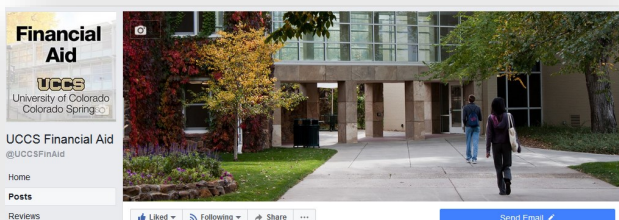
- February 1** My Big Fat Budgeted Wedding
- March 8** Up! There's An Adventure Out There
- April 12** 2 Fast 2 Broke
- May 3** Game of Loans

*All workshops will be hosted in UC 122 at 5pm!*  
*Come check them out!*

@UCCSFINAID



Over 5000 likes and still going strong!



Did you know that you can find us online via **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **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 about 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