



Budgeting Tips for College Students

While you're in college, you'll need to learn how to manage your finances, plan for changes, and prepare for the unexpected. Budgeting will help you build decision-making skills and help you to reach your financial, academic, and personal goals.
(continued on pg. 2)



March 1st...

It's more than just Peanut Butter Lovers Day!

Remember that March 1 is the **UCCS Priority and Scholarship Deadline!** This date is important because *you could be missing out on hundreds, or even thousands of dollars* by overlooking this important date! In order to be considered for many grant opportunities (aka free money) and even work study opportunities, you must complete your FAFSA by March 1. This date is also the deadline for most UCCS scholarships!

So be sure to complete your FAFSA and scholarship application as soon as possible, and that jar of peanut butter will taste all the more sweeter on March 1!

You can find the 2019-2020 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov, and the UCCS Scholarship application in the "Financial Aid" section of the *myUCCS Portal*.

Summer Financial Aid Information

There is no special summer application necessary (except for work study). All you need to do is be enrolled at least half time and have a completed 2018-2019 FAFSA on file. You **automatically** will 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 1 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! Also keep in mind that, with the exception of the Pell Grant (conditions apply), you are required to be enrolled at least half time (6 credit hours for undergraduate students and 3 credit hours for graduate students).



Office of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Scholarships

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

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

719-255-3460
finaidse@uccs.edu
Office hours: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday

**No appointment needed.
"Walkens" always welcome.**



BUDGETING TIPS



(continued from pg. 1)

Overestimate your expenses, and underestimate your income.

It's better to overestimate your expenses and underspend and end up with a surplus.

Understand the difference between NEEDS and WANTS.

This is a big one. One benefit of budgeting is that it helps you determine if you have the resources to spend on items that you want versus those you need.

Involve your family in your budgeting.

Determine how much income will be available from family sources such as parents or a spouse. Discuss how financial decisions will be made.

Prepare and plan for changes!

Budgeting will help you cover unusual expenses and plan for changes that may happen while you're in school.

- Planning to move off campus? Short-term budgeting goals for the year can include saving for the rent deposit and furniture for your new apartment.
- Starting an internship? Adjust your budget to save for buying new clothes to wear to work and paying increased transportation costs.
- Finishing school in the next year? Budget to include job search expenses such as resume preparation, travel to interviews and job fairs, and professional exam fees. Also, you may need to think about how you will manage your money between leaving school and finding a job—this is a time when an emergency fund can really help out.

Expect the unexpected.

Your emergency fund should be used for expenses that fall outside the categories of annual and periodic bills. Redefine your notion of "unexpected" bills to encompass these unforeseen events rather than more common but infrequent expenses. The good news is that if you do not use your emergency fund, you will have savings—which should always be a priority when managing your finances. If you do not have to use your emergency fund, you may avoid unnecessary borrowing the almost always ends up costing you more money.

Only borrow what you need.

If your living expenses are not going to be as high as the amount on your award letter, you have the option to reduce or decline loans that you are offered. If you have any questions or don't understand what types of loans are in your award letter, contact a financial aid counselor. Always ask questions and be an informed borrower. Make sure to understand what you're receiving and the repayment terms.

Make it FUN!

Recognize that budgeting doesn't have to be a boring and unwelcome part of your life. It can be fun! So break out the colored pencils, notebooks, and stationery and create a budgeting journal. Invest yourself into creating a dynamic and engaging budgeting spreadsheet on your computer. Look into budgeting apps for your phone and personalize them! Budgeting can be a fun process, and remember that the payoff for having a solid financial plan is always rewarding!



Q: What is a short-term loan?

Short-term loans are loans that are available to students who are experiencing a financial hardship. These are **available to students beginning on January 17 or on the first day of an early-starting spring course**. These loans can be taken out in \$100 increments, up to a maximum of \$700, and have a fee of \$5 for every \$100 borrowed. Short-term loans must be repaid, and are **due no later than April 20**. You can inquire about a short-term loan by visiting the Financial Aid office on the top floor of Cragmor Hall.

SCHOLARSHIPS THE TIME IS NOW



Remember that financial aid operates almost one year in advance, so now is the time to be looking into scholarship opportunities for next year! The 2019-20 UCCS Scholarship opened on December 1, 2018. 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. Let's go get some scholarship money! Here are a few frequently asked scholarship questions students ask

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.

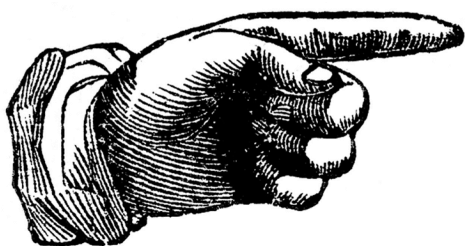
How quickly will I be notified on the status of my application?

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 for more information. Also, you can view our UCCS Scholarship Application How-To Guide in our "Resources" section at www.uccs.edu/finaid.



Spring-start students and the FAFSA

Transfer and newly admitted spring start students need to be aware that you need to complete **two** FAFSAs, the **2018-19 FAFSA** for the remaining spring and summer semesters this academic year, AND the **2019-20 FAFSA** for **next** fall, spring, and summer semesters! Be sure you have both completed as soon as possible in order to maximize your financial aid opportunities!

Spring 2019 Financial Aid Calendar

January 14	First spring financial aid disbursement (financial aid funds applied to student bills).
January 14	First e-bills are available in the myUCCS Portal
January 17	Short-term loans are available (see page 2)
January 21	MLK Holiday- Office closed
January 29	Student Employment Job Fair- Berger Hall, 11am-2pm
January 31	Scholarship Fair- UC 303, 11am-1pm
February 1	1st UCCS scholarship deadline
February 6	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. No refunds offered after this date.</i>
February 7	Financial Aid may be adjusted, if not enrolled full-time
February 8	FAFSAfest (free walk-in assistance with filing your 2019-2020 FAFSA) Top floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm
February 15	FAFSAfest (free walk-in assistance with filing your 2019-2020 FAFSA) Top floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm
February 22	FAFSAfest (free walk-in assistance with filing your 2019-2020 FAFSA) Top floor Cragmor Hall, 10am-4pm
March 1	UCCS FAFSA Priority Date/Scholarship deadline!
March 25-30	Spring Break
April 1	Summer work study application available in the myUCCS Portal
April 8-14	National Student Employment Week
April 20	Spring short-term loans due
May 17	Spring 2019 Commencement
May 17	Summer award notifications emailed to students
July 1	Fall 2019/Spring 2020 award notices emailed to current students

**THERE IS MONEY OUT
THERE WAITING FOR YOU!
STOP BY THE
SCHOLARSHIP FAIR
JANUARY 31,
11 AM - 1 PM
IN UC 303
FREE FOOD
SEE YOU THERE!**

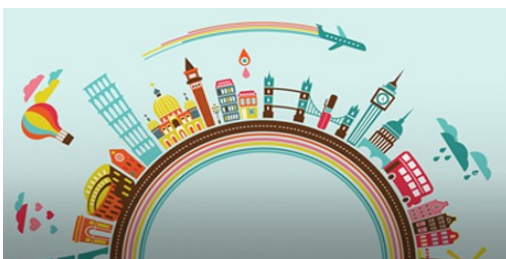
UCCS Scholarship Department

Please join us for the
**Spring 2019
Student Employment
Job Fair**

**Berger Hall
January 29th
11 am - 2 pm**

**Questions?
stuemp@uccs.edu
719-255-3454**

Studying elsewhere for spring or summer ?



Planning to study away or abroad for the spring and/or summer semester? There are details you need to be aware of! Please visit www.uccs.edu/finaid/resources and click "Taking Course Elsewhere 2018-2019" for more information.

UCCS
FAFSAfest

FREE FAFSA AND UCCS SCHOLARSHIP HELP!

February 8, 15, and 22, 10am-4pm
Top Floor, Cragmor Hall
No appointment necessary!