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BEHIND the MONEY



UCCS Financial Aid News

Spring 2012

The 2012-13 FAFSA IS HERE!

Bring It On!

That's right, it's FAFSA time again! The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a federal form that you need to fill out to receive financial aid here at UCCS. To fill out the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.gov and list UCCS school code **004509**.

To be considered for priority aid, remember that the priority filing date for the FAFSA is **March 1st**.

If you miss priority date, don't worry! You can still submit your FAFSA and receive financial aid. Although we cannot guarantee the best financial aid possible if you don't meet priority date, aid such as the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Stafford Loans are always available, no matter when you submit the FAFSA.

For help with the FAFSA, be sure to check out *page 3* for dates for our Annual FAFSA Fest!



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youtube.com/uccsfinaid

www.uccs.edu/finaid



UCCS Fin Aid Has Gone SOCIAL

Gone are the days of having to visit the office for up-to-date information about financial aid!

There are now several ways that you can quickly interact with us!



Visit our website at www.uccs.edu/finaid, or check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Be sure to like, follow, and subscribe!

UCCS Scholarship Information

UCCS scholarships are awarded to both need-based and merit-based students.

Merit awards require applications be submitted by February 1, 2012.

The majority of remaining scholarships offered at UCCS have application deadlines of March 1, 2012. To review scholarships which you may qualify for, log into your *myUCCS Student Portal*.

Remember: Many scholarships require letters of recommendation from academic or community sources. It's a good idea to allow at least two weeks for references to complete a letter. Ask people who can attest to your strength of character, academic merit, and involvement in extracurricular and community activities as they hold the most influence over your success as a scholarship recipient.

1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Email: finaidse@uccs.edu

Phone: 719-255-3460
1-800-990-8227 (Ext. 3460)

Fax: 719-255-3650

UCCS
Federal School Code:

004509



Office of Financial Aid,
Student Employment and Scholarships

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Big Changes to Federal Student Aid for 2012-2013

In August 2011, the Budget Control Act was signed into law, which will impact all recipients of federal student loans. These changes include:

- ★ **Subsidized Stafford loans have been eliminated for graduate and professional students. Unsubsidized Stafford loans will continue to be available, and loan limits will remain at \$20,500.00**
- ★ **The U.S. Department of Education's up-front origination fee rebate has been eliminated. All loans disbursed after June 30, 2012 will be assessed the full origination fee.**

Furthermore, the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2012 was signed into law on December 23, 2011 resulting in:

- ★ **Any Subsidized Stafford loan made from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 will not be eligible for subsidized interest benefits during the six-month grace period.**
- ★ **Students are now limited to 12 semesters (full-time) of Pell Grant eligibility.**

Did YOU Know?



If you buy one \$4 coffee beverage every day, you will be spending:

\$28 a week
\$120 a month
\$1,460 a year
\$7,300 over five years

If you had invested that money, you would have earned (assuming an average 9% return on your investment):

Approximately **\$9,300** over 5 years
Approximately **\$16,000** over 10 years
Approximately **\$240,000** over 30 years
Approximately **\$630,000** over 40 years!

In 40 years, your coffee habit could generate an income of **more than \$2,600 a month!**

Now THAT'S something to think about!

You can read more at www.cbsnews.com/moneywatch. Search for "Starbucks raising prices in some markets."

Award Letters Are Changing

Award letters (now called **award notifications**) are changing for the 2012-2013 aid year.

To receive your award notification, all requested financial aid documents must be submitted. Once your financial aid file is complete, you will receive a financial aid award notification detailing your financial aid eligibility.

Financial aid awards can be comprised of gift aid (such as scholarship and grants), and self-help aid (such as loans and work-study).

Award notifications for:

- ★ Newly admitted freshman and transfer students will be mailed starting mid-March.
- ★ Current UCCS students will be viewable through the *myUCCS Student Portal* starting in early June.



Now Online! **UCCS Money Matters**

www.YouTube.com/uccsfinaid

New episodes coming soon, so be sure to **SUBSCRIBE!**



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Important Spring Dates

2012

- Jan. 1: 2012-13 FAFSA Available
- Jan. 11: Spring Financial Aid Refunds Available
- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 17: Classes Begin!
- Jan. 27: FAFSAFest Session 1
Centennial Hall 245, 10am– 2pm.
- Feb. 1: **Last day to drop/add with 100% refund**
Bills are due!
Merit Scholarship Deadline
- Feb. 3: FAFSAFest Session 2
Centennial Hall 245, 10am– 2pm.
- Feb. 10: FAFSAFest Session 3
Centennial Hall 245, 10am– 2pm.
- Feb. 12: College Goal Sunday
Columbine 220, 2pm-4pm
- Feb. 17: FAFSAFest Session 4
Centennial Hall 245, 10am– 2pm.
- Mar. 1: **Priority Date/General Scholarship Deadline**
- Mar. 26: Spring Break begins
- Apr. 2: Summer Registration begins
- Apr. 30: Fall Registration begins
- May 12: Last day of Spring Work-Study Term
- May 14: End of the Semester
- May 18: Spring Commencement



How and When to Apply for Aid

Submit Free Application for Federal Student (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov

UCCS's School Code is **004509**

The (FAFSA) must be processed by **March 1** to be considered for Priority Aid

UCCS will receive your processed FAFSA called an ISIR. Your copy is the Student Aid Report or SAR

UCCS will process your ISIR if you have applied for admission or are a current student

UCCS will review your FAFSA information to determine if anything additional is needed to complete your financial aid file

UCCS will contact you via email if any additional information is needed. Check your *goUCCS Prospective Student Portal* (www.uccs.edu/portal/) or *myUCCS Current Student Portal* (www.uccs.edu/portal/) for additional information that may be needed. Navigate to the Student Center and **review your 'To Do List'**

Apply for UCCS Scholarships!

The deadline for most scholarships is March 1st. See the UCCS Scholarship Website (financial.uccs.edu/) for more information

Receive Award Notification

Your eligibility will be based on whether you are an undergraduate or graduate, residency status, Cost of Attendance (COA), Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and funding availability. *You will not be awarded unless* you have been admitted to UCCS or are a current student and your financial aid file is complete.

Aid will be disbursed (released) to your UCCS student account up to 10 days prior to the beginning of each term

New UCCS students will begin receiving Award Notifications in mid-March. **Continuing UCCS students** will begin receiving Award Notifications in June

This is a yearly process
Mark your calendars for next year's dates!!!

Awards will be disbursed based on the number of credits enrolled, a complete financial aid file, and meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements

Follow us on Twitter (@uccsfinancial) and Like us on Facebook (UCCS Financial Aid) to stay informed of upcoming dates and information that impacts you!

WAYS TO PAY

Students can pay their UCCS bill by:

eCheck or Credit Card. Click "Make a Payment" on *myUCCS Student Portal*.

OR

Visit the Cashier's window on the second floor of Main Hall.

And to receive your financial aid refund faster, be sure to sign up for direct deposit on myUCCS portal!

US Department of Education Contacts

Federal Direct Loan Information

www.studentloans.gov

- View loan documents
- Entrance Counseling
- Sign MPN
- Complete PLUS Request Process

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

www.nsls.ed.gov

Federal Direct Loan Consolidation

1-800-557-7392; 1-800-557-7395 (TTY)

www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid Number

1-800-4-FED-AID



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