It’s **FAFSA** time again!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a federal form you need to fill out to receive financial aid at UCCS. Students should be prepared to file their FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 to be considered for priority funds.

To fill out the FAFSA, go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

You will need your 2013 federal tax information, as well as your parents 2013 tax information if you are considered a dependent student. It is acceptable to submit the application using your best estimate of 2013 income information, meaning you can use prior year taxes or December paycheck stubs to estimate the income information. Once your taxes are filed, you can correct any tax information that is different from what was initially estimated on the FAFSA.

The **UCCS priority date is Saturday, March 1, at 11:59pm MST.**

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). You should submit the FAFSA as early as possible before the priority filing date to be considered for the best possible aid package.

If we require tax information, we recommend that you download your federal tax return information directly from the IRS into the FAFSA (called the IRS Data Retrieval Tool), which saves you time and improves accuracy. Electronically filed tax return information will be available approximately 1-2 weeks after filing your taxes.

*Need help with filing your FAFSA? See page 4*

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**office hours**
Monday - Friday 8-5pm

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80918

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**Look what’s new!**
**MOUNTAIN LION MONEY MATTERS**
www.uccs.edu/moneymatters

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**FAFSA 2014-15** 1  **Disbursement** 2  **Spring Dates** 3  **And MORE!**
Disbursement is the actual payment of financial aid awards toward a student’s bill.

Disbursement of financial aid at UCCS occurs no earlier than 10 days prior to the first day of the semester. Before your aid can be disbursed to you, you must complete the following requirements:

**accept your aid**
Accept your awards for the current aid year through the myUCCS Student Portal.

**satisfy all outstanding requirements**
Be sure all financial aid item(s) in your “To Do List” in the myUCCS Student Portal are complete.

**be enrolled**
Students must be enrolled in classes to receive financial aid. Students are initially awarded as a full time student. If you enroll in less than full time credit hours your awards may be reduced. For federal loans, students must be enrolled at least half time. Please note that a waitlist class will not count as an enrolled class.

**mpn and entrance counseling**
If you are borrowing a student loan, you are required to complete and sign any applicable promissory note(s) for your loans. First-time Direct Loan borrowers and Grad PLUS borrowers must complete loan entrance counseling at StudentLoans.gov and for the Federal Perkins Loan and Private Student loan at mappingyourfuture.org.

**satisfactory academic progress**
Students are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward their degree if they are recipients of financial aid. For more information about Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy, visit: www.uccs.edu/finaid/policies/sap.html. There is also a great article about our SAP policy in our Fall 2013 edition of Behind the Money! Our newsletter comes out each semester and can be viewed on our website.

If a student’s financial aid award is greater than their UCCS bill, they will receive a refund. We strongly encourage students to submit a direct deposit authorization in the billing section of the myUCCS Student Portal!

Students that do not sign up for direct deposit will receive their refund check by mail, which will delay the receipt of their funds due to mailing time.
Jan. 21 Classes begin!

February

Feb. 5 Spring census date, tuition due and first deferred payment due
Feb. 7 Loan Repayment Workshop presented by Sallie Mae, Clyde's 8:30-10:30am
Feb. 7 FAFSA Fest #1
Top Floor Cragmor Hall 11-2pm
Feb. 9 College Goal Sunday
COB 221, 223, 224, 230 1-4pm
Feb. 14 Last day to completely withdraw from classes for 80% refund
Feb. 14 FAFSA Fest #2
Top Floor Cragmor Hall 11-2pm
Feb. 20 Managing and Paying Off Debt Workshop
University Center 116, 5-7pm
Feb. 14 FAFSA Fest #3
Top Floor Cragmor Hall 11-2pm
Feb. 25 Understanding the Basics of Investing Workshop
Clyde's 6-8pm
Feb. 28 Last day to completely withdraw for 60% refund

March

Mar. 1 UCCS FAFSA/ Scholarship Priority Date
Mar. 5 Second deferred payment due
Mar. 24 Spring Break begins
Mar. 31 Summer registration begins

April

Apr. 5 Short term loans and final deferred payment due
Apr. 14 National Student Employment Week begins

May

May 5 Fall registration begins
May 19 Spring semester ends
May 23 Spring commencement

Financial Aid for Summer

No special summer application is necessary! All you need to do is be enrolled at least half time and have a completed 2013-2014 FAFSA on file. You will automatically be considered for summer financial aid!

The financial aid office will determine your eligibility for federal and state aid and you will be notified at your UCCS email account.

If you are interested in summer work study, you will need to complete the Summer Application, which will be available in the myUCCS Student Portal beginning April 1, 2014.
That's for sure! What is R2T4 and how does it work???

R2T4 stands for “Return of Title IV Funds.” One of the most misunderstood concepts in financial aid is the returning of federal financial aid when a student withdraws from school. Per federal regulation, when a student is no longer attending any classes, the university must return any unearned portion of federal aid the student received. Financial Aid is disbursed to a student prior to the start of a term...this disbursement is given to the student in good faith and the assumption is made that the student will go to class and earn a grade.

As we all know, life happens and things do not always go as planned. A student must sometimes withdraw from classes. A student can officially withdraw (by formally withdrawing from school through the Admissions and Records office) or unofficially withdraw (by no longer attending classes without notifying the school). If a student withdraws before the end of the term, he or she may not have earned all the financial aid they received for the term, and it must be returned.

A student must attend more than 60% of a term to earn and keep 100% of the aid they were given at the beginning of the term. When a student withdrawals or stops attending classes prior to that time, a portion of their aid will be returned to the federal fund. If a bill is created as a result of returning of those funds, the student is responsible for paying that bill back to UCCS. Thus it is important for any financial aid recipient who thinks they may not be able to finish the term to speak with the financial aid office to find out if they may owe money.