

# Funding for College Education



## Financial Aid:

Financial Aid is a resource to college students to help students fund their college education. Financial Aid awards can contain grants, which is funding that is not required to be paid back. Aid can also be financial loans that students are required to pay back after graduation or after students are no longer an active student at the university (students must begin paying back loan money if they are not actively enrolled at a university for at least 6 months).

- To determine eligibility for Financial Aid, students must first begin by filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. However, before students can complete a FAFSA application, they must obtain their Federal Student Aid (FSA) pin, which students can apply for by clicking here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
- While completing their FAFSA application, students must make sure they select their application to be sent to MSU Denver (school code 001360).
- Students need to submit their FAFSA application every academic year to determine eligibility for aid. Students can begin filling out their application as early as January 1 each year.
- Students must check their **MSU Denver email** for communication from the Financial Aid office if documents are missing. This should be done often in order to receive communication and return documents in a timely manner. Not doing this may delay students receiving aid by the time tuition and fees are due to the university.
- To be eligible for workstudy and loans, students must be enrolled in at least 6-credit hours a semester. Grants will be pro-rated based on actual enrollment hours.

## Scholarships:

MSU Denver offers a variety of scholarships each academic year. Scholarships are free money to eligible students. Students must apply for scholarships and scholarship criteria are based on a number of factors (GPA requirements, minimum credit hour requirements, etc.).

- Students need to submit a FAFSA before being eligible to apply for scholarships.
- To view and apply for scholarships, please visit the following MSU Denver websites:
  - <http://www.msudenver.edu/financialaid/scholarships/>.
  - <https://www.msudenver.edu/women/scholarships>.
- It is also recommended you check with your major department for scholarship opportunities.

## College Opportunity Fund:

- The College Opportunity Fund (COF) is a financial benefit to Colorado in-state students who are working on their first undergraduate degree.
- This stipend reduces the amount of tuition in-state students are required to pay and do not need to pay this back.
- Students apply for the COF once and have the choice to authorize it every term or for their entire undergraduate education via their ConnectU portal.
- To apply for COF, student can go to <https://cof.college-assist.org/> or call 1-800-777-2757.

## Workstudy:

Workstudy is a type of funding that eligible students can receive to work for a position at MSU Denver while attending classes. Students must complete a FAFSA to determine their eligibility for workstudy funds. Workstudy funds are awarded to eligible students who either qualify through Federal Aid or have enough aid remaining that they convert into workstudy funds.



- Students who have been awarded aid through their financial aid package can look for employment on MSU Denver’s Human Resources website: [www.msudenverjobs.com](http://www.msudenverjobs.com) and click on “student positions”.
- Students who have applied for Financial Aid but were not awarded workstudy can apply for “no-need” workstudy funds. Student must find an office on campus that is interested in hiring a student and have the office sign a “no-need workstudy form” to be turned into the Financial Aid office. There is no guarantee that students will be awarded workstudy funds but if funds are available and if students qualify based on need, they will be awarded funds to work.
- Students need to apply for workstudy funds each academic year, but also must apply separately for summer as aid. Summer aid is awarded separately.
- Student can be awarded up to \$5,000 for both fall and spring semesters (\$2500/semester) and up to \$1,500 for summer semester.

