



Welcome to Red Rocks Community College and the Financial Aid Office

We hope that your experiences here are some of the most memorable and rewarding of your lifetime.

You are probably concerned about how you will finance your education while you are at Red Rocks. This handbook is designed to help you with the financial aid process. Keep in mind that requests for financial aid usually exceed the amounts available, so it is essential that you apply early and stay informed of the status of your application.

What role does the RRCC Financial Aid Office play?

Our office is designed to assist you in the financial aid process. Even though we cannot help you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), there are resources to help you. To schedule an appointment with our Educational Opportunity Center Counselor for help in completing your FAFSA, come by or call our office.

Our front desk staff is extremely knowledgeable, and can assist you with many of your questions. We also have an on-call Financial Aid Advisor during business hours, if you require additional assistance. An appointment is not needed to speak with an Advisor.

Once we receive your application (the FAFSA), our staff will determine what other information is needed and will complete the processing after all documents are in. Please check your student email account frequently, as we will communicate any additional requirements or correspondence via your email account.

We also have a Default Prevention Loan Advisor who can personally meet with you to discuss your loan repayment options, assist with default/bankruptcy issues, and get you in touch with your loan servicer. You may also complete your Direct Loan Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note in our Student Loan Resource Center computer lab. Stop by the Financial Aid Office to learn more.

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of various federal, state, institutional, and private programs designed to assist you with financing your college education. Some financial aid is obtained by students submitting a federal application (the FAFSA described below), whereas other aid may require additional applications.

The majority of federal and state student aid programs are based on the idea that students (and their parents or spouse, if applicable) have the primary responsibility for paying for education expenses. Those expenses, or costs of attendance (COA), can include tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, board, personal/medical expenses, transportation, and expenses related to dependent care or care related to a disability. Financial aid is generally intended to meet the gap between your expected family contribution (EFC) and the cost of attending college.

Who is Eligible for Financial Aid?

Although the majority of financial aid programs are based on demonstrated financial need, don't assume that you won't qualify for any kind of aid.

Almost everyone can qualify for some type of financial aid if they meet the general eligibility requirements listed below.

Most financial aid is based on financial need and it is the policy of RRCC to accept the use of the Federal Need Analysis Methodology to determine the expected family contribution (EFC). This number indicates the student's (and/or the parents') ability to contribute toward the student's education. This contribution is calculated based on information provided by you in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Some of that information includes your income, assets, family size, number of students in college, age of your older parent, etc. The FAFSA will help the school determine the type and amount of aid for which you are eligible.

A FAFSA must be completed each academic year with your updated income and family information.

General Eligibility Requirements

In order to qualify for financial aid, all students must first meet the following eligibility requirements:

Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Be classified as a Colorado resident for tuition purposes to be eligible for any state financial aid.

Meet one of the following requirements:

Have a high school diploma (or the equivalent, such as have completed a 2-year program that is acceptable toward a bachelor's degree).

Have a GED

Note: Students may no longer take the ATB test to qualify for financial aid. A student must have either a high school diploma, GED, or have been successfully homeschooled in order to be financial aid eligible. This will be grandfathered in for students who have received aid prior to 7/1/12.

Be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program. (***See below.**)

Be registered with the Selective Service (males only).

Be in good standing in accordance with RRCC's Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for financial aid.

Demonstrate financial need by completing the FAFSA as required by RRCC. (Some programs do not require that you have unmet need.)

Be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) for the majority of aid programs.

Cannot be in default on a student loan or owe a repayment on a Federal Pell Grant (PELL), or a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) at any educational institution.

Cannot be co-enrolled in a secondary school (current high school student).

Cannot have been convicted of a federal or state drug offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which you were receiving federal financial aid.

*** Students enrolled in the cooperative programs listed below are ineligible for financial aid. Please contact the Financial Aid office if you have further questions.**

Adam's County Sheriff's Office

Colorado State Patrol

Fairmount Fire Protection District

Jefferson County School District and Outdoor Education Laboratory Schools

Montessori Casa International

North Washington Fire Academy

Rocky Mountain Chefs of Colorado

St. Anthony Central Hospital

St. Anthony Pre-Hospital Services

South Metro Fire Services

West Metro Fire and Rescue

How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

The first step toward applying for financial aid is to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the appropriate academic year. Complete the FAFSA using the Red Rocks Community College school code: 0095433. Applications can be submitted online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The results of the FAFSA application will help the Financial Aid Office at Red Rocks Community College determine the type and amount of aid for which you will be eligible. We must receive the results of this application before you will be considered for any federal or state financial aid.

You and your parents (if you are a dependent student) should register for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. Your PIN will allow you to sign your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically. You can also use your PIN to check the status of your electronic FAFSA or to make online changes to your FAFSA.

For priority consideration, RRCC must have received your FAFSA by the respective priority date for the term that you are going to enroll. If you miss the priority consideration date, you should still submit a FAFSA as soon as possible.

When you are completing your FAFSA, you will be given the opportunity to choose an IRS data match, which populates your tax information automatically into the correct fields on your FAFSA. This greatly simplifies the whole application process and helps eliminate time-wasting errors.

If you need assistance in completing the FAFSA, we can arrange an appointment with a counselor from the Educational Opportunity Center, who can assist you.

Apply as soon as possible and complete your tax return early so that you will meet the priority dates and possibly qualify for more financial aid. Red Rocks' priority filing dates are as follows:

Fall financial aid – apply by the preceding April 1

Spring financial aid – apply by the preceding September 1

Summer financial aid – apply by the preceding February 1

What Other Steps are Involved in the Application Process?

Apply for and be officially admitted to attend Red Rocks Community College.

If you discover a mistake on your FAFSA application use your PIN to re-access your FAFSA to make the correction.

Submit any additional required documentation as requested by the Financial Aid Office. Approximately 30% of the students who apply for financial aid are randomly selected by the Department of Education for verification. If you have been selected for verification, we will need additional documentation such as W2s, your birth certificate, social security card, immigration papers, DD214, tax transcripts ordered from the IRS, etc.

Once your application is complete, verified, and all corrections have been made, you will be notified by mail and via your school-issued e-mail regarding how much funding you have been awarded. You may also check the status of your financial aid award through the RRCC portal at www.rrcc.edu. Click on "The Rock" link and click on the "Student Finance" tab.

What are the Deadlines for me to Submit Documentation?

You are responsible for completing any actions required by the RRCC Financial Aid Office before any aid can be disbursed to you. Deadlines vary depending on your current and/or previous enrollment, the time of year, and whether or not you have been selected for verification. If you have not been selected for verification, you must comply with all requirements in sufficient time for the Financial Aid Office to review your file by the last day of enrollment. If you have been selected for verification, you must have an accurate and complete FAFSA on file with the school by the last day of enrollment. At that point, you and the Financial Aid Office have an additional 120 days after the last day of enrollment to satisfy all requirements and then you will be awarded, if eligible.

How is Eligibility Determined?

In order to determine what financial aid you might be eligible for, we must first determine other resources that are available to you.

Financial aid is generally intended to meet the gap between your expected family contribution (EFC) and the costs of attending college (COA). In addition to the EFC, a student may have other resources such as RRCC institutional scholarships, outside scholarships, and Vocational Rehabilitation assistance that are required to be included in the determination of need.

The Financial Aid Office determines your cost of attendance by adding together your estimated expenses for the nine-month academic year. Resources are subtracted from your expected costs and the difference is your financial need or your eligibility. In other words: **Cost of Attendance – Resources (EFC + other resources) = Need**. If you only qualify for non-need-based aid, your eligibility may be determined differently.

What Types of Financial Aid are Available?

Red Rocks Community College offers a variety of financial aid, which consists of various federal, state, and institutional programs designed to assist you and your family with financing your college education.

Below are some of the types of aid that you might be eligible for:

Grants: Grants are need-based federal and state funds that do not have to be repaid. Grants are available to eligible students based on financial need and level of enrollment. Examples are the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and the Colorado Student Grant. With the exception of Pell, grants are allocated to colleges in yearly, limited amounts, so a student may show eligibility, but funds may be exhausted. Students who have already received a bachelor's degree are ineligible for federal and state grants.

Scholarships: Scholarships are funds that are usually based on merit, talent, or other individual criteria. Although scholarships do not have to be repaid, they do require a separate application. Examples are the Columbine Remembrance Scholarship, First Generation Scholarship, RRCC Phi Theta Kappa/Honors Scholarship, Colorado Merit Scholarship, and Red Rocks Foundation Scholarship. You may contact the Financial Aid Office or go to www.rrcc.edu/inancial-aid/scholarships for additional information about possible scholarship opportunities.

Work-Study: Work-Study provides financial assistance in the form of part-time employment on campus or at designated off-campus sites. Students must be enrolled at least half-time status (6 credit hours) to participate in the program. Students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week (up to 28 hours per week when classes are not in session) and working hours are arranged with your supervisor around your classes. Hourly wages vary according to the skill level, responsibilities, and training required. A work-study award on the award notification letter does not guarantee that you will have a job or that you will actually earn the amount listed. Although most work-study is awarded to students based on need, there is some work-study funding available to Colorado residents who show no financial need.

Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans: Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans must be repaid at a future date, usually six months after you graduate, leave school, or are no longer enrolled as a half-time student. Red Rocks Community College participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program, which means that the funds are received by the college directly from the federal government. Student loan funds may be used for education-related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, living costs, transportation, etc. Please visit our website at www.rrcc.edu/financial-aid/awarding-and-disbursement-process for further instructions on applying for and accepting your student loan. If this is your first loan at RRCC, you will be required to sign a Master Promissory Note agreeing to repay the loan in full. You will also be required to complete Entrance Counseling (an orientation to student loans). Stafford loans may be need-based or non-need-based, and most students are able to borrow if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Estimated Expenses for Nine Months (usually fall and spring)

	<u>Colorado Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Tuition and Fees	3,394	12,693
Books and Supplies	1,800	1,800
Room and Board**	4,320	4,320
Transportation	1,296	1,296
Personal/Medical	3,546	3,546
Loan Fees	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>
Total	\$14,392	\$23,691

** These figures assume that you live with relatives. If you will live in your own housing away from relatives, the room and board expenses are slightly higher. Other expenses that you might incur are specific course fees, child care expenses, and additional supplies. The above are average costs. Please be aware that your own costs may vary. Your financial aid award can never exceed your estimated expenses. Students in the Physician Assistant program will have slightly higher expenses.

Buying Your Books With Financial Aid

If your financial aid file is complete and your final award (grants, scholarships, and loans) exceeds the tuition and fees for that term, you may charge your books and supplies against this remaining balance at the college bookstore (Barnes and Noble Bookstore).

The maximum allowable charge per semester is \$750.00 and charges end on the 15 week census date of each semester. In order to charge your books, you must provide written authorization (the TIV form) to the RRCC Financial Aid Office. Any bookstore charges will then be added to your student account. These charges will be automatically paid from your financial aid when your aid is processed. Students taking online classes through CCCOnline are also eligible to charge their books at the college bookstore if they meet the above criteria.

Paying Your Bill With Financial Aid

All financial aid awards on your award notice will be based upon FULL-TIME enrollment.

Pay careful attention to your level of enrollment and the level of enrollment that your financial aid is based on. At the drop/refund date, your aid (grants and some scholarships) will be adjusted to the following levels of enrollment:

12+ credits = Full-time

9-11 credits = Three-quarter time

6-8 credits = Half Time

1-5 credits = Less Than Half-Time*

*The majority of aid programs require at least half-time enrollment

Financial aid awarded in the form of grants, scholarships, and loans will first be applied toward the payment of outstanding tuition/fees/books/supplies that you owe to the college. If you register for classes and have received financial aid awards, you can expect to have your aid credited to your account shortly after the drop/refund date (approximately 2 weeks after the first day of classes). Should you decide not to attend after you have registered, you should officially drop your classes or you could owe tuition and fees for those classes.

Financial Aid Refunds

Any credit balance remaining after the payment of tuition and fees (and books, if authorized) will be refunded to you by the Red Rocks Community College Business Office and Higher One, our refunding servicer.

If you are enrolled in classes that begin later in the semester, your financial aid will be disbursed earlier in the semester based upon the full semester's enrollment level. If you drop a late-starting class, or the class is cancelled late in the semester, you may be responsible for repaying financial aid that you received for the class. Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about this policy.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal and State regulations require that all student financial aid recipients meet certain academic standards, termed "Satisfactory Academic Progress" standards.

Except for some private and institutional funds, all forms of financial aid (grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships) are impacted by policies developed to adhere to these regulations. The SAP standards are applied to your entire academic history at RRCC, including periods when financial aid was not received.

Evaluations of academic records are based on the following four criteria:

cumulative grade point average (GPA),

cumulative completion rate (# of credits earned compared to the # of credits attempted),

semester completion rate (effective fall 2014), and

maximum time frame (number of credits attempted)

Transfer hours and Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) are taken into consideration both the completion rate and the maximum time frame criteria.

You must complete your educational degree and/or certificate by the time you have attempted 150% of the number of credit hours required for your specific program.

You must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

You must successfully complete at least one course each semester (effective fall 2014), and maintain a cumulative completion rate of at least 67%.

The Financial Aid Office will monitor your academic progress at the end of each semester. We will attempt to notify you if you are being placed on financial aid Warning or if you are Ineligible for Aid due to SAP. If we determine that you are ineligible, you may appeal your status, in attempt to have your aid reinstated, by submitting an appeal packet, along with supporting documentation, to substantiate the existence of extenuating circumstances. Appeal packets and a complete explanation of the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy can be found on our website: www.rrcc.edu/financial-aid/satisfactory-academic-progress. For additional information, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Students will be placed on an Ineligible for Aid Status if:

After a Warning Status their Cumulative GPA remains below a 2.0

After a Warning Status their Cumulative Completion Rate remains below 67%

The student has attempted more than 150% of the required number of credits for their degree or certificate

The student does not pass at least one course during a single term (effective fall 2014)

Repeat Coursework

Federal regulations prevent students from being eligible for financial aid for any courses taken the third time for a passing grade.

Repeating courses can have ramifications that affect Satisfactory Academic Progress, but also can affect students' disbursement amounts. Please contact the Financial Aid Office before repeating any courses for a third time.

Financial Aid for Developmental Coursework (coursework below college-level)

Federal regulations prohibit financial aid (grants, work study or loans) from covering any development coursework that is not at least at the high school level. Therefore, students may have to pay out of their own pockets for some of the developmental coursework that they are required to complete.

In addition, for financial aid purposes, a student may take up to 29 credits of these developmental courses in their enrollment status, and then any additional developmental courses taken cannot be funded with Federal financial aid.

Money Owed for Course Withdrawals

When a student terminates enrollment in one or more of their classes, or fails to begin attendance in any class prior to the end of the semester, the Federal Title IV financial aid they received is subject to repayment.

Repayment is required of all Title IV recipients who withdraw prior to completing at least 60.01% of the term.

Example: A student received a Pell Grant for \$2775.00 for full time enrollment (12 credit hours). Tuition, fees, and bookstore charges for the term totaled \$1546.94. The student withdrew on the 44th day of the term. The length of the term totaled 106 days. Student completes 44 of 106 calendar days (44/106).

Percentage of Title IV aid earned	41.5%
Original Pell Award	\$2775.00
Amount of Title IV aid earned	$\$2775.00 \times 41.5\% = \1151.63
Amount of Title IV aid unearned (to be returned)	$\$2775.00 - \$1151.63 = \$1623.37$
Institutional charges incurred by student	\$1546.94
Percentage of Title IV aid unearned	$100\% - 41.5\% = 58.5\%$
Institutional charges unearned	$\$1546.94 \times 58.5\% = \904.96
Pell Grant to be returned to the Dept of Ed by RRCC	\$904.96
Initial Amount of Unearned Title IV Aid Due from Student	$\$1623.37 - \$904.96 = \$718.41$
Amount of Title IV grant protection	$\$2775.00 \times 50\% = \1387.50
Title IV grant funds for student to return	$\$718.41 - \$1387.50 = \$0.00$

RRCC policy requires the student to repay the unearned institutional charges of \$904.96 to RRCC. RRCC is required to refer a student to the U.S. Department of Education upon failure to repay a grant overpayment. The student then becomes ineligible to receive further Title IV funds at any US institution until satisfactory payment arrangements are made.

Red Rocks Community College's Default Management Plan

Many students attending RRCC rely on various forms of financial aid (grants, scholarships, work study and student loans).

Awarding of this aid provides RRCC students tremendous access to educational pathways; however, the large amount of student loan debt that is being incurred by students (nationwide and at RRCC) has become alarming! Failure of students to manage this debt upon leaving the college could result in RRCC's Cohort Default Rate rising to the point at which the college's eligibility for receiving financial aid funding for our students could be revoked.

RRCC has implemented various financial literacy initiatives. These include scheduling various workshops and presentations that focus on budgeting, debt management and understanding/repaying Stafford loans. RRCC is committed to working closely with new and current students to educate them on the effects of excessive borrowing and the impact this has on the ability to successfully repay these loans. We have introduced a fun financial aid mascot. **"Banks the pig"** and slogan **"Show Me the Money"** to help our students better manage their student loans and enhance their money management savvy. Students can now learn more about repaying student loans on their own. We encourage students to visit the new self-service **"Student Loan Resource Center"** located in the RRCC Financial Aid office. Students now have a convenient on-campus center where they can identify their lender, research repayment options and prepare to successfully manage their loans long before a payment becomes due.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students applying for financial aid have certain rights and responsibilities as stated below:

Know what financial assistance is available from RRCC, including information on Federal, State and other financial aid programs.

Know the deadlines or priority dates for submitting applications for each of the financial aid programs available.

Know the cost of attending RRCC and the refund and repayment policy.

Know the criteria used by RRCC to select financial aid recipients.

Know how RRCC determines financial need. This process includes how costs for tuition, room and board, books and supplies, travel, personal insurance and miscellaneous expenses are considered in establishing cost of attendance.

Know what resources (such as parental contribution, financial aid, private scholarships, income, assets, and other resources) are considered in calculating financial need.

Know what portion of your financial need, as computed by RRCC, has been met.

Request an explanation of the various programs included in your financial aid package, and appeal for a review of your award if you feel that it does not adequately meet your needs.

Know what portion of your financial aid package is a loan that must be repaid. If your award package does contain a loan, you have the right to know the interest rate, the total amount that must be repaid, the repayment procedure, the length of time you have to repay the loan, and when the payment is scheduled to begin.

Know what portion of your financial aid package consists of earnings from part-time employment (work-study), the conditions of employment, and how and when you will be paid.

Know how RRCC determines whether you are making satisfactory academic progress in your course of study, and what happens to your financial assistance if you do not maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Students also Have the Responsibility to:

Complete all application materials on time and make sure the various forms are sent to the right place.

Complete your application accurately. Errors can result in long delays in your consideration for financial assistance and may result in your inability to receive assistance due to lack of funds. Intentional misreporting of information on applications for Federal financial aid funds is a violation of the law and is considered a criminal offense subject to penalties under the U.S. Criminal Code. Individuals willfully misrepresenting information provided in applying for Colorado student aid funds are subject to penalty of Colorado law.

Promptly return all additional information, documentation, verification, and/or corrections requested by either the Financial Aid Office or the agency to which you submitted your application.

Read and understand all documentation you are asked to sign, and keep copies for your personal records.

Accept full responsibility for all agreements you sign.

Notify any loan holder(s) of changes in your name, address, and/or student status if you have borrowed a loan. (A loan holder may be a servicer, lender, or guarantor.)

Perform the work you have agreed to in accepting a college work-study award.

Know and comply with the refund/repayment policies and procedures of RRCC.

Understand the conditions under which each element of your financial aid package is offered and comply with the criteria for retention of your financial aid awards.

Notify the Financial Aid Office if you receive assistance of any kind, from any source, that was not reported on your application for financial aid. This includes, but is not limited to private scholarships, social security payments, Aid to Dependent Children, BIA awards, and other third party resources.

Students are advised to keep records of tuition and fees charged, books, supplies, etc. for all semesters they attended. Students are required to report financial aid, with the exception of loans, to the IRS as income if the aid received is greater than the tuition and fees charges less the amount paid for books and supplies. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the IRS for specific details.

Enroll for classes that apply toward your degree. Classes taken by audit or challenge do not qualify as financial aid-eligible hours.

Students must prove "ability to benefit" by having a high school diploma or a GED, or have completed home schooling.

Students cannot have any federal or state drug convictions while receiving federal financial aid.

Unusual Enrollment History (UEH)

Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, the U.S. Department of Education has established new regulations to prevent fraud and abuse in the Federal Pell Grant Program by identifying students with unusual enrollment histories. **An UEH must be resolved before a student may receive any financial aid.** What this means for you:

If you received the Federal Pell Grant at multiple institutions in recent academic years (2011-2012, 2012-2013, & 2013-2014), your 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be flagged (see next bullet for flag indicators) for unusual enrollment history (UEH).

If you received the Federal Pell Grant and academic credit was not earned at each institution during these award years, you may be ineligible for federal financial aid. In such case, you may appeal.

Based on your statement and documentation submitted with your appeal, the Financial Aid Office will determine if you had a valid reason(s) for your unusual enrollment history.

If your appeal is denied, you have the option of re-appealing once you have successfully passed at least 6 credits that count toward the program you are seeking at RRCC. You may also not drop*, withdraw or fail any courses during this term.

*Note: Drops that would not result in a monetary credit balance would be permissible. If you are unsure of whether the drop would generate a credit balance, you must contact the Financial Aid Office prior to dropping a course.

Pell Lifetime Limit (LEU)

Federal Pell Grants may be received for up to twelve (12) full-time semesters. (Pell Grants received for part-time attendance are pro-rated against the 12 full-time semesters.) 12 full-time semesters is equivalent to 144 credit hours.

Direct Loans

Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, RRCC policy limits the initial amount of loans a student is offered. Students who would like an additional amount (not to exceed their yearly maximum or aggregate maximum) may request it in writing by using the Loan Adjustment form available online and in our office after July 1, 2014.

When deciding how much to borrow in student loans, keep in mind that community colleges' tuition is affordable. The amount of loans a student is entitled to borrow does not reflect the amount needed.

There will no longer be a grace period for the interest subsidy for new sub loans. This means that during the 6-month grace period, the interest will accrue.

At this time, both Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans will have a 4.66% interest.

The origination fee for all Direct Loans will increase to 1.073% as of October 1, 2014.

The average amount of loan debt our 2012 loan-borrowing graduates have is approximately \$15,000.

63% of our 2012 graduates never borrowed student loans.

Forty percent of students nationwide are able to graduate without having borrowed student loans at all (www.asa.org).

New Direct Subsidized Loan Time Limitation

If you receive your first federal student loan after June 30, 2013, there is a limit on the maximum period of time (measured in academic years) that you can receive Direct Subsidized Loans.

In general, you may not receive Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of your program. This is called your "maximum eligibility period."

In addition, if you continue to be enrolled in any undergraduate program after you have received Direct Subsidized Loans for your maximum eligibility period, we will no longer (with certain exceptions) pay the interest that accrues on your Direct Subsidized Loans for periods when we would normally have done so. This is called losing interest subsidy.

Remember: Loss of eligibility for Direct Subsidized Loans due to the time limitation has no impact on your eligibility for Direct Unsubsidized Loans. The periods of time that count against your maximum eligibility period are periods of enrollment (also known as "loan periods") for which you received Direct Subsidized Loans. If you enroll in a new program that is longer than your previous program, you may regain eligibility to receive Direct Subsidized Loans.

Commonly Asked Questions

Q

Will the financial aid offered at one school transfer to another school?

Financial aid does not technically transfer from one school to another. If you are planning to transfer between schools during an academic year, you should contact the financial aid office at each school. They will instruct you on the best way to add the new school code to your FAFSA record. The school that you are transferring to will have to consider any financial aid that you have already received during the academic year to insure that you do not exceed the limitations set by the Department of Education. Please keep in mind that students may not receive a Pell Grant from two schools for the same period of time.

Q

Is there any aid available if I decide to attend summer school?

Financial aid for the summer is limited. Most scholarships and grants are awarded for the fall and spring semesters only. In some cases, you may qualify for remaining student loans and Pell Grant, or you may be able to be employed as a student. If you plan to attend school in the summer, contact the Financial Aid Office in the spring to find out if additional paperwork is needed.

Q

Do I have to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year?

Yes, each academic year we must reevaluate your eligibility for financial aid based on your (and your parents' or spouse's, if applicable) most recent federal income tax return.

Q

What if my circumstances have changed and I no longer have the same income as I had last year?

If you or your family has unusual circumstances that are not reflected on the FAFSA (such as loss of employment, divorce, death of parent or spouse), go ahead and submit the FAFSA with the required information. Once you have received the results of the application, consult with the RRCC Financial Aid Office to see if any changes can be made regarding your eligibility.

RRCC Financial Aid Office

Lakewood Campus

13300 West 6th Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1255

Phone: (303) 914-6256 **Fax:** (303) 914-6805

Lakewood Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m and Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Arvada Campus

5420 Miller Street, Arvada, Colorado 80002-3069

Phone: (303) 914-6010 **Fax:** (303) 420-9572

Arvada Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m

Email: finaid@rrcc.edu