

# CMC FINANCIAL AID NEWS

February 2024

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## The Office of Financial Aid Encourages Students to Remain Patient and Persistent

*when applying for aid for the 2024-2025 academic year.*

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the newly updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) opened in what was announced as a “soft launch.” Congress legislated changes to the financial aid application for the purpose of reducing barriers to educational funding and serving more students. There have been some technical glitches with the new online process. While the federal government resolves these issues, the Office of Financial Aid is here to help and support students where we can. Students who have contributors who are unable to complete their portion of the FAFSA should stay alert for opportunities to move the process forward.

### *What we want students to know*

**Federal Student Aid will not begin processing 2024-2025 FAFSA forms until the “first half of March.”**

We understand that the delay affects students’ planning and decision-making. The CMC Office of Financial Aid will do everything in its power to expedite the awarding of aid once we have received the necessary information.

**You might encounter a technical issue when filling out the FAFSA.** Some issues are minor. For example, a signature might be removed by the system, and will need to be re-entered.

Other issues create obstacles to re-entering the FAFSA or completing the form. If you or one of your contributors cannot complete the form, [\*we encourage you to contact the CMC Office of Financial Aid.\*](#) Take notes about your problem so that you will be able to describe what happened in detail. We can then help you with a solution or let you know if a resolution is being developed for the issue you are experiencing.

### *Get started now.*

Although some students have had difficulties, many have successfully completed the new FAFSA. It’s wise to get started as soon as possible in order to maximize your funding opportunities. See the Resources section below for useful links. If you find that the system is down, wait a little while and try again. After saving your FAFSA, keep an eye on your Federal Student Aid dashboard for pending items that may need your attention.

## Resources

6 Things Students Need Before They Fill Out the 2024-2025 FAFSA® for fall 2024:

<https://studentaid.gov/article/s/things-you-need-for-fafsa/>

Understanding the 2023-24 FAFSA Process for Parents:

[https://studentaid.gov/articles/\\_parents-understanding-fafsa/](https://studentaid.gov/articles/_parents-understanding-fafsa/)

- Remember to apply for scholarships—start at [coloradomtn.edu/scholarships](https://coloradomtn.edu/scholarships).
- The 2024-2025 CASFA (Colorado Application for State Financial Aid) is open for those who are ineligible to complete the FAFSA.

- **Attend a virtual workshop** for FAFSA and CASFA.  
on Feb. 20: Spanish only, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
or on Feb. 21: English only, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

To receive the workshop link, visit our Events page: <https://apply.coloradomtn.edu/Events/List?ID=120> or scan the QR code.

**Consult with a Financial Aid Specialist—virtually, by phone, or in person.**

Visit <https://coloradomtn.edu/financial-aid/contact/> to book an appointment with a Financial Aid Specialist.

