



Financial Aid

PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

Financial Aid Student Handbook 2026-2027

Your Guide to Financial Aid



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Welcome from Your Financial Aid Team

This Financial Aid Student Handbook is your go-to resource for understanding how financial aid works at PPSC. Whether you're a new or returning student, **please take time to read through it**—federal regulations change every year, which means there may be updates that affect your aid.

What's Inside

This guide walks you through everything you need to know about financial aid at Pikes Peak State College, including:

- How to apply and what happens next
- Understanding your financial aid offer
- Your rights and responsibilities as a financial aid recipient
- The verification process (if you're selected)
- Different types of aid: grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships

Understanding Your Financial Aid

At PPSC, financial aid comes from federal, state, and institutional sources. Our goal is to help you cover your educational costs, including:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Personal expenses (like laundry and personal care items)

Important to Know: Due to limited funding, we may not be able to meet your full financial need. Financial aid is designed to help you pay for college-related expenses—it's not intended to directly cover all living expenses, but it can significantly reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

We're Here to Help!

The Financial Aid team is committed to your success. We're available to answer your questions at any stage of the process:

In-Person Assistance:

- **Centennial Campus:** Drop-in available with Financial Aid Advisors
- **Rampart Range Campus:** Wednesday's only Drop-in availability with Financial Aid Advisors
- **Downtown Studio Campus:** Appointment with Financial Aid Advisors
- **Enrollment Services Centers:** Available at Centennial and Rampart Range Campuses

Virtual Assistance:

- **Video or phone appointments:** Access through your Navigate account

Don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to make financial aid as simple and stress-free as possible!



Important Changes for 2026-2027

What's Changed

The federal government has made significant updates to the Pell Grant program through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA). These changes affect students applying for the 2026-2027 academic year and beyond.

NEW Pell Grant for Workforce Programs: Pell Grants Now Available for Short-Term Programs

Starting July 1, 2026, Pell Grants can be used for certain short-term, career-focused programs. This expands Pell eligibility to non-traditional educational pathways focused on workforce development. This is a POSITIVE change that creates new opportunities for students seeking quick entry into high-demand careers!

Workforce Program Requirements

Eligible programs must:

- Program length: 150-600 clock hours of instruction
- Duration: At least 8 weeks but fewer than 15 weeks
- State approval: Approved by the Colorado governor as aligned with in-demand jobs and meeting employers' needs
- Institutional history: Offered by PPSC for at least one year before seeking Workforce Pell approval
- Performance benchmarks:
 - At least 70% completion rate
 - At least 70% job placement rate within 180 days of completion
 - Credential: Must lead to a stackable, portable, and recognized postsecondary credential

It is important to know: PPSC is still determining which programs will be eligible for Workforce Pell. Implementation is ongoing - the approval process is still being developed.

Student Forms

Financial aid will begin using Student Forms, a new enhanced technology designed to reduce the amount of manual paperwork for students and staff. It will allow students to complete applications, requests, and other forms digitally. Students will be sent an email when it's time to activate their account!

pikespeak.studentforms.com

Loan Limit Changes: New Annual Loan Limits (Effective July 1, 2026)

What changed:

- Parent PLUS annual and aggregate loan limits:
 - All parents (combined) may borrow \$20,000 per year per dependent student.
 - \$65,000 aggregate loan limit per dependent student (including amounts forgiven, repaid, or discharged), up to \$200,000.
- Loan Reduction:
 - Requires institutions to prorate annual loan amounts in direct proportion to the percentage of full-time status the student is enrolled in.
 - Students who enroll full-time and remain enrolled full-time are eligible to receive the full-time annual loan limit.
 - Students who enroll less than full-time, or drop below full-time, could now have their federal student loans reduced in direct proportion to their less than full-time status.
 - If full-time is 24 credit hours and a student enrolled for 18 hours for the academic year, the student will receive 75% of their loan eligibility (18/24 -75%)

Loan Repayment Plan Changes: (Effective July 1, 2026)

New Loan Borrowers

- Borrowers with new loans made on or after July 1, 2026, can repay their loans using only two plans (see below). Borrowers who do not select a plan will be assigned to the new Standard Repayment Plan.
 - A new Standard Repayment Plan
 - New Income based Repayment plan


Current Loan Borrowers

Current loan borrowers with no loans made on or after July 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll in the current plans. Borrowers may also switch between, enter, or remain on existing Income Driven Repayment plans, until July 1, 2028. Borrowers who do not select a new plan by July 1, 2028, will be placed into the Repayment Assistant Plan.

- Standard Repayment Plan
- Graduated Repayment Plan
- Extended Repayment Plan
- Income Based Repayment Plan (current one)
- Repayment Assistance Plan

2026-2027 Financial Aid Timeline

Note: Financial aid offices work with multiple academic years at once. While this handbook focuses on 2026-2027, you may see references to 2025-2026 for processes still being completed. This is normal!

Timeframe	What's Happening
October 2026 -June 30, 2027	FAFSA Application Period (2026-2027): Complete your Free Application Federal Student Aid or CASFA Application Sign In - Student Aid Application for Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer Final deadline: June 30, 2027.
 March 31, 2026	PRIORITY DEADLINE for 2026-2027: Submit your FAFSA by this date to maximize eligibility for limited funds including Colorado Student Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Work-Study. Applications after this date may have reduced funding availability.
June 2026 -June 2027	Award Processing for 2026-2027: Financial aid offers are processed on a rolling basis. Check your PPSC student email regularly for notifications from our office.
June 2026 – June 2027	Verification (if selected) for 2026-2027: If your application is selected for verification, we'll contact you via email to submit required documents through Student Forms . See the Verification section for complete details.
September 2026 – June 2027	Disbursement for 2026-2027: Financial aid begins disbursement to your student account based on enrollment and eligibility. Refunds (if applicable) are processed through BankMobile. Set up your refund preference at BankMobileVibe.com .
March 2027	Summer 2027 Registration: Must have 2026-2027 FAFSA Register for summer classes to trigger financial aid offering. Important: If you attend Fall/Spring, you must register for summer classes to receive summer aid. <i>Summer loans must be requested separately.</i>
October 1, 2026	FAFSA Application Period for 2027-2028: Complete your FAFSA for Fall 2027, Spring 2028, and Summer 2028. Final deadline: June 30, 2028.

**Subject to change based on Department of Education "Release"*

2026-2027 PPSC Financial Aid Semester Timeline

Fall 2026 (202720)

Date	Event
March 09, 2026	Fall Registration Opens
August 17, 2026	Fall Classes Begin
August 26, 2026	Financial Aid Appeal Deadline (Fall Semester)
September 2, 2026	Drop Date (15-week session)
November 12, 2026	Withdraw Date (15-week session)
November 20, 2026	Deadline to submit documentation for the semester
December 6, 2026	Fall Semester Ends

Spring 2027 (202730)

Date	Event
October 26, 2026	Spring Registration Opens
January 19, 2027	Spring Classes Begin
January 27, 2027	Financial Aid Appeal Deadline (Spring Semester)
February 3, 2027	Drop Date (15-week session)
April 15, 2027	Withdraw Date (15-week session)
April 29, 2027	Deadline to submit documentation for the semester
May 10, 2027	Fall Semester Ends
May 15, 2027	Graduation Ceremony

Summer 2027 (202810)

Date	Event
March 8, 2027	Summer Registration Opens
June 1, 2027	Summer Classes Begin
June 3, 2027	Financial Aid Appeal Deadline (Summer Semester)
June 10, 2027	Drop Date (10-week session)
	Withdraw Date (10-week Session)
July 23, 2027	Deadline to submit documentation for the semester
August 8, 2027	Summer Semester Ends
September 12, 2027	Last day for PPSC to make 2026-2027 corrections

** Withdraw Dates are based on 15-week fall and spring semester, and 10-week summer semester. Students can locate their specific drop date via their detailed student schedule on the [MyPikesPeak portal](#).

Please refer to the [Instructional Calendar | Pikes Peak State College](#) for additional term information.

Completing the 2026- 2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA)

FAFSA Form

1. Create your FSA ID at [Federal Student Aid](#)
 - a. This is your electronic signature for the FAFSA
 - b. Keep your FSA ID secure—you'll use it every year
2. Complete the 2026-2027 application
3. Use PPSC's school code: 008896

CASFA From

1. Create your account at [Sign In - Student Aid Application](#)
 - a. This is your electronic signature for the CASFA
 - b. Keep your login information secure, you'll use it every year
2. Complete the 2026-2027 application
3. Use PPSC's school code: 008896
4. Who is eligible to complete the CASFA
 - a. Students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA
 - b. Qualify for ASSET ([Advancing Students for a Stronger Economy Tomorrow](#))
 - c. Graduated from a Colorado High School, or physical present in Colorado at least one year immediately preceding the date the student successfully completes a high school equivalency examination in Colorado; and
 - d. Has been physically present in Colorado for at least 12 consecutive months prior to enrolling in an institution.

Do You Need Parent Information?

Dependent students: You'll need to provide information about your legal parent. Not sure who counts as your parent? Check the link for guidance.

Important: Your parents will also need to create their own [FSA ID](#) to sign your FAFSA or their own login to sign the CASFA.

Are You an Independent Student?

You're considered **independent** (no parent info needed) if you meet **any** of these conditions:

- Born before January 1, 2003
- Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Active-duty military (not for training purposes)
- Unaccompanied youth (determined by high school liaison)
- Orphaned or ward of the court or in foster care after age 13
- Emancipated minor or under legal guardianship (court-determined before age 18)
- Have legal dependents other than a spouse
- Enrolled in a master's, graduate, or professional degree program
- Married

Note: Independent students may need to add their spouse as a contributor to the application.

Special Circumstances?

If you have unusual circumstances and **cannot provide parental information**, contact a Financial Aid Advisor to discuss your options and required documentation.

How to reach us:

- **Drop-in:** Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm at Centennial Campus
- **Phone/Video:** Monday–Friday via [Navigate](#)
- **Downtown Studio Campus:** Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
- **Rampart Range Campus:** Wednesday's ONLY 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Contributors

“Contributor” refers to anyone who is required to provide information, consent, and approval, and a signature on the FAFSA form. Beginning with the 2025-26 FAFSA, each contributor will complete their own section of the form. The FAFSA form is organized by contributor, each section consisting of a group of questions and instructions pertaining to that contributor.

Each person who provides data in the online FAFSA form must have an account username and password to access the form. In the past, a Social Security number (SSN) was required to create a StudentAid.gov account. Starting with the 2025–26 award year, all individuals—even those without an SSN—can create a StudentAid.gov account. Persons with an SSN will still have their information verified by the Social Security Administration (SSA), while those without an SSN will use the new verification process.

Users who create a StudentAid.gov account without an SSN will be required to complete a knowledge-based identity verification process with TransUnion® to verify their identity and provide login credentials. The student (if a citizen of one of the Freely Associated States), student’s spouse, parent, or parent spouse/partner are sent through the TransUnion® process when they do not have an SSN and check the “I don’t have an SSN” box during the account creation process. They will be asked to provide additional information to confirm their identity.

Federal Tax Information (FTI)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) worked together to develop the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) solution, which establishes a secure connection between both agencies through an application programming interface that will process requests in near-real time. The FA-DDX replaces the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS-DRT) and will be used beginning with the 2025-26 award year to import certain FTI into an applicant’s FAFSA form.

Consent and Approval

The student and each contributor to the FAFSA form must provide consent and approval to the access, disclosure, and use of FTI in evaluating the applicant’s eligibility for *Title IV* aid. Consent and approval are required regardless of the application method (online or paper). If the student, spouse, or parent fails to provide consent, the student is not eligible for Title IV aid; there are no exceptions to this rule as of the publishing of this document.

What to Expect After Submitting Your FAFSA

From Federal Student Aid

Check your email! You'll receive confirmation that your FAFSA was submitted.

Track your FAFSA status:

1. Log in to [Federal Student Aid](#)
2. Select your FAFSA submission from the **My Activity** section on your Dashboard

Status	What it means	What you need to do
Draft	You started your FAFSA but haven't completed all required sections	Continue working on your application
In Progress	You completed your section but haven't submitted the form yet	Review and submit your FAFSA
Action Required	There's an error that needs correction (missing consent, approval, or signature)	Login and make the required corrections
In Review	Your form was submitted and is being processed	Wait for processing to complete
Processed	Your FAFSA was successfully processed with no errors	You're all set! Wait to hear from PPSC
Closed	Your FAFSA was started but not submitted before the deadline	You'll need to contact Financial Aid

From Pikes Peak State College Financial Aid Office

You'll receive communications via your PPSC student email:

- **Missing Information Notification**
 - If we need additional documents (like verification), we'll email you with specific instructions. Check page 16-18 for verification details.
- **Award Offer Notification**
 - Once your file is complete, you'll receive an email directing you to view your financial aid offer in your student portal.

Helpful Resources:

- **This handbook** - Your complete guide to financial aid at PPSC
- **Walkthrough videos** - Step-by-step guides for financial aid, advising, and more

💡 Important Reminders:

- ✓ Check your PPSC email daily - This is our primary way of contacting you
- ✓ Respond promptly to any requests for information
- ✓ Keep your contact information current in your student portal
- ✓ Save copies of all emails and documents related to your financial aid

Understanding Your Financial Aid Offer

When Will I Receive My Offer?

- Once you've completed all these steps
 - Submitted your FAFSA
 - Provided all requested documents to PPSC Financial Aid
 - Completed verification (if selected)
- You'll receive an email at your PPSC student email address notifying you that your financial aid offer is ready to view in your student portal.

What's in My Financial Aid Offer?

- Your financial aid offer shows the **total amount of aid you're eligible to receive** for the entire academic year (Fall & Spring—Summer is a manual process and is awarded once a student enrolls).

Important to know:

- Awards are **split between semesters** (Fall and Spring)
- Award amounts are **based on full-time enrollment** (12+ credit hours)
 - Courses must be part of your degree program, [see CPOS, page 21](#).
- Your actual award will **adjust based on your enrollment** (see packaging policy)

Types of Financial Aid You May Receive

Your award offer may include one or more of these aid types:

- **Federal Pell Grant** - Federal grant (doesn't need to be repaid, except in certain circumstances)
- **Colorado Student Grant (CSG)** - State grant for Colorado residents
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)** - Additional Federal grant
- **Work-Study** - Part-time campus employment opportunity
- **Federal Direct Loans** - Federal student loans (must be repaid)

For detailed information about each type of aid, see page 21.

Completing the 2026- 2027 FAFSA (*continued*)

Important Reminders

Your award is an estimate based on full-time enrollment

- **Dropping classes affects your aid** - Your award will be recalculated if you drop below full-time
- **Accept or decline your aid** - Log into your portal, click on the Financial Aid Card, and then Offers
- **Read and Accept or Decline your Terms and Conditions** – Once you review your awards scroll down accept your awards to be prompted to complete this (you DO NOT need to accept the awards on this step)
- **Loans/Work-Study must be accepted** - Unlike grants, loans don't automatically apply to your account

Questions about your award? Contact a Financial Aid Advisor through [Navigate](#) or visit us on Campus.

Special or Unusual Circumstances

Special & Unusual Circumstances

Life doesn't always go as planned. If your financial situation has changed since you filed your FAFSA, we may be able to help.

What are Special Circumstances?

- Special Circumstances allow us to review and adjust your financial aid when you, your spouse, or your parents (for dependent students) experience a significant **decrease in income** from what was reported on your FAFSA.

What Qualifies as a Special Circumstance?

- We may be able to adjust your aid if you've experienced:
 - **Job loss, job change, or reduced work hours** due to unforeseen circumstances
 - **Divorce, separation, or death of a spouse** after filing the FAFSA
 - **High medical/dental/disability expenses** that exceed 11% of your family's discretionary income during the tax year
 - **Other significant income loss** that makes your situation different from the average student

What are Unusual Circumstances?

- Unusual Circumstances (also called "dependency override") allow us to change your status from dependent to independent based on extreme situations.

What Qualifies as an Unusual Circumstance?

- We may grant a dependency override for situations such as:
 - Human trafficking survivor
 - Refugee or asylee status
 - Parental abuse or abandonment
 - Parental incarceration
 - Other documented extreme circumstances

What Does NOT Qualify as an Unusual Circumstance?

- We **cannot** grant a dependency override simply because:
 - Your parents refuse to contribute to your education
 - Your parents won't provide FAFSA information
 - Your parents don't claim you as a tax dependent
 - You support yourself financially

These situations don't meet federal requirements for a dependency override.

Homeless Youth Determinations

- **Are you experiencing homelessness?**
 - You're considered homeless if you **lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing**. This is broader than living "on the street."
- **Homelessness includes:**
 - Temporarily staying with others because you have nowhere else to go
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters (including FEMA trailers after disasters)
 - Living in motels, campgrounds, cars, parks, or abandoned buildings
 - Living in bus/train stations or any place not designed for human habitation
 - Living in substandard housing
 - Living in a school dormitory only because you'd otherwise be homeless
 - Being a migrant youth without stable housing

How to Request a Review

IMPORTANT: You **must meet with a Financial Aid Advisor** before submitting any documentation for Special Circumstances, Unusual Circumstances, or Homeless Youth Determinations.

- **Drop-in hours available** - No appointment needed during business hours 9am to 4pm.
 - **In-person:** Centennial Campus (Monday–Friday)
 - **In-person:** Downtown Studio Campus (Monday–Thursday)
 - **In-person:** Rampart Range Campus (Wednesday's only)
 - **Phone and Virtually:** Through [Navigate](#)
- **What to bring:**
 - Documentation will be determined once you have met with a Financial Aid Advisor.

Selected for Verification

What is Verification?

- Verification is a process where we double-check the accuracy of information you provided on your FAFSA. The **U.S. Department of Education randomly selects some applications for verification**—it doesn't mean you did anything wrong!
- **If you're selected:**
 - We'll email you at your PPSC student email that additional documentation is needed before we can move forward with awarding you. You will be required to login to Student Forms, to review, complete, and submit the required documentation.



Pikes Peak State College's Financial Aid team is introducing a new, easy, mobile, and personalized process that makes everything about navigating financial aid easier: [Student Forms](#).

- You will be able to:
 - Complete financial aid forms on your phone, tablet, or computer
 - Securely upload documents from any device
 - E-sign documents, including both you and your parents
 - Manage your financial aid tasks online
 - Receive automated reminders about outstanding tasks and next steps

What to do now:

- **Keep checking your student email.** You will receive an email with instructions on how to set up this account. Please note that PPSC will continue to use Single Sign-On (SSO) to make it easier for you to login to all the platforms used.

What Information Might Be Verified?

- We may need to verify one or more of these items:

Income Information:

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- Income earned from work
- U.S. taxes paid

Selected for Verification Continued

- Untaxed IRA distributions
- Untaxed pension income
- IRA deductions and payments
- Tax-exempt interest income
- Education tax credits
- Foreign income exempt from federal taxation

Other Information:

- Family size
- Identity verification
- Other items if we find conflicting information in your records

Where to check your requirements:

Log into your PPSC Portal and look at "**Financial Aid Requirements**" to review internal documents needed and/or login to [Student Forms](#).

Do I Need to Submit Tax Documents?

- **Good news!** In most cases, you won't need to submit tax documents because you (and your contributors) already gave consent on your FAFSA for us to access your Federal Tax Information (FTI) directly from the IRS.
- **Important:** Consent is required for everyone who contributed to your FAFSA (you, your spouse, your parents). Without consent, you cannot receive federal financial aid —there are no exceptions.

When you DO need to submit tax documents:

- In rare cases where FTI isn't available
- If we request additional documentation due to conflicting information

How to Get Tax Documents (If needed)

- If You Filed Taxes, you have two options:
 - **Option 1:** Submit a **signed copy of your Federal Tax Return** with all relevant schedules
 - **Option 2:** Request a free **Tax Return Transcript** from the IRS

How to get your transcript:

1. Visit [IRS Get Transcript](#)
2. Create an account or log in
3. Request your **Tax Return Transcript** (not Tax Account Transcript)
 - a. If You Didn't File Taxes (Non-Filers)
 - i. IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter
 - ii. Wage and Income Transcript (shows W-2 information)
4. Download and submit to PPSC

If You Filed Foreign Tax Returns

- If you or your parents filed taxes using a foreign or Puerto Rican tax form:
 - Report the amounts on your FAFSA **converted to U.S. dollars**
 - Use the lines on the foreign form that correspond most closely to the standard IRS form
 - Submit a copy of your foreign tax return if requested

How to Submit Your Verification Documents

Submit through Student Forms:

1. Log into your [Student Forms Account](#)
2. Go to "**Needs Action**"
3. Click on the requested action to needed
4. Complete the documents within Student Forms
5. Upload any additional documents requested
6. Submit & Finish

Need help? Contact a Financial Aid Advisor through [Navigate](#) or visit us at Centennial Campus.

Important Deadlines:

Submit your verification documents **as soon as possible** to avoid delays in receiving your financial aid.

Semester deadlines:

- **Fall:** November 21, 2026
- **Spring:** April 27, 2027
- **Summer:** July 17, 2027

Missed the deadline?

- Your financial aid may be delayed or reduced. Contact us immediately if you're having trouble getting documents.

Verification Tips

- **Respond quickly** - The sooner you submit documents, the sooner we can process your aid
- **Check your email daily** - We'll contact you if we need additional information
- **Submit complete documents** - Make sure all pages are included and clearly readable
- **Keep copies** - Save copies of everything you submit for your records
- **Ask for help** - If you're confused about what to submit, contact us before the deadline

Packaging Policy

How Your Financial aid offer is Calculated

- First Come, First Served PPSC awards most financial aid funds on a first-come, first-served basis. This means:
 - **Apply early!** Students who submit their FAFSA earlier have a better chance of receiving limited funds like Colorado Student Grant, FSEOG, and Work-Study.
 - **Priority Deadline: March 31, 2026** - Submit your FAFSA by this date for the best funding opportunities.

Understanding Enrollment Intensity/Credit to Program of Study (CPOS)

- Your financial aid offer is initially calculated based on **full-time enrollment (12+ credit hours per semester)**. If you enroll in fewer than 12 credits, your award will be **prorated** based on your enrollment intensity.
- The U.S. Department of Education regulations require that a student must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program to receive financial aid. Essentially, only the coursework that counts toward your degree will be used in determining your hours of enrollment for federal aid purposes (grants, loans, and federal work study).

What is Enrollment Intensity?

- **Enrollment intensity** is the percentage of full-time enrollment you're taking. Here's how it's calculated:

$$\text{Enrollment Intensity} = \frac{\text{Credit Hours Enrolled}}{\text{Full-Time Credits (12)}} \times 100\%$$

Type of Aid	Full-Time <i>12+ Credit Hours</i>	Three-Quarters <i>9-11 Credit Hours</i>	Half-Time <i>6-8 Credit Hours</i>	Less Than Half-Time <i>5 Credit Hours or Less</i>
Federal Pell Grant	100% of award offer	Based on enrollment, between 92% and 75%	Based on enrollment, between 67% and 50%	Based on SAI and enrollment, between 21% and 4%
Colorado Student Grant	Receive 100% of award offer	Receive 75% of award offer	Receive 50% of award offer	NOT Eligible for this award
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Receive 100% of award offer	Receive 75% of award offer	Receive 50% of award offer	NOT Eligible for this award
Work-Study	Eligible to work	Eligible to work	Eligible to work	NOT Eligible for this award
Subsidized Loan & Unsubsidized Loan	Receive 50% of your award offer	Receive between 37% - 45% of your award offer	Receive between 25% - 33% of your award offer	NOT Eligible for this award

Why have my awards changed?

Don't panic if you see changes to your financial aid offer! There are several common reasons why awards are adjusted. Here's what might have happened:

1. Changes in Available Funding

- **What happened:**
 - Your initial award is based on **projected funding** from federal, state, and institutional sources. Sometimes the actual funding we receive is different from what was projected.
- **What this means for you:**
 - If we receive more or less funding than expected, your award will be adjusted accordingly.
- **What you should do:**
 - Check your email and student portal regularly for updates about your award.

2. Changes in Federal or State Regulations

- **What happened:**
 - Federal and state financial aid programs can change at any time due to new laws or policy updates.
- **What this means for you:**
 - If regulations change and affect your eligibility, we'll adjust your award to comply with the new rules.
- **What you should do:**
 - Read any notifications we send carefully—they'll explain what changed and why.

3. You Received Outside Scholarships

- **What happened:**
 - You received scholarships or financial assistance from sources outside of PPSC (private scholarships, employer tuition assistance, etc.).
- **What this means for you:**
 - Federal regulations require us to include all financial assistance in your total aid package. Adding outside scholarships may reduce other aid to stay within federal limits.
- **What you MUST do:**
 - ⚠ **Report ALL outside scholarships immediately! Contact our office as soon as you:**
 - Receive a new scholarship
 - Have a change in the amount of an existing scholarship
 - Receive any other financial assistance
- **Why it matters:** Failing to report outside aid is a federal violation and could affect your future eligibility.

4. You Completed Verification or Special Circumstances

- **What happened:**
 - You were selected for verification or requested a special circumstances review, and we've now processed your documentation.
- **What this means for you:**
 - Your award has been recalculated based on your verified or adjusted information. This could increase or decrease your aid depending on what the documentation showed.

Important: If you don't complete verification, you will not receive the financial aid shown on your initial award notification.

5. You Changed Your Enrollment

- **What happened:**
 - You added, dropped, or withdrew from classes after your award was calculated.
- **What this means for you:**
 - Your financial aid is based on the number of credit hours you're enrolled in. Any enrollment changes will trigger a recalculation of your award.

Common scenarios:

What You Did	What Happens to Your Aid
Dropped below 12 credits	Award is prorated based on new enrollment intensity
Dropped all classes	Aid is canceled; you may owe money back (see Return of Title IV)
Added classes	Award may increase if you move to a higher enrollment level
Withdrew after census date	Aid may not be affected but could impact future eligibility

- **What you should do:**
 - Contact Financial Aid **BEFORE** making enrollment changes! We can help you understand how changes will affect your aid.

Questions About Award Changes?

If you see a change to your award and don't understand why:

1. **Check your PPSC email** - We always send a notification alerting you that changes have been made
2. **Log into your portal** - Look for messages under "Financial Aid Requirements"
3. **Contact us** - Reach out through [Navigate](#) or visit Centennial Campus

Don't ignore award changes! Understanding why your aid changed helps you plan your finances and avoid surprises.

PPSC 2026- 2027 Student Budget

Understanding Your Cost of Attendance (Student Budget)

- Your Cost of Attendance (COA) is an estimate of how much it costs to attend PPSC for one academic year (Fall and Spring semesters). We use this budget to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive.
- **Important:** These are estimates for financial aid purposes—not bills you'll receive from PPSC. Your actual costs may be higher or lower depending on your personal circumstances.

Who Sets These Budgets?

- The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) develops this cost estimates based on:
 - Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) surveys and guidelines
 - Actual cost of living data for Colorado students
 - Direct educational expenses
- These budgets are updated annually to reflect current costs and stay within CDHE parameters.

2026-2027 PPSC Student Budget (9-Month Estimate)

- Your budget category depends on your residency status and living situation:

Standard Student Budgets

Expense Category	Resident Living Away from Home	Resident Living at Home	Non-Resident Living Away	Non-Resident Living at Home
Tuition	\$4,410	\$4,410	\$18,102	\$18,102
Fees	\$468	\$468	\$468	\$468
Books & Supplies	\$1,460	\$1,460	\$1,460	\$1,460
Housing	\$12,807	\$8,874	\$12,807	\$8,874
Food	\$4,635	\$2,907	\$4,635	\$2,907
Transportation	\$1,512	\$1,512	\$1,512	\$1,512
Personal Expenses	\$1,782	\$1,683	\$1,728	\$1,683
Medical	\$8,136	\$8,136	\$8,136	\$8,136
Loan Fees	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38
TOTAL	\$35,248	\$29,488	\$48,940	\$43,180

Special Student Budgets

Expense Category	Resident Nursing Student (Living Away)	Colorado Resident Military
Tuition	\$6,634	\$4,410
Fees	\$468	\$468
Books & Supplies	\$1,460	\$1,460
Housing	\$12,807	\$0
Food	\$4,635	\$4,635
Transportation	\$1,512	\$1,512
Personal Expenses	\$1,782	\$1,782
Medical	\$8,136	\$8,136
Loan Fees	\$38	\$38
TOTAL	\$37,472	\$22,441

Important Things to Know

- Your financial aid cannot exceed your Cost of Attendance
Federal regulations limit the total financial aid you can receive to your COA. This includes:
 - Grants and scholarships
 - Work-study earnings
 - Student loans
 - Outside scholarships

How Cost of Attendance is used to determine aid eligibility.

- Example: You're a Colorado resident living away from home
 - Your Cost of Attendance: \$35,248
 - Your Expected Family Contribution (SAI): \$2,000
 - Your Financial Need: $\$35,248 - \$2,000 = \$33,248$
- Your financial aid package is designed to help meet this need but may not cover the full amount due to limited funding.

Types of Financial Aid - Grants

Types of Financial Aid: Grants

- Good news about grants: Grants are "free money" that you don't have to pay back (in most situations)!* They're awarded based on financial need and don't require work or repayment.

Federal Pell Grant

- **What is it?**
 - A federal need-based grant for undergraduate students pursuing their first bachelor's degree. This is the foundation of most students' financial aid packages.
- **Who qualifies?**
 - Undergraduate students
 - Demonstrate financial need (determined by your SAI from FAFSA)
 - Enrolled at least part-time (typically 3+ credit hours to qualify for Pell)
- **How much can I receive?**
 - Your Pell Grant amount is calculated one of three ways:
 1. Maximum Pell Grant - If you meet specific low-income criteria
 2. Minimum Pell Grant - If you meet minimum eligibility requirements
 3. Calculated Pell Grant - Based on your SAI using this formula:
 - a. $\text{Calculated Pell} = \text{Max Pell} - \text{SAI}$

For 2026-2027:

- Maximum Pell Grant: \$7,395 per year (full-time enrollment)
- Your actual amount depends on your SAI, enrollment level, and cost of attendance

Pell Grant Lifetime Limit

Important: You can only receive Pell Grant funding for the equivalent of 6 years (600% of eligibility), or you earn your first bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

- **How it works:**
 - Each year you receive Pell = 100% of your eligibility used (based on 12 credits for fall and spring)
 - Receiving Pell for one semester = 50% used (based on 12 credit hours per semester)
 - Total lifetime limit = 600%
 - Check your usage: Log into [Federal Student Aid](#) to see how much of your Pell eligibility you've used.
 - ⚠ Once you reach 600%, you cannot receive Pell Grant at any college—ever. Use your eligibility wisely!
- Learn more about Lifetime Eligibility [Calculating Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used | Federal Student Aid](#)

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- **What is it?**
 - Additional federal grant funding for students with exceptional financial need. This is limited funding awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Who qualifies?**
 - Students with exceptional need (SAI between -1500 and 0)
 - Enrolled in at least 6 CPOS credit hours (half-time)
 - Priority given to Pell Grant recipients
- **How much can I receive?**
 - Award amounts vary based on:
 - Your level of need
 - When you apply
 - Availability of funds at PPSC

Colorado Student Grant (CSG)

- **What is it?**
 - State grant funding for Colorado residents who demonstrate financial need. This is also limited funding awarded first-come, first-served.
- **Who qualifies?**
 - Colorado residents only
 - Demonstrate financial need (SAI between -1500 and 7000)
 - Enrolled in at least 6 credit hours (half-time)
- **How much can I receive?**
 - Award amounts vary based on:
 - Your level of need
 - When you apply
 - State funding availability
 - Your enrollment level

Pro tip: Submit your FAFSA or CASFA by March 31 to have the best chance of receiving CSG before funds run out!

Important: Return of Title IV- While grants typically don't need to be repaid, there's one important exception:

You may have to repay grant funds if you:

- Withdraw from or Fail all classes after receiving aid
- Stop attending without officially withdrawing
- Don't complete at least 60% of the semester

This is called "**Return of Title IV Funds.**" See page 56 for complete details about withdrawal policies.

Types of Financial Aid - Work-Study

Work-Study

- **What is Work-Study?**
 - Work-study is **part-time employment** that helps you pay for college while gaining valuable job experience. These positions are available both on and off campus and are designed to build real-world skills that will help you after graduation.
- **Benefits of work-study:** ✓ Earn money to help pay for college expenses
Gain professional work experience
 - Build your resume
 - Develop employability skills
 - Flexible schedules that work around your classes
 - Work on campus (convenient!)

Types of Work-Study Programs

- PPSC offers three types of work-study funding:

Program	Who Qualifies
Federal Work-Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Students (Resident & Non-Resident) • Students who have a Bachelor's Degree and have eligibility • Enrolled at least half-time (6+ CPOS credits)
Colorado Work-Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Students only • Students with need (based on SAI from FAFSA) • Enrolled at least half-time (6+ credits)
Colorado No-Need Work-Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Students only • No need to demonstrate need on FAFSA (high SAI) • Enrolled at least half-time (6+ credits)
Colorado Non-Title IV Work-Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado DACA Students only • Students with need (based on SAI from FAFSA or CASFA) • Enrolled at least half-time (6+ credits)

How to Get a Work-Study Job

Step 1: Accept Your Work-Study Award

- Log into your student portal and accept your work-study award in your financial aid package.

Step 2: Create a Handshake Account

- All work-study jobs are posted on Handshake, PPSC's job platform.

Set up your account:

1. Go to [Handshake](#)
2. Create your profile using your PPSC email
3. Complete your profile (add your resume, skills, interests)
 - a. Contact career@pikespeak.edu with questions or issues.

Step 3: Search and Apply for Jobs

- Browse available work-study positions and apply for jobs that interest you and fit your schedule.

Step 4: Interview and Get Hired

- Supervisors will contact you for interviews. Once hired, you'll complete any required paperwork and start working!

Work-Study Pay and Hours

- **Payment:**
 - Paid bi-weekly on Fridays
 - Direct deposit to your bank account (set this up in your student portal)
- **Hours you can work:**
 - During classes: Up to 20 hours per week
 - During breaks: Up to 28 hours per week
- **Award limit:**
 - You cannot work past your total work-study award amount. Once you've earned your full award, your employment ends for that academic year.

Your Responsibilities:

- As a work-study employee, you're expected to be professional and responsible:
 - Understand your job duties - Know what's expected of you and follow your supervisor's instructions
 - Maintain your schedule - Show up on time for your scheduled shifts
 - Communicate absences - If you're sick or can't work, contact your supervisor in advance
 - Be professional - No personal visitors or excessive personal phone calls during work hours
 - Dress appropriately - Follow your department's dress code
 - Complete timesheets accurately - Submit timesheets on time and only record hours worked

Types of Financial Aid - Student Loans

Important: Loans Must Be Repaid

- Unlike grants and scholarships, student loans must be paid back with interest—regardless of whether you:
 - Complete your degree
 - Find employment after graduation
 - Are satisfied with your education
- Loans are a supplement to other financial aid, not a replacement. Borrow only what you truly need.

Federal Direct Loan Program

- PPSC participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, which includes:
 - Direct Subsidized Loans
 - Direct Unsubsidized Loans
 - Direct PLUS Loans for Parents

Basic eligibility requirements:

- Enrolled at least half-time ([6+ CPOS credits](#))
- In an eligible degree or certificate program
- Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan

- **What is it?**
 - A need-based loan where the government pays the interest while you're in school.
- **Key features:**
 - Based on financial need (determined by FAFSA)
 - No interest accrues while you're enrolled at least half-time
 - No interest accrues during your 6-month grace period after leaving school
 - Must be repaid with interest after grace period ends
- **Who qualifies?**
 - Students who demonstrate financial need through the FAFSA

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

- What is it?
 - A non-need-based loan available to help cover costs not met by other aid.
- Key features:
 - **Not** based on financial need
 - **Interest accrues immediately** from the day it's disbursed
 - Interest continues to accrue while you're in school and during grace period
 - You can pay interest while in school or let it capitalize (add to principal)
 - Must be repaid with interest
- Who qualifies?
 - Any eligible student whose Cost of Attendance exceeds their other financial aid

Comparison: Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized

Feature	Subsidized Loan	Unsubsidized Loan
Based on need?	Yes	No
Interest while in school?	No - government pays it	Yes - you're responsible
Interest during grace period?	No - government pays it	Yes - you're responsible
Who qualifies?	Students with financial need	All eligible students
Better option?	Yes - accept this first!	Accept only if you need more aid

How Much Can I Borrow?

- PPSC offers loans based on your academic level
- Annual loan limits will be reduced for students who are not enrolled full time

Academic Level	Credits Earned	Program Type	Base Loan Amount
1st Year (Freshman)	0-29 credits	Associate's degree or certificate	Up to \$9,500
2nd Year (Sophomore)	30-59 credits	Associate's degree or certificate	Up to \$10,500
3rd/4th Year (Junior/Senior)	60+ credits	Bachelor's degree program	Up to \$12,500

Note: Whether your loan is subsidized or unsubsidized depends on your demonstrated financial need.

Loan Reduction- Requires institutions to prorate annual loan amounts in direct proportion to the percentage of full-time status the student is enrolled in.

- Students who enroll full-time and remain enrolled full-time are eligible to receive the full-time annual loan limit.
- Students who enroll less than full-time, or drop below full-time, could now have their federal student loans reduced in direct proration to their less than full-time status.
 - If full-time is 24 credit hours and a student enrolled for 18 hours for the academic year, the student will receive 75% of their loan eligibility (18/24 -75%)

Understanding Academic Levels

Freshman/Sophomore (Associate's Programs):

Freshman 0-29 credit hours

Sophomore 30-59 credit hours

- Matriculated into an associate's degree or certificate program
- Taking courses numbered 1000-2000 (or old numbering 100-200)

Junior/Senior (Accepted into a PPSC Bachelor's Programs):

Junior 59-89 credit hours

Senior 89-120 credit hours

- Matriculated into a bachelor's degree program
- Taking courses numbered 3000-4000 (or old numbering 300-400)

Lifetime Loan Limits- There are maximum amounts you can borrow during your entire undergraduate education:

Dependency Status	Lifetime Limit
Dependent students	\$31,000 total
Independent students	\$57,500 total

Once you reach your lifetime limit, you cannot borrow more federal student loans for undergraduate study.

How to Accept Your Student Loan

Step 1: Complete Your FAFSA

- Complete your FAFSA and any required verification documents. You must be awarded financial aid before you can accept loans.

Step 2: Accept Your Loan in the Portal

1. Log into your PPSC Portal
 2. Go to the Financial Aid Card
 3. Select Offer tab, and then Accept Your Award
 4. Accept the loan amount offered (or accept less, or decline entirely)
 5. Review your Terms and Conditions
- **You can:**
 - Accept the full amount offered
 - Accept a partial amount (borrow only what you need!)
 - Decline the loan entirely

Step 3: Complete Required Loan Documents (First-Time Borrowers Only)

- If this is your first time borrowing federal student loans, you must complete two additional steps:

1. Entrance Counseling

- What is it?
 - Online counseling that explains your rights and responsibilities as a borrower.
 - How to complete:
 1. Go to [Federal Student Aid - Entrance Counseling](#)
 - a. Log in with your FSA ID
 - b. Complete the counseling session (takes about 30 minutes)

2. Master Promissory Note (MPN)

- What is it?
 - A legal document where you promise to repay your loan and agree to the terms and conditions.
 - How to complete:
 1. Go to [Federal Student Aid - MPN](#)
 - a. Log in with your FSA ID
 - b. Complete and sign your MPN electronically

Important: Your MPN is valid for up to 10 years, so you typically only complete it once.

First-Time Borrower Delay

- If you're a first-time borrower, your loan will NOT be disbursed until classes have been in session for at least 30 days.
 - This is a federal requirement designed to protect students who may drop out early.

Loan Fees

- All federal student loans have an origination fee set by the U.S. Department of Education. This fee is deducted from your loan before it's disbursed.
 - Example:
 - You're awarded \$3,500 in loans
 - Origination fee: ~1% (\$35)
 - Amount disbursed to your account: \$3,465
 - Amount you owe: \$3,500 (plus interest)

Repayment Plans

When Do I Start Repaying?

- You must begin repaying your loans 6 months after:
 - Graduating
 - Leaving school
 - Dropping below half-time enrollment (less than 6 credits)
- This 6-month period is called your **grace period**.
 - Interest accrues during your grace period on unsubsidized loans (but not on subsidized loans).

Calculate Your Monthly Payments

- Not sure what your monthly payments will be? Use the Federal Loan Simulator to:
 - Estimate monthly payments under different repayment plans
 - Compare how much you'll pay overtime with each plan
 - See which option works best for your budget
 - Understand how extra payments can save you money
- **Try it now: Federal Loan Simulator**
 - This free tool helps you make informed decisions about which repayment plan is right for your situation.

New Loan Borrowers

- Borrowers with new loans made on or after July 1, 2026, can be repaid using only two plans (see below). Borrowers who do not select a plan will be assigned to the new Standard Repayment Plan.
- A new Standard Repayment Plan
 - 4 Fixed terms of 10, 15, 20, or 25 years based on the amount borrowed
- New Income based Repayment Assistance Plan
 - If married filing separately, spouse's adjusted gross income and dependents are not included in the payment calculation.
 - \$10.00 minimum monthly payment
 - Monthly payment is 1-10% of income based on adjusted gross income
 - \$50 off monthly payment (base payment) per dependent
 - 30-year repayment period

Current Loan Borrowers

- Current loan borrowers with no loans made on or after July 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll in the current plans. Borrowers may also switch between, enter or remain on existing Income Driven Repayment plans, until July 1, 2028. Borrowers who do not select a new plan by July 1, 2028 will be placed into the Repayment Assistant Plan.
 - **Standard Repayment** - Fixed payments over 10 years
 - **Graduated Repayment** - Payments start low and increase over time
 - **Income-Driven Repayment** - Payments based on your income
 - **Extended Repayment** - Lower payments over 25 years

Visit [Federal Student Aid](#) to explore repayment options

Parent PLUS Loans

What is a Parent PLUS Loan?

- A federal loan that parents of dependent undergraduate students can borrow to help pay for their child's education.

Basic eligibility requirements:

- Enrolled at least half-time (6+ CPOS credits)
- In an eligible degree or certificate program
- Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Key features:

- Parent is the borrower (not the student)
- Not based on financial need
- Requires a credit check
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance minus other aid received, refer to loan changes page 22
- Interest accrues immediately
- Repayment begins immediately (or can be deferred while student is in school)

How Parents Apply for PLUS Loans

- **Step 1: Student Completes FAFSA**
 - The student must complete their FAFSA (and verification, if selected) first.
- **Step 2: Parent Completes Credit Check and MPN**
 1. Go to [Federal Student Aid](#)
 - a. Create an FSA ID (if you don't have one)
 - b. Complete the **PLUS Loan Credit Check**
 - c. Complete the **PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note**
- **Step 3: Parent Submits Request Form to PPSC**
- Complete and submit the **Parent PLUS Loan Request Form** to the PPSC Financial Aid Office.
- If the credit check is denied
 - The student may be eligible for additional unsubsidized loans. Contact Financial Aid for assistance.

Important Loan Warnings

Return of Title IV Funds

- If you withdraw from all classes or stop attending, you may be required to repay loan funds to PPSC. See the Return of Title IV section (page 56) for details.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- You must maintain SAP to continue receiving loans. If you fall below SAP standards, your loans will be suspended. See the SAP section (page 46) for details.

Only borrow what you truly need. Remember:

- Loans must be repaid with interest
- More debt = higher monthly payments after graduation
- Consider working part-time or applying for scholarships first

Repayment Options for Parent PLUS & Consolidation Loans

- Consolidation loans made on or after July 1, 2026, are only eligible for the Repayment Assistance Plan or Standard Repayment Plans.
- A consolidation loan (subsidized or unsubsidized) taken out by a borrower before July 1, 2026, is treated like any other eligible loan. Borrowers currently in an IDR plan have until July 1, 2028, to select a standard plan, IBR.
- If the consolidation loan was used to pay off a Parent PLUS loan, the borrower must enroll in Income Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR), and make at least one payment under ICR before July 1, 2028, to be eligible for the IBR.
- All new Parent PLUS loans from July 1, 2026, must be repaid under the Standard Repayment Plan.
- Borrowers who borrowed a Parent PLUS before July 1, 2026, and subsequently borrowed on or after July 1, 2026, repayment for ALL loans must be made under the same repayment plan, the Standard Repayment Plan.

For more information on student loan repayment, please visit [Student Loan Repayment | Federal Student Aid](#)

Understanding Loan Default and Financial Literacy

What is Loan Default?

- **Loan default** occurs when you fail to make your student loan payments for **270 days or more** (about 9 months).
- **Defaulting on student loans is serious** and can have devastating, long-lasting consequences for your financial future.

Consequences of Loan Default

- If you default on your student loans, here's what happens:
 - Default is reported to all three national credit bureaus
 - Your credit score drops significantly (can drop 100+ points)
 - Stays on your credit report for 7 years
 - Makes it difficult or impossible to:
 - Rent an apartment
 - Buy a car
 - Get a credit card
 - Qualify for a mortgage
 - Get approved for cell phone plans
 - Pass employment background checks (some employers check credit)
 - **The Government Can Take Your Money**
 - Tax refunds seized - The IRS can withhold your federal and state tax refunds
 - Wages garnished - Up to 15% of your disposable income can be taken directly from your paycheck
 - Social Security benefits reduced - Even retirement or disability benefits can be garnished
 - You don't get a choice - these actions happen automatically without a court order.

You Lose Access to Financial Aid

- Cannot receive any federal or state financial aid if you return to college
- Cannot get additional student loans
- Ineligible for grants, work-study, and other aid
- Must resolve the default before aid eligibility is restored

Your Debt Grows Dramatically

- Collection fees (up to 25% of your loan balance) are added to what you owe
- Interest continues to accrue
- Late fees pile up

Example: A \$10,000 loan in default can quickly become \$12,500+ with collection fees alone.

Legal Action

- Your loan servicer or the federal government can sue you
- You may be responsible for court costs and attorney fees
- Wage garnishment and asset seizure can be court-ordered

Critical Warning: Bankruptcy Won't Help

- Student loans are generally NOT dischargeable in bankruptcy.
 - Unlike credit card debt or medical bills, you cannot eliminate student loans through bankruptcy except in extremely rare cases of "undue hardship" (which is very difficult to prove).
 - Bottom line: You will owe this money for the rest of your life unless you pay it or qualify for forgiveness programs.

How to Avoid Default

- If You're Struggling to Make Payments. DO NOT ignore the problem! Contact your loan servicer immediately if you're having trouble making payments.

Options available to help you:

- **1. Deferment**
 - **What it is:** Temporarily postpone your monthly payments
 - **When to use it:**
 - Enrolled in school at least half-time
 - Unemployed or unable to find full-time work
 - Economic hardship
 - Active military duty

Important: Interest may continue to accrue on unsubsidized loans

- **2. Forbearance**
 - **What it is:** Temporarily reduce or delay your payments
 - **When to use it:**
 - Financial hardship
 - Medical expenses
 - Change in employment

Important: Interest continues to accrue on all loans during forbearance

- **3. Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plans**
 - **What it is:** Monthly payments based on your income and family size (can be as low as \$0/month)
 - **Plans available:**
 - **SAVE Plan (Saving on a Valuable Education)** - *Recommended for most borrowers*
 - Formerly called REPAYE (Revised Pay As You Earn)
 - Payments capped at 10% of discretionary income (5% for undergraduate loans)
 - The lower your income or larger your family size, the less you pay
 - Interest doesn't grow if you make your required monthly payment (even if it's \$0)
 - Remaining balance forgiven after 20-25 years of payments
 - No marriage penalty (spouse's income only counted if you file taxes jointly)
- **Other IDR Plans:**
 - Income-Based Repayment (IBR) - Payments capped at 10-15% of discretionary income
 - Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) - Payments based on income, family size, and loan amount
 - Pay As You Earn (PAYE) - Payments capped at 10% of discretionary income
- **Benefits of IDR Plans:**
 - Affordable payments based on what you can actually pay
 - \$0 monthly payment if your income is low enough
 - Remaining balance forgiven after 20-25 years
 - Qualifies for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
 - Payments adjust as your income changes

How to apply:

Contact your loan servicer or apply at [Federal Student Aid](#)

- **4. Change Your Repayment Plan**
 - Options include:
 - Standard Repayment - Fixed payments over 10 years
 - Graduated Repayment - Payments start low and increase every 2 years
 - Extended Repayment - Lower payments over 25 years
- **5. Loan Consolidation**
 - **What it is:** Combine multiple federal loans into one Direct Consolidation Loan
 - **Benefits:**
 - Single monthly payment
 - May lower monthly payment by extending repayment period
 - Access to additional repayment plans
 - Can get out of default through consolidation

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- **What it is:** Complete loan forgiveness after 10 years of qualifying payments while working for an eligible employer
- **Who qualifies:**
 - Work full-time for a government or nonprofit organization
 - Make 120 qualifying monthly payments (10 years)
 - Be on an income-driven repayment plan
- **Eligible employers include:**
 - Government organizations (federal, state, local, tribal)
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
 - AmeriCorps or Peace Corps

Learn more at [PSLF Program](#)

Exit Counseling Requirement

- All loan recipients must complete Exit Counseling when:
 - You graduate
 - You drop below half-time enrollment (less than 6 credits), or
 - You leave PPSC
- **What is Exit Counseling?**
 - An online session that covers:
 - Your total loan debt
 - Your monthly payment estimate
 - Repayment plan options
 - Deferment and forbearance options
 - Consequences of default
 - Your rights and responsibilities
- **How to complete:**
 - Go to [Federal Student Aid - Exit Counseling](#)

This is required - Failure to complete exit counseling may result in a hold on your transcript or diploma.

While You're in School

- Track your total borrowing - Log into [Federal Student Aid](#) regularly to see your loan balance
- Make interest payments - Even small payments while in school reduce your total debt
- Borrow only what you need - Just because you're offered a loan doesn't mean you have to take it all
- Understand your grace period - Know when repayment begins (6 months after leaving school)
- Keep your contact info current - Update your address, phone, and email with your loan servicer

After You Leave School

- Know your loan servicer - This is who you make payments to (find them on studentaid.gov)
- Set up auto-pay - Many servicers offer a 0.25% interest rate reduction
- Pay more than the minimum - Extra payments go toward principal and save you money
- Communicate with your servicer - If you're struggling, contact them immediately
- Explore forgiveness programs - See if you qualify for PSLF or other programs
- Never ignore your loans - Problems only get worse if you avoid them

Before Default

- Contact your Loan Servicer
 - Find your servicer at [Federal Student Aid](#)
 - Federal Student Aid Information Center
1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- Contact PPSC Financial Aid Office
 - [Navigate](#) for appointments
 - Drop-in at Centennial Campus, Downtown Studio Campus (Monday–Thursday) or Rampart Range Campus (Wednesday's only)

If You're Already in Default

- **Default Resolution Group**
U.S. Department of Education
1-800-621-3115

Options to get out of default:

1. **Loan Rehabilitation** - Make 9 on-time payments over 10 months; default removed from credit report
2. **Loan Consolidation** - Consolidate defaulted loans into a new Direct Consolidation Loan
3. **Pay in Full** - Pay the entire balance (including collection fees)

The Bottom Line

Student loans are a serious financial obligation. Treat them like any other bill - they must be paid.

If you're struggling, GET HELP EARLY. Don't wait until you're in default. There are many options available, but only if you take action before it's too late.

Remember: Your future self will thank you for managing your student loans responsibly today.

Scholarships

Free Money for College!

- Scholarships are gift aid that you don't have to pay back! The PPSC Foundation awards more than \$1,200,000 in scholarships each year to help students like you afford college.

What scholarships can cover:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Other costs of attending college

Available for:

- Certificate degree students
- Associate degree students
- Bachelor's degree students
- Students at all stages of their education (from first semester to graduation!)

Most PPSC scholarships have different eligibility requirements, but generally you should:

- Be enrolled (or planning to enroll) at PPSC
- Demonstrate financial need by completing the FAFSA or CASFA, academic achievement, or meet specific criteria
- Be making satisfactory academic progress

When Can I Apply?

- Check the scholarship website for current application dates: PikesPeak.edu/Scholarships
- Pro tip: Application periods are typically announced well in advance. Set a reminder to check in early fall and early spring! Students with a School Issued email will receive reminders notifying them when the application opens - check your school email regularly!

- **Step 1: Register as a PPSC Student**

- Already a student? Skip to Step 2!
 - **Not yet registered?**
 1. Go to PikesPeak.edu
 2. Click the red "**Apply**" button on the right side of the page
 3. Complete your student application

- **Step 2: Access the Scholarship Portal**

1. Go to PikesPeak.edu
2. Click "myPikesPeak Portal Login"
3. Sign in with your student credentials
4. Click the "**Scholarship**" card
 - a. Click the "**Scholarship Management**" link

- **Step 3: Complete Your Application**

- Once you're in the Scholarship Management system:
 1. Select "Start Application" from the home page
 2. Review pre-filled information
 - a. Check that your name, contact info, and academic details are correct
 - b. If you find errors, contact the Registrar's Office at 719-502-2052 to update your record
 3. Answer all questions
 - a. Complete every blank field
 - b. Be thorough and honest
 4. Write your personal statement
 - a. This is your chance to tell your story!
 - b. Explain your goals, challenges, achievements, and why you deserve scholarship support
 - c. Be authentic and specific
 5. Complete acknowledgments
 - a. Read and agree to the terms and conditions

- **Step 4: Review and Submit**

- **Before you submit:**

- Double-check all your answers for accuracy
- Proofread your personal statement for spelling and grammar
- Make sure you've completed every required field
- Review your contact information (so we can reach you if you win!)

- **When you're ready:**

- Click "Submit Application"

- **Step 5: Sign the Consent Form**

- Final step! Click the "Consent Form" link to:
- Sign your release allowing PPSC to review your FAFSA
- This helps us determine financial need for need-based scholarships

Important: Your application is not complete until you sign the consent form!

What Happens Next?

1. Your application is reviewed by scholarship committees
2. Recipients are selected based on each scholarship's criteria
3. You'll be notified via email if you're awarded a scholarship
4. Scholarships are applied to your student account to cover tuition, fees, and other costs

When Will I Hear Back?

- Award notifications are typically sent by email after the application closes:
 - Spring scholarships: Mid-January
 - Fall scholarships: Mid-July through August

Check your PPSC email regularly - that's how we'll contact you!

If You're Awarded a Scholarship Congratulations! Here's what to do:

- Read your award notification carefully - It will explain the scholarship amount, terms, and any requirements
- Accept your scholarship - Follow the instructions in your notification
- Thank your donor - Many scholarships are funded by generous individuals who want to hear from you
- Maintain eligibility - Most scholarships require you to maintain a certain GPA and enrollment level
- Reapply if needed - Some scholarships are renewable; others require annual reapplication

Note: First time awardees with a COSI Achieve scholarship will need to attend a one-time orientation prior to receiving their scholarship funds.

Before You Apply

- Complete your FAFSA - Many scholarships require it to determine financial need
- Update your student record - Make sure your contact info, major, and GPA are current
- Gather information - Have your academic history, activities, and achievements ready
- Plan time for your personal statement - Don't rush this important part!

Writing a Strong Personal Statement

Your personal statement is your chance to stand out! Here's how:

- **Do:**
 - Tell your unique story
 - Be specific about your goals and how the scholarship will help
 - Mention challenges you've overcome
 - Highlight your achievements and community involvement
 - Explain your passion for your field of study
 - Proofread carefully (or have someone else review it)
- **Don't:**
 - Use generic statements that could apply to anyone
 - Focus only on financial need (also share your goals and achievements)
 - Submit without proofreading
 - Exceed word limits (if specified)
 - Copy and paste from other applications without customizing

Maximize Your Chances

- Apply early - Don't wait until the deadline
- Apply every year - Even if you didn't win last year, try again!
- Look for outside scholarships too - Check Scholarships.com, Fastweb.com, and local Organizations
- Maintain good grades - Many scholarships have GPA requirements
- Get involved - Community service and campus involvement strengthen your application
- Ask for help - Contact the PPSC Foundation or Financial Aid if you have questions

Outside Scholarships

In addition to PPSC Foundation scholarships, you can apply for scholarships from:

- [Colorado Community College Foundation](http://ColoradoCommunityCollegeFoundation.org) Application is open to any student attending one of the 13 Colorado Community Colleges.
- National scholarship databases (Scholarships.com, Fastweb, College Board)
- Local community organizations
- Professional associations in your field
- Employers (many offer tuition assistance)
- Religious organizations
- Civic groups (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)

Remember: Report all outside scholarships to the Financial Aid Office! (Federal regulations require this.)

Employer Tuition Assistance

Many employers offer tuition reimbursement or assistance programs. Check with your HR department to see if you qualify. For questions or submission of documents contact TuitAsstPrograms@PikesPeak.edu.

Questions About Scholarships?

PPSC Foundation

Phone: 719-502-2244

Email: scholarships@pikespeak.edu

Website: PikesPeak.edu/Scholarships

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):

- is a set of federal requirements you must meet to continue receiving financial aid. Think of it as the minimum academic standards you need to maintain to keep your grants, loans, and work-study.
- If you don't meet SAP requirements, your financial aid will be suspended - including student loans.

SAP Requirements: What You Must Maintain

- To remain eligible for financial aid, you must meet ALL THREE of these requirements:
 - 1. Minimum GPA (Qualitative)**
 - Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (C average)
 - 2. Completion Rate (Qualitative)**
 - Successfully complete at least 67% of all credits attempted
 - 3. Maximum Timeframe (Quantitative)**
 - Complete your degree within 150% of the published program length

Immediate Ineligibility

- You will immediately lose financial aid eligibility if you receive all F's, W's, I's, or a combination of these grades for an entire semester.
- This means:
 - Failing all your classes = immediate suspension
 - Withdrawing from all your classes = immediate suspension
 - Receiving all incompletes = immediate suspension

What Grades Count?

- Acceptable Grades (Completed Credits)
 - A, B, C, D, S, S/A, S/B, S/C, P/A, P/B, P/C
- Unacceptable Grades (Not Completed)
 - F, U, I, W, AW, Z, U/D, U/F, F/D, F/F, SP, AU

For more information, visit the [PPSC Grading System](#).

Understanding the Requirements

Qualitative Requirements: GPA and Completion Rate:

What Counts

- All coursework attempted at PPSC
- Transfer credits from other institutions
- Remedial/developmental courses
- Repeated courses
- Courses you withdrew from

Completion Rate Formula:

$$\text{Completion Rate} = \frac{\text{Credits Completed}}{\text{Credits Attempted}} \times 100$$

Credits Completed	Credits Attempted	Calculation	Completion Rate	Status
25	30	$(25 \div 30) \times 100$	83.3%	✓ Satisfactory
15	24	$(15 \div 24) \times 100$	62.5%	✗ Not Satisfactory

Quantitative Requirements: Maximum Timeframe

- You can only receive financial aid for up to 150% of the credits required for your degree program.
- Formula:

$$\text{Maximum Credits} = \text{Required Credits for Degree} \times 1.5$$

- Example:

Degree Type	Required Credits	Calculation	Maximum Credits You Can Attempt
Associate of Arts	60 credits	60×1.5	90 credits
Bachelor's Degree	120 credits	120×1.5	180 credits

- **Important:** ALL credits attempted count toward this limit, including:
 - Credits from previous degrees or certificates
 - Transfer credits
 - Repeated courses
 - Concurrent enrollment courses
 - Withdrawn courses
 - Failed courses
- Once you reach 150%, you are permanently ineligible for financial aid at PPSC (unless you appeal for a new degree program).

Special Considerations

- **Repeated Courses**
 - All attempts count toward both qualitative and quantitative measurements.
- **Academic Second Chance:**
 - Coursework removed through Academic Second Chance still counts for SAP calculations.
- **Remedial Courses:**
 - Only 30 credits of remedial courses can be counted when disbursing federal aid (Pell Grant, Direct Loans, FSEOG). Students receiving federal funding cannot be funded for remedial credits beyond 30 attempted credits.

Financial Aid Status Levels

Status	What it Means	What you need to do
Good Standing	You're meeting all SAP requirements (GPA, Completion Rate and Maximum Timeframe)	Keep up the good work! Continue meeting all requirements
Alert	You've attempted more than 110% of the credits required for your primary degree program.	Be Careful! You're approaching the maximum 150%. Plan your remaining courses carefully to avoid hitting the limit.
Warning	You've fallen below 2.0 GPA and/or 67% completion rate.	You can still receive financial aid for one more semester. Use this semester to improve your GPA and completion rate!
Ineligible	You have not met SAP requirements and are no longer eligible to receive federal or state financial aid (including student loans and work-study)	You'll receive an email with instructions on how to appeal via Student Forms.
Probation	Your financial aid appeal was approved, and you're eligible to receive aid again.	Follow any conditions required by the Financial Aid Office.

Academic Plan / Degree Plan

- If your appeal is approved, you may be placed on an Academic Plan and/or Degree Plan.

Academic Plan

- **What is it?**
 - A customized plan for students who need more than one semester to meet qualitative requirements (GPA and completion rate).
- **What does it include?**
 - Specific GPA you must achieve each semester
 - Minimum completion rate required
 - Timeline for getting back to Good Standing

Degree Plan

- **What is it?**
 - A plan for students whose appeal was approved for quantitative measures (exceeded 150% maximum timeframe).
- **What does it include?**
 - Specific courses you're approved to take
 - Exact number of credits you're approved for
 - Timeline for degree completion

Critical: Keep a copy of your Academic Plan and/or Degree Plan and follow it exactly. Failure to meet the conditions will result in immediate return to financial aid suspension.

Financial Aid Appeals

- **You can submit a Financial Aid Appeal if:**
 - You're on Ineligible (Suspension) status
 - You have mitigating circumstances that prevented you from meeting SAP requirements
 - You need an extension of maximum allowable credit hours
 - You're seeking funding for an additional degree or certificate

Deadline to Appeal is 5 business days before the published census (drop) date if you wish to have your appeal reviewed by the full-term census date.

Plan ahead! Don't wait until the last minute to submit your appeal. Appeals will not be considered if submitted later than 10 business days before the end of the full-term semester.

- **Valid Reasons for Appeals:**
 - The Appeals Committee will consider appeals based on:
 - Medical problems (personal or family illness)
 - Must submit the Medical Documentation form from PPSC website
 - Family emergency (death of a family member)
 - Must provide documentation (death certificate, obituary, etc.)
 - Other documented extenuating circumstances beyond your control
 - Examples: natural disaster, military deployment, domestic violence, etc.
- **Not valid reasons:**
 - "I didn't know about SAP requirements"
 - "I was working too much"
 - "The classes were too hard"
- **Your appeal must include:**
 1. **Why you failed to make SAP**
 - a. Be specific about the circumstances
 - b. Provide documentation (medical forms, death certificates, etc.)

2. What has changed

- a. Explain what's different now
- b. How will you succeed this time?
- c. What support systems do you have in place?

3. Your plan for success

- a. Specific steps you'll take to meet SAP requirements
- b. Resources you'll use (tutoring, counseling, reduced course load, etc.)

How to Submit an Appeal

1. Login to [Student Forms](#), select and begin the Action for CCCS SAP Appeal
2. Complete all sections of the form
3. Attach all required documentation
4. Submit, and finish your appeal, it will automatically be sent to the Financial Aid Office
Incomplete appeals will be automatically denied. Follow all directions carefully!

What Happens After You Submit?

1. Appeals Committee reviews your appeal

- a. Committee considers your situation and documentation
- b. Decision is made to approve or deny

2. You receive a decision via email

- a. Sent to your PPSC student email
- b. Typically, within 2-3 weeks

3. If approved:

- a. You'll be placed on Probation status
- b. Financial aid will be awarded based on your FAFSA eligibility
- c. You must follow any conditions outlined in your approval

4. If denied:

- a. You remain ineligible for financial aid
- b. You can re-appeal after completing at least 6 credits without financial aid and meeting SAP requirements for those credits
- c. You can appeal to the Assistant Director of Financial Aid only if you have additional information not included in your original appeal
- d. The Assistant Director's decision is final

Important Notes

- **Quantitative Appeals:**
 - Students whose appeals are approved for Quantitative Requirements (exceeding 150% maximum) must re-enroll within 2 years or submit a new appeal.
- **Re-Appeals:**
 - If your appeal is denied, you must:
 - Pay out-of-pocket for at least 6 credit hours
 - Meet SAP requirements for those 6 credits (2.0 GPA and 67% completion)
 - Then you can submit a new appeal
- **Resources for Academic Success**
 - Tutoring Services - Free tutoring available for most subjects
 - Academic Advising - Schedule regular meetings to stay on track
 - Counseling Services - Support for personal issues affecting your academics
 - Disability Services - Accommodations for students with documented disabilities
 - Financial Aid Office - Questions about SAP status or appeals

Questions About SAP?

- Financial Aid Office
 - Navigate: [Schedule an appointment](#)
 - Drop-in: Centennial Campus (Monday–Friday), Downtown Studio Campus (Monday–Thursday), or Rampart Range (Wednesday’s Only)
 - Email: Check your student portal for your advisor's contact info
- Don't wait until you're suspended! If you're struggling academically, reach out for help now.

Grade Changes

Grade Changes

- **Your Responsibility:**

⚠ You must notify the Financial Aid Office of ALL grade changes that might affect your current or future financial aid eligibility.

- **When to notify us:**
 - An instructor changes your grade (error correction, late grade submission, etc.)
 - You successfully appeal a grade
 - An incomplete (I) grade is changed to a letter grade
 - Any other grade modification appears on your transcript
- **Why it matters:**
 - Grade changes can affect your:
 - SAP status (GPA and completion rate)
 - Current financial aid eligibility
 - Future financial aid eligibility
 - Academic standing
- **What happens next:**
 - Once you notify us of a grade change, the Financial Aid Office will re-evaluate your SAP status and determine if your financial aid eligibility has changed.
- **How to notify us:**
 - Contact the Financial Aid Office through [Navigate](#) or email a financial aid advisor.

Understanding Grades and Financial Aid

- **Acceptable Grades (Completed Credits)**
 - These grades count as successfully completed credits for SAP purposes:
 - A, B, C, D
 - S, S/A, S/B, S/C (Satisfactory grades)
 - P/A, P/B, P/C (Pass grades)
 - These grades also:
 - Count toward your completion rate
 - Count toward your GPA (letter grades only)
 - Count as progress toward your degree

- **Unacceptable Grades (Not Completed)**
 - These grades do **NOT** count as successfully completed credits for SAP purposes:
 - F – Fail
 - U – Unsatisfactory
 - I – Incomplete
 - W – Withdrawal
 - AW - Administrative Withdrawal
 - Z - No grade submitted
 - U/D, U/F - Unsatisfactory grades
 - F/D, F/F - Fail grades
 - SP - Satisfactory Progress
 - AU - Audit
 - These grades:
 - **Do NOT** count toward your completion rate
 - **DO** count as attempted credits
 - Negatively impact your SAP status
 - Can lead to financial aid suspension
- **For complete grading information:** Visit the in the online catalog.

Repeated Courses

- **How repeats affect financial aid:**
 - **For SAP calculations:**
 - **All attempts count** toward both qualitative (GPA/completion rate) and quantitative (150% maximum) measurements
 - You cannot "erase" a failed course by retaking it—both attempts count
 - **For federal financial aid eligibility:**
 - You can receive Title IV aid (Pell Grant, loans, FSEOG) for a **previously passed course only ONCE** if you're retaking it for a better grade
 - **Example:** You passed English 101 with a D. You can receive aid to retake it once. If you retake it a second time, that course will **NOT** be covered by financial aid.
- **Important:** If you fail a course, you can retake it as many times as needed and receive aid (but all attempts count toward your 150% maximum).

Academic Second Chance

- **What is Academic Second Chance?**
 - A policy that allows students to have certain coursework removed from their GPA calculation under specific circumstances.
- **How it affects financial aid:**
 - Even if coursework is removed from your permanent transcript through Academic Second Chance, it **still counts** for SAP calculations (both qualitative and quantitative).
- **Bottom line:**
 - Academic Second Chance helps your GPA for academic purposes, but those courses still count for financial aid purposes.

Remedial/Developmental Courses

- **What are remedial courses?**
 - Courses designed to prepare you for college-level work (often numbered below 1000).
- **Federal financial aid limit:**
 - You can receive Title IV funds (Pell Grant, Direct Loans, FSEOG) for a **maximum of 30 credits of remedial courses**.
- **What this means:**
 - Your first 30 credits of remedial courses can be covered by federal aid
 - After 30 remedial credits, you **cannot** receive federal aid for additional remedial courses
 - You can still take remedial courses after 30 credits, but you'll need to pay out-of-pocket or use other funding sources
- **Important:** These 30 credits are cumulative across your entire college career, including courses taken at other institutions.
- **Example:**
 - You transfer to PPSC and take 20 more credits of remedial courses
 - Total: 32 remedial credits attempted
 - Federal aid covered: 30 credits
 - You paid out-of-pocket for: 2 credits

Quick Reference: How Different Courses Affect Financial Aid

Situation	Counts Toward Completion Rate?	Counts Toward 150% Maximum?	Can Receive Federal Aid?
Pass a course (A, B, C, D)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Fail a course (F)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes (can retake with aid)
Withdraw (W)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No aid for that course
Incomplete (I)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Depends on final grade
Repeat a passed course (1st time)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes (one-time only)
Repeat a passed course (2nd time)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No federal aid
Repeat a failed course	Depends on new grade	✓ Yes (all attempts)	✓ Yes (all attempts)
Remedial course (within 30 credits)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Remedial course (beyond 30 credits)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No federal aid

💡 Important Reminders

- **Notify Financial Aid of grade changes** - Don't assume we'll automatically know
- **Think before you withdraw** - W's hurt your completion rate and count toward 150% maximum
- **Be strategic about repeats** - You can only get aid once for a passed course
- **Track your remedial credits** - You only get 30 credits covered by federal aid
 - ✓ **All attempts count** - Even if you retake a course, the first attempt still counts toward your 150% maximum



Your school issued email is PPSC's official means of communication! If you have another email that you prefer, have push notifications sent so you don't miss out!

Return of Title IV

What is Return of Title IV?

- Title IV funds are federal financial aid programs, including:
 - Federal Pell Grant
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
 - Federal Direct Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
- When you withdraw, stop attending, or fail all your classes before completing more than 60% of the semester, you may have to return some or all of the federal aid you received.

⚠ Critical Warning

- If you're thinking about withdrawing from classes after receiving financial aid, STOP!
- Contact the Financial Aid Office FIRST to understand the financial consequences. Withdrawing could mean:
 - You owe money back to PPSC
 - You owe money back to the U.S. Department of Education
 - You lose eligibility for future financial aid
 - Your debt goes to collections

Don't make this decision alone! Talk to us first.

How Return of Title IV Works: The 60% Rule

- Federal regulations require us to calculate how much of your financial aid you "earned" based on how long you attended classes.
- If you complete more than 60% of the semester:
 - You've earned 100% of your financial aid
 - No repayment is required
- If you complete 60% or less of the semester:
 - You've only earned a portion of your financial aid
 - The unearned portion must be returned to the Department of Education

How We Calculate What You Owe

- The calculation is based on the percentage of the semester you completed:

$$\text{Percentage Completed} = \frac{\text{Days Attended}}{\text{Total Days in Semester}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Aid Earned} = \text{Total Aid Received} \times \text{Percentage Completed}$$

$$\text{Aid to Return} = \text{Total Aid Received} - \text{Aid Earned}$$

Who Returns the Money?

PPSC's Responsibility

- PPSC must return unearned Title IV funds to the Department of Education within 45 days. This protects the federal aid programs.

Your Responsibility

- You must repay PPSC for the amount the college returned on your behalf. This creates a debt on your student account that you're responsible for paying.

If You Don't Pay PPSC:

- Your account will be placed on hold
 - Cannot register for future classes
 - Cannot receive transcripts
 - Cannot graduate
- Your debt may be sent to collections
 - Damages your credit score
 - Collection fees added to your balance
 - Legal action may be taken
- If You Don't Pay the Department of Education, you lose eligibility for federal financial aid
 - At PPSC
 - At ANY college or university nationwide
 - Cannot receive Pell Grants, loans, or work-study
- Your debt follows you
 - Cannot be discharged in bankruptcy
 - Tax refunds may be seized
 - Wages may be garnished

You CANNOT Use Future Financial Aid to Repay These Debts

- Federal regulations prohibit using future financial aid to pay off R2T4 debts. You must pay with:
 - Personal funds
 - Payment plans (contact Student Accounts)
 - Private loans (not federal student loans)
 - Family assistance

Bookstore Purchases on Financial Aid

- If you're receiving a financial aid refund (your aid exceeds your tuition and fees), you can use part of that refund to purchase required books and supplies at the PPSC Bookstore before the semester starts.



This is NOT extra money—it's an advance on your refund that will be deducted from what you receive later.

How It Works

- The Process:
 1. Your financial aid is awarded and exceeds your tuition/fees
 2. You're authorized to make bookstore purchases against your expected refund
 3. You purchase books/supplies at the PPSC Bookstore
 4. Bookstore charges are deducted from your financial aid
 5. You receive the remaining balance as your refund
- Bottom line: What you spend at the bookstore comes out of your refund.

Purchase Limits

- Daily Limit: \$1,000
- You can purchase up to \$1,000 per day for books and supplies.

Electronic Items Limit

- Laptops and tablets may be purchased only if:
 - You have enough refund remaining after purchasing required books
 - The device is needed for your classes

Eligibility Requirements

To be authorized for bookstore purchases, you must meet ALL of these requirements:

Requirement	What It Means
✓ Valid FAFSA	Your FAFSA must be processed and on file
✓ Complete financial aid file	All verification documents submitted and processed
✓ Terms & Conditions accepted	Must accept in MyPikesPeak Portal
✓ Sufficient aid	Your aid must cover tuition, fees, AND bookstore purchases
✓ COF applied (Colorado residents only)	College Opportunity Fund must be authorized
✓ Good SAP standing	Meeting both Quantitative and Qualitative SAP requirements

If you don't meet all requirements, you cannot use bookstore authorization.

When Can I Use My Authorization?

- Authorizations typically become available 2 weeks before the semester starts.

Timeline:

Semester	Authorization Available	Semester Starts
Fall 2026	~Mid-August 2026	Late August 2026
Spring 2027	~Early January 2027	Mid-January 2027
Summer 2027	~Mid-May 2027	Late May 2027

Allowed Purchases

- **Essential books and supplies needed for your classes:**
 - Required textbooks
 - Course materials (lab supplies, art supplies, etc.)
 - Access codes for online coursework
 - Calculators (if required)
 - Laptops/tablets (if needed for classes and within limits)

NOT Allowed:

- Personal items (clothing, snacks, gifts)
- Non-required materials
- Items for classes you're not enrolled in
- More than 2 electronic items per year

Authorizations are for essential academic materials only.

Shop at the PPSC Bookstore

- **In-Person:**
 - Visit the bookstore at any PPSC campus
 - Bring your student ID
 - Select your required books and supplies
- **Online:**
 - Visit the PPSC Bookstore website
 - Order books for pickup or delivery

Complete Your Purchase

- Tell the cashier you're using financial aid authorization
- Provide your student ID number
- The charge will be applied to your student account
- Keep your receipt!

Verification Delays

- **If your file needs verification and has been waiting longer than 10 working days:**
 - The Financial Aid Office will make every attempt to verify your file that day
 - This allows you to get your bookstore authorization quickly

What to do:

- Visit or call the Financial Aid Office to request expedited processing.

Loan Processing Delays

- **If you submitted a loan request that has been waiting longer than 15 working days AND you've completed:**
 - Entrance Counseling
 - Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- **The Financial Aid Office will make every attempt to:**
 - Award your loan that day
 - Provide bookstore authorization
- **What to do:**
 - Contact the Financial Aid Office to request expedited loan processing.

Financial Aid Refunds and Disbursements

How Financial Aid is Applied

Your financial aid doesn't go directly to you—it follows a specific process:

Step 1: Aid is Applied to Your Student Account

- All financial aid (grants, scholarships, and loans) is **first applied to your student account** to pay:
 - Tuition
 - Mandatory fees
 - Other charges you've authorized (see below)

Step 2: Remaining Balance Becomes Your Refund

- If there's money left over after all charges are paid, you receive the difference as a **refund**.

Critical Warning: Only Take Required Classes

You should **ONLY** enroll in classes that are required for your program of study.

- **Why?** Taking classes outside your program can result in:
 - Having to repay financial aid to the college
 - Loss of future financial aid eligibility
 - Unexpected debt on your student account
- **Always check with your academic advisor** to confirm classes are required for your degree before enrolling!

When Does Financial Aid Pay to My Account?

- **Standard Disbursement:**
 - Financial aid is applied to your student account on the **first Monday after the main census (drop/add) date**.
 - Single semester loans have two disbursements within the same semester, up to 8 weeks apart.
 - First-time loan borrowers, loan proceeds disburse 30 days after the start of the semester



Important Reminder All financial aid is awarded based on full-time enrollment and will prorate and disburse based on actual enrolled hours.

Disbursement Schedule Example

Event	Date	What Happens
Classes start	August 25, 2026	Semester begins
Census (drop/add) date	September 5, 2026	Last day to drop without penalty
Financial aid disburses	September 8, 2026 (Monday)	Aid applied to your student account
Refunds begin processing	September 8, 2026	Student Accounts generates refunds
You receive refund	September 9-15, 2026	Depending on refund method (see below)

Special Disbursement Situations

- **Late Start Classes**
 - If you have classes that start later than regular term classes:
 - Your aid will **NOT** disburse until the Monday after the earliest drop date of your late-start classes
 - This could delay your refund by several weeks
- **Example:**
 - Regular classes start August 25
 - Your late-start class starts September 15
 - Your aid won't disburse until late September (after the late-start drop date)
- **First-Time Loan Borrowers**
 - If this is your first time borrowing federal student loans:
 - Your loan will **NOT** be applied until **30 days after the first day of classes**
 - It will be paid to your account on the **first Monday following that 30-day date**
- **Example:**
 - Classes start: August 25, 2026
 - 30 days later: September 24, 2026
 - Loan disburses: September 29, 2026 (first Monday after 30 days)
- **Why the delay?**
 - Federal regulations require this 30-day waiting period for first-time borrowers to protect students who may drop out early.

Understanding Disbursement vs. Refund

- **Important Distinction:**
 - **Disbursement** = When aid is applied to your student account
 - **Refund** = When you receive leftover money
 - **These are NOT the same day**

How You Receive Your Refund

Refund Methods

- You have **3 options** for receiving your financial aid refund:
 - **Option 1: Direct Deposit (Recommended)**
 - **What it is:** Money deposited directly into your bank account
 - **Fastest option** - Receive funds in 3-10 business days after disbursement
 - **Best for:** Students who want their refund quickly and securely
 - **Option 2: BankMobile Debit Card**
 - **Best for:** Students without a bank account
 - **Option 3: Paper Check**
 - **What it is:** Physical check mailed to your address that is set up in Bank Mobile
 - **Best for:** Students who prefer traditional checks

Setting Up Your Refund Preference: Check Your Mail

- You'll receive a mailer from **BankMobile** explaining your refund options. Follow the Instructions in Mailer

Refund Timing by Method:

Refund Method	Time to Receive After Disbursement
Direct Deposit	7-10 business days after disbursement
BankMobile Debit Card	5+ business days after disbursement
Paper Check	Up to 2-4 weeks after disbursement

Important Warnings

Dropping Classes After Receiving a Refund

- If you receive a refund and then drop late-start classes or withdraw from classes:
 - You may have to repay financial aid that was already awarded
 - You may be placed on financial aid suspension
 - You may owe money to PPSC

Why do you owe money?

- Your financial aid was calculated based on your full enrollment. If you drop classes, you may no longer be eligible for the full amount.
- **See these sections for details:**
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
 - Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)

Always contact Financial Aid BEFORE dropping classes if you've received a refund!

Summer Financial Aid at PPSC

Important: Summer financial aid is **different** from Fall and Spring aid. Summer aid is **NOT automatically awarded** you must take specific steps to receive it.

Special Requirements by Aid Type

Summer Grants

- Pell Grant
 - Students will be awarded once they have enrolled in courses, if eligible, the financial aid office will pull a list, nothing for you to do
- Colorado Student Grant
 - Awarding is based on remaining award allocation, and is awarded in order students register for summer
- CASFA
 - Awarding is based on remaining award allocation, and is awarded in order students register for summer
- FSEOG
 - Awarding is based on remaining award allocation, and is awarded in order students register for summer

Summer Loans

- If you received aid in Fall/Spring:
 - You **MUST request summer loans separately**
 - Submit a [Loan Request Form](#)
 - Loans are **NOT automatically awarded** for summer
- If you're **ONLY attending summer (not Fall/Spring):**
 - Your loans will be awarded automatically based on your FAFSA
 - No separate request needed

Summer Work-Study

- To be eligible to work during summer, you must:
 - Have completed **both** current and next year's FAFSA or CASFA (DACA eligible students only)
 - Be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours for summer
- **New to work-study?** You must apply and be awarded work-study for the academic year before you can work in summer.

 **Pro tip:** Register early and submit loan requests in March/April to ensure your aid is ready before classes start!

Consortium Agreement

Attending two colleges at the same time

- A **Consortium Agreement** is a formal arrangement that allows you to take classes at **two colleges at the same time** and have those credits count toward your financial aid eligibility at your "home" school.

Common reasons for consortium agreements:

- Your home school doesn't offer a required class
- You need a class that fits your schedule better at another school
- You're taking online classes from another institution

Understanding Home vs. Host Schools

Term	Definition	Financial Aid
Home School	The college where you're seeking your degree and receiving financial aid	Provides your financial aid package
Host School	The college where you're taking additional classes (not your degree-granting institution)	Does NOT provide financial aid; you pay directly

PPSC as Home vs. Host

How It Works when PPSC is the Home School:

- Your financial aid from PPSC can cover classes you take at another institution (the host school), **but only if those classes:**
 - Are required for your PPSC degree
 - Will transfer back to PPSC
 - Are approved through a Consortium Agreement
- Please note each institution policies on Consortium Agreement varies, so please check with your home school for eligibility criteria.

Getting started

- Contact PPSC's Financial Aid Office to discuss process
- Meet with a PPSC Academic Advisor; to confirm the courses you are taking at the host school will transfer back and meet degree requirements with PPSC
- Register for approved courses and submit the Consortium Agreement to the PPSC Financial Aid Office.

Payment Process

Important: Even though PPSC provides your financial aid, you must **pay the host school directly** for your courses.

How It Works when PPSC is the Host School:

- Contact the Financial Aid Office at your Home School to discuss their process. Please note the following:
 - PPSC does NOT provide financial aid
 - You take classes at PPSC as a visiting/guest student
 - Your home school includes PPSC credits in your total enrollment for financial aid
 - You pay PPSC directly for your courses
 - You cannot obtain assistance with payment of books and supplies needed for the courses taken at PPSC

Special Arrangements

To avoid being dropped for non-payment:

- PPSC's Student Accounts Office will be notified that you're a consortium student, so you won't be automatically dropped from classes for non-payment while your consortium agreement is being processed.
- **However, you still must pay PPSC by the payment deadline!**

Guest Students (No Consortium Agreement)

- A **guest student** (also called visiting student, non-degree student, or non-matriculated student) is someone who:
 - Takes one or more courses at PPSC
 - Does **NOT** intend to earn a degree from PPSC
 - Is completing coursework for another purpose:
- Required for graduation at their home school
- Prerequisites for acceptance into another program
- Professional development
- Personal enrichment

Important: **If you're a Guest Student at PPSC, you CANNOT receive Title IV funds from PPSC.**

Students' Rights

Your Rights as a Financial Aid Recipient

- As a student receiving financial aid at PPSC, you have important rights. Understanding these rights helps you make informed decisions about your education and finances.

You Have the Right to:

1. Know What Financial Aid is Available

- You have the right to know about **all financial assistance programs** available at PPSC, including:
 - Federal aid (Pell Grant, Direct Loans, SEOG, Work-Study)
 - Institutional aid (PPSC scholarships)
 - Private scholarships and outside aid
 - State aid (Colorado Student Grant)
- **Where to find this information:**
 - This handbook
 - [PPSC Financial Aid website](#)
 - Financial Aid Office appointments via Navigate

2. Know Application Deadlines

- You have the right to know the **deadlines for submitting applications** for each financial aid program, including:
 - FAFSA deadline: June 30, 2027
 - Priority deadline: March 31, 2027 (for limited funds)
 - Scholarship application deadlines
 - Loan request deadlines
 - Verification document deadlines
- **Where to find deadlines:** See the Timeline section (page 7) or visit the Financial Aid website.

3. Know the Cost of Attending PPSC

- You have the right to know:
 - **Tuition and fees** for your program
 - **Cost of Attendance (COA) budget**, which includes:
 - Tuition and mandatory fees
 - Books and supplies
 - Room and board (living expenses)
 - Transportation
 - Personal expenses
 - **Refund policy** if you drop classes or withdraw
 - **Repayment policy** for loans and overpayments

- Where to find [cost information](#):
 - [PPSC Tuition and Fees](#)
 - Your financial aid offer letter
 - Student Accounts Office

4. Know How Financial Aid Recipients Are Selected

- You have the right to know the **criteria used to select financial aid recipients**, including:
 - FAFSA completion and Student Aid Index (SAI)
 - Enrollment status (full-time, part-time)
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements
 - Citizenship and residency requirements
 - Degree-seeking status
 - Scholarship-specific criteria (GPA, major, demographics, etc.)
- **Where to find selection criteria:** This handbook and the Financial Aid website.

5. Know How Your Financial Need is Determined

- You have the right to understand **how PPSC calculates your financial need**, including:
 - **The formula:**
 - Financial Need = Cost of attendance (COA) – Student Aid Index (SAI)
 - **Cost of Attendance includes:**
 - Tuition and mandatory fees
 - Room and board (living expenses)
 - Books and supplies
 - Transportation costs
 - Personal and miscellaneous expenses
- **Where to find your COA:** Your financial aid offer letter or contact the Financial Aid Office.

6. Know What Resources Are Considered in Your Need Calculation

- You have the right to know what **resources are factored into your financial need**, including:
 - Parental contribution (for dependent students)
 - Student contribution (income and assets)
 - Scholarships and grants
 - Other financial aid received
 - Veterans' benefits
 - Outside resources (employer tuition assistance, etc.)
- **Why this matters:** All resources must be reported to avoid over-awarding, which could result in having to repay aid.

7. Know What Portion of Your Need Has Been Met

- You have the right to know:
 - Your **total financial need** (COA minus SAI)
 - How much aid you've been **awarded**
 - Any **unmet need** (the gap between your need and your aid)
- **Where to find this:** Your financial aid offer letter or contact the Financial Aid Office.

8. Request an Explanation and Appeal Your Award

- You have the right to:
 - **Request an explanation** of any financial aid program in your award package
 - **Ask questions** about why you received certain types or amounts of aid
 - **Submit a Special Circumstances Appeal** if your financial situation has changed
- **Common reasons for appeals:**
 - Loss of income or employment
 - Medical expenses
 - Death of a parent or spouse
 - Divorce or separation
 - Natural disaster or emergency
- **How to appeal:** Contact the Financial Aid Office via Navigate to discuss your situation and submit required documentation.

9. Know About Loans in Your Award Package

- If your financial aid package includes **student loans**, you have the right to know:
 - Which portion is a loan (vs. grants that don't need to be repaid)
 - Interest rate on your loan(s)
 - Total amount you must repay (principal + interest)
 - Repayment procedures and options
 - Length of repayment period
 - When payments begin (typically 6 months after graduation or dropping below half-time)
 - Grace period before repayment starts
 - Deferment and forbearance options
- **Where to find loan details:**
 - Your Master Promissory Note (MPN)
 - StudentAid.gov
 - Loan entrance and exit counseling
 - Your loan servicer
- **Important:** You have the right to **decline or reduce loan amounts** if you don't want to borrow the full amount offered.

10. Know About Work-Study Employment

- If your financial aid package includes **Federal Work-Study**, you have the right to know:
 - **How much you're eligible to earn** (your work-study award amount)
 - **Conditions of employment** (hours, job duties, supervisor expectations)
 - **How you'll be paid** (biweekly paycheck, not applied to your student account)
 - **When you'll be paid** (every two weeks via direct deposit or paper check)
 - **How to find a work-study job** (job board, application process)
 - **Your rights as an employee** (minimum wage, safe working conditions, etc.)
- **Where to find work-study information:**
 - Work-Study Student Handbook
 - [PPSC Work-Study Job Board](#)
 - Financial Aid Office
- **Important:** Work-study is **earned income**—you must work to receive payment. It's not automatically applied to your account.

11. Know About Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- You have the right to know:
 - **How PPSC determines SAP** (GPA, completion rate, maximum timeframe)
 - **SAP requirements** you must meet to maintain financial aid eligibility:
 - Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
 - Complete at least 67% of attempted credits
 - Not exceed 150% of program length
- ✓ **What happens if you don't meet SAP** (Warning, Suspension, Probation)
- ✓ **How to appeal** if you're placed on SAP suspension
- ✓ **How to regain eligibility** after losing financial aid
- **Where to find SAP information:** See the Satisfactory Academic Progress section (page 46) of this handbook.

12. Know About Campus Safety

- You have the right to know about **crime statistics and safety information** for PPSC campuses.
- **Where to find this information:**
 - [PPSC Clery Act Information](#)
 - Annual Security Report
 - Campus Safety Office
- **The Clery Act** requires colleges to disclose information about:
 - Crime statistics for campus and surrounding areas
 - Campus security policies
 - Emergency response procedures
 - Sexual assault prevention and response

How to Exercise Your Rights

- If you have questions or need information about any of these rights:
 1. Review this handbook - Most information is covered in detail
 2. Visit the Financial Aid website - [PPSC Financial Aid](#)
 3. Schedule an appointment - [Navigate](#)
 4. Drop-in to Financial Aid - Centennial Campus (Monday–Friday) or Downtown Studio Campus (Monday–Thursday)

Students' Responsibilities

Your Responsibilities as a Financial Aid Recipient

- Receiving financial aid comes with important responsibilities. Meeting these responsibilities ensures you continue to receive aid and avoid problems with your student account.

You Have the Responsibility to:

1. Keep Your Contact Information Current


- Always update your physical address in your student portal when you move.
 - **Why this matters:**
 - Important financial aid documents are mailed to your address
 - Loan servicers need your current address
 - Missing mail can result in missed deadlines and lost aid
 - **How to update:**
 1. Log into [MyPikesPeak Portal](#)
 2. Go to Student Information
 3. Update your mailing address immediately when it changes

2. Complete and Submit All Application Materials on Time

- You must complete all required forms and submit them to the appropriate office by the deadline.
 - This includes:
 - FAFSA (by June 30, 2027; priority deadline March 31, 2026)
 - Verification documents (within 2 weeks of request)
 - Loan requests
 - Scholarship applications
 - Appeals and special circumstance forms
 - **Why this matters:**
 - Delayed or reduced financial aid
 - Loss of limited funding (CSG, FSEOG, Work-Study)
 - Inability to register for classes

3. Activate and Monitor Your PPSC Email Account

- You must activate your college-assigned email and check it at least once a week (daily recommended).
- Why this matters: is
 - The Financial Aid Office communicates primarily via PPSC email
 - You will receive notifications about:
 - Student Forms account creation
 - Missing documents
 - Award offers and changes to awards
- Missing these emails can result in lost financial aid
- **How to access:** [PPSC Email Login](#)

 **Pro tip:** Set up email forwarding to your personal email so you never miss important messages.

4. Complete Your FAFSA Accurately and Honestly

- You must pay special attention to accuracy when completing your financial aid applications.
 - Why this matters:
 - Errors cause delays in processing your aid and may result in loss of funding
 - Intentional misreporting is a federal crime subject to penalties under the U.S. Criminal Code, including:
 - Fines up to \$20,000
 - Imprisonment
 - Repayment of all aid received
 - Permanent loss of federal aid eligibility
- **Common errors to avoid:**
 - Incorrect Social Security numbers
 - Wrong information
 - Listing wrong Family size
 - Typos in names or addresses
- **Double-check everything before submitting!**

5. Respond Promptly to Financial Aid Office Requests

- You must return all requested information, documentation, and corrections promptly.
 - This includes:
 - Verification documents (tax transcripts, verification worksheets) via Student Forms
 - Clarification of conflicting information
 - Additional forms
 - Corrections or signatures to your FAFSA
- **Timeline:** Submit requested documents within **2 weeks** of receiving the request.
 - **Why this matters:** Delays in submitting documents can result in:
 - Delayed financial aid disbursement
 - Loss of limited funding
 - Inability to purchase books with bookstore authorization
 - Late fees or dropped classes

6. Read, Understand, and Keep Copies of All Documents

- You must:
 - Read and understand all documents before signing
 - Keep copies of all financial aid documents for your personal records
 - Organize your records for easy reference
- **Important documents to keep:**
 - FAFSA confirmation pages
 - Financial aid offer letters
 - Master Promissory Notes (MPN)

- Entrance and exit counseling certificates
- Verification documents
- Loan correspondence
- Scholarship award letters

7. Accept Full Responsibility for All Agreements You Sign

- You must **read and accept full responsibility** for all agreements, including:
 - Master Promissory Note (MPN) for loans
 - Terms and Conditions for financial aid
 - Work-study employment agreements
 - Scholarship terms and conditions
- **Why this matters:**
 - You are legally bound by these agreements
 - "I didn't read it" is not a valid excuse
 - Violations can result in loss of aid and legal consequences
- **Before signing, make sure you understand:**
 - What you're agreeing to
 - Your obligations
 - Consequences of non-compliance
 - How to fulfill the terms
- **If you don't understand something, ASK before signing!**

8. Notify Your Loan Servicer of Any Changes

- **If you have student loans, you must notify your loan servicer(s) immediately of changes to:**
 - **Your name (marriage, legal name change)**
 - Your address (mailing and physical)
 - Your phone number or email
 - Your enrollment status (graduation, withdrawal, dropping below half-time)
- **Why this matters:**
 - Your loan servicer needs to contact you about repayment
 - Missing communications can result in default
 - You may miss important information about repayment options
- **How to update:**
 1. Log into your loan servicer's website (find your servicer at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov))
 2. Update your contact information
 3. Confirm the changes

9. Perform Your Work-Study Job Duties

- If you accept a **Federal Work-Study award**, you must:
 - Apply for and secure a work-study position
 - Show up for scheduled shifts on time

- Perform your job duties as assigned
- Follow workplace policies and procedures
- Maintain professional conduct
- **Why this matters:**
 - Work-study is earned income—you must work to get paid
 - Poor performance can result in termination
 - You may lose future work-study eligibility
- **Remember:** Work-study is a job, not a grant. Treat it professionally!

10. Know and Comply with Refund and Repayment Policies

- You must understand and follow PPSC's policies regarding:
 - Refund policy: When and how you receive financial aid refunds
 - Repayment policy: When you must repay financial aid (Return of Title IV)
 - Withdrawal consequences: How dropping classes affects your aid
- **Key policies to understand:**
 - Return of Title IV (R2T4) if you withdraw before completing 60% of the semester
 - SAP requirements for maintaining aid eligibility
 - Loan repayment obligations
- **See these handbook sections for details:**
 - Return of Title IV (page 56)
 - Financial Aid Refunds and Disbursements (page 61)
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress (page 46)

11. Understand the Conditions of Your Financial Aid

- You must understand and comply with the specific requirements for each type of aid you receive.
- Each aid type has different conditions:
 - **Why this matters:**
 - Failing to meet conditions can result in loss of aid
 - Some aid must be repaid if conditions aren't met
 - Renewal may depend on maintaining specific criteria
- **Review your award offer carefully and ask questions if anything is unclear!**

12. Report All Outside Financial Assistance

- You must notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if you receive any financial assistance from sources not reported on your FAFSA.
- **This includes (but is not limited to):**
 - a. Private Scholarships/Foundation Scholarships/Grants**
 - Outside scholarships from organizations, businesses, or foundations PP -SC Foundation scholarships
 - Community scholarships

b. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Awards

- Tribal education assistance
- Native American scholarships

c. Center Assistance

- Workforce WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) funding
- Job training grants
- Employer tuition assistance

d. Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab)

- State vocational rehabilitation services
- Disability-related education assistance

e. Other Sources:

- Employer tuition reimbursement
- AmeriCorps education awards
- Any other grants, scholarships, or tuition assistance

- **Why you must report outside aid: Federal regulations prohibit "over-awarding",** you cannot receive total aid more than your Cost of Attendance (COA).
 - **What happens if you don't report:**
 - Your PPSC aid package may be **reduced or canceled**
 - You may have to **repay aid** you already received
 - You could face **penalties** for failing to report
- **How to report:**
 1. Contact the Financial Aid Office immediately when you receive outside aid
 2. Provide documentation (award letter, check, etc.)
 3. We'll adjust your aid package if necessary
- **Good news:** Outside scholarships usually reduce loans first, not grants!

13. Keep Records for Tax Purposes

- You are **advised to keep records** of all education-related expenses for tax purposes.
- **Documents to keep:**
 - Tuition and fee statements
 - Book and supply receipts
 - Form 1098-T (Tuition Statement) from PPSC
 - Loan interest statements (Form 1098-E)
 - Scholarship and grant award letters
- **Why this matters:**
 - You may be eligible for education tax credits (American Opportunity Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit)
 - Student loan interest may be tax-deductible
 - Required for filing federal and state tax returns
- **How long to keep:** At least 3 years after filing your tax return (7 years is recommended).

- **For specific tax advice:** Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or consult a CPA or tax professional.

14. Enroll Only in Degree-Applicable Classes

- You must **enroll only in classes that apply toward your degree or certificate program**. The U.S. Department of Education regulations require that a student must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program to receive financial aid. Essentially, only the coursework that counts toward your degree will be used in determining your hours of enrollment for federal aid purposes (grants, loans, and federal work study).
 - **Classes that do NOT count for financial aid:**
 - **Audit classes** (sitting in without earning credit)
 - **Portfolio classes** (credit for prior learning)
 - Classes outside your program of study
 - Recreational or personal interest classes not required for your degree
 - **Why this matters:**
 - Financial aid can only be used for classes required for your credential
 - Non-applicable classes are considered **non-completion** for SAP purposes
 - You may have to repay aid used for non-applicable classes
 - **Before enrolling, confirm with your academic advisor that classes are required for your program!**

15. Be Enrolled as a Regular, Degree-Seeking Student

- To receive **federal financial aid**, you must be:
 - Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student
 - In an eligible degree or certificate program
 - Pursuing a recognized educational credential offered by PPSC
- **What is a "regular student"?**
 - A student enrolled **for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other recognized education credential**.
- **Who is NOT a Regular Student:**
 - Guest students (taking classes for another institution without a consortium agreement)
 - Non-degree-seeking students
 - Students auditing classes
 - Students taking classes for personal enrichment only
- **Why this matters:**
 - Federal Title IV aid (Pell, loans, work-study) is **only available to degree-seeking students**.

Non-Discrimination Statement

PPSC's Commitment to Equal Opportunity

- Pikes Peak State College is committed to providing an educational and working environment free from discrimination and harassment.
- Individuals affiliated with PPSC shall not be subjected to unlawful discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of:
 - Sex/Gender
 - Race
 - Color
 - Age
 - Creed
 - National or ethnic origin
 - Ancestry
 - Physical or mental disability
 - Veteran or military status
 - Pregnancy status
 - Religion
 - Genetic information
 - Gender identity
 - Sexual orientation
 - Any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law
 - This policy applies to:
 - All employment practices
 - All educational programs and activities
 - Protections against retaliation for opposing discrimination
 - Protections for those participating in any grievance process on campus or within the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or other human rights agencies

Title IX and Civil Rights Coordinator

- The College has designated Mrs. Kim Hennessy, Vice President of Human Resource Services, as its:
 - Affirmative Action Officer
 - Equal Opportunity Coordinator
 - Title IX Coordinator
- Mrs. Hennessy is responsible for coordinating the College's civil rights compliance activities and grievance procedures. If you believe you have experienced discrimination or harassment, you may contact any of the following offices:

PPSC Title IX Coordinator

Kim Hennessy
Vice President of Human Resource Services
Pikes Peak State College
5675 S. Academy Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Phone: (719) 502-2006

Colorado Community College System

Director of Affirmative Action
Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System
9101 E. Lowry Blvd.
Denver, CO 80230
Phone: (303) 620-4000

U.S. Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights, Region VIII
U.S. Department of Education
1244 North Speer Boulevard, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80294
Phone: (303) 844-3417

Additional Resources

- Colorado Civil Rights Commission
[Website](#)
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
[Website](#)

Stay Connected
Follow PPSC Financial Aid:
Website: www.pikespeak.edu/financial-aid
Check your PPSC email regularly for important updates
Log into [MyPikesPeak Portal](#) to view your financial aid status

Thank you for choosing Pikes Peak State College!
We're here to support your educational journey every step of the way.