

Sponsor Story: 4 ways to federally fund college

Joan Westlake, for Mesa Community College 4:55 p.m. MST December 30, 2015

This story is provided and presented by our sponsor



(Photo: Mesa Community College)

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, called the FAFSA, opens the door to federal funding for college. Juan Carlos Sanchez, financial aid outreach specialist at [Mesa Community College \(https://www.mesacc.edu\)](https://www.mesacc.edu), says in recent years, the application has become more user friendly. In February, MCC hosts a College Goal FASFA Day dedicated to helping students and parents fill out the federal form. You don't have to be enrolled at MCC. Documentation you will need to apply is listed on the college's [website \(https://www.mesacc.edu/new-student-checklist/fill-out-your-fafsa\)](https://www.mesacc.edu/new-student-checklist/fill-out-your-fafsa).

For free, professional help with a range of potential scholarships and funding sources, stop by Mesa Community College's [Financial Aid Office \(https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid\)](https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid) in the new [Enrollment Center \(https://www.mesacc.edu/enrollment-center\)](https://www.mesacc.edu/enrollment-center) on the east side of campus. Processing the FASFA can take up to a month, so Sanchez strongly recommends applying as soon as possible. If classes start before your FAFSA goes through, you will be responsible for paying until you are awarded aid. There are four basic federal sources of funding.

1. Pell Grants

These do not need to be repaid. Pell Grants are based on financial need, the cost of attendance, whether you are a full-time or part-time student and if you plan to attend school for a full academic year or less.

2. Direct Subsidized Loans

These low-interest loans are based on financial need and must be paid back but the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan while you're in school at least half-time, for the first six months after you leave school and during a period of deferment.

3. Direct Unsubsidized Loans

There is no requirement to demonstrate financial need with these low-interest loans but you must begin paying interest on the loan immediately. If you choose not to pay the interest while you are in school or during grace periods and deferment, your interest will accumulate and be added to the principal amount of your loan. The [Federal PLUS \(https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid/types-aid\)](https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid/types-aid) (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) loan is an example of an unsubsidized loan that can be applied for by parents of dependent students.

4. Work-Study Program

Federal Work-Study funding does not need to be paid back and provides employment opportunities for students with financial eligibility. Sanchez points out that students work up to 20 hours per week on campus at real jobs that look good on resumes. Positions are available in many campus areas and help students explore careers they might like to pursue plus offer opportunities for networking.

This story is provided and presented by our sponsor: [Mesa Community College \(https://www.mesacc.edu\)](https://www.mesacc.edu)

Read or Share this story: <http://azc.cc/1R00JgU>

MCC's average annual tuition is
75%* less
than what many in-state colleges
and universities charge.



**MESA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AAE institution and an equal opportunity employer of postpaid veterans and individuals with disabilities.



MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (/TOPIC/966F3E9B-9D04-437F-B8F5-86526EF3BB78/)



[\(/story/sponsor-story/mesa-community-college/2015/12/02/mcc-5-ways-earn-college-degree-not-increase-your-debt/76687870/\)](/story/sponsor-story/mesa-community-college/2015/12/02/mcc-5-ways-earn-college-degree-not-increase-your-debt/76687870/)
5 ways to earn a college degree, not increase your debt (/story/sponsor-story/mesa-community-college/2015/12/02/mcc-5-ways-earn-college-degree-not-increase-your-debt/76687870/)

Dec 02, 2015

MCC Red Mountain Campus now offers
classes 2 days, 4 days or 1 day a week.