

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

SFS MISSION STATEMENT

The Student Financial Services Office is dedicated to assisting students achieve their educational goals and academic success by providing current and accurate information to all students, parents and the community about federal, state and institutional aid opportunities.



WHY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Submitting a financial aid application is the single most important thing you can do to get money for college. Most students receive some type of aid, so you should submit an application even if you don't think you qualify. The time you spend completing an application could translate into hundreds or even thousands of dollars that can help you pay for college.

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 16 - JANUARY 12: RCCD Foundation Scholarship Application available

DECEMBER: The 2024-25 FAFSA AND CADAA available

APRIL: FA Awareness

APRIL 2: Cal Grant priority deadline extension

CONTACT SFS

(951) 571-6139

MVC Welcome Center

studentfinancialservices@mvc.edu

FALL 2023

SUPPORT SERVICES

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

FA UPDATES

SCHOLARSHIPS

PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

SAP

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

SFS OUTREACH

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

STUDENT VOICES

All applications for financial assistance programs (i.e. student loans, work compensation, grants, scholarships, special funds, subsidies, prizes, etc.) will be considered by the Riverside Community College District without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or practices: District Compliance Officer, 3801 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501, or (951) 222-8039



SUPPORT SERVICES

WELCOME CENTER

Take advantage of our in-person services in the Welcome Center for assistance with all of your financial aid needs. From the application process to navigating the world of financial aid and scholarships, SFS is ready to assist you. Visit the lobby desk in the Welcome Center and you'll be directed to our front counter.

SFS COUNSELORS

Student Financial Services Counselors are available to provide support so you can stay on your pathway to success. We strongly encourage you to meet with an SFS counselor as soon as possible if you:

- Are considering withdrawing from a course or are in danger of not passing a course
- Have received a financial aid warning email
- Have received a financial aid ineligible email
- Need to create or update your Student Educational Plan (SEP)

Access the link to schedule an appointment with Deanna Murrell, [SFS Counselor](#).

The logo for ConexED, featuring the word "Conex" in blue and "ED" in orange, with a stylized orange and blue graphic element to the right.

LEARN ABOUT
CONEXED >

ConexEd is a platform that allows students to connect with departments and services, online, regardless of your physical location. With ConexEd, you can drop in to virtual offices, make appointments, send messages and ask important questions to the Student Financial Services team. Simply visit the ConexEd login page for MVC. Your student email and password will allow you to sign in.

FAFSA

If you need financial assistance to pay for college, don't miss out! Submit the FAFSA, include Moreno Valley College's school code 041735 on your application, and ensure your social security number is on file with Admissions and Records. Federal and state funds, including grants and scholarships, remain available for scholars year-round.

Submitting the FAFSA is the first step. Check your file status and complete pending actions at the StudentForms financial aid portal and follow up on all requests from SFS.

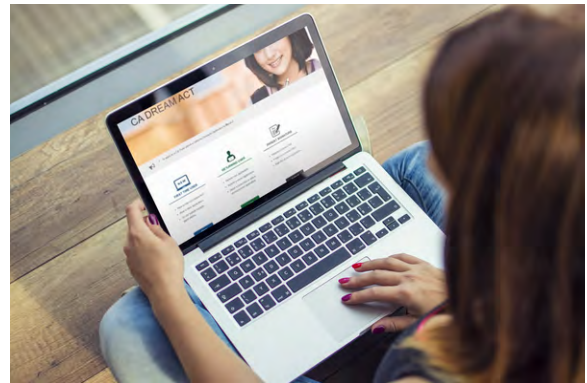


[APPLY NOW >](#)

CADAA

There are many financial aid options for undocumented/dreamer students. If you are undocumented and have been determined AB 540 eligible by Admissions and Records, submit the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and include the MVC school code 04173500.

CADAA information is private! The CADAA does not link applicant information to federal government databases. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) keeps CADAA applicant data confidential. CADAA data will not be shared with, or disclosed to, any federal agencies, including immigration enforcement.



[APPLY NOW >](#)

SFS WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

SFS regularly hosts financial aid workshops & events to provide students and parents with step-by-step assistance in submitting the FAFSA and CADAA, completing your financial aid file, sessions focused on undocumented students and foster youth, financial literacy, and more.

Don't miss out! Visit the Financial Aid Events page on the MVC college website to view our events calendar. Events are updated each term so be sure to check in often for new additions.

[SFS EVENTS >](#)

2024-2025 FAFSA CHANGES

UPDATE! There are a number of benefits of the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#), including a more streamlined application process and a better user experience for the FAFSA, expanded eligibility for federal student aid, and reduced barriers for certain student populations.

Here are a few notable changes to the 2024-2025 application:



2024-2025 FAFSA OPENING

This year the FAFSA will open in **December 2023**.

A SHORTER AND MORE STREAMLINED APPLICATION

The FAFSA will greatly reduce the maximum number of questions. This streamlined format will simplify the application process for students and families.

AVAILABLE IN MORE LANGUAGES

The 2024-25 application will be expanded from English/Spanish to include the 11 most common languages spoken by English learner students and their parents.

APPLICANTS REQUIRED TO USE THE IRS DIRECT DATA EXCHANGE

All persons on the FAFSA must provide consent for the Department of Education to receive tax information or confirmation of non-filing status directly from the IRS.

ALL “CONTRIBUTORS” MUST PROVIDE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A contributor—a new term being introduced for 2024-25—refers to anyone who is required to provide information on a student's form (such as a parent/stepparent or spouse).

STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI) REPLACING EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

This name more accurately describes the number used to determine aid eligibility and, unlike the EFC, the SAI may be a negative number down to -1500, which may help the neediest students receive the maximum amount of aid.

NO LONGER CONSIDER FAMILY MEMBERS IN COLLEGE

The application will still ask how many household members are in college, but your answer will not be calculated into the SAI.

PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED

The FAFSA Simplification Act expands the Federal Pell Grant to more students and links eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level.

INFORMATION FOR DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

With the new FAFSA, for dependent students, financial information will be required from the parent(s) who provided the most financial support to the student.

FSA ID NOW AVAILABLE TO PARENTS WITHOUT A SSN

Currently those without a SSN are not able to electronically sign the application and have to mail in a paper signature form. The new FAFSA, will allow the FAFSA to be signed and submitted electronically for most students.

WEBGRANTS FOR STUDENTS (WG4S)

WG4S will allow you to manage your Cal Grant and/or Chafee account(s) online by letting you view updates, make school & address changes, and post leave of absence requests.

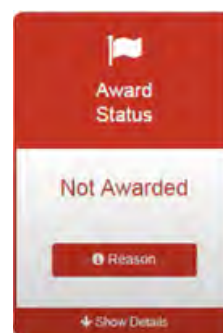
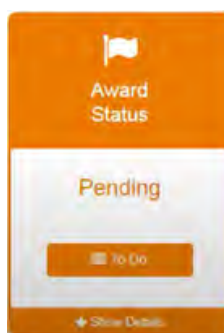
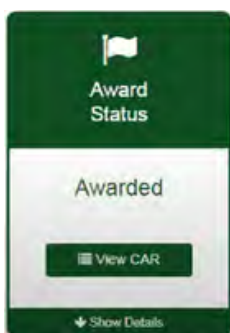
Note: your WG4S account does not replace your MVC or FAFSA accounts.

Create Your Account > [WebGrants 4 Students](#)
Accessing and Navigating WG4S > [CSAC WG4S](#)



CHECK YOUR AWARD STATUS

Students should monitor their WebGrants 4 Students portal to confirm their award status for the Cal Grant and the Chafee Grant for foster youth. If your Award Status is pending, click on the "To Do" list to determine next steps. If your Award Status is "Not Awarded", click the "Reason" button to learn more and consult with MVC SFS or CSAC if you believe there is an error.



WEBGRANTS TO DO

- Check your award status and award amount.
- Verify if there are any pending items or forms that still need to be completed.
- Confirm that your school of attendance is MVC. This refers to the college you plan to attend, not your high school.
- Verify that your GPA has been received. If not, contact your high school or college counselor or the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).
- Verify your high school graduation date. This will become available on the 1st day of the month of your planned graduation.
- Students with Dependents can certify their eligibility.
- If you applied for the Chafee Grant, check that your "Department of Social Services Record" is complete to verify your foster youth status. *Note: This is verified monthly so it may take up to 6 weeks before you see results.*

STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT (SSCG)

The Student Success Completion Grant is administered by the California Community Colleges and provides a grant award to students that are enrolled in 12 or more units, receive the Cal Grant B or C, and are California residents or meet the requirements for a non-resident tuition exemption. Students must also meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards to receive the SSCG.

Eligibility for non-foster students:

- Students enrolled in at least 12 but fewer than 15 semester units receive **\$1298** per semester (\$2596 annually).
- Students enrolled in 15 or more semester units receive **\$4,000** per semester (\$8,000 annually).

SSCG INCREASE FOR FOSTER YOUTH!

UPDATE! SB 117 increased the grant amount for current and former foster youth beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year. Current and former foster youth is defined as a person whose dependency was established or continued on or after the age of 13.



Eligibility for current and former foster youth:

- Students enrolled in 12 or more units receive **\$5,250** per semester.

CAL GRANT PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION



UPDATE! The Department of Education has announced that due to the upcoming FAFSA changes, the 2024-25 FAFSA and CADAA are scheduled to be released in **December 2023**. Because of the later than usual release date, which is typically October 1 of each year, the Cal Grant priority application deadline has been extended from March 2, 2024 to **April 2, 2024**. This change will allow students additional time to submit their FAFSA's and ensure their GPA has been submitted for 2024-25 Cal Grant consideration.

For more information about Cal Grant eligibility requirements, visit the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) [website](#) and get answers to all of your Cal Grant questions in the [FAQ section](#).

CAL GRANT ACCESS AWARDS

STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (SWD)

If you are a Cal Grant recipient attending Moreno Valley College who has dependent children, you may be eligible for the [Students with Dependent Children \(SWD\) Grant](#) which increases the Cal Grant award by up to \$6,000 for qualifying Cal Grant B recipients and up to \$4,000 for qualifying Cal Grant C recipients.



To qualify, the student must have dependent children that are under 18 years of age for whom they provide more than half of their financial support during the academic year and indicate they have a child/children on their FAFSA or CADAA. About a week after submitting your application, log in to your WebGrants for Students account to self-certify your dependent children. The student **MUST** complete the certification to be awarded.

CAL GRANT B FOR FOSTER YOUTH

This access award provides current and former foster youth increased Cal Grant eligibility of up to \$6,000 per year, renewal for the equivalent of eight years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program, they have until age 26 to apply for the Cal Grant High School Entitlement Award, and they can apply for a High School Entitlement award through September 2, at a California Community College. Students can receive this access award in addition to the [Chafee Grant](#).

CHAFEE GRANT DISBURSEMENTS



UPDATE! The Chafee Grant for Foster Youth is now disbursed through BankMobile. If you've already selected a disbursement preference, no further action is required. If you've never received financial aid at MVC, check your student email for account setup instructions.

BANKMOBILE DISBURSEMENT OPTIONS:

- Direct Deposit to your bank account
- BankMobile Vibe debit card
- Paper check



THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT SERVICE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM (DSIG)

DSIG is a great way for eligible undocumented students to access paid professional development, even without work authorization! The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)

will award up to \$4,500 per academic year (up to \$2,250 per semester) to 1,667 eligible students. Eligible students must be receiving a Cal Grant B award, maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress, be a California resident, enrolled in at least half-time, and demonstrate enough financial need.

- 1 Download, complete, and submit the Grant Application form.
- 2 Complete 150 hours per semester of community or volunteer service.
- 3 Download, complete, and submit the Payment Request form; include verification of hours.

DID YOU KNOW? Students can volunteer on campus. All Cal Grant eligible colleges qualify as service organizations. MVC centers and departments can host volunteers to support your work!

[APPLY NOW >](#)

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR MVC DREAMERS

TODEC's free legal services for immigrants and community members is one of the core services offered. Everyone should have the support they need to navigate the U.S. legal system and access resources. Their probono legal services and clinics make sure that everyone has the legal support they need to protect their families.

The Perris-based legal center provides local residents with free DACA renewal application, legal and USCIS fee help. Take advantage of their free services by filling out the online application form. A TODEC staff member will follow up with your request. You will receive a telephone call from their scheduling department 1 to 4 business days after your request is received, excluding Holidays observed and Weekends.

Support is available in both English and Spanish.

[SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT >](#)



ACCESSING VITAL DOCUMENTS FOR YOUTHS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

California state laws give children and youth experiencing homelessness the right to get their birth certificates and IDs [at no cost and without the signature of a parent or guardian](#), even if you're under 18.

If any one of these situations applies to you:

- You are staying in a home that is not yours, your parent's or legal guardian's because you had to leave your home.
- You are in an unstable living situation, without a safe or steady home.
- You are sleeping in a motel, car, tent, abandoned building, or public place
- You are staying in a shelter or transitional living program

It's easier than ever! If you were born in California, find out how you can [access your free birth certificate and ID](#).



THE SCHOOLHOUSE CONNECTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Schoolhouse Connection, a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through education, is now accepting applications for their [Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program](#) for high school students graduating in spring 2024.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

- \$2,500 Scholarship Award
- One-on-one support from Schoolhouse Connection staff
- Three all-expense paid trips
- Support from Schoolhouse Connection Scholars
- Opportunities to engage in State and Federal policy advocacy

ELIGIBILITY

- You are currently residing in the United States. **Note: undocumented applicants are eligible**
- You were born on or after November 24, 2003
- You will begin college for the **FIRST TIME** in 2024 (excluding dual-enrollment courses)
- You experienced homelessness in the last six years

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Deadline: November 24, 2024**
- For more information visit scan the QR code!



RCCD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

RCCD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2024-2025 application period is from **October 16, 2023 through January 12, 2024.**

Complete just one application and be matched to multiple opportunities.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The application period for high school senior scholarships is open **January 1 through April 30, 2024.**

EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

External opportunities are offered year-round on the district's scholarship site. No login is required, simply visit **RCCD External Opportunities** to view the list of scholarships or search using key words. For more information, click on the Scholarships link on the MVC SFS webpage.

[SCHOLARSHIPS >](#)



SUGGESTED SCHOLARSHIP SITES

www.unigo.com

www.maldef.org

www.fastweb.com

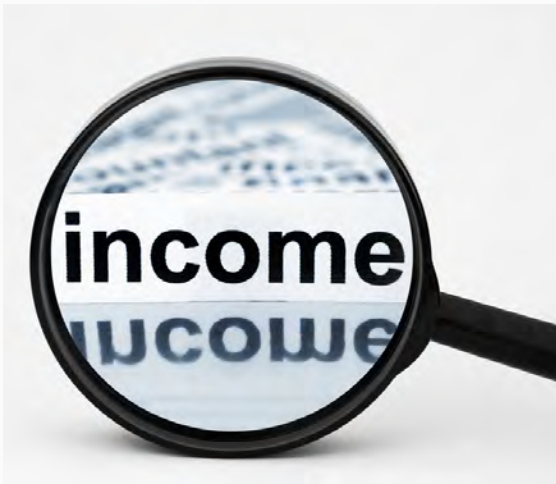
www.scholarships.com

www.careeronestop.org

www.immigrantsrising.org

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

www.studentscholarshipsearch.com



[SFS CONSUMER GUIDE >](#)

EFC APPEAL

When you complete your FAFSA for the 2023-2024 academic year you are required to report 2021 income information.

If you have had a drastic change in income in 2022 or 2023 due to an unforeseen or special circumstance, the Department of Education and Moreno Valley College will allow you to have your financial assistance eligibility re-evaluated.

Visit the SFS Consumer Guide to learn more about the requirements for a **Professional Judgement Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Appeal.**

Veterans

Scholarship Breakfast



Earn Money for College Scholarship for Veterans

Enter by
October 18

ELIGIBILITY

Each year, Moreno Valley College student Veterans may enter a contest to win a cash scholarship. Students must meet eligibility requirements:

- Discharged from the military honorably, medically, or under honorable conditions
- Currently enrolled with a paid student services fee
- List Moreno Valley College as home college

PROMPT

From Warrior to Scholar: The College Transition of a Military Veteran

How did your service prepare you for life as a college student? What transitional challenges did you face when leaving military service to pursue your education? How did you overcome these challenges?

GUIDELINES

Veteran students are asked to write an essay responding to this year's prompt.

Length: 1,000 - 1,500 words

Format: Typed, double line spacing, in MLA or APA format. Include your student ID (and no other identifier) in the upper right, and a page number in the bottom right. Save as a PDF or in Microsoft Word for upload.

HOW TO ENTER

Students complete their [scholarship entry form online](#). Your submission form also includes requests for:

- Name, student ID and contact information
- A portrait photograph
- Proof of military discharge
- A short 150-word biography discussing your personal background, educational goals and inspirations

ACCEPTING AWARDS

If selected, winners must attend the Veterans Scholarship Breakfast on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 am in the Student Academic Services Building, Room 121. Winners may bring up to two guests, free of charge. Parking is free the morning of the event.

For additional information, call (951) 571-6939.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Scholarship Award

\$1,000

Deadline to submit

Wednesday, October 18

Notification

Tuesday, October 24



AWARD

\$1,000

DEADLINE

OCTOBER 18

All applications for financial assistance programs (i.e. student loans, work compensation, grants, scholarships, special funds, subsidies, prizes, etc.) will be considered by the Riverside Community College District without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or practices: District Compliance Officer, 3501 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92504, or (951) 222-8139.



UNDERSTANDING SAP

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

SAP REQUIREMENTS AND FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

**2.0
GPA**

To remain eligible for financial aid, you must meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement.

**67%
Completion**

You must, at a minimum, receive satisfactory grades in 67% of cumulative credits attempted.

**150%
Timeframe**

You must complete your program of study before attempting 150% of the credits required for your program.

SAP STATUSES



SATISFACTORY

You meet all requirements and are eligible for financial aid.

Keep up the good work!

TAKE ACTION

- Strive for a grade of C or better in all of your courses.
- Before you drop a class, check with Student Services.
- Maintain good study habits and continue towards your goal!



WARNING

You haven't met one or more requirements for one term. You're eligible for aid but you must meet all requirements by the end of the next term.

TAKE ACTION

- Evaluate what is preventing you from meeting academic requirements.
- Take advantage of your resources and visit with your instructors, financial aid, counseling, and tutorial services.



INELIGIBLE

You haven't met requirements for two consecutive terms and are no longer eligible. You may appeal to reinstate your financial aid.

TAKE ACTION

- File a SAP Appeal through your financial aid portal at StudentForms.
- Meet with a Student Financial Services Counselor.
- Speak with Student Financial Services for assistance.



Every dollar saved is a dollar less you need to borrow or earn.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO MINIMIZE COLLEGE COSTS

While exploring different ways to fund your college education is important, it's equally crucial to consider how you can manage and reduce your overall college costs. There are several strategies you can employ to keep your expenses in check.



Buy Used Textbooks or Rent Them

Consider the library or buying used books or renting them from websites like Amazon, Chegg, CampusBooks.com, and BookFinder.



Buy Discounted Computers

Some colleges offer free or discounted laptops to incoming students. Remember to have your student ID or other proof of enrollment ready when making a purchase.



Maximize Your Course Load

If you can handle the workload, taking more classes each semester can help you graduate earlier and save money.



Live at Home or in a City With a Low Cost of Living

If your school is close to home, living with your parents might be an option. Use MoneyGeek's [Cost of Living Calculator](#) to compare expenses in hundreds of U.S. cities.



Manage Your Credit Card Spending

If you decide to use a credit card during college, use it responsibly. Aim to pay off your balance in full each month to avoid interest charges.



Stick to Your Budget

Creating and sticking to a budget is one of the most effective ways to control college costs. [Use apps and online tools](#) to track spending and stay on budget.



Use Public Transportation

If your school is in a city with good public transportation, consider using it instead of maintaining a car, which can be expensive. Many cities offer discounted or free transit passes for students.



Cook Your Own Meals

Eating out can quickly add up. Spending \$10 on lunch every day can amount to \$50 per week or \$200 per month. Additionally, cooking can be a stress reliever and a valuable life skill. Consider meal prepping on weekends to save time during the week.

For the full article visit moneygeek.com.



SFS OUTREACH

SFS Outreach strives to promote financial aid awareness and accessibility to current and prospective students. To fulfill our goal, we have developed various marketing tools to reach as many students as possible.

STUDENT RESOURCES

As of fall 2023, SFS has joined Canvas with its own shell, where students will find straight-forward access to financial aid tutorials, videos, announcements and other valuable information. Interested students can enroll using the link below. Please share it with your students!

Access the [SFS Canvas Shell Link](#):

FACULTY RESOURCES

SFS Outreach has designed an MVC **Financial Aid Module** that instructors can download from *Canvas Commons* and upload to their shells. This module will be updated every semester to guarantee it has the most accurate information available.

We have also designed **Financial Aid Statements** that can be added to any syllabus. There are two formats, long and short, and each version has a **QR code**. Choose the one that best fits your syllabus' needs and format.

To request a presentation or a copy of the syllabus' financial aid statements, email **Carolina Arriaga-Sosa**, SFS Outreach Specialist, at carolina.arriaga-sosa@mvc.edu, or Juan Ponce, SFS Director, at juan.ponce@mvc.edu.

DO YOU HAVE CLASS TIME TO SPARE?

Request a **Financial Aid Class Presentation**, and help us reach out and educate students about financial aid benefits and resources.



**Thank you for your
invaluable support!**

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY/DISTRICT JOBS



Student employment can play a significant role in a student's education. Through on-campus jobs, you can learn valuable skills and build self-confidence that prepares you for your future careers.

WHAT IS IT?

Part-time opportunities to work on campus, earn money to pay for educational expenses, gain work experience, and have a flexible work schedule.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- MVC is your Home College
- Enrolled in 6 units (fall/spring)
- Enrolled in 3 units (winter/summer)
- Maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA
- Have a valid Social Security card and picture ID

Federal Work-Study positions also require:

- A complete FAFSA application and financial aid file
- Meet SFS Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards

HOW DO I APPLY?

- View the **RCCD Job Board** on the **Information for Students** menu tab
- Select Student Employment (District Jobs/Federal Work Study Jobs)

[APPLY NOW >](#)

CURRENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

TUTOR

PEER MENTOR

STUDENT AIDE

Apply on the RCCD Job Board or complete the Work-Study Interest Form in the Student Employment Office.

CONTACT US:

(951) 571-6294

Welcome Center/Financial Aid
Window 9

StudentEmployment@mvc.edu

Effective 01/01/23, minimum wage has increased to \$15.50



MVC STUDENT VOICES

Financial aid has positively impacted the lives of many MVC students. Their experiences have the power to uplift and inspire current and future Mountain Lions!



I think the financial aid office is very helpful and very kind to others. When it comes to asking for help, they are here to help us in any way. I just want to tell the financial aid office thank you so much for all the work you guys do.

- ROLAND DIAZ

I came back to school during the pandemic, after 40 years, and I was assisted by Juan from the financial aid department. Juan was there for me, texting back and forth with me to make sure I had my forms filled out correctly and he explained how financial aid would assist me with my studies. He would call and even leave me voicemails when he was not able to reach me. And then there is Micaela Murphy who assisted me by explaining how I could receive assistance through Federal Work-Study as a student worker, which I am today. She also stays in contact with students via email regarding their award letters for upcoming semesters. They have been a blessing to me. Thank you Financial Aid.

- BARBARA MCCARTER

My personal experience has been an exceptional journey. Mr. Juan Ponce has used his expertise to lead me in the right direction. He helped me complete my FAFSA by obtaining and securing much needed information within a timely manner which has given me the ability to advance in my financial journey. Thank you for both your time and understanding.

- DONAVAN CUNNINGHAM

I was no longer able to keep my job, and the realization that I could no longer provide for my family as I had in the past diminished my sense of self-importance. I was considering a career change in the hopes of finding one that would be more fulfilling. Therefore, I decided to continue my education and earn a bachelor's degree in sociology. With the assistance of financial aid, I can now pursue my objectives. I will relocate to Chico State University for the upcoming academic year. I would like to thank everyone in the department of financial aid who assisted me in finding answers to my many questions. In the year 2020, when COVID was at its pinnacle, I began my college education. Trying to get a feel for college life without actually meeting anyone was difficult, but everyone in this department has been incredibly understanding throughout.



- DASHAUN TYLER