



Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

*Special letter to Doctor of Occupational Therapy students
From Jessica Francischetti, Financial Aid Director*

Greetings from the Rocky Mountain College Financial Aid Office. You are about to make a significant investment in your education at RMC in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in terms of your time, your energy, and yes, your money. This letter is to serve as a tool to help you understand your financial aid eligibility, as well as the costs associated with the OT program.

Your financial aid eligibility is determined by filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>. By doing this, you will be eligible to borrow a federal Direct unsubsidized loan. Additional funding may be obtained through Direct Grad PLUS or private loans. When you are admitted into the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program and complete the FAFSA, you will be sent an award letter detailing your loan eligibility and directions on how to obtain these loans.

Rocky Mountain College does not offer institutional scholarships for graduate programs. We encourage you to apply for any and all scholarships for which you may qualify offered by other sources such as foundations, charitable organizations, civic groups, employers, individual benefactors, and businesses. Additional information can be found on our website at <https://www.rocky.edu/external-scholarships>.

The questions and answers below address the “cost of attendance” for an OT student. When developing a financial aid award, financial aid professionals work with a student budget, or “cost of attendance.” It is critical that OT students thoroughly understand how the cost of attendance affects their financial aid and ability to fund their education.

Q: How much will it cost me to be an OT student at Rocky Mountain College?

A: The OT Program consists of three calendar years. Because of the design of the program, you will be required to complete 4 FAFSAs. For this reason, the financial aid years are different than what you would consider an academic year. See outline below.

Financial Aid Year 1	Financial Aid Year 2	Financial Aid Year 3	Financial Aid Year 4
Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Summer 2021	Spring 2022	Spring 2023	
	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	

Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 1

Your 2020-21 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees	\$24,610
Room & Board	7,585
Books & Supplies	1,100
Personal Living Allowance	1,625
Travel	875
Health Insurance	650
Memberships/conferences	2,650
Loan Fees	1,070

Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 2

Your 2021-22 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees	\$36,915
Room & Board	12,837
Books & Supplies	1,300
Personal Living Allowance	2,750
Travel	1,375
Health Insurance	1,050
Memberships/conferences	2,650
Loan Fees	1,968

Estimated Cost of Attendance – Financial Aid Year 3

Your 2022-23 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year

Tuition & Fees	\$36,915
Room & Board	12,837
Books & Supplies	800
Personal Living Allowance	2,750
Travel	3,750
Health Insurance	1,050
Memberships/conferences	2,650
Loan Fees	2,000

Estimated Cost of Attendance – Financial Aid Year 4

Your 2023-24 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year

Tuition & Fees	\$12,310
Room & Board	5,250
Books & Supplies	600
Personal Living Allowance	1,000
Travel	2,000
Health Insurance	450
Memberships/conferences	0
Loan Fees	550

Your tuition will be \$12,000 every term. Fees and miscellaneous expenses may be subject to change in future years.

Q: How much of my costs will be covered by financial aid?

A: As a graduate student, you will be eligible to borrow \$20,500 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan for every financial aid award year. The current interest rate for these loans is 4.30%. As you can see, this will not cover the total amount of tuition and fees every financial aid year. If you feel that you need to borrow more than the Direct Loan will provide, Federal Direct Grad PLUS or private loans are typically the resources used by OT students to finance their additional costs. If you are interested in using either one of these loan options, you can calculate what you are eligible to borrow very easily. I've outlined it below.

Total cost of attendance – Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan= Grad PLUS/private loan eligibility

Your Grad PLUS/private loan eligibility will be listed on your financial aid award; however, students must apply for these loans independently. Rocky Mountain College cannot obtain these loans for you. You must be considered to be credit worthy or have a credit worthy endorser to be eligible for this loan. The current interest rate for the Grad PLUS loan is 5.30%. Interest rates for private loans will vary, depending on the lender you choose and your credit history. For more information on applying for the Grad PLUS and private loans, go to <https://www.rocky.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/types-aid>.

Q: Where do the figures for room and board come from?

A: The room and board figure is based on an average for all OT students, living on or off campus. Most live off campus.

Q: Why is the estimate for books and supplies \$1,100 for the first year, \$1,300 for the second year, \$800 in the third year and \$600 in the following year?

A: Prior to the start of the program, you will be given a list of books that you will be required to purchase. You will need to have books for your first two calendar years which will cost about \$800 per year. Additional supplies are also required. Approximately \$200 per year has been budgeted, but your individual expenses may be more or less.

Q: What is the “personal living allowance,” and is that something I will have to pay RMC?

A: The personal living allowance is built into a student’s budget to account for other living expenses they may encounter while they are attending school (e.g., clothes, toiletries, gas, etc.). Therefore, this is not a bill that you will be expected to pay to RMC, and your personal living allowance may be more or less than the amount budgeted, depending on your lifestyle.

Q: Why is health insurance included in the budget?

A: All OT students are required to have health insurance to be in the program. For this reason, we can include it as a student expense.

Q: Why does the travel allowance fluctuate?

A: You will not have to travel very far in your first two years. You will be required to travel more extensively during the Level 2 Fieldwork terms.

Q: I have a family, and I don’t think this budget is realistic for me to support my family. Can I increase the cost of attendance to include my family expenses?

A: Unfortunately, the cost of attendance may only reflect costs associated with the student attending school. The only item that we could add to the cost of attendance would be daycare costs incurred while the student is attending school. For more information about including daycare, contact the financial aid office.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to email the financial aid office at finaid@rocky.edu or call 406.657.1031 or 1.800.877.6259.

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