**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](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, your FAFSAs will not follow the traditional July 1st through June 30th academic year schedule.

**Financial Aid Year 1 Financial Aid Year 2 Financial Aid Year 3**

Spring 2025 Spring 2026 Spring 2027

Summer 2025 Summer 2026 Summer 2027

Fall 2025 Fall 2026 Fall 2027

**Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 1**

Your 2024-25 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees $39,702

Housing & Food 19,558

Books & Supplies 2,118

Personal Living Allowance 3,108

Travel 1,848

Health Insurance 2,247

Loan Fees 2,263

**Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 2**

Your 2025-26 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees $39,702

Room & Board 19,558

Books & Supplies 1,350

Personal Living Allowance 3,108

Travel 1,848

Health Insurance 2,247

Loan Fees 2,263

**Estimated Cost of Attendance – Financial Aid Year 3**

Your 2025-26 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year

Tuition & Fees To be determined

Room & Board 19,558

Books & Supplies 0

Personal Living Allowance 3,108

Travel 5,045

Health Insurance 2,247

Loan Fees 2,263

Your tuition and fees will be $39,702 for your first year. Tuition, 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 8.08%. 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 9.08%. 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>. How much student loan debt you should borrow is a very personal decision. Your student loan dollars should be used only for items directly related to your college education. We encourage you to borrow responsibly and only what you need to cover your costs.

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

A: The housing and food 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 $2,118 for the first year and $1,350 for the second and 0 for the third years?**

A: Prior to the start of the program, you will be given a list of books and supplies that you will be required to purchase. There are some supplies you will only need to purchase once when you start the program. 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, 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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