

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.gov>. By doing this, you will be eligible to borrow a federal Direct unsubsidized loan. Additional funding may be obtained through 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 may offer institutional scholarships for graduate programs. We also 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://rocky.edu/admissions/financial-aid/rmc-scholarships/external-scholarship/>.

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 eight academic terms.

Financial Aid Year 1	Financial Aid Year 2	Financial Aid Year 3
Fall 2026	Fall 2027	Fall 2028
Spring 2027	Spring 2028	Spring 2029
Summer 2027	Summer 2028	

Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 1

Your 2026-27 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees	\$39,762
Housing & Food	21,452
Books & Supplies	2,355
Personal Living Allowance	3,434
Travel	1,764
Health Insurance	2,142
Loan Fees	217

Estimated Cost of Attendance - Financial Aid Year 2*

Your 2027-28 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year.

Tuition & Fees	\$39,762
Room & Board	21,452
Books & Supplies	1,454
Personal Living Allowance	3,434
Travel	1,764
Health Insurance	2,142
Loan Fees	217

Estimated Cost of Attendance – Financial Aid Year 3*

Your 2028-29 FAFSA will determine your aid eligibility for this year

Tuition & Fees	\$26,508
Room & Board	14,302
Books & Supplies	0
Personal Living Allowance	2,290
Travel	4,746
Health Insurance	1,428
Loan Fees	145

*Your tuition and fees will be \$39,762 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 8.07%. 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, private loans are typically the resources used by OT students to finance their additional costs. If you are interested in using this loan option, you can calculate what you are eligible to borrow very easily. I've outlined it below.

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

Q: What about Grad PLUS loans? Are those an option for me?

A: As of July 1, 2026, the federal government has discontinued the Grad PLUS loan program for new borrowers. If you are starting a new program after that date, you will need to utilize Direct Unsubsidized Loans or private lending options to cover educational costs. Students can find information on possible private lenders on our website at <https://rocky.edu/admissions/financial-aid/types-of-aid/>. Our preferred

lender list is compiled using neutral, student-centered criteria, including total borrower cost, repayment flexibility, approval times, customer-service metrics, and co-signer release options. At least two unaffiliated lenders are included. We review this list annually. You are not required to use a lender on this list and may select any eligible lender; we will process all certifications impartially.

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 \$2,355 for the first year and \$1,454 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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Updated 6.5.26