

CIM 12-13 Returning Student Financial Aid Timeline

February 1, 2012	Deadline to submit the \$100 Tuition Deposit and "12-13 Intent to Re-Enroll / Renewal Aid Form" to the CIM Financial Aid Office. If you later decide not to re-enroll, you have until May 1, 2012 to notify the Registrar in writing to have your deposit refunded.
March 1, 2012	Deadline to submit the 12-13 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov - U.S. citizens and permanent residents only. After submitting your FAFSA, be sure to review the Student Aid Report (SAR) that is sent to you. Until you review the SAR, do not assume your FAFSA is complete. You may estimate 2011 tax return data, if necessary, but you must correct estimates as soon as tax return is completed.
April 1, 2012	Students should receive renewal aid information by this date, assuming all required documents were received by the dates above.
April 15, 2012	If any estimated tax data was entered on the FAFSA, make sure to correct those estimates with actual data from the completed tax return, as required by law, as soon as possible. Be sure to also update that the tax return is "completed" and no longer in a "will file" status.
May 1, 2012	If you intend to return to CIM, accept and/or decline your renewal aid offer via your NetPartner account. Submit any additional required financial aid documents as listed in NetPartner. This is also the deadline to notify the Registrar in writing if you are not returning, to get any 12-13 deposit you previously paid refunded.
June 30, 2012	Finish any incomplete aid documents as requested by the Financial Aid Office. If you are the recipient of any outside or private scholarships, be sure to inform the Financial Aid Office (in writing) so they may be included in your aid file, as required. Aid will not be credited (disbursed) to the student tuition account until all required documents are completed.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Tips

The renewal 12-13 FAFSA is required of all undergraduate and graduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who seek ANY federal student aid, including loans, grants or work study. You may submit your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. CIM's school code for the FAFSA is 003031.

Please submit your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. CIM's school code for the FAFSA is 003031. While we strongly urge you to submit the FAFSA online, you may order a paper form from the Department of Education by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) toll-free at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Keep in mind, the online FAFSA processes in just a few days; paper applications will take several weeks. The 12-13 FAFSA will not be available until January 1, 2012. Any completed prior to January 1 will not be applicable, as they are for the wrong school year. Your FAFSA is due 3/1/12.

We suggest you print out the **FAFSA on the Web Worksheet**. You can use this handy form to collect all data ahead of time to make sure you have all the information needed before you sit down at the computer to enter your FAFSA online. See www.fafsa.gov and the "before beginning the FAFSA" section. This worksheet is to assist you and should not be sent to CIM or the FAFSA processor. You will need to enter the information from this form into the FAFSA online or via the actual 12-13 paper FAFSA.

Note... there are several scam websites with similar names that will charge you a fee to complete your FAFSA - **DO NOT PAY TO HAVE YOUR FAFSA FILED!** Only use the official federal site www.fafsa.gov. Not only do these scam sites charge you for what is a free process, they often submit incorrect data and it will take longer to process than if you use the correct federal site.

You do NOT need to have your 2011 tax return(s) completed to submit your FAFSA! Yes, it is easier to do your FAFSA if your taxes have been prepared first, but it is not required. You may estimate 2011 tax return data so you can get your FAFSA in by the deadline. If you do this, remember you are required by law to submit a FAFSA correction as soon as actual tax data is known. **Do not wait** until March or April to do your FAFSA just because your tax return is not completed. Some types of aid have limited funding and if you are late with any particular school's deadline, you may miss out.

IRS Data Retrieval

Beginning February 1, 2012, students and parents who have submitted their 2011 IRS tax return will be able to select the IRS Data Retrieval option on the FAFSA to transfer tax information to the FAFSA. We **strongly encourage** you to select this option during the initial filing or when subsequent corrections are made to your 12-13 FAFSA. This option will streamline and expedite the processing of your financial aid application.

To successfully use this option you must:

- Have a federal tax return filed with the IRS.
- Have a valid social security number.
- Have a Federal Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN).

*You will be unable to use this option if:

- Your marital status changes after December 31, 2011.
- You filed married filing separately.
- You filed an amended return.
- You filed a foreign tax return.

*For any of these scenarios, filers will need to request an IRS Tax Return Transcript via IRS Form 4506-T, if required for Verification by the school(s).

If on the FAFSA you listed your tax filing status as "Will File" because you had not yet filed a return, please remember to change this status to "Already File," update all relevant income fields to your FAFSA, and select the IRS Data Retrieval option once you have actually submitted a federal tax return to the IRS.

According to the IRS electronically filed tax return information will be available online from the IRS site in 1-2 weeks after the return has been filed. Data from paper tax returns will be available in 6-8 weeks. If your FAFSA is selected for verification, and you chose not to use this option or you changed the IRS data, you will be required to request a tax transcript from the IRS and submit it to the Financial Aid Office. **Personal copies of tax returns can no longer be accepted.** *Federal Register (75 FR 66832)*

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IMPORTANT: To allow yourself the most opportunities for all kinds of financial aid, be sure to meet these deadlines! Plan ahead and do not wait until the last day to submit these items. Many kinds of aid have limited funding and priority will be given to those students who adhere to ALL due dates. If financial aid is an important consideration for your ability to re-enroll, treat these deadlines as you would any other priority.