



## 2026-2027 CIM Applicant Financial Aid Timeline, Process, and Required Documents

### CIM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDING PROCESS

CIM will consider all applicants\*, regardless of program of study or country of citizenship, for scholarship per a merit-based, need-informed approach. The audition is the primary factor for scholarships.

***\*ALL applicants are required to complete the short internal CIM Aid Application form for consideration of ANY institutional aid, including merit-only scholarship.***

CIM Scholarship is generally applicable to tuition only.

Aid offers are presented only to students who have all requested documents on file and are formally admitted to CIM via official status notification from the CIM Admission Office.

Federal aid is offered, per student 2026-2027 FAFSA eligibility, if applicable.

Documents submitted late may reduce a student's aid opportunities. See priority due dates below.

### December 1, 2025

December 1 is the priority deadline to submit the fall 2026 Application for Admission to CIM and related Admission documents for the 2026-2027 academic year.

### January 15, 2026

**CIM Financial Aid Application - Required of ALL applicants.** This internal form will be found on the Financial Aid Checklist on your Application for Admission account **after pre-screen decisions have been communicated**. This short form collects the following information:

- Student indicates to CIM if they seek both **need and merit aid** or **merit-only aid** consideration
- **Voluntary agreement to receive electronic financial aid communications**, so if you are admitted we may communicate your aid offer via email instead of waiting on snail-mail.
- **Students are asked to report any external funding** they expect to have for the coming year, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Parent employer tuition reimbursement program
  - Non-custodial parent support
  - Private scholarships
  - [National Merit Scholarship candidate](#)
  - Fulbright candidate
  - [Veteran Affairs benefits](#)
  - Scholarship support from another country or government (non-U.S.)
- Your answers on this form will inform CIM which items below, if any, will be needed for your aid file. Once your completed CIM Financial Aid Application is reviewed, your Financial Aid Checklist



will be created and updated to help clarify for you what items are due by February 15 and will list the receipt status of each item.

## February 15, 2026

February 15 is CIM's priority deadline\* to submit the **2026-27 FAFSA** and/or **2026-27 CSS PROFILE**, as applicable, for students seeking any need-based aid consideration. See details below about which students are required to submit these forms.

*\*While we may accept items past the deadlines above, aid opportunities may be reduced as funding is limited for some aid programs. To allow the maximum opportunities for your scholarship and/or financial aid offer, make every effort to meet our deadlines. If a FAFSA and/or Profile is received by CIM after CIM has made an aid offer, our scholarship/grant award(s) will **not** be reconsidered. Only federal aid eligibility may be added later, if applicable, as funding allows.*

See more details below about these two important items:

### **2026-2027 FAFSA** - CIM school code: 003031

- **This is required for all U.S. citizens and permanent residents (both undergraduate and graduate) seeking any CIM institutional need-based aid consideration and/or any federal aid (grants, work-study and/or loans).**
- After submitting your FAFSA, be sure to review the **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** which is sent to you by the FAFSA processor 1-3 days after your FAFSA is submitted. Until you review the FSS, do not assume your FAFSA is complete.
- **The 2026-2027 FAFSA is available as of October 1, 2025.**
- The FAFSA uses prior-prior year federal tax return data. The 2026-27 FAFSA uses the **2024 federal tax return**.
- Graduate students by default are considered independent for federal aid purposes, regardless of any parent(s) support. Because of this, graduate applicants do not need to provide any parental information on their FAFSA.

#### **Helpful FAFSA links:**

- [How to fill out the FAFSA form](#) – Short YouTube demo video, how to create a studentaid.gov account, clarify which tax return form data is needed, and more.
- [Who Is My FAFSA Parent?](#) – Identifies which parent(s) will be a required information contributor on the FAFSA for undergraduate students. This is very helpful for students with separated or divorced parents.

### **2026-2027 CSS PROFILE** - CIM school code: 1124

- **This is required of all undergraduate domestic applicants and all International applicants seeking any need-based aid consideration.**  
Domestic graduate students are not requested to submit the Profile.
- As there is a fee to submit this form, we suggest students wait until receiving their pre-screen decision outcome (in December).
- If you or your family have any financial special circumstances, be sure to explain them in the Special Circumstances text box on the Profile form.
- International students be sure to enter all financial values in your home country currency.



- There are a few countries where filing the CSS Profile is not possible (e.g., Iran, N. Korea); students residing in those countries will be provided with an alternate form.
- CIM does NOT require IDOC.
- CIM does NOT require the Non-Custodial Parent Profile (though basic questions about non-custodial parent and their expected support do go into the standard Profile).
- CIM cannot provide fee waivers, though some students qualify for automatic College Board [fee waivers](#).

**Helpful CSS Profile links:**

- [International Applicant Information](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## February 2026

[CIM Audition Dates](#)

## March 1, 2026

If you are a [National Merit Scholarship Corporation Finalist](#), send a copy of your certificate to the CIM Financial Aid Office no later than March 1 to obtain the **Outstanding Scholar Award** from CIM, if admitted. Eligible Students must also document the amount and frequency of any award they receive from National Merit Scholarship Corporation or its affiliated sponsors.

## April 1, 2026

April 1 is the date by which admitted students should receive admission notification and the financial aid offer, if applicable, assuming all required documents were completed by the due dates listed above.

## April 15, 2026

- April 15 is the **graduate student deadline** to confirm intent to enroll by signing the CIM Enrollment Decision Form and paying the Enrollment Deposit online via your Admission Status page. Any CIM Scholarship/Grant aid, if applicable, is auto accepted upon submitting the Enrollment Decision Form. Federal aid, if applicable, requires student active acceptance via Populi, CIM's Student Information System (access to Populi for new students will be activated after June 1, 2026).
- International graduate students must submit **I-20 Documentation of Funding** and a copy of their passport before they may be considered fully confirmed or be able to apply for their student visa.

## May 1, 2026

- May 1 is the **undergraduate student deadline** to confirm intent to enroll by signing the CIM Enrollment Decision Form and paying the Enrollment Deposit online via your Admission Status page. Any CIM Scholarship/Grant aid, if applicable, is auto accepted upon submitting the Enrollment Decision Form. Federal aid, if applicable, requires student active acceptance via Populi, CIM's Student Information System (access to Populi for new students will be activated after June 1).
- International undergraduate students must submit **I-20 Documentation of Funding** and a copy of their passport before they may be considered fully confirmed or be able to apply for their student visa.



## June 30, 2026

If you have summer travel and/or festivals planned, make every effort to complete all aid documents before you leave.

- **Accept or decline any offered federal aid**, as applicable, as soon as access is granted to Populi, CIM's Student Information System.
- Complete any remaining **supplemental aid documents** requested by the Financial Aid Office, including FAFSA Verification, Loan Promissory Notes, etc., as applicable.
- If you have any **private scholarships or other external sources of funding**, inform the Financial Aid Office in writing as soon as they become known as they are required to be included in your aid file and in rare cases may impact your aid offer from CIM. Aid may not be credited (disbursed) to the student tuition account until all required documents are complete.
- If not already on file, submit your **Final Official Transcript** for your recently completed program to the CIM Registrar's Office. The transcript sent to CIM when you applied for admission was likely not the Final Official Transcript if you were still taking classes. We need to document High School graduation, BM degree, or MM degree, etc., as applicable, showing program completion, as is needed to begin classes in your new program at CIM. Review our [Admission Policy](#) for final transcript requirement details.

## Questions?

- More information may be found on the [Financial Aid pages of cim.edu](#).
- Additional details will be provided throughout the admission process.
- Contact the CIM Financial Aid Office via [financialaid@cim.edu](mailto:financialaid@cim.edu) or call 216-795-3192.