Myth 1: "I didn't qualify for aid in the past so I won't qualify now."

Truth: Even small changes year to year can have a huge impact on your eligibility for financial aid! If you or your parents experienced a change in income due to COVID-19 or other special circumstance, we can work with you to see if you qualify for adjustments to your eligibility. Email FAO@Collegeofthedesert.edu for details.

Myth 2: "Both my parents work. I can't qualify!"

Truth: Financial aid eligibility is based on way more than just income. It factors in household size, number in college, even the parent's age can influence how much a student can qualify for. Most in-state students, at minimum, will qualify for the California College Promise Grant to waive their tuition for the term.

Myth 3: "Filling out the application is too hard!"

Truth: Fear not! The Office of Financial Aid is hosting remote financial aid application workshops! Come get help from an expert and bring your parents with you. You could walk out with a completed application in under an hour! If you aren't able to join a financial aid application workshop, check out our FATV videos which will walk you through the application process during a time that is convenient for you!

Also, did you know the FAFSA application has a FREE app? You can complete your application right from your smartphone!

Myth 4: "I plan to transfer so I'm saving my financial aid for University."

Truth: California Community Colleges actually have funding that is exclusive to them. You could be missing out on aid that you simply can't get at a University, like the California College Promise Grant or Cal Grant C! Also, eligible students can receive Federal Pell Grant equivalent to SIX YEARS of full-time attendance, leaving plenty of aid for your time at COD and for when you transfer to a university.

Myth 5: "The COD Financial Aid Office is closed and there's no one to help me!"

Truth: The campus may be closed but the Office of Financial Aid is OPEN VIRTUALLY! You can speak with a financial aid professional via phone or email at FAO@Collegeofthedesert.edu. If you send us an email, please give us 3 business days to respond due to the high volume of inquiries we are receiving.

We are also hosting virtual workshops to help students complete their applications! Check out our workshop schedule for details!

Need help during times our office is closed? Not to worry, we have our chatbot and FATV available to you 24/7, 365 days per year!

Myth 6: "I submitted my 2020/2021 financial aid application and I received my confirmation email. The Financial Aid department should have my application immediately."

Truth: Although students receive the 'Processed Successfully' confirmation email, this email doesn't necessarily mean College of the Desert has your application. This email confirms your FAFSA or Dream Act has been processed. From the date it has been processed, it can take up to 10 business days for the Financial Aid Office to receive your information. Our office will send you an email once we have successfully received your application.

If you recently submitted the 2021/2022 application, our office will begin our processing by May 2020 and will send you an email once we have the information.