Student Success
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Path Forward

AY 2026-27

The Path Forward Program provides support to eligible first-time, first-year students in their academic journeys as they transition into their second year and beyond. Students in the program create individualized plans to succeed at DU by connecting with resources and reaching milestones in their academic journeys.

Program participants commit to completing the following steps:

- Meet with their academic advisor in winter and spring 2027 before registration for upcoming quarters
- Register for 12+ credits for spring 2027 and fall 2027 during registration week (before end of week 9 of each quarter)
- Fill out required financial aid application forms (FAFSA and CSS Profile) by March 15th.
- Meet with a Student Success Coach at least once in either winter or spring quarter to enhance skills and tools for success at DU and learn more about resources available to DU students. During the other quarter, either schedule a follow-up meeting with a coach or meet the requirement by:
    - Meeting with a Career Advisor
    - If exploratory, meeting with an advisor in a potential major
    - Attending 80% of weekly meetings, if enrolled in the Learning Effectiveness Program
    - Registering for and attending an XPLR course
    - Submitting a meeting proposal to studentsuccess@du.edu for approval

Students who successfully complete the Path Forward Program will be eligible for:

- Students who complete all winter quarter program requirements by March 28th will be entered into a raffle to win a Path Forward Housing Timeslot for their second year.
- A need-based Path Forward Grant of up to $2,500 to be awarded for the following academic year. Determined based on financial need (FAFSA and CSS profiles).
- A completion prize from the DU Bookstore and entry in the Path Forward raffle, where 10 students are randomly selected to win a larger prize of their choice.

Path Forward Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible for this program?
A: First-time, first-year undergraduate students who started at DU in fall 2026, who are identified by the university as potential beneficiaries of additional academic support to improve their GPA, declare a major, identify resources to support success in challenging courses, and more. Eligible students will receive an invitation to join the program via email.

Q: Is there an in-person component to Path Forward?
A: Path Forward is not affiliated with a course and does not have any required in-person meetings. However, we invite you to join us at the Path Forward Kickoff on January 8th from 11:00-11:45 AM in Community Commons 1700, and at the Path Forward Progress Check on February 12th from 11:00-11:45 AM.

Q: What happens after I join the program?
A: You'll receive an invitation to the Path Forward Canvas course, where you'll find all the details about the program. Please read the homepage of the course and complete the enrollment survey. You'll receive reminders through Canvas about upcoming opportunities and deadlines related to the program steps.

Q: How much of a time commitment is the Path Forward Program?
A: Almost all program requirements are things you'll already complete throughout the academic year, like registering for the following quarter and meeting with your advisor. Therefore, the Path Forward Program requires very little additional time. In fact, you can expect the only additional time commitment to be your quarterly meeting with a Student Success Coach (or another approved individual or office) and the time spent telling us who you met with via a short Canvas survey.

Q: Do I have to complete the Path Forward requirements in order?
A: No. Path Forward requirements have deadlines, but you do not need to wait to complete one requirement before moving on to the next one.

Q: What is the deadline for registration during registration week?
A: Students must register for 12+ credits before the end of week 9 in each term. However, we recommend registering during registration week and not waiting until week 9 for the best chance of getting your preferred schedule!

Q: What if I have a hold and cannot register during registration week?
A: Please work with your academic advisor before registration week to ensure your holds are cleared. You can find and schedule an appointment with your assigned academic advisor via the

DU Success Hub. If you cannot register due to holds, please contact studentsuccess@du.edu to come up with a plan together.

Q: What are Student Success Coaches?
A: Coaching is used by leaders around the world to develop personally and professionally. One of many benefits of being a student at DU is the opportunity to participate in free Student Success Coaching, a resource introduced to DU students early in their academic career so they can take advantage of it throughout their time at the university. Student Success Coaches provide undergraduate students with one-on-one opportunities to build skills that support their success at DU. Topics are customized to fit each student's needs and include the following: goal setting, time management & organization, learning styles & strategies, study skills, test anxiety, major/minor exploration, connecting with campus resources, community building, growth mindset & resiliency, stress management & self-care, and emotional intelligence. Learn more about the Student Success Coaching Program and meet the coaches.

Q: What do I need to do for my financial aid application?
A: Steps to applying for financial aid can be found on DU's Financial Aid website or on the 2026-27 Financial Aid Application Guide. We recommend completing your financial aid application by the priority deadline, March 15, 2027, in order to receive your aid offer mid-summer. However, you can still submit your application after this date but should expect a delay in receiving your aid offer. If you have questions about financial aid, please contact finaid@du.edu.

Q: What if my family doesn't need to/want to complete the FAFSA and CSS profiles?
A: If you and your family decide you do not need to/want to complete the FAFSA and CSS profiles, you can opt-out of this requirement. Please login to Canvas and submit the assignment letting us know you are opting out of the financial aid requirement and that you understand this means you will not be considered for Path Forward Grant eligibility. Please note, however, that if our records indicate you would benefit financially from completing these profiles, we will reach out and encourage you to do so.

Q: What is the Path Forward Housing Timeslot?
Students who earn the Path Forward Housing Timeslot incentive will be able to select second year housing in the first scheduled timeslot during housing selection, and can choose up to 3 roommates, who will be assigned the same timeslot. Please note that this does not guarantee students will receive their first choice in housing. If a student has a documented disability, medical, or mental health condition(s) and requires early housing selection, they should submit a request through Student Disability Services (SDS).

Q: How do I become eligible for the Path Forward Housing Timeslot?
A: In order to be eligible for the Path Forward Housing Timeslot, students must meet with their advisor regarding spring registration, register for 12+ credits in the spring quarter, and meet

with a person or office to expand their constellation of mentors by March 28th and submit all related Canvas assignments. 75 students will be randomly selected to earn this incentive at the start of spring quarter.

Q: How can I get a Path Forward Grant?
A: The Path Forward Grant of up to $2,500 may be awarded for the 2027-28 academic year to students with high financial need based on their financial aid applications (FAFSA and CSS Profile) and federal, state, and institutional aid offers. Students must fill out their FAFSA and CSS Profile by March 15th so Financial Aid can determine eligibility for the grant.

Q: When will I find out if I received a Path Forward Grant?
A: Current DU students that have completed all financial aid application requirements and are eligible for the grant will see the grant listed on their financial aid offer, which is typically received mid-summer.

Q: What is the difference between the Path Forward Program and the Learning Effectiveness Program?
A: While many of the benefits of completing the Path Forward Program and meeting regularly with an LEP advisor are similar – creating connections on campus, accountability, academic and career planning, etc. – the Path Forward Program pairs these behaviors with financial incentives and offers opportunities for students to expand their constellation of mentors at DU. Students enrolled in LEP can count their winter *or* spring quarter weekly meetings with an LEP advisor toward the Path Forward Program requirements.

Q: I won't be taking courses at DU in fall 2027. Can I still receive the Path Forward Grant in a later quarter?
A: Students must enroll in fall 2027 to be eligible for the Path Forward Grant.

Q: I didn't get an invite to this program. Can I still participate?
A: The Path Forward Program is only available to eligible first-year undergraduate students who received an invitation from the Office of Student Success. However, we encourage all undergraduate DU students to take advantage of the Student Success Coaching program, to meet with their academic advisor, to engage with the 4D experience, and to register during registration week. The grant is only available to eligible traditional undergraduate first-time first-year students.

Q: I'm a student in the Bachelor of Arts Completion Program. Can I join the Path Forward Program?
A: The scholarship and grant are only available to eligible traditional undergraduate first-time first-year students.