

Financial Aid FAQs

Applying for Financial Aid

What is Financial Aid?

Financial Aid is money used to pay for your educational expenses such as tuition, fees, and books. Financial aid is generally in the form of grants, scholarships, and/or work-study programs.

What type of Financial Aid is offered at Athens Technical College?

Athens Technical College offers a variety of financial programs that include grants and scholarships that are non-repayable. Athens Technical College does not participate in any Federal Stafford/Direct Loan programs or the Federal PLUS Program.

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Renewal FAFSA on the web at StudentAid.gov. You will need income tax returns (1040, 1040A, etc.) for you and/or your parents (if you are a dependent student), W-2's and any other income information for that particular tax year.

What is the Title IV School Code for Athens Technical College?

Athens Tech's Federal Title IV School Code is 005600. This number must be used when completing the FAFSA in order for Athens Tech to receive your financial aid application.

Do I need to reapply for financial aid each year?

Yes. Each year you must file either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the Renewal FAFSA, at the [Federal Student Aid website](#).

Do I need to apply every semester?

No. A financial aid academic year is July 1 through June 30. All financial aid expires on June 30; therefore, you must reapply 6-8 weeks before starting a term the next academic year.

Can I apply for a student loan?

Athens Technical College does not participate in any of the Federal Stafford Loan programs. Students can apply for private loans.

Do I need to be accepted for admission prior to applying for financial aid?

No, it is recommended that you apply for aid as soon as possible.

How do I know if I have been awarded financial aid?

You will be able to view your award by viewing your account information in BannerWeb. If there is a question, call the Financial Aid office.

If I get married after I complete my application, can I change my marital status?

No, the student's marital status is effective for the award year as of the date the application is submitted. A student can update his/her marital status during the Application Renewal period for the next award year.

I live on my own. Why must I include my parents' income?

The federal aid application requires parents' financial information for students who are under 24 years of age unless the student:

- Is married
- Has children
- Has other dependents who receive more than half of their support from the student and live with the student
- Is an orphan or ward of the court
- Is active duty military or is a U.S. Veteran
- Has other circumstances as listed on the FAFSA

How will I know that my application has been processed?

You will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) that summarizes all the information you provided on the FAFSA. Your FSS will usually contain your Student Aid Index (SAI), the number used in determining your eligibility for federal student aid. You will receive your FSS by e-mail within 3-5 days after your FAFSA has been processed. If you did not provide an e-mail, you will receive a paper FSS within 7-10 days. Read the FSS very carefully to see if additional information may be needed.

Will I receive all the financial aid listed on the website or in my financial aid award letter?

Financial aid is awarded as if you will be full-time status. If you do not register as a full-time student, aid will be prorated. Aid will be paid for classes in your program of study and only if we have received all missing documents.

Hope

How do I apply for the HOPE Scholarship or Grant?

A student must complete a FAFSA application online or the GSFAPPS in order to determine eligibility for HOPE. If you are an Associate Degree student and have prior college credit, a Hope Evaluation Request should also be submitted.

If I moved to Georgia less than one year ago, can I qualify for the HOPE Grant?

A student who graduated from a Georgia high school must be a legal resident of Georgia for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of the term they are planning to enroll in classes, to be considered eligible for the HOPE Grant/Scholarship. Students who did not graduate from a Georgia high school must be a legal resident of Georgia for 24 consecutive months prior to the first day of the term they are planning to enroll in classes, to be eligible for HOPE funds.

Do I have to be a full-time student to receive HOPE?

You do not have to be enrolled in a certain number of credit hours to receive HOPE. You can be enrolled in one class.

Is there an income limit for HOPE assistance?

There is no income limit or cap for the HOPE Grant or HOPE Scholarship programs.

Is there a limit on the number of hours for which HOPE will pay?

Yes, you can receive the HOPE Grant for 63 semester paid hours for technical certificate or diploma programs. You can receive the HOPE Scholarship for 127 semester hours of combined HOPE Grant and HOPE Scholarship.

What is the difference between HOPE Grant and HOPE Scholarship?

The HOPE Grant is for eligible students seeking a diploma or certificate. The HOPE scholarship is for eligible students seeking a degree program.

Pell

Why do I need to complete a Verification Worksheet and submit a copy of my Federal Tax Return Transcript?

Each year, the Federal Aid Program selects at least 30% of the financial aid applicants to a particular school for a process called verification. The school must verify the information that the student provided on his or her FAFSA. These documents are required to verify that information.

If I did not file an income tax return, what should I do?

You will need to contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to request a Form 4506-T (Non-filer Statement) or on the web at IRS.gov. (Request Proof of Non-filing Status).

Why is my certificate program not Pell-eligible?

To be Pell-eligible, a program must be at least one year long, or require a certain number of clock hours. Because of the length of some Athens Technical College certificate programs, they are not Pell eligible. Generally, certificate programs are NOT Pell-eligible because they do not take more than one year to complete.

Do I have to attend full time to receive the Pell Grant?

No, however, the amount of Pell Grant you receive each term is based on your enrollment.

Is there a limit on how long I can receive financial aid?

Satisfactory Progress Standards require students to complete their program before attempting more than 150% of the credits required for their graduation. Example: a program that requires 68 credits for graduation. $68 * 150\% = 102$. Students are not eligible for aid at the point when they cannot mathematically complete their program in the 150% timeframe. The Department of Education has a set 12-semester limit for full-time Pell Grants effective July 1, 2012. Other grant and scholarship programs may have their own limitations.

Does the college take into account my living expenses when determining financial aid?

Yes, when determining the amount of financial aid you are eligible for, the Financial Aid Office assigns each student a budget, which includes tuition, fees, books, room and board, personal expenses, transportation, etc. Child care expenses, excessive transportation or disability-related expenses are not budgeted.

Veterans

Can a veteran receive both VA benefits and federal/state financial aid?

It is possible, but veterans' benefits can greatly impact the amount of financial aid a student can receive.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

What is SAP?

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is a set of federal, state, and institutional guidelines for students receiving financial assistance. If a student fails to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, he/she will be placed on warning or suspension.

I am on financial aid suspension. Is there any way I can get my financial aid back?

Yes, you have the opportunity to appeal your suspension. You must fill out the SAP Appeal form and submit it online. Deadlines are listed for each term on our website. Any appeals submitted after the deadlines will be reviewed for the following term. SAP appeal forms can be found on the financial aid website located under Satisfactory Academic Progress. You will be notified of the decision of the appeal committee via student email.

I am thinking about dropping a class. How will this affect my financial aid?

You will not be required to pay back HOPE. However, if you completely withdraw from classes, you may be subject to paying back your Pell award. Even if you are not required to pay money back, your withdrawal will still count as an attempt. You must successfully complete at least 67% of the classes you attempt in order to remain in good financial aid standing, regardless of what your GPA is.

Scholarships

How do I apply for scholarships?

Each scholarship has different criteria. Information about scholarships awarded by the Athens Tech Foundation is available online. If you are still in high school, it is important to work with your high school counselor for information on scholarships for students entering college.