

Frequently Asked Financial Aid-Related Questions

How do I find out if I am eligible for financial assistance?

Complete the federal financial aid application (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid -- also known as the FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Paper worksheets and information can be obtained from your campus Financial Aid Office.

How much time is needed to process my financial aid application?

Allow 6 to 8 weeks processing time, before the beginning of the term you are planning to register.

What materials do I need to submit along with my financial aid application?

An official copy of your high school or GED transcript verifying graduation must be sent directly to Tri-C. This policy is necessary to meet federal requirements. If you do not have a high school or GED transcript, you can take an Ability-to-Benefit equivalency test in the Assessment Center at the Metropolitan Campus, or the Learning Centers at the Eastern and Western campuses. Test result forms may be obtained from your campus Financial Assistance office.

You also need your Income Tax forms and Selective service number. Forms may be submitted to the Financial Assistance Office to verify the information is correct.

Is there a deadline for filing my FAFSA?

Our priority deadline date for Summer Term applicants is March 1, while the deadline for Fall Term applicants is June 1. For Spring Term applicants, the priority deadline is October 1. Remember, you can apply for financial aid as early as January 1 each year.

What is your Title IV School Code?

Our Federal school code for the FAFSA is 003040.

When should I turn in my Forms?

6-8 weeks before the start of the term you wish to attend should be the latest to have your forms turned in. The earlier the filing the less problems you would have for the coming term.

Returning students should not assume that they have aid in place for the next Academic year or Summer term. If you are unsure of your financial aid status, setup an appointment with your advisor.

When completing the FAFSA, what aid programs will I be considered for?
 You will be considered for the following aid programs:

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS			
Student Aid Program	Type of Aid	Program Details	Annual Award Limits
Federal Pell Grant (PELL)	Grant: Does not have to be repaid	Available to students who do not have a first bachelor's degree	\$890 - \$4,731 based on EFC (pro-rated based on actual enrollment)
Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)	Grant: Does not have to be repaid.	Must be enrolled full-time, be Federal Pell Grant recipient and have successfully completed a rigorous high school program	Up to \$750 for first year students and up to \$1,300 for second-year students with at least a 3.0 grade point average
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Grant: Does not have to be repaid.	Must be eligible for the Pell Grant; based on availability of funds for early applicants	\$600 based on a zero EFC first, may be awarded to higher EFC based on available funds
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	Work: Money earned.	Must be enrolled for 6 credits during the academic year	Up to \$5,000 based on unmet need and availability of funds.
Ohio Instructional Grant (OIG)	Grant: Does not have to be repaid.	Must be enrolled in 12 credits per term to be eligible. FAFSA deadline Oct 1.	Up to \$2,190 based on FAFSA information and full-time enrollment
Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)	Grant: Does not have to be repaid.	First-time students as of July 1,2006, or returning student who never received OIG. FAFSA deadline Oct 1.	\$78 - \$2,496 based on EFC and enrollment status
Part-Time Instructional Grant (PTIG)	No longer available due to cuts in state funding (As of July 1, 2007)		
William D. Ford Federal Subsidized Loan (FDLS)	Loan: Must be repaid.	Must be enrolled in 6 credits per semester	Up to \$3,500 for students (0-29 credits) Up to \$4,500 for students (30 credits)
William D. Ford Federal Unsubsidized Loan (FDLU)	Loan: Must be repaid.	Must be enrolled in 6 credits per semester	Up to \$4,000 in addition to the subsidized loan limit and independent status
Williams D. Ford Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)	Loan: Must be repaid.	Student must be enrolled at least 6 credits per semester;	Varies; amount up to the cost of attendance less any financial aid that the student receives Based on approved credit rating and may require a co-signer.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant/ Loan	Grant: Does not have to be repaid unless criteria is not met, then it becomes an unsubsidized loan.		Up to \$4,000; currently enrolled in or planning a career in teaching. Will become a loan if student does not become a teacher within 8 years of graduation.

Moreover, as a Tri-C student, you may apply for applicable [scholarships](#).

Can I borrow money through a student loan?

Yes. To be considered for a student loan, you must complete a Loan Application available online or in the financial aid office, maintain a 2.0+ GPA and be enrolled a minimum of 6 credit hours each term.

Can I use my financial aid to purchase my books?

Yes. If your Federal Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan will cover your total tuition balance with money left over and the disbursement will be delayed, contact the Financial Assistance Office to determine eligibility.

When will the first set of financial aid checks be distributed?

Spring 2008 checks will be mailed beginning February 1, 2008. For more information, see also Tri-C's Disbursement policy and/or Important Dates.

Can I use all of my financial aid in one semester?

No. All financial aid awards must be evenly divided between semesters.

What happens if I lose my job?

You may be eligible to file a Special Circumstance appeal. Contact the Financial Assistance Office for additional information.

What does "demonstrate financial need" mean?

Your eligibility for certain financial aid programs will be based on the answers to the questions on the FAFSA. You have to demonstrate that you have a financial need to be considered for grants, work and loan programs. Financial need is determined by the base year tax income (defined as calendar year prior to the academic year for which you are applying for funding. Example: 2008-2009 application considers income received in 2007), including earnings from working and federal benefits, such as Social Security and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), as well as household information, assets, savings and anticipated income. Students are first asked to determine what they can contribute toward their education before a decision is made as to their financial aid eligibility.

What is a regular degree-seeking student?

A regular student is defined as a student enrolled in a degree or certificate program. You have to be a student who plans to receive a degree or certificate from Tri-C to be eligible for financial aid assistance at the College. If you are enrolled for a semester or two as a transient student with the intention of transferring credits back to your home school

where you will receive a degree, you would not be eligible to receive financial aid at Tri-C.

What citizenship information is required?

You may be asked to provide proof of citizenship or status information regarding your eligible non-citizenship status. If requested, U.S. citizens may be asked to provide proof of Social Security Number and/or birth certificate. Eligible non-citizens may be asked to provide proof of alien registration numbers that may be verified with the Department of Homeland Security.

What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?

Students are required to meet Tri-C's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards as they matriculate toward their degrees. You must maintain compliance with the standards as related to completing the credits in which you enroll, maintaining a passing grade point average toward your degree and completing your degree within the required timeframe to achieve a two-year associate degree.

What is required to satisfy the Selective Service Registration requirement?

Males between the ages of 18 and 25 are required to register for Selective Service and may be asked to provide proof of the registration status. Registration can be completed on the Selective Service System (SSS) Web site at www.sss.gov. If you are 26 or older and have not registered, you will have to provide documented proof that you were not required to register or that you have not knowingly and willfully neglected to register. You can contact SSS to obtain information on registration requirements at 847-688-6888.

What am I eligible for if I have received a bachelor's degree or higher?

Students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree or higher are no longer considered an undergraduate student and cannot receive federal or state grants. Eligibility would be limited to student loans and some scholarships; however, since Tri-C offers associate degrees and certificate programs, students returning to seek a degree from Tri-C must complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress Maximum Credit Limit Appeal form to be considered for loan eligibility.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your campus Financial Assistance Office. You may also send an email Financial Assistance at finaid@tri-c.edu. Please remember to include your student identification number with any correspondence.