

The Financial Aid Office provides grants, loans, and work-study opportunities to students who may otherwise be unable to attend college. The amount and type of aid awarded depends on the availability of funds and the student's established financial need.

Minimum Requirements for Eligibility

To be eligible for financial aid a student must:

- Have a high school diploma or GED. Note: A student who has not been awarded a high school diploma or GED may take an approved test to determine ability to benefit.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Meet satisfactory academic progress, as defined in the Financial Aid Handbook
- Attend ACC for the purpose of obtaining a degree or program certificate, or be enrolled in a transfer program leading to a bachelor's degree. Note: Transient students attending ACC for the summer semester only are not eligible for financial aid.
- Enroll for at least six semester credit hours each semester
- Check with the Campus Financial Aid Office for Pell Grant eligibility based on less than half-time status
- Be registered with the Selective Service as required by federal regulations if a male who is at least 18 years old and born after December 31, 1960
- Not be in default of a state or federal loan/or in repayment of a state or federal grant

Application Procedures

- Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) paper application or file electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Complete the ACC Financial Aid Institutional Application available at the campus Financial Aid Offices or on the financial aid website.
- Submit high school grade transcripts or GED certificate to the Admissions and Records Office. Copies of all college transcripts must be submitted to the Admissions and Records Office.
- All hours attempted (including transfer hours) will be counted toward the maximum 85-hour time frame at ACC; the Admissions and Records Office must evaluate all transcripts.
- Eligible non-citizens must provide proof of eligibility: I-94, I-551, I-151.
- Students selected for verification must provide signed copies of federal income tax returns (parents, student/spouse).

Priority deadlines

Priority deadlines for financial aid applications are established to allow ample time for processing. Students may apply for financial aid after the priority deadlines; however, awards are made on a first-come first-served basis. Federal Pell and/or Federal Stafford Loan/PLUS applications will be processed after the priority dates. Late applicants should be prepared to use their own resources to pay for their initial expenses (tuition, fees, and books).

Session	Priority deadline to complete file
Summer session	March 15
Fall/Spring semesters	April 1
Spring semester only	October 15

Return of Title IV Funds

Federal regulations require a students who withdraws completely from ACC to repay a portion of their financial aid. ACC will determine the percentage of Title IV assistance a student earned up through the 60 percent point in the semester. The student will be responsible for paying back the unearned portion. Check with the Financial Aid Office for more details.

Types of Aid Available

Grants

Federal Pell Grant – A federally funded program designed for undergraduate students obtaining their first bachelor's degree. The amount of the Pell Grant depends on the student's effective family contribution and the number of hours for which the student enrolls. The award will vary from \$400 to \$4,050. This grant does not have to be repaid.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) – A federally funded program established to assist students with exceptional need. Funds are limited, and there is no guarantee that every eligible student will be able to receive this grant.

Austin Community College Student Grant (ACCSG) – Funded through tuition payments. Funds are limited, and there is no guarantee that every eligible student will be able to receive this grant.

LEAP Grant – A combination of state and federal funds. Funds are limited, and there is no guarantee that every eligible student will be able to receive this grant.

Texas Grant Fund – A grant funded through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. A student must be a Texas resident, be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in Texas, graduated not earlier than 1998-99 school year, completed the recommended or advanced high school curriculum, have financial need or have received an associate degree from an eligible institution no earlier than May 1, 2001, and must re-enroll within 12 months of receiving that degree. Awards are \$635 per semester at a community college. Check with the Financial Aid Office for additional requirements.

Texas Grant II – A grant funded through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. A student must be a Texas resident. The student must also have an effective family contribution of \$2,000 or less (based on FAFSA results) and be enrolled in at least six hours in the first 30 hours of an associate degree or certificate program at a public two-year institution of higher education. Awards are \$635 per semester at a community college. Check with the financial aid office for additional requirements.

District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program – An out-of-state grant that provides tuition support to Washington, D.C., residents to attend colleges and universities throughout the nation. The public school portion of the act pays the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for all District of Columbia residents attending public postsecondary institutions. Students can receive up to \$50,000 in assistance during their lifetimes. Check with the Financial Aid Office for additional requirements.

Note: Non-Texas residents should check with their home state for additional information or other state programs.

Loans

Loans must be repaid. Students awarded any loan under the Federal Educational Loan Program (FELP) will need to attend a pre-loan counseling session. This session provides additional information about the loan programs, monthly repayment, deferments, grace period, and cancellations.

Federal Subsidized Stafford Student Loan – Insured by the federal government. This has a variable interest rate with a six-month grace period, and minimum monthly repayment of \$50. Depending on the student's established need, up to \$2,625 may be borrowed during the freshman year, \$3,500 during sophomore year. Contact the ACC Financial Aid Office for required forms and additional loan information.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Student Loan – For students who meet all other eligibility requirements but do not qualify in whole or in part for a Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan. Students will be responsible for all interest that accrues on the loan from the date of disbursement forward.

Federal Parent Loan (PLUS) – Available for parents of dependent students to help pay for school costs. The interest rate is a variable rate. Repayment of this loan begins 60 days after disbursement of funds. Parents choose their lender. Applications and additional information are available at the Financial Aid Office.

College Access Loan (CAL) – A non-need based loan available to Texas residents enrolled halftime and in good academic standing. Repayment begins six months after student ceases halftime enrollment. Annual loan limit is \$10,000.

Texas B-On Time Loan – No-interest loans to Texas residents who: demonstrate financial need; are enrolled full time; and graduated from an accredited high school in Texas during the 2002-2003 academic year under the recommended high school program or will earn an associate degree no earlier than May 1, 2005.

Work-Study

College work-study is a federal or state campus-based program offering students an opportunity to earn money through work. This is available to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need. ACC pays an hourly rate beginning at \$8.45-\$10.20. A work-study student may not work more than 19 hours per week except during the summer.

Scholarships

All scholarships offered at ACC are made available by private donors. For more information regarding scholarships, contact the Financial Aid Office or the scholarship website at www.austincc.edu/foundatn.