

HOW SOUTHEASTERN DISTRIBUTES AID

Financial Aid is funding that will help you and your family meet college expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, etc. The basic sources of aid are grants, scholarships, employment, and loans.

You and your parents (if you are dependent) are still considered the primary source of funding for these costs. Financial aid is intended to fill the gaps where you and your parents might fall short in paying for your education.

Follow these steps to apply for financial aid at SCC:

SUBMIT the FAFSA: All students who wish to be considered for federal and state financial aid and need-based scholarships must complete a FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*). We strongly encourage you to apply online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> - - it is easier and quicker than mailing your application to the federal processor. **TIP:** Apply for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) first. Also, your parent must apply for a PIN if you are a dependent student. After you receive your PIN, complete your FAFSA online. Your PIN & your parental PIN serves as your signature. The FAFSA should be completed (on paper or via the web at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) as soon as possible after January 1 for the upcoming academic year using your/your parent's prior year federal tax information. SCC priority filing date for the federal processing center to RECEIVE your FAFSA is MARCH 15. Students whose FAFSA's are received by the priority filing date are given first consideration for federal and state financial aid programs that have limited funds. The toll free phone number for the FAFSA is 1-800-433-3243.

SCC's school code for the FAFSA is 002964 .

Priority Date to file the FAFSA: March 15.

RETAIN the printout of your confirmation page after submitting your FAFSA online. This is your proof that you applied. Remember to mail your signature page immediately after submitting your FAFSA online (if you didn't sign with a PIN). SAVE to your computer a copy of the FAFSA submitted online or RETAIN a copy of the paper FAFSA for your file. Also, be sure to retain copies of your/your parents' tax returns in case they are requested later. (Do not send tax returns or other documentation with your FAFSA.) The address submitted on your FAFSA does not transmit to SCC so be sure to have your current

address and phone number in the Records/Admissions office along with a current SCC application.

STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR): You will not receive a paper copy of your SAR when you give your e-mail address on the FAFSA if you applied on-line. You will receive e-mail notification that your FAFSA has been received and processed. If no e-mail address is provided, approximately two weeks after submitting your FAFSA online (or four weeks after mailing the paper FAFSA), you should receive a SAR indicating that your FAFSA has been processed and sent to the institutions you designated. Check the SAR for accuracy and make sure that SCC is listed as a recipient of your information.

SUBMIT all requested paperwork. Upon receipt of your electronic FAFSA data from the federal processing center, we will mail you a letter requesting documents needed to complete your file. **SUBMIT** all requested documentation promptly (see priority deadlines below). You may be asked to submit copies of tax returns or other documentation to complete your financial aid application. Do not submit tax returns until they are asked for. If you are not eligible for the Federal grant programs, you must still submit all requested documents to be eligible for other scholarships or loans.

RESPOND promptly to these requests (and any follow-up requests) to assure timely processing of your application.

FALL DOCUMENTS PRIORITY DEADLINE: May 31

SPRING DOCUMENTS PRIORITY DEADLINE: October 31

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS: Financial aid award letters are mailed to those students whose files are complete by the priority date. By meeting the priority deadline, you are assured that your request for aid will be processed before the tuition payment deadline for the upcoming semester.

AWARD CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Be sure to read ALL materials accompanying your award letter for conditions attached to your award.

Throughout the year, scholarship opportunities may become available. Check our Ram O Gram announcements, web page, and scholarship bulletin board outside our office often for new scholarships.

LOANS: You must request a loan at the Financial Aid Office - - we will

not automatically award a loan to you. You can apply for federal Stafford/PLUS loans **AFTER** all follow-up paperwork has been submitted to the Financial Aid Office. Stafford loans are generated by the SCC Financial Aid Office. They cannot be applied for through the lender website. **Returning** students who were previous borrowers at SCC can print and complete a loan request form from the Financial Aid Office website for the upcoming fall semester. New SCC Stafford loan applicants are required to attend a Loan Counseling Session before a loan will be certified. Students can electronically complete entrance loan counseling by attending mapping-your-future.org **Students must be enrolled at least six (6) credit hours each semester to apply for and receive a Stafford loan. You are considered a first year student if you have 32 or less accumulated credit hours. Second year students are those students who have 33 or more accumulated credit hours.**

Deadline to apply for Fall/full year loans: December 1
Deadline to apply for Spring loans: April 15

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENT: Financial aid is awarded by the Financial Aid Office, but is disbursed by the SCC Business Office. Aid awards made for the academic year are disbursed in two installments, one each semester, *assuming you are registered for the number of hours on which your financial aid award was based.* Loan funds will be applied to your student account through paper checks.

North Carolina State Incentive Grant (NCSIG) checks, if you are awarded by the state, are mailed separately.

SUMMER SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID: Funding for summer school is limited to students who have remaining Pell eligibility not used during the previous fall and/or the current spring of the given academic year. Students must submit a separate loan request for summer if they have remaining eligibility. Summer loan request forms are available after March 15th. Watch for summer deadlines.

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER? We have computers available for student use throughout the campus! The computers are available during our regular office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. We are located in Building A. If you have any questions, please stop by and see us!

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID: Remember, grants are gift aid. They do not need to be repaid. Work-Study programs require the student to work in order to receive an

award. LOANS MUST BE REPAYED! Financial aid funds are limited. It is possible that not everyone who qualifies will receive funding from these sources. Early application for financial aid is encouraged.