

2017/2018 Financial Aid Program Information

Revised 10/17/2016

Priority Deadlines: Students who submit their Financial Aid Application (FAFSA) and requested documentation on or before the following priority deadlines, and are eligible to receive benefits, will be held in classes: All documents must be received by the financial aid office no later than:

Fall 2017
Spring 2018
Summer 2018

July 1, 2017
December 1, 2018
May 1, 2018

After Priority Deadlines: Students who submit their Financial Aid Application (FAFSA) after the above priority deadlines should set up a payment plan with the Business Office to insure that their classes will not be cancelled on the day fees are due. Students should allow 4-6 weeks for the processing of financial aid applications. Fee payment deadlines:

Fall 2017
Spring 2018
Summer 2018

July 31, 2017
December 11, 2017
May 14, 2018

Deadline for Adjustments to Financial Aid Award

Eligibility to receive aid is determined by the number of credit hours the student is enrolled in on the dates specified below:

Fall 2017
Spring 2018
Summer 2018

September 14, 2017
February 13, 2018
June 15, 2018

A student who adds a course (**including late start courses**) on or after the specified date in the term may do so; however, **no adjustment will be made** to the award. The adjustment is made at the student's expense.

Bookstore Charges

Books and supplies, directly related to your program of study, may be charged against your anticipated award. Bookstore charges are permitted providing the student has funds remaining after tuition and fees are deducted from the expected award.

Disbursement of Financial Aid

Your student account will be credited with your award based upon your level of enrollment on or after the date(s) specified above. Refer to program specific information for disbursement dates. Students who are not eligible to receive financial aid as of the date specified above will receive awards based upon their level of enrollment at the time of disbursement. If your credit exceeds your ECC charges, the Financial Services Office will issue a refund check for any remaining funds within 3 days after your aid is credited. If your charges exceed your credited aid, you must pay the balance.

Federal Overpayment Policy

Students receiving Federal Title IV Funds are required to earn their aid by attending at least 60% of the semester for which they receive aid. Failure to do so will result in a requirement to repay a portion of their Federal Aid funds. Please refer to the "U. S. Department of Education Return of Title IV Policy" brochure for information (located on the website).

Can I Get Summer Financial Aid?

You may have financial aid eligibility for summer. Contact our office in March to review your individual financial aid.

How Is Financial Need Determined?

- **Financial Need** is defined as the difference between your Cost of Attendance as determined by the College and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Cost of Attendance
- <u>Expected Family Contribution (EFC)</u>
= Financial Need

- The **Cost of Attendance** includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation and living expense estimates determined by the Office of Student Financial Aid.
- The U.S. Department of Education calculates your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** based on the financial information from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). They compare your income and assets against standard cost of living allowances for the number of people in your household.

What If My Financial Situation Has Changed?

If your family experiences an extreme change in its finances due to circumstances such as illness, disability, divorce, or unemployment, you can have your eligibility reevaluated based on your new family financial circumstances. Request a "Professional Judgment on Income" form and submit all of the requested documentation to our office. These forms are available starting in late June (six months of income data is required with the application). We will review your request and notify you of the results.

Program Specific Information

Federal Pell Grant Program

The Federal Pell Grant Program is need-based and does not get repaid (see Federal Return of Title IV Policy brochure for exceptions). Your award is based upon your need as determined by the **2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The award amount listed is based upon full-time (12 or more credit hours) enrollment. If you are enrolled at a three-quarter-time level (9-11 credit hours) you will receive 75 percent of the award amount, and at half-time (6-8 credit hours) you will receive 50 percent of the award amount indicated. Federal Pell Grant eligibility for enrollment in five or less credit hours is based upon the cost of attendance. The Federal Pell Grant is disbursed 30 days after the start of the fall, spring and summer semesters. The 17-18 Pell Grant amounts are: \$5920 maximum award; \$592 minimum award.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Federal FSEOG is awarded based on need and does not get repaid. The maximum FSEOG award by East Central College is \$200 per semester. FSEOG is awarded to students with the highest level of need who are maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress. The FSEOG is disbursed 30 days after the start of the fall and spring semesters. Check with our office for summer disbursement dates.

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study is on-campus employment opportunities paid for by federal funds to students who demonstrate financial need. Wages paid to students are distributed in the form of a regular pay check for hours worked. Students are allowed to work up to 19 ¾ hours per week. Interested students should complete a student application for employment in the Human Resources office.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

Federal Direct Loans are not automatically packaged. To receive a Federal Direct Loan you must be a **degree-seeking student enrolled in at least 6 credit hours with ECC**. If you are interested in receiving a Federal Direct Loan, please contact the Financial Aid Office and arrange an appointment with a loan specialist. If a loan award appears on your award letter, your application for a student loan has already been approved. Loans are disbursed twice per semester; 30 days after the start of fall/spring/summer and at the mid-point of each semester (normally all summer funds are paid at once at the mid-point). The college will withhold all needed funds from the first check to pay against tuition/fees/books, so be aware that there may not be a refund issued until the second check is applied to the account. Attendance is reviewed prior to release of the second disbursement. Students must be attending a minimum of 6 credits to remain eligible for loan funding. All students issued a check will receive an announcement via their student e-mail that they have a check available in the Business Office. Direct Deposit is available - please see guidance how to enroll on the website.

Scholarships

Scholarships awards/renewals are based upon the award criteria for each scholarship. Refer to your official scholarship award notice for more information. **All students applying for scholarships are required to complete the FAFSA, the ECC On-Line Scholarship application (www.eastcentral.edu/scholarships), and provide all required documents to the financial aid office.**

ECC Financial Aid Office:

Phone: (636) 584-6588
E-Mail: finaid@eastcentral.edu
Fax: (636) 583-6651
Web Site: <http://www.eastcentral.edu/finaid>
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday..... 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Other Phone Numbers:

ECC Business Office 636-584-6708 or 6709
ECC Student Services..... 636-584-6588
Federal Student Aid Information Center 800-4FED-AID (800-433-243)
(FAFSA Information & Student Aid Report Changes)
IRS Office..... 800-908-9946

Other Financial Aid Web Sites:

Free Scholarship Search www.fastweb.com
Scholarship Search Smartphone App <http://myscholly.com>
General Financial Aid Information..... www.finaid.org
FAFSA Online & FAFSA Help..... www.fafsa.gov
Veterans' Benefits www.gibill.va.gov
US Department of Education..... www.studentaid.ed.gov