Your Financial Aid Award Packet 2015-2016
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is pleased to offer financial assistance to help in your pursuit of a postsecondary education. The enclosed Financial Aid Award Letter is our commitment to help fund your education based on the information you provided and in compliance with University, state and federal guidelines. Certain student responsibilities accompany this award.

Firstly, read the applicable sections of this packet carefully. Secondly, review your award letter, and accept or decline these awards online at SAIL.TAMUCC.EDU. For assistance accepting/declining your awards online, please refer to the Steps to Accepting Your Financial Aid Awards section of this packet.

Finally, to ensure consideration for subsequent years, you must meet the requirements as explained in this publication in the Statement of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

If after you have fully reviewed the enclosed information and you have questions, please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) at 361825.2338.
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Steps to Accepting Your Financial Aid Awards

Step I  Login to S.A.I.L - sail.tamucc.edu

You will need your Island ID and password. Newly admitted students will need to claim their Island ID at https://passwords.tamucc.edu, and click on “New User”. You will need to have your Student ID number (A00000000) ready, which is provided in your university acceptance letter. After clicking the button, follow the steps that are given. Please note: You will be prompted to enter your “Account Recovery Info,” which is necessary to change or reset your password in the future. Be sure to enter the requested information.

Step III  Review Awards & Accept Terms and Conditions

• Please review each information tab carefully for details regarding your awards.
• Before you can accept your awards, you must first accept the Terms and Conditions (noted on the Terms and Conditions tab) by clicking the check box shown at the bottom of the page.
• Click on the Accept Award Offer tab. From this tab, you can review the award(s) being offered to you.

Step V  Things to keep in mind

• All amounts shown will be issued in two disbursements. For example, 50% of the monies will be disbursed in the fall semester and 50% will be disbursed in the spring semester.
• You are not obligated to accept any loans offered to you, and never borrow more than what you need.
• Depending upon their nature, some of your awards may require additional steps/documentation before your monies will be disbursed. Please refer to your account on S.A.I.L. for more information.

IMPORTANT: Once posted, you will have two weeks to make a decision before your award offer expires. Once your award offer expires, your grants may be redistributed to other qualified students, so your immediate action is strongly encouraged.
**Step II**  
**View financial aid award(s)**

- From the main menu, select the Financial Aid tab.
- Click the Award link.
- Click the Award for Aid Year link.
- From the drop-down menu, select the award year you would like to view and click Submit.

**Step IV**  
**Accept and/or Decline Awards**

- To accept all award amounts being offered to you, click the Accept Full Amount of All Awards button.
- If you would like to accept certain awards while declining others, select Accept or Decline from the adjoining drop-down menus and click Submit.
- To accept a partial amount of an award, enter the amount you would like to accept in the Accept Partial Amount field. Then, select Accept from the adjoining drop-down menu and click Submit.
- If you do not wish to not make a decision at that time, you may select Decide Later from the drop-down menu. Remember - you have a two-week time frame to either accept/decline your award offer.

**Oops! I made a mistake while accepting/declining my awards - how do I fix it?**

Should you need to make any changes to the award amounts you have accepted/declined, you can do so by submitting a Change Request Form (also often referred to as a “Repack” form) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance. The form is available online at osfa.tamucc.edu. You are allowed to submit a change request for the following reasons:

- You made a mistake while accepting/declining your awards.
- You later decide to accept more or less of an award amount.
- You later decide to decline an award amount or all awards offered.
- Your award offers expired before you could make a decision (note that once your offer expires, your grants may be redistributed to other qualified students).
- You feel you may qualify for an adjustment to your cost of attendance (supporting documentation is required).
Your Rights and Responsibilities

In accepting financial assistance, you must comply with all responsibilities listed below. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation or reduction of assistance offered.

- Be the primary source for meeting the cost of education.
- Inform Student Financial Services of any change in enrollment status.
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress criteria.
- Complete all application forms accurately and submit them on time.
- Provide correct information (misreporting information on financial aid forms is a violation of the law and may be considered a criminal offense that could result in indictment under the U.S. Criminal Code).
- Use financial aid funds solely for educational purposes.
- Promptly return all additional documentation, verification, corrections and/or new information requested by Student Financial Services.
- Update address and phone number via S.A.I.L in the case of a change.
- Access and regularly read your Islander Student Email. This will be the only official form of communication used by the University.
- Accept awards online prior to receipt of aid.
- Read, understand and keep copies of all forms that you are asked to sign.
- Inform Student Financial Services of any income change, including earnings from work, scholarships, etc.
- Repay all loans according to the terms agreed upon at the time the loan was accepted and the promissory note signed.
- Be aware of and comply with the deadlines to apply for aid. The following information can be accessed online at http://osfa.tamucc.edu/:
  - Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
  - Campus Security Report
  - Completion/Graduation Rates
  - Institutional Information
  - Available Financial Aid Assistance
  - Scholarship Information
  - Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act
  - Stafford Loan Deferments
  - Perkins Loan Deferments

You must Apply for financial aid every year, preferably by March 15.
Cost of Attendance

2015-2016 Undergraduate Texas Resident - Freshman & First Time in College (0-29 completed/transferable college credit hours)

The figures represented below are a combined estimated cost of attendance for a typical full-time freshman student from Texas attending both the fall and spring semesters (9 months/24 credit hours) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. An estimated cost of attendance per semester can be calculated by dividing the amounts reflected below in half. Please note that these figures are subject to change and can vary by student.
NOTE: International students will be charged an additional $75.00 processing fee per semester.

- Tuition & fees: Based upon a full-time course load of 12 credit hours per semester (24 credit hours total) for undergraduate students. Actual tuition and fees will vary depending on the college, amount and type of courses taken.

- Room & board: Charges are an estimate and will vary depending on your housing and meal plan selections.

- Books & supplies: Estimated expenses, and can vary depending on the amount and type of courses taken. For information concerning the actual cost of textbooks, click here.

- Transportation: Expenses you may incur traveling to and from campus. This does not include such items as vehicle maintenance or purchases.

- Miscellaneous expenses: Include items you may purchase throughout the academic year that are related to your educational costs. Your actual miscellaneous expenses will vary from the given average depending on your spending habits.

- Childcare estimate (if applicable): Expenses you may incur securing childcare services for your dependent(s).
The Payment Process

Tuition Bills
Your tuition bill will list the itemized charges for the semester. Financial aid, with the exception of work-study, will be credited to your student account and deducted from the charges. If you are awarded Work-study, and you obtain employment, you will receive bi-weekly paychecks. You will need to pay any payment due by the due date in order to remain registered for classes. For more information on tuition due dates, visit businessoffice.tamucc.edu and select Important Dates.

Payment Policy for Tuitions & Fees

A student’s registration for a given semester is not complete until all expenses are paid or acceptable payment arrangements are made. Payment is due, to the Business Office, in full by the due date. The Business Office accepts the following methods of payments:

- Cash
- Checks (personal, cashier & business)
- Credit/Debit Cards (MasterCard, American Express & Discover)
- Financial Assistance/Loans
- Emergency Loans
- Installment Payment Plan

For more information on these payment options, please go to businessoffice.tamucc.edu and select Methods of Payment.

Important: A student registering late for classes will incur an additional $50.00 late registration fee. Bills for tuition and fees will be available for payment in the Business Office in the Student Service Center immediately following your registration or on your S.A.I.L account.

If you are no longer planning to attend Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and you have enrolled in classes, you must officially withdraw with the Office of the University Registrar and cancel any financial aid awards you accepted.

Get Your Money

Grants
The following grants will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill once you enroll for the required number of credit hours for which you were awarded:

- FSEOG
- Pell Grant
- TAMU-CC Grant
- Texas Grant
- Top 10% Scholarship
- TPEG
Loans

• Subsidized & Unsubsidized Stafford Loans; Parent PLUS Loans
  These funds are sent via electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly to the University from your lender. From there, your loan funds will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill provided you are enrolled in at least six credit hours and you meet all other eligibility requirements. You will receive notification of the amount of loan funds credited to your account.
• REMEMBER: All first-year, first-time borrowers must wait 30 days after the semester has started before receiving any of their loan funds.
• Federal Perkins Loan
  These funds will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill provided you have completed the required loan counseling session, you are enrolled in at least six credit hours, and you have signed a Master Promissary Note (MPN).
• Texas B-On-Time
  These funds will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill provided you are enrolled full-time (at least 12 credit hours), and you have certified your loan and returned your Master Promissary Note (MPN) to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Scholarships

• All University scholarships will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill once you enroll for the required number of credit hours for which you were awarded.
• All private scholarships (scholarships not awarded by the University) should be submitted to our office for processing so that the necessary adjustments can be made to your financial aid award. Once processed, all monies from private scholarships will be automatically credited to your tuition and fees bill.

Work-study

• If you are employed under the work-study program, you will receive bi-weekly paychecks based on the number of hours you worked during the past pay period.
• For a complete listing of available work-study jobs, please visit Career Services.
• Your award monies are applied to your tuition and fees bill with the Business Office. If you are awarded funds in excess of what you owe in tuition and fees, this remaining balance (called a ‘refund’) will be distributed to you depending upon the payment option you selected through your Higher One Easy Refund card. This money can then be used to pay for your rent, text books, or whatever else you may choose to use it for.

Higher One Easy Refund Card

The Higher One Easy Refund Card is how refunds are processed at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. It is NOT a credit card! If this is your first semester at A&M-Corpus Christi, your card will be mailed to the billing address you have on file with the University.

Once you receive your card, you must activate it and select a refund preference in order to receive any refund monies from the Business Office. Learn more about the Easy Refund Card by visiting the Business Office’s website, http://businessoffice.tamucc.edu/.

When will I get my refund?

You can view a tentative refund schedule via the Business Office web site. You can also log in to your Higher One account to track the progress of any pending refunds. For further assistance, please contact the Business Office by phone at 361.825.2600, or by e-mail at business.office@tamucc.edu.
Can I use my refund money to pay my rent? Buy my text books?
Absolutely! If you’re living on campus at Camden Miramar or Momentum Village, you can complete the Housing Payment Option (HPO) request during your application process. The OSFA will be notified about your HPO request approximately two weeks before classes start. The OSFA and the Business Office will review your financial aid standing to ensure there are enough funds to cover part of your initial housing payment option to your tuition bill in anticipation of future aid. If your application is approved, a payment will be made to Camden Miramar or Momentum Village upon move-in. Please be aware that after the initial payment is made towards your rent, you may still have an outstanding balance that will need to be paid if an additional refund is process later in the semester.
You can also use your refund money to purchase textbooks on campus at the B&N University Bookstore or at another vendor of your choosing.

Notice About Repeating Classes

Students may only receive financial aid funding for one repetition of a previously passed course. Due to this regulation students must be careful about repeating classes for the purpose of improving a grade that has been passed with a D or higher. There is an exception for courses, which are repeatable (courses that you receive additional credits each time you take them).

Return of Title IV Aid

When a student withdraws (drops all courses):

When federal Title IV grants or loan assistance is disbursed and the recipient does not complete the enrollment period, the law requires that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi calculate the amount that must be returned by the school and/or student to title IV program accounts. The date the student initiates the withdrawal is used for calculating the percentages used in a formula to return Title IV funds. The number of days from the first class day to the withdrawal date divided by the number of days in the payment period (semester) equals the percentage of Title IV funds earned. If the withdrawal date is after 60 percent point of the semester, the student has earned 100 percent of the Title IV funds.

When a student fails all courses:

If a student fails to earn a passing grade in at least one class, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is required to calculate the amount for return of Title IV funds based on the last date of attendance. The last date of attendance is provided by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty when entering a failing grade. If the last day of attendance cannot be determined, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi may use the midpoint of the period (in lieu of an official withdrawal date) as documentation of the student’s last date of attendance. If the student was not enrolled more than 60 percent of the semester, the student may owe a refund back to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the federal government.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

At the end of each academic year, you must show satisfactory progress (SAP) toward a degree or certificate in order to remain eligible to receive financial aid. Your progress will be based on the following criteria:

**Academic Standards**
You must maintain the following cumulative grade point average:
- Undergraduate freshmen (0-29 earned hours) = 1.8 cumulative G.P.A.
- All other undergraduate students (30+ earned hours) = 2.0 cumulative G.P.A.
- All graduate students (Masters, Doctoral) = 3.0 cumulative G.P.A.

**Maximum timeframe for degree/certification completion**
You are limited to the following number of attempted hours to complete your degree or certification program:
- Undergraduate degree/certification = 180 attempted credit hours
- Master degree/certification = 54 attempted credit hours
- Doctoral candidates = 90 attempted credit hours

Attempted hours include all credit hours you have transferred from another institution as well as all credit hours you registered to take at A&M-Corpus Christi, whether or not you earn a grade, receive credit, or receive financial aid.

The following grades are considered credit hours attempted, but not completed/earned:
- Grades of F or NC (No Credit)
- I (Incomplete)
- W (Withdrawal from courses)

The following grades are considered credit hours attempted and successfully completed/earned:
- Grades of A, B, C, D,
- CR (Credit)
- IP (In Progress)

**Successful credit hour completion rate**
You must successfully complete/earn a minimum of 67% of all attempted course work. All partial credit hours will be rounded down to the nearest hour.

**Examples:**
- If a student attempts (registers for) 24 credit hours in an academic year, they must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours (24 x 67% = 16) in order to meet SAP for the year.
- If at the end of the second year, a student has attempted 60 hours, they must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours (60 x 67% = 40) in order to meet SAP for the year.
**How we review your progress**
At the end of every Spring semester, our office will review the progress of every financial aid recipient to determine their eligibility for financial aid for the upcoming academic year, as well as the upcoming summer.

**So, what happens if I drop a class?**
Your eligibility to receive financial aid will be based on the number of credit hours you are enrolled to take on the official day of census (12th class day in the fall & spring semesters; 3rd class day for summer terms). If you register for a class or classes, and then drop prior to the official day of census, your award aid will be adjusted to match your enrollment status. As a result, you may have to return a portion of the aid you received to the Business Office.

If you drop a class or classes after the census date, those credit hours will be counted towards your attempted credit hours for the purpose of maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (see Successful credit hour completion rate above).

**And if I withdraw from all of my classes?**
If you withdraw from the University (i.e., drop out of all of your classes), your eligibility for aid will be recalculated based on the number of days you were enrolled in classes. You have to return some of your financial aid money that you received for the semester.

**What happens if I don’t meet SAP requirements?**
If it is determined that you do not meet the minimum SAP requirements, you will be automatically placed on financial aid suspension. Students on financial aid suspension are not allowed to receive any additional financial aid until the progress suspension is cleared.

Note: Students on scholastic suspension/dismissal or enforced withdrawal are also placed on financial aid suspension.

**If I lose my financial aid, how do I get it back?**
You may attend A&M-Corpus Christi the following semester without financial aid to reinstate your eligibility. If you meet the minimum SAP requirements at the end of that semester, you may submit Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Review Request form to our office to have your financial aid reinstated the next semester(s) of the current academic year. Continued eligibility for the following academic year will be re-evaluated again at the end of the spring semester during the regular review process.

**Can I appeal a SAP decision?**
If you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress due to extenuating circumstances, you may submit an appeal to be reviewed by an Aid Appeals Committee. To appeal for reinstatement of financial aid eligibility, you must submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Waiver Request form to the Office of Student Financial Assistance. With this form, you must include:

- A letter and supporting documentation providing a detailed explanation of the extenuating circumstance (e.g., personal injury or medical problems, illness or death of an immediate family member, etc.), as well as a written statement (plan on how you intend to get back on track and in good standing).

- If you have exceeded the maximum time frame and are appealing based on a change of major, you should state the reason for the change and indicate the number of hours remaining to be taken in the new major. You must also have your academic advisor complete the advisor section of the form.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Waiver Request

This form is to be used (with supporting documentation) by a student who has experienced an extenuating circumstance during the academic year that led to their inability to maintain The SAP Waiver Request form must be submitted to our office as soon as possible once the letter of probation/suspension is received. If your appeal is approved by the Aid Appeals Committee, aid will be continued if you are otherwise eligible. If denied, you may request an in-person meeting with the Aid Appeals Committee. If your second appeal is denied, you must reinstate your aid according to normal procedures (see question above). The decision of the committee is final and may include additional conditions the student must meet as deemed appropriate by the committee.

State and Federal Grants

Grants are gift-aid programs that do not have to be repaid. Grants are based on a needs analysis formula and are mostly distributed on a first-completed, first-awarded basis.

Good things to know about grants

- Grants are a lot like scholarships, in that they do not have to be repaid.
- Grant funds can go quickly, so submit your FAFSA as soon as possible to increase your chances of being awarded.

FSEOG

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is for undergraduates enrolled at least half-time on the census date with exceptional financial need. You can receive between $100 and $4,000 a year, depending on when you apply, your financial need, and available University funding.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree program.
- You must demonstrate exceptional financial need.

Pell Grant

Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor’s or a professional degree. Pell Grants are considered a foundation of federal financial aid, to which aid from other federal and nonfederal sources might be added. The maximum amount can change each award year and depends on program funding. The amount you get, though, will depend not only on your financial need, but also on your costs to attend school, your status as a full-time or part-time student, and your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree program.
- You must demonstrate financial need.
**TAMU-CC Grant**

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) Grant is offered to eligible students to help make up the difference between college costs and what a family can be expected to contribute through income, savings, loans, and student earnings.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- You must demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree program.

**Texas Grant**

The Towards EXcellence, Access and Success (TEXAS) Grant.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- You must be a Texas resident.
- You must not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance.
- You must demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- You must have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) less than or equal to $4,000.
- You must register for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement.
- You must be a graduate of an accredited high school in Texas not earlier than the 1998-99 school year.
- You must complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program in high school.
- You must enroll within 16 months of graduation from a public or accredited private high school in Texas, AND
- You must have accumulated no more than 30 semester credit hours, excluding those earned for dual or concurrent courses or awarded for credit by examination (AP, IB or CLEP), OR
- You must have earned an associate degree from a public technical, state or community college in Texas and and enroll no more than 12 months after receiving your associate’s degree.
Top 10% Scholarship

The 80th Texas legislature created the Top 10 Percent Scholarship to encourage students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class to attend a Texas public institution of higher education. Qualifying students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 15 and have financial need are entitled to receive a scholarship if they enroll full-time. Students who submit their FAFSA after March 15 will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds have been spent.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a Texas resident.
- You must demonstrate financial need.
- You must complete a FAFSA and file by March 15.
- You must complete a Recommended or Distinguished Achievement HS curriculum.
- You must rank in the top 10 percent of your class.
- You must graduate from an accredited high school in Texas.
- You must enroll full-time.

To remain eligible, you must:

- Complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in the previous year.
- Maintain cumulative 3.25 GPA.
- Complete at least 75% of hours attempted.

TPEG

The Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG) is designed to help students cover their tuition, fees, and textbook costs when these expenses exceed the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) reported on their Student Aid Report (SAR).

Eligibility Requirements

- You must demonstrate financial need.
- You must register for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student.
Loans

An educational loan is a legally binding contract that must be repaid with interest, even if you do not graduate, find a job, or if you are not satisfied with the education you received.

Good things to know about loans

• You are not obligated to accept any loans offered to you if you do not need them.
• Never borrow more than what you need when considering loans.
• Pre-Loan and exit loan counseling is required on all loans.

B-On-Time Loan

The Texas B-On-Time Loan program provides eligible Texas students no-interest loans to attend Texas institutions. If you meet specified goals, the entire loan amount can be forgiven upon graduation.

Eligibility Requirements

• You must have completed a FAFSA and be eligible to receive federal aid.
• You must be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree or certificate program.
• You must be a Texas resident or be entitled to pay resident tuition rates as a dependent child of a member of the U.S. armed forces., AND
• You must have graduated in the 2002-2003 academic year or later from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense or under the recommended high school program from a public or accredited private high school in Texas., OR
• If you are offered a B-On-Time Loan, you will be required to complete an application and promissory note online.
• If you are offered a B-On-Time Loan, you will be required to complete the BOT Entrance Counseling.

Persons who have earned a bachelor’s degree are not eligible for B-On-Time loans.

CAL Loan

The College Access Loan Program (CAL) provides alternative education loans to Texas students who are unable to meet the cost of attendance. Maximum annual amounts are determined by our office and are subject to change depending on available funds. Interest rates are a fixed annual rate of 4.5%; this rate is subject to change.

Eligibility Requirements

• You must be a Texas resident.
• You must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate
student in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor, graduate or higher degree or be enrolled in an approved Alternative Educator Certification Program.

- You must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.
- You must receive a favorable credit evaluation or provide a cosigner who has good credit standing and meets other requirements.
- You must receive additional counseling and exhaust all other federal aid before applying for this loan.

**Emergency Loan**

Emergency loans for payment of tuition and fees or supplies/textbooks are available through the University's Business Office on a limited funds basis.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- You must be enrolled and in good academic standing.
- You must have a good credit history with the University.

**Perkins Loan**

The Federal Perkins Loan is a campus-based program available to both undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. The amount you can receive varies depending upon your financial need. The interest rate for a Federal Perkins Loan is 5%. Repayment begins nine months after leaving school or dropping below half-time status.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student.
- You must demonstrate exceptional financial need.

If you received a Perkins loan while attending TX A&M-Corpus Christi, you can find out information on your outstanding loan by visiting the Campus Partners (www.campuspartners.com) website. You can also contact Campus Partners at 800-334-8609 or at PO Box 2902, Winston-Salem, NC 27102.
PLUS Loan

The Federal Parent PLUS Loan is a loan borrowed by a parent on behalf of a child to help pay for tuition and school related expenses. A PLUS Loan allows a parent to borrow the total cost of undergraduate education including tuition, room and board, and any other eligible school expenses, minus any aid the child is receiving in their name. The interest rate on a PLUS loan is at an 6.84% fixed rate.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree program.
- You must demonstrate financial need.

The parent borrower may select his/her repayment options when completing the Plus Loan application.

Subsidized Stafford Loan

Stafford Loans are federal student loans made available to college and university students to supplement personal and family resources, scholarships, grants, and work-study. Nearly all students are eligible to receive Stafford loans regardless of credit. The interest rate on the Subsidized Stafford Loan is currently fixed at 5.6%. The federal government pays the interest to the lender on the subsidized loans during the student’s enrollment, during the grace period, and during authorized periods of deferment on a Subsidized Loan.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student.
- You must have completed a FAFSA.
- You must have completed high school or equivalent (e.g., GED).
- You must not be in default or delinquent on any existing federal loan.
Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

Stafford Loans are federal student loans made available to students to supplement personal and family resources, scholarships, grants, and work-study. Nearly all students are eligible to receive Stafford loans regardless of credit. The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program is open to students who may not qualify for subsidized Federal Stafford Loans. This loan has the same terms and conditions as Subsidized Stafford Loans, except the government does not pay interest on the student’s behalf. The unsubsidized interest rate is currently at 4.29% variable-fixed rate.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student.
- You must have completed a FAFSA.
- You must have completed high school or equivalent (e.g., GED).
- You must not be in default or delinquent on any existing federal loan.

Be aware that first-year, first-time borrowers must wait thirty (30) days from the beginning of the semester for the first disbursement.

Scholarships

Scholarships are merit-based monetary gifts that can be used for college and do not have to be repaid.

Good things to know about scholarships

If you receive a private scholarship, you must turn the check and/or related documentation in to the Office of Student Financial Assistance so that the necessary adjustments can be made to your financial aid award(s).

Institutional Scholarships

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi offers a variety of academically competitive scholarships for new and/or current students. Scholarships may also be available to students according to their academic major or area of interest. For more information on University scholarships, please contact the Scholarship Office by phone at 361.825.3703 or by e-mail at scholarships@tamucc.edu.
Work-Study

The work-study program is a form of financial aid that provides part-time employment to students to assist them with their educational expenses. It is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and meet eligibility requirements.

Good things to know about work-study

- Most work-study jobs begin at minimum wage, have flexible hours, and are conveniently located on campus.
- The money you earn through this program is not used to determine your financial need.
- Students wishing to trade their work-study eligibility for another type of aid are limited to loans.

America Reads

The America Reads Challenge Act of 1997 provides reading tutors for preschool children through the third grade. At A&M-Corpus Christi, reading tutors are placed on-campus at our Early Childhood Development Center. Tutors are selected by the College of Education and must be eligible for federal work-study.

Community Service

The Community Service program employs students in various non-profit organizations throughout the community. Students in this program perform hands-on community service. Most jobs pay more than minimum wage and have flexible work hours. All jobs require you to provide your own transportation.

Federal Work-study Program

The Federal Work-study Program is a federal financial assistance program that provides on-campus jobs for students. This type of aid is available to students who show a financial need and want to earn a portion of their educational expenses.

State Work-study Program

The State Work-study Program is a state financial assistance program that provides on-campus jobs for students. This program is similar to the federal work-study program (above).

Applying for work-study

In order to be considered for work-study, you must submit the FAFSA to determine your eligibility. When applying, please be sure to mark “yes” to the question on the FAFSA that asks if you are interested in student employment.

If you are eligible, your work-study award will be listed with your other financial aid awards. If you have already filed your FAFSA for this year and did not originally demonstrate interest in work-study, please contact our office for more information. You must apply each year for continued consideration in the work-study program.
Job Positions

Please note that receipt of a work-study award does not guarantee job placement. You must interview for a work-study job the same way you would any other job. All college work-study positions are listed with Career Services, located on the 3rd floor of the University Center. If you are interested in applying for a particular work-study position, you must present your award letter to Career Services.

Wages

Most work-study jobs begin at minimum wage, have flexible hours, and are conveniently located on campus. Wages are paid in the form of a bi-weekly check or direct deposit into your individual bank account. Note: The money you earn through this program is not used to determine your financial need.

Hours

Students may work up to 20 hours a week. Work-study hours are flexible. Remember: your education should be your first priority!

Avoid Student Loan Default

With very few exceptions, you are always legally bound to repay your loan(s) failure to do so can jeopardize your entire future. If you default:

- It will be reported to a national credit agency.
- The entire unpaid amount of the loan(s), as well as accrued interest, is immediately due and payable.
- Holds may be placed on college records.
- The borrower is ineligible to receive any additional federal student financial aid.
- State income tax refunds may be seized.
- Federal income tax refunds may be seized. The guarantor may notify the borrower’s employer to garnish the borrower’s wages
- The borrower may be charged reasonable attorney’s fees and other collection cost.
- The federal government is authorized to garnish federal salary checks for defaulters in public service.
- The borrower may lose repayment options.
- The borrower loses deferment and forbearance.