

# Financial Aid



*Sue E. Wayne*  
*Financial Aid Director*

Trinity College seeks to assist every student in order to further their education and strengthen their relationship with God. In order to do so, Trinity College offers many options to help students fund their education. Financial Aid was first established in the 1600s with a single act of kindness by a widow named Lady Anne Radcliffe Mowlson. Her giving spirit and love for the students of Harvard University opened up the door to a rarely thought of concept: student financial educational support. In 1867, the creation of the Department of Education was authorized, and slowly, schools began to adapt programs to help fund students' education. Financial assistance went nationwide with the Higher Education Act of 1965, which allowed students to take out school loans and qualify for federal and state scholarships and grants.

Even though there are many financial aid options available to students, not all students qualify for all aid. As a result, Financial Aid should only be seen as a means to provide aid to students, not as the sole provider to cover educational expenses. Financial assistance should be viewed only as supplementary to the efforts of the family and is designated primarily for students who, without such aid, would be unable to enroll.

Most degree seeking students are eligible to receive financial assistance. Each student is encouraged to apply for financial assistance through the Financial Aid Office. Students should complete all documents required for receiving financial aid at least four weeks prior to the beginning of current semester in order for an award notification letter to be expedited in a timely manner. It is recommended that students apply early and complete their FAFSA after the first of the year, updating it immediately after they have filed their taxes. Some types of aid are limited and priority is given to students who have filed all documented paperwork by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Forms Needed

1. Completion of the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and complete and submit. **It is highly recommended that students and/or parents (of a dependent student) use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import their tax information into the FAFSA application.** You may need to wait approximately two weeks prior to using the IRS data retrieval tool in order for your information to update to the FAFSA application. You may select WILL FILE and go back in later and update using IRS Data Retrieval

Tool. In order to authenticate the FAFSA application, students and their parents must sign the FAFSA with a PIN number. You may register for a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). TRINITY'S SCHOOL CODE IS 030282.

2. Completion of the Financial Aid Application. (See Note)
3. Other forms as needed to determine eligibility by the Financial Aid Office. (Will notify student by e-mail if additional forms are needed.)

**NOTE:** All forms can be downloaded at [www.trinitycollege.edu](http://www.trinitycollege.edu), select Financial Aid, select Forms, select Appropriate Form. Complete and return to the financial aid office.

SUBMISSION OF THESE FORMS AS WELL AS OTHERS  
WILL HELP DETERMINE FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY.

**PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FORMS IS  
MAY 15th.**

## Eligibility for Aid

To be considered for financial assistance under the Title IV programs listed below, a student must:

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States with a high school diploma or its equivalent,
2. Have been accepted as a regular student by the Admissions Office and be currently enrolled as a regular student in a degree-seeking program at Trinity College,
3. Not be in default on a Perkins or Stafford Student Loan, and
4. Not owe a refund on any Title IV financial aid.

To remain eligible for assistance from federal, state, or institution sources, students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as outlined under "Satisfactory Academic Progress." To qualify for any of the programs of financial assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Education, it is necessary for the student to fill out the necessary forms listed under "Forms Needed" in the Financial Aid Office section above. Also there are additional sources of funding, such as VA Benefits or State Rehabilitation and Trinity College's institutional grants and scholarships.

Students desiring not to receive any financial help, or who do not want all aid awarded to them, may decline any or all aid listed on their Trinity College Award Notification Letter. However, students are still responsible for their educational cost.

## Grants and Loans

There are many types of aid for which a student may be eligible based on their FAFSA application. Awarding of

grants, scholarships, and loans depend upon a variety of factors, primarily the student's demonstrated financial need. Most common forms of federal assistance include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study, and Loans. There are state programs such as Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG), Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and Florida Work Experience Program. There are also Trinity College's Institutional Grants and additional sources of funding such as Veteran's Benefits and State Rehabilitation. Most grants, scholarships and loans are applied for when an eligible student fills out the forms listed under forms needed in the Financial Aid Office Section. A student must also sign and return their Award Notification Letter informing the Financial Aid Office they accept the award. Students have the right to accept, deny, and/or adjust any section of the award notification letter. **However, students are still responsible for their educational costs.**

*It is recommended by the Financial Aid Office that a student only accept the amount needed to cover their actual cost and therefore limit the amount of loans they have to pay back. Please compare your statement from the Business Office with your Award Notification Letter to determine your actual need.*

## Federal Pell Grant

This grant is provided by the U.S. Department of Education and is based on need. *This is a grant and does not require repayment.* Those receiving a Pell Grant may be eligible for an early refund in order to purchase books. Students may see the Business Office to see if they qualify. Awards are based on financial need and enrollment status.

To apply for a Pell Grant, it is necessary to complete and submit all the forms listed under Financial Aid Office forms needed.

Pell Grants have a Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) of 600%. Once a student has reached 600% they have reached their maximum lifetime limit. Please see [nslds.ed.gov](http://nslds.ed.gov) for Pell eligibility used.

## Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

This program provides limited assistance for students of exceptional financial need, who without the grant would be unable to continue their education. Pell Grant recipients with the lowest "EFC" (Expected Family Contribution) are given priority consideration. Eligibility

is determined by completing the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office administers FSEOG according to Section 676.10 of the Federal Regulations.

### **Federal College Work Study Program (FWS)**

This program provides a limited number jobs for students who have great financial need. The College arranges on-campus or off-campus jobs such as tutoring for elementary age students in reading or math programs as well as other community service jobs. These jobs are provided for students who will accept the responsibility of working faithfully at assigned tasks.

A student should make an appointment with the supervisor of the department in which he or she is interested in acquiring a position. Trinity has a very limited number of jobs available on campus. Offices on campus with possible positions are (but not limited to) dining services, library, and maintenance. The supervisor hires the student and financial aid establishes eligibility. Financial need must be demonstrated in order to qualify for Federal Work Study.

### **Loans**

Although loans are a common source of financing a college education, students should enter into them carefully. The Financial Aid Office recommends that students discuss each loan option with them prior to initial application. Federal law requires all borrowers to complete a Master Promissory Note and to complete an Entrance Counseling Session prior to receiving the first loan and an Exit Counseling Session prior to leaving the College.

Both the Entrance and Exit Counseling Sessions will provide students with their rights and responsibilities. The Department of Education will notify the school when these are complete. For assistance please contact the Financial Aid Office.

***You may complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling Session at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) and the Exit Counseling Session at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov). You will need your FAFSA PIN number to access both sites.***

The Department of Education requires students attending Trinity College for the first time and/or first time borrowers to have their loans held for 30 days into the academic year before they are deposited against the student's account. Loans must also be disbursed in two payments. Therefore, the student will receive one disbursement in the fall and one in the spring or for fall only or spring only the student will receive a

disbursement in the beginning of the semester and then the disbursement after the 50% mark.

### **Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan**

This program allows the student to borrow money from the Department of Education to help pay for college. A Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan is one in which the U.S. Government pays the interest on the loan while the student is currently enrolled in at least six credit hours in a college. Interest generally does not begin until six months (grace period) after the student has graduated or is not enrolled in a college or drops below half time or six credits; however, starting with July 1, 2012 interest will accrue during the grace period for loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2012.

Eligibility is determined by completing and submitting all the forms listed under Financial Aid Office forms needed. You will need to complete and submit FAFSA and FAA located under Forms. You must also complete and submit to the Department of Education the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling Session (see above for directions).

### **Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan**

An Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is one in which the interest is not paid by the U.S. Department of Education under any circumstances. Eligibility is determined by completing and submitting all the forms listed under Financial Aid Office forms needed. You will need to complete and submit FAFSA and FAA located under Forms. You must also complete and submit to the Department of Education the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling Session. (See instructions for completing under LOANS.)

You are limited to the amount you can borrow. It is based on your enrollment status (i.e., freshman, sophomore, Junior and Senior) and your yearly and lifetime aggregate loan limits. To check your aggregate loan limits go to [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov). You will need your FAFSA PIN number to access your information.

### **Federal Parent Plus Loan for Undergraduate Students**

This program enables parents of a dependent undergraduate student (usually 24 year olds and up are considered to be independent) to borrow in order to finance their child's education. Payments will begin within 45-60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. The Parent Plus Loan is limited to parents who do not have an adverse credit history. If the parent is denied a Federal

Parent Plus Loan, a dependent student may receive up to \$4,000 in additional unsubsidized loans for the academic year.

### **Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)**

The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) is a grant that is awarded to full-time, degree-seeking students who are Florida residents. Award amounts vary based on financial need. In order to continue to receive funding, a student must meet all renewal eligibility requirements, which can be accessed at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/FSAG.htm](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/FSAG.htm). Student must provide proof of residency according to Florida statutes for financial aid purposes.

### **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program**

This scholarship is awarded in high school to Florida students who meet the specific GPA, SAT/ACT test scores, and other general requirements which can be accessed at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm). High School students apply for this scholarship by submitting a Student Florida Financial Aid Application during the last year in high school (after December 1<sup>st</sup> and prior to graduation). The application can be accessed at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org), under State Grants, Scholarships & Applications. The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) permission to evaluate the student's high school transcript and standardized test scores for eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship and other state scholarships and grants. In addition, a student must meet all renewal eligibility requirements in order to be considered for future funding. Proof of Florida residency is required.

The Academic Top Scholars Award (ATS), announced by the Florida Department of Education before the end of the fall term after all Term One disbursements are reported, is awarded to the Florida Academic Scholar with the highest qualifying SAT/ACT test score.

All Bright Futures students must file a FAFSA each year to receive disbursement of the Bright Futures award. Trinity College of Florida must have a valid processed application on file in order for Bright Futures to disburse. The FAFSA can be completed at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Trinity's school code is 030282. The process of verification, if selected, is not required for the disbursement of Bright Futures, but may be required for other award programs.

Bright Futures are based on a per credit hour amount established by the General Appropriations Act each year. Institutions are required to recalculate the Bright Futures

award when a student withdraws or drops one or more classes after the Drop/Add period ends.

## **FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES**

### **Veterans Benefits or State Rehabilitation**

Trinity College is approved by the U.S. Government to enable the certified veteran to gain financial supplement for education. Veterans qualify for educational assistance according to their length of military service. Widows and children of veterans who died or were disabled as a result of a service connected injury or disease may also be eligible for educational benefits. Information may be obtained from the Veterans Administration or from a Veterans Service Officer.

Veterans who wish to receive veterans benefits to cover tuition must submit the Application for Veterans Benefits and follow the instructions given by the Registrar's Office.

### **Scholarship Awards**

A limited amount of financial assistance is also available through the Trinity College Scholarship Fund for traditional students. Supported through gifts of interested donors, this fund provides assistance for worthy students in the form of scholarships. It is administered by the Trinity College Scholarship Committee. Awards are made annually, and are divided over appropriate fall and spring term enrollments. The number of awards and quantity of awards are determined by the Committee and may vary from year to year.

Established scholarship funds include the following:

- Abe Brown Memorial Scholarship
- Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Alumni Endowed Scholarship
- Alumni Scholarship in Honor of Gary Williams
- Art Yohner Mission Fund Scholarship
- Bill and Janice Lanpher Endowed Scholarship
- CAAP Academic Proficiency Scholarship
- Charles and Emily Massey Memorial Scholarship
- E. C. Bragg Endowed Memorial Scholarship
- Gordon and Bernadine Ford Memorial Scholarship
- Jan Jendrynski-Rosser Memorial Scholarship
- Jean H. Binnion Education Scholarship
- John Minder Memorial Scholarship
- Joseph Koch Memorial Scholarship
- Lewis W. Smith Memorial Scholarship
- Lillian Seymour Endowed Scholarship
- Melvin and Kathleen Carter Endowed Scholarship



Mission Scholarship  
 Phillis O'Farrell Memorial Scholarship  
 Rockenhaus Memorial Scholarship  
 Ruth Munce Memorial Scholarship  
 Sammie Burress Hess Memorial Scholarship  
 Sid Williams Memorial Scholarship  
 Thomas E. and Ann C. Wade Endowed Scholarship  
 Vince Shaffer Memorial Scholarship  
 W. T. Watson Memorial Scholarship  
 Wilma R. Saling Memorial Scholarship

In some categories of institutional aid, students may receive only the highest award for which they are eligible. Institutional awards cannot create a credit on a student's account. In such instances, the award will be the balance remaining on the account prior to the application of student loans. Personal charges are not eligible to be paid by institutional aid. In a case of questionable charges, the Financial Aid Director and the Business Office Manager will make the final decision.

### **Christian Workers Grant**

Dependent Students who are enrolled full-time and whose parents are in full-time pastoral ministry will be eligible for this institutional grant of \$300 each semester. Independent students (not spouses) who are enrolled full-time and who, for one year prior to attending Trinity College received 75% or more of their income from vocational Christian ministry, will be eligible for a grant of \$300 each semester.

### **Trinity College Grant**

The Trinity College Grant is awarded as funds are available to full-time students, new or continuing, with need as a priority. Past or expected student participation in student leadership is considered. Awards may be \$100-\$1,900 each semester. Trinity College may adjust awards on a case-by-case basis.

### **Trinity Married Student Grant**

The spouse of any full-time student, one who carries 12 hours or more, may audit one course per semester without tuition charge with payment of applicable fees.

### **Life Change Scholarship**

The Life Change Scholarship is awarded as funds are available to full-time or part-time students, new or continuing, need or non-need based. It is at the sole discretion of the institution's administration. Limited funding is available.

## **Ineligibility for Awards**

Any student who is in default on any student loan, or who owes a refund for any previous grant, is ineligible for any federally funded financial aid until it is satisfied.

## **THE STUDENT AND FINANCIAL AID**

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

According to federal regulations, in order for a student to remain eligible for financial aid, they must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is a way to show that students are progressing at a reasonable rate toward achieving their degree.

There are two components of SAP:

1. *Qualitative*: Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) - maintaining a term and CGPA of 2.0.
2. *Quantitative*: includes both the completion ratio (pace) and the maximum time frame--The completion ratio means maintaining a 67% semester credit hour completion ratio. For example, if the student signed up for 12 credits, they must earn at least 9 credits in order to be in compliance. Nine divided by twelve is 75% (over the minimum 67%). Maximum time frame is completing all required courses and graduating within the 150% maximum time frame. For example, if your degree requires you to complete 120 credit hours, those credits must be completed before the student reaches 180 credit hours. Students cannot receive financial aid for more than 150% of the credit hours required to complete their degree.

Only grades A through D- will be considered as credits completed. SAP will be reviewed at the end of each semester/term.

### **Financial Aid Warning/Probation/Suspension**

Students will be officially evaluated for SAP at the end of each semester. Students will be placed on Financial Aid Warning if they have not maintained Satisfactory Academic Progress as outlined above for a period of one semester.

Students may receive financial aid during the warning period. If the student does not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of the warning semester, he/she will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension unless an appeal is **submitted and approved**. During the suspension period the student will be ineligible to receive any Federal, State, or Institutional aid.

If the student chooses to appeal suspension, and it is approved, then the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and receive an academic plan. Students on probation will remain eligible to receive financial aid as long as they adhere to their academic plan. If the student fails to adhere to their academic plan, they will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension and will be ineligible to receive financial aid until the above SAP requirements are met. (Note: Some Federal, State, and Institutional programs may have more stringent policies than listed above for Satisfactory Academic Progress.) Financial aid can be reinstated upon meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress in any subsequent semester, regardless of whether or not the student filed an appeal.

### Financial Aid Appeals

Students who have a question about their Financial Aid Suspension have the right to appeal to the Financial Aid Director. This appeal must be made in writing within thirty days after the date of the student's suspension notice. The student must submit a Trinity College SAP Appeal Form, including a detailed explanation of how their circumstances kept them from meeting SAP requirements in the past, and what has changed that will enable them to meet SAP guidelines in the future.

If the student had extenuating circumstances, such as: a medical condition or serious illness, a learning disability, the death of an immediate family member, an involuntary call to active military duty, a documented change in conditions of employment, or other extraordinary/emergency circumstances (such as natural disasters), the student must provide legitimate documentation to support their explanation along with an appeal form.

Letters from family and friends are not considered legitimate documentation. Appeals submitted without detailed explanation and necessary documentation will not be approved. Successfully submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval, however, not successfully submitting an appeal could lead to continued ineligibility for financial aid. You can download a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal form from the college website or request from the Financial Aid Office.

### The Federal Refund Policy (R2T4)

A statutory schedule is used to determine the *amount of federal funds* a student has earned when he or she ceases attendance based on the period the student was in attendance. When a student who determined to be a

recipient of a Title IV grant or loan program withdraws from an institution during a payment period or period of enrollment in which the student began attendance, the institution must begin the Title IV Refund (R2T4) process to determine the student's eligibility of Title IV funds based in accordance with the calculations prescribed by regulations.

There are several factors used to determine Title IV Refund (R2T4) calculations: official or unofficial withdrawal date, payment period or period of enrollment, amount of aid that was disbursed, amount of aid that could have been disbursed, percent of Title IV earned, post-withdrawal or late disbursement, institutional cost, amount of Title IV aid to be returned (*if applicable*), time limits, and reporting requirements.

Up through the 60% point in each payment period or period of enrollment, a prorata schedule is used to determine how much *federal funds* the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. After the 60% point in the payment period or period of enrollment, a student has earned 100% of the federal funds. Upon the completion of Title IV Refund (R2T4), a school is required to determine if a post-withdrawal disbursement is necessary for funds earned and not disbursed to students and/or parents. Recent regulations state that all withdrawals must undergo Title IV Refund (R2T4) if federal monies apply.

The Federal Refund Policy (R2T4) is very encompassing and this is intended to be an overview of the policies and procedures that govern regulations pertaining to Title IV Refund (R2T4). *For further guidance on Title IV Refund's (R2T4) policies and procedures, please see the reference material found in Volume 5 of the Federal Student Aid Handbook under Withdrawals. You may access a copy in the Financial Aid Office.*

