

### **How were my awards determined?**

Trident Technical College received information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that you submitted. This information included your expected family contribution (EFC.) To determine your financial need, the following formula was used:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\ \hline = \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

Each award type has different criteria for determining eligibility. Therefore, your financial aid has been packaged using your individual eligibility criteria.

Your aid was determined assuming that you will be enrolled for a minimum of 12 hours per semester. If you enroll for less than 12 hours, your aid will be adjusted depending on your actual enrollment and eligibility.

### **What do I do now that I have my award letter?**

If you wish to decline or reduce any part of your awards, please visit [www.tridenttech.edu/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/financial_aid.htm). You may decline or reduce any or all of your awards at any time during the academic year.

If you have been awarded a student loan for the first time, you must complete an entrance interview and a master promissory note (promise to pay) before your loan can be disbursed to your student account. Visit [www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org) to complete both of these forms. If you are a returning TTC student who has borrowed during the prior year, you do not need to complete either of these forms again.

If you have been awarded a S.C. LIFE scholarship or S.C. Need-Based Grant,

you must complete an affidavit of eligibility before either of these awards can be disbursed to your student account. This form can be found at [www.tridenttech.edu/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/financial_aid.htm).

### **How will I receive additional information from the Financial Aid Office?**

We will communicate to you through CampusCruiser e-mail; you will not receive materials via U.S. postal mail. Make sure that you check your e-mail account and your TTC Express account at least twice each week. *Remember even if you take a semester off and then return to TTC, messages about your financial aid will still be sent to your CampusCruiser account. You must check this account regularly.*

### **What is Verification?**

The Federal government randomly selects up to 30 percent of all applicants who apply for financial aid to be verified. This is basically an audit tool that the U.S. Department of Education uses to meet accountability standards established by Congress. TTC sends a follow-up letter to all students who have been chosen for verification informing them of the forms required to complete the process. This process requires that you submit a verification worksheet (online at [www.tridenttech.edu/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/financial_aid.htm)) and signed copies of your federal tax forms, your parents' federal tax forms (if you are a dependent), your spouse's tax forms (if you are married) and copies of all W-2 forms. It is extremely important to remember that none of the financial aid awarded to you can be released (paid) until all of your verification information has been received and processed by the TTC Financial Aid Office.

### **Can I purchase my books with financial aid?**

Yes, if you have a remaining credit after adding your semester awards together (EXCEPT Lottery-Funded Tuition Assistance and Federal Work Study) and subtracting tuition, you may charge books up to that amount (max of \$1,000). For example:

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Tuition                           | \$1,344 |
| Less Pell Grant                   | \$1,600 |
| Estimated Credit to use for books | \$256   |

If you have a student loan and do not complete the loan processing, you will have to pay for the bookstore charges out of pocket since your account was set up anticipating the loan funds.

Remember, your financial aid was determined assuming that you will be enrolled for a minimum of 12 hours per semester. If you enroll for less than 12 hours, your aid will be adjusted depending on your actual enrollment and eligibility.

### **When will I receive my refund check?**

Financial aid funds are not credited to student accounts until after Drop/Add to ensure the most accurate registration status. Only students who have had their verification completed (if selected) and have resolved any outstanding items with their FAFSA will have funds transferred. Checks for remaining funds, minus any bookstore charges, will be mailed to students within two weeks after the last date to drop/add classes.

### **Financial Aid Terms**

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** – The total it will cost a student to go to school, usually expressed as a yearly figure. COA includes tuition and fees, allowances for books, supplies, personal/miscellaneous expenses and transportation.

**Default** – Failure to repay a loan according to the terms agreed to when you signed a promissory note.

**Eligible Program** – A course of study that leads to a degree, diploma or certificate and meets the U.S. Department of Education's requirements for an eligible program.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** – An amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward your education. It appears in the upper right-hand corner of your Student Aid Report (SAR).

**Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** – Students with a high need and who qualify for Pell Grant may receive up to \$600 per year in SEOG. Eligibility is determined from the results of your FAFSA.

**Federal Work Study** – Allows students to earn money while enrolled in school to help pay educational expenses. Students are usually allowed to work up to 20 hours per week.

**Grants** – Financial aid that does not have to be repaid. The grant amount is based on need.

**LIFE Scholarship** – South Carolina residents who graduate from a South Carolina high school with a 3.0 or higher GPA may receive up to 100 percent of tuition for full-time status. Students must earn a minimum of 30 hours per academic year with a 3.0 GPA to renew this scholarship.

**Loan** – Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. Maximum loan amounts depend on the student's year in school and financial need.

**Lottery-Funded Tuition Assistance (LTA)** – Lottery-funded tuition assistance is determined by information on your FAFSA application. You must be a S.C. resident and enrolled in at least six credit hours. Lottery award amounts are based on credit hours of enrollment and availability of funds. LTA is not available to assist with book expenses.

**Pell Grant** – Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the U.S. Department of Education using information on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Promissory Note** – The binding legal document you sign when you get a student loan. It lists the conditions under which you are borrowing and the terms under which you agree to pay back the loan.

**S.C. Need-Based Grant** – Students with high remaining need also will be considered for the S.C. Need-Based Grant, which awards up to \$1,000 per year. Eligibility is determined by your FAFSA.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** – To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must maintain satisfactory

academic progress toward a degree, diploma or certificate. TTC's FA SAP policy can be found at [http://www.tridenttech.edu/SAP\\_03FA\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.tridenttech.edu/SAP_03FA_FINAL.pdf). Please note, FA/VA SAP includes elements that are not considered for academic satisfactory academic progress.

**Subsidized Stafford Loan** – This is a loan subsidized by the Federal government, therefore interest will not accrue (accumulate) during enrollment or during the grace period of the loan. Repayment begins six months after you graduate or drop below half time status.

**Unsubsidized Stafford Loan** – This loan begins accruing interest (accumulating) when you receive the loan. You can pay the interest during enrollment or allow it to accrue (accumulate). Repayment begins six months after you graduate or drop below half-time status

**Verification** – In this process, TTC will compare the information you submitted on your FAFSA with the information on the verification worksheet and with the signed copies of the federal income tax returns and W-2 wage and tax statements of each family member who submitted financial aid information on your FAFSA.

#### **How do I know how much I owe?**

TTC does not mail bills. Please go online to TTC Express at <https://ttcexpress.tridenttech.edu> to check your student account balance due. All charges must be paid in full by advertised deadlines or your classes will be canceled. Please contact the Finance/Business Office at 843.574.6025, or visit their Web site at [www.tridenttech.edu/2527.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/2527.htm) if you have further questions.

#### **How can I contact the Financial Aid Office?**

Financial Aid Offices are located at each TTC campus:

Main Campus – Bldg 410 Room 202  
843.574.6110

Berkeley Campus – Bldg 191-A  
843.899.8021

Palmer Campus – Bldg PL-124  
843.722.5629

E-mail: [financial.aid@tridenttech.edu](mailto:financial.aid@tridenttech.edu)

Information and office hours are posted on our Web site:

[http://www.tridenttech.edu/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/financial_aid.htm)

#### **Confidentiality of Student Records**

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the College is restricted as to the release of certain records without written consent of the student. This act provides guidelines to protect the privacy of education records and establishes the rights for students.

#### **Disclaimer**

The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to adjust your financial aid package. Your award is based on information you have provided. The College may revise your award as federal/state regulations, institutional policies and funding availability require. ALL AWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL FUNDING AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY.

Trident Technical College is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender or age in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices.

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# Understanding Your Award Letter



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*This brochure provides you with answers to some common questions about financial aid, as well as definitions of the types of aid. If you have additional questions, please contact Trident Technical College's Financial Aid Office at 843.574.6110.*

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