

FINANCIAL AID

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Texas State makes every effort to help students who need assistance in paying for the cost of their education. Various financial aid programs are available. Interested students should visit, write, or call. Counselors are available during regular business hours.

Federal and State Aid Programs

Texas State participates in a number of federal and state financial aid programs. Students may apply for such grant programs as the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, Texas Public Education Grant, and LEAP Grant. There are also several long-term loan programs available to Texas State students, including the Federal Stafford Loan, Federal Perkins Loan, Hinson-Hazlewood Student Loan, College Access Loan, Federal Direct Loan, and Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students. The Federal Direct Lending Program is limited to new borrowers with no previous participation in the Federal Stafford, SLS, etc. The interest rates for these loans may vary. Except for the Federal Direct Parent Loan, repayment generally does not begin until six months after the student leaves school or drops below a half-time status. Another source of financial aid is the Federal and Texas Work Study Programs. These programs are available for Texas State students showing financial need who wish to earn part of their educational expenses.

Applying for Financial Aid

To apply for a grant, loan or one of the Work Programs, students should first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available from high school counselors, an area college or university, or the Texas State Office of Financial aid. You may also complete the FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Regrettably, Free Application for Federal Student Aid cannot be mailed. The FAFSA should be completed and sent to the processing center in the addressed envelope provided. Note: You may access your file status and financial aid awards by dialing 1-512-392-CATS with a transaction code 40.

Deadlines. The priority date for filing a Financial Aid Application is April 1 prior to the fall or spring semester for which aid is desired. Students who miss the priority application date will be considered for aid after on-time applicants are processed. Missing the priority application date means that aid will probably not be available when a student registers for classes and will not receive any gift aid even if eligible, other than the Federal Pell Grant.

Requirements for Maintaining Financial Aid

Academic Progress Requirements. Federal regulations require financial aid recipients to be making Satisfactory Academic Progress toward a degree or eligible certification program. Satisfactory Academic Progress is evaluated at the end of each academic year or grace period. More information may be found on the Office of Student Financial Aid website at www.finaid.txstate.edu.

Minimum Cumulative Texas State GPA Required

Undergraduate	
1st year freshman	1.85
2nd year and higher	2.00
2nd Bachelor's	2.50
Certification	3.00
Master's	3.00
Doctoral	3.00

Hours Completion Rate Required for all Degrees and Programs

(Students must complete a minimum number of new hours)

<i>Registered Hours</i>	<i># of Hours Required to Complete*</i>
24	18
20-23	15
16-19	12
12-15	9
6-11	6
3-5	3
2	2
1	1

*Repeated courses are not counted or considered to be new hours in the “# of Hours Required to Complete”

Maximum Credit Hours Allowed for Completion of Degree or Program

Undergraduate	160
2nd Bachelor's	45
Certification	36
Master's	80
Doctoral without a Master's Degree	160
Doctoral with a Master's Degree	140

Students not meeting the above requirements may submit a written appeal in those cases where there are documented extenuating circumstances. Appeals must be made in the following order:

- Financial Aid Counselor
- Assistant/Associate Director
- Director
- Financial Aid and Scholarship Advisory Committee.

A student has five (5) working days from the time of notification (written or oral) of not meeting the Academic Progress Requirements to submit a written appeal to the next level. If no written appeal is submitted within the prescribed period, the student forfeits rights to any further appeal.

Enrollment Status. Students receiving assistance from any of the above financial aid programs must be enrolled at least half-time (6 semester hours during a long semester or 3 during each summer term). Financial aid recipients who withdraw from Texas State will be required to repay a portion of the financial aid received based upon a calculation prescribed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Texas State E-Mail Account. Every new student enrolling at Texas State is provided with an e-mail account. Your Texas State e-mail account is our primary method of communicating with you regarding your financial aid. We do not communicate with students through their private accounts such as hotmail, yahoo, AOL, etc. Therefore it is important you check your Texas State account daily for important financial aid information.

Important Loan Information. If you are a first time, first year borrower, your initial loan cannot be disbursed to you until 30 days after classes begin. If you are receiving a student loan for a single semester, the loan will be evenly disbursed in two separate payments within the semester. The first disbursement will be at the beginning of the semester and the second disbursement will be at the mid-point of the semester. Contact our office or our web site for definite dates.

Other Financial Assistance

Scholarships. Scholarships are available to qualified students on a competitive basis. The Texas State General Scholarship Application is different from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and can be obtained via the Internet at www.txstate.edu by clicking on Scholarships under Quick Links. December 1 is the scholarship deadline for incoming freshmen. The deadline for transfer and continuing students is March 1. Students who are not Texas residents and receive a Texas State competitive scholarship of at least \$1,000 may be eligible to pay resident tuition.

Texas Grant Renewal Deadline. Students interested in renewing their TEXAS Grant award are encouraged to do so by filing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than April 1 prior to the upcoming academic year. Students who have an incomplete file as of October 1 will NOT be eligible to renew their TEXAS Grant.

Short-Term Assistance. Students who need short-term/emergency assistance may borrow from \$50 to \$250, to be repaid within the semester. Students must be enrolled at least half-time, have a Texas State GPA of at least 2.0, and have no holds on record and no defaults on previous short-term loans. Students who need assistance in paying tuition at registration may apply for the Emergency Tuition and Fees Loan Program (ETLP). The amount of this loan normally does not exceed the costs of tuition and course fees.

Refunds and the Return of Title IV Funds Policy:

If a student withdraws or is expelled from Texas State, he or she may be required to return some of the federal funds awarded to the student. The student may also be eligible for a refund for part of tuition and fees and/or room and board paid to Texas State for the semester. Any refund amount will first be applied towards the repayment due to the federal government.

To Withdraw. The student must complete the form entitled “Texas State Official Withdrawal Request” from the Registrar’s Office. Financial aid recipients must speak with the Financial Aid Office before the withdrawal will be processed. The withdrawal date is defined as the date on which all required documentation is completed and received by the Financial Aid Office (for financial aid recipients) or by the Registrar’s Office (for all other students).

Two different refund calculations are applicable for a Federal Financial Aid recipient who withdraws. These two refund calculations are the school refund calculation and the Federal Aid refund calculation.

Institutional Refund. Texas State’s refund policy exists for calculating the refund of institutional charges. Texas State’s Tuition and Fee Refund Policy can be found in the Refunds and Withdrawal section of the current semester’s Schedule of Classes. If the amount of charges actually paid, either at registration or installment, is greater than the amount owed to Texas State at the time of withdrawal, students who withdraw from Texas State may receive a refund of tuition and refundable fees. Contact Residence Life for information on the room and board refund schedule.

Federal Financial Aid Refund. The federal “Return of Title IV Funds” formula exists for calculating the amount of Federal Title IV aid that must be returned to the federal government, financial aid which the student is not entitled to retain per federal regulations. The federal formula is applicable to students who receive federal financial aid and withdraw on or before the 60% completion point. The federal formula requires that the unearned portion of Title IV funds be returned to the government if the student receives federal financial assistance in the form of a Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity (SOEG) Grant, LEAP Grant, Perkins Loan, Federal Direct or Stafford loan, or Federal Direct or Stafford Parent loan (PLUS). Students that withdraw unofficially will be withdrawn as of the 50% point in time. Worksheets used to determine the amount of refund or Return of Title IV aid are available upon request.