



General Financial Aid Tips & Information

Financial Aid Basics

- ✓ Reapply every year – it's free at www.FAFSA.gov
- ✓ TSJC's school code is 001368
- ✓ Eligibility is based on income, family size, how many family members are in college, and more!
- ✓ Utilize outside resources such as www.CollegeInColorado.org for financial literacy and planning
- ✓ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) becomes available October 1, 2019 for 2020-2021 FAFSA
 - Priority Date is May 1, 2020
 - The FAFSA asks questions about the 2018 tax year. It will cover the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms of 2020-2021 year
 - Grants, Work Study, and Student Loans are all forms of Financial Aid that you may qualify for when you submit a FAFSA
- ✓ After the FAFSA is submitted, periodically review your Portal to see if any additional documents are needed, this could take 1-2 weeks. **ALL** notifications from Financial Aid will be sent to your student email only. Please ensure you set this up right away.
- ✓ If you are not admitted to TSJC, your residency has not been established and/or you are not in an eligible degree or certificate program your financial aid cannot be processed.
- ✓ Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have any questions

Alternatives to Borrowing Loans

- ✓ Consider a part time job or seek work study positions
- ✓ Make a budget and stick to it
- ✓ Search for scholarships
- ✓ Meet the FAFSA priority date each year to maximize chances of grants and work study funds
- ✓ If you are a Colorado resident, make sure to apply for and "authorize" your COF stipend (College Opportunity Fund)
<https://cof.college-assist.org/>

Things to Keep in Mind Each Term

- ✓ SAP Policy - Satisfactory Academic Progress:
 - Minimum 2.0 GPA or above and 67% Cumulative Completion Rate, and finish within 150% of your program length
(*example: 60 credit AA program must be completed by the time 90 credits are attempted*)
 - Financial Aid checks SAP standing at the end of each term – notification information is available on your Portal under the Student Finance Tab
- ✓ Enrollment status may impact eligibility for financial aid. This includes non-attendance, dropping, adding, withdrawing or receiving an 'Incomplete' from a course(s)
- ✓ Contact the Financial Aid Office if you anticipate scheduling changes to determine the impact on your financial aid
- ✓ Frequently monitor your Portal under the Student Finance tab for updated information

When You Graduate or Transfer Out or are No Longer Attending 6.0 or More Credit Hours

- ✓ Complete Exit Counseling if you borrowed a Federal Stafford loan
- ✓ Notify TSJC Financial Aid Office if aid for a specific term needs to be canceled
- ✓ Utilize the National Student Loan Data System (www.nslds.ed.gov) to view your grant/loan history, enrollment and contact information, and more!
- ✓ Loans may temporarily enter six month grace period if you have gap in enrollment – contact your servicer!

Information for Incoming Transfer Students

- ✓ Add our school code (001368) to the active FAFSA if transferring during the current award year

Veterans Benefits

- ✓ Veteran's education benefits are administered through the Financial Aid Office
- ✓ Contact Wilma Atencio at 719-846-5017 for more information or go to our website at <http://trinidadstate.edu/fia/va-benefits.html>