

# Financial Aid

Obtaining and Retaining your  
Financial Aid

# Apply by Student Type

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- **New Student** – Complete FAFSA; and HOPE GPA Evaluation form (HOPE Scholarship only)
- **Transfer Student** – Add our college code to your FAFSA ; and HOPE GPA Evaluation form (HOPE Scholarship only)
- **Transient Student** – Have a HOPE Transient Agreement; No Pell or enrollment verifications, however.
- **Returning Student** – Complete this year's FAFSA
- **High School Student** – ACCEL Application or GSFApp

# Admit Type and Aid

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- **Developmental** – No Federal Aid (i.e. Pell Grant)
- **Provisional** – Is Pell Grant and HOPE eligible
- **Program Ready** – Is Pell Grant and HOPE eligible
- **Special Admit** – No Federal Aid and State Aid

# Program Type and Aid

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- **Technical Career Certificate (TCC)**  
HOPE Grant & Pell Grant (only 8 TCCs)
- **Diploma**  
Is HOPE Grant and Pell Grant eligible
- **Associate Degree**  
Is HOPE Scholarship and Pell Grant eligible

# Applications to use

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- **FAFSA**

- Federal Application
- Renew Annually
- Both Pell and HOPE

OR

- **GSFApp**

- State Application
- Renew every 5 years
- HOPE only

# Application Deadlines

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- **Summer Term** – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Fall Term** – August 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Winter Term** – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Spring Term** – February 1<sup>st</sup>

# Student Responsibilities

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- Re-apply each year by deadline: tax time = financial aid time
- Timely submission of required documentation
- Remain current on all student loans (don't default)
- Pay tuition and/or fees that financial aid does not cover
- Comply with SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) Policy
  - *Differs from Academic Progress Policy, in most cases.*
- Keep track of HOPE paid hours  
[https://www.gsfc.org//Secure/dsp\\_login.cfm?st=exp](https://www.gsfc.org//Secure/dsp_login.cfm?st=exp)
- Repay any aid received that you are not entitled to receive
- Check Banner Web for up-to-date financial aid information

# Hope Grant and Scholarship

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- What is the difference?
  - **HOPE Grant** – is for Diplomas and Certificates
  - **HOPE Scholarship** is for the Degree level, associates and bachelors
- They both pay the same – Tuition, Fees and a book allowance. (Fees not covered by HOPE are the \$35 tech fee, \$30 late fee, and any supply fee associated with particular classes)

# HOPE Grant

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- In order to be eligible you must have the following qualifications:
- Be a Georgia resident (residency per GSFC is defined as 12 months in GA; however, students who graduated from high school on or after July 1, 2008 as non-residents of Georgia, must be Georgia residents for 24 months prior to the first day of classes of the school term)
  - Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Alien.
  - Males must meet Selective Service registration requirements.

# HOPE Grant

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## **Eligibility is NOT dependent upon:**

- High school graduation
- High school grade point average (GPA)
- Applicant income status
- Full-time enrollment is not required.

# HOPE Scholarship

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- You must have the following qualifications:
  - Be a Georgia resident. (residency per GSFC is defined as 12 months in GA)
  - Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Alien.
  - Meet Selective Service registration requirements.
  - Be a 1993\* or later graduate of an eligible high school with a “B” average in the core curriculum.
- Full-time enrollment is not required.

# HOPE Scholarship

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Is there any way to earn HOPE Scholarship?

**YES**

- You can earn HOPE Scholarship if you meet the following qualifications:
  - Be a Georgia resident. (residency per GSFC is defined as 12 months in GA ; however, students who graduated from high school on or after July 1, 2008 as non-residents of Georgia, must be Georgia residents for 24 months prior to the first day of classes of the school term)
  - Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Alien.
  - Meet Selective Service registration requirements.
  - Have a 3.0 GPA or better at one of three checkpoints (45, 90 and 135 degree level quarter hours)

# HOPE CAP

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- As of Summer Quarter 2004, eligible recipients of Hope Grant will only be able to receive 95 hours of training.
  - Unless your diploma program requires more than 95, then your CAP become the required number for that diploma up to 130 quarter hours.
- Combined Hope Grant and Hope Scholarship CAP, for those who use both programs, is a total of 190 **Hope Paid** quarter hours

# Pell Grant

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- Pell Grant is based on your family's income and the number of people who live in your household (i.e., EFC – Estimated Family Contribution)
- You must also be in an eligible program of study.
- Pell Grant must be renewed every year with updated tax information from the previous year. Therefore, when you file your taxes, it is time to renew.

# Basic student Pell eligibility issues:

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- Must be enrolled as a regular or provisional student in an **eligible program**\*
- Must not have already earned a Bachelor's Degree
- Must be taking courses required for program
- Must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and have a valid Social Security Number
- May have eligibility suspended or terminated due to a drug-related conviction
- May not be in default on a federal student loan
- May not owe repayment of a federal grant

\*Admission's status must not be institutional or developmental for to receive Pell Grant.

# Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

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- Both students and schools are subject to law and regulations requiring students who receive financial aid to be 'making progress' toward completing a degree or other credential.
- Must post a Quarterly GPA of at least 2.0
- Must have successfully completed two-thirds or 66.67% of the hours attempted (checked quarterly)
- Must complete program in at least 150% of the time as determined by catalog

# How do I apply for the Pell Grant and HOPE Grant?

- You apply for the Pell Grant and HOPE Grant with the FAFSA go to [WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV)

It takes about 2-3 weeks to process

The screenshot shows the FAFSA website homepage. At the top left is the Department of Education logo and the slogan "START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID". At the top right is the "FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid" logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: FAFSA Home, Student Aid on the Web, Application Deadlines, PIN Site, Help, Contact Us, FAQs, Site Map, and About Us. On the right side of the navigation bar are language options: English | Español. A sidebar on the left contains a numbered list: 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA, 2 Filling Out a FAFSA, and 3 FAFSA Follow-Up. Below the sidebar are "Special Announcements" with links for updated information on the new TEACH grant and important information about two grant programs. A blue box with a question mark icon says "Looking for an early start on the financial aid process" and includes a small image of two students. The main content area features the heading "Federal Student Aid FAFSA" with a grid icon. Below this is a paragraph: "We have simplified the process of filling out the FAFSA. You can follow each section all of the way through for a comprehensive set of instructions." Three large numbered boxes represent the steps: 1. "Before Beginning a FAFSA" with the instruction "Get organized! To simplify the application process, gather required documents and other information ahead of time." and a list of links: Determine Your Dependency Status, FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, and Search for School Codes. 2. "Filling Out a FAFSA" with the instruction "Fill out the application! The FAFSA contains questions that ask about you, your financial information, your school plans, and more." and a list of links: Fill Out Your FAFSA, Open Your Saved FAFSA or Correction Application, and Sign Electronically With Your PIN. 3. "FAFSA Follow-Up" with the instruction "View your results online! You can check the status of your application, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, and get other information." and a list of links: Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page and Make Corrections to a...

# How do I reapply for the Pell Grant and HOPE Grant?

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- You will receive a reminder by email telling you it is time to renew. It is only up to you to renew. You will need your PIN when you return to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to complete the new aid year's application.

# Important!

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**Admissions and Financial Aid  
application processes are  
**COMPLETELY** separate!**

It's important that students understand  
each has its own requirements, forms, and  
deadlines!

# How do I know if I'm eligible for the HOPE Scholarship?

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- You complete and return ATC's HOPE Scholarship Evaluation Form located in our office and online.  
It takes about 2 weeks to process

# Apply for Scholarships!

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- Athens Tech does provide information on MANY different scholarships. There is information on most of the scholarships posted on the ATC television monitors and on the ATC website.
- Most Scholarship applications have to be submitted sometime in March for the upcoming year - so don't miss out!

# LOANS

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- Due to Athens Technical College's low cost, we do not participate in any Federal or State loan programs.
- You can obtain a PRIVATE, NON-CERTIFIED education loan to attend Athens Technical College if you choose.

# Need Assistance?

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Counselors are available  
Monday - Thursday by appointment only  
(9am – 3:30pm)

Located in the H Building  
706.355.5009  
[financialaid@athenstech.edu](mailto:financialaid@athenstech.edu)



# Financial Aid Staff

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*"We believe, that is, you and I, that education is not an expense. We believe it is an investment."*

- Lyndon B. Johnson,  
10/16/68

- **Patrick Harris**, Director
- **Gay Jones**, Coordinator
- **Courtney Ray**, Coordinator
- **Taz Qadri**, Counselor
- **Dustin McDaniel**, Counselor
- **Bray List**, Counselor
- **Melissa Burton**, Receptionist
- **Linda Downer**, Financial Aid Specialist (Elberton)