

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. The tuition and fees currently assessed per credit hour each semester are listed below:

Credit Hours	Tuition and Fees
1	\$205
2	\$280
3	\$355
4	\$430
5	\$505
6	\$580
7	\$655
8	\$730
9	\$805
10	\$880
11	\$955
12	\$1,030
13	\$1,105
14	\$1,180
15 or more	\$1,255

Students enrolling in most technical certificates of credit and all diploma and associate degree programs of study will pay semester tuition at the rate of \$75 per credit hour. The college also assesses all students a \$30 student activity fee, a \$39 registration fee, a \$6 accident insurance fee, and a \$55 instructional and technology support fee.

Students enrolling in the Commercial Truck Driving Program pay a total of \$1,385 in tuition and fees; they also pay with personal funds a fuel surcharge of \$130 per quarter. The HOPE Grant will not cover the fuel surcharge each quarter. Furthermore, the rate may fluctuate each quarter; the surcharge will be based on the AAA Diesel Fuel Index.

Students enrolling in most technical certificates of credit and all diploma and associate degree programs of study will pay tuition at the rate of \$40 per credit hour.

International Students—Students who were not born in the United States or who are not naturalized citizens of the United States shall pay tuition at a rate four times the rate paid by Georgia residents. All fees, including registration, student activity, supply, accident insurance, and instructional and technology support, are the same as for in-state residents. International students may enroll in classes for which space is available and may not displace students desiring to enroll who are residents of the state.

International students who, in accordance with the federal Title IV definition, are permanent residents of the United States and hold a permanent resident card (I-551) or a conditional permanent resident card (I-551C) are classified as eligible non-citizens for tuition purposes. Also classified as eligible non-citizens are holders of an arrival departure record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one

of the following designations: refugee, asylum granted, parolee (I-94 confirms paroled for a minimum of one year and the status has not expired), or Cuban-Haitian entrant.

Eligible non-citizens may be extended the same considerations as citizens of the United States in determining whether they qualify as Georgia residents and thus for in-state tuition. Persons with an F1 or F2 student visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa do not meet the definition of eligible non-citizens.

Out-of-state Students – Students who are legal residents of the United States will be charged tuition at a rate two times the rate paid by Georgia residents. All fees, including registration, student activity, supply, accident insurance, and instructional and technology support are the same as for in-state residents. United States citizens include legal residents of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands. Athens Technical College exists primarily to serve Georgia citizens; therefore, non-resident students may enroll in classes on a space-available basis. They shall not displace students desiring to enroll who are legal, permanent residents of the state.

Georgia Residents 62 Years of Age or Older – Georgia residents who are 62 years of age or older who meet requirements for enrollment into academic courses may attend on a space-available basis without paying tuition. Georgia residents 62 years of age or older who want to guarantee enrollment in a course must pay tuition and all applicable fees. Once they elect to guarantee enrollment, they are not eligible to change to a space-available basis at a later date. Georgia residents 62 years of age or older are ineligible to receive financial aid through the HOPE program to pay for tuition. Eligible students will still receive HOPE funding for HOPE-eligible fees and books. (HOPE will not cover the instructional and technology support fee or additional supply fees). Please note the following registration requirements:

- Georgia residents 62 years of age or older who choose to pay tuition and fees themselves to guarantee enrollment (These students may register online during returning student registration if they are returning students or during new student registration if they are new students.)
- Georgia residents 62 years of age or older who are seeking to have their tuition waived (These students must register in person in the Office of Registration and Records during the official Drop/Add period.)

Other Expenses

It is mandatory that students purchase the books, supplies, tools, and equipment required by their instructors. Textbooks and other supplies are available in the campus bookstore. Costs will vary depending on the course.

Students registering for certain courses will be charged a supply fee to cover the cost of materials students use in the courses. The HOPE Grant and Scholarship programs will not cover supply fees; therefore, students are expected to make payment with cash, check, money order, or credit card to cover these fees. They may also authorize the college to deduct these fees from their federal financial aid benefits (see Electronic Authorization of Federal Financial Aid Funds). Supply fees are listed in the applicable course descriptions (see *Course Descriptions* or *Prerequisites Quick Reference Guide*). Students should also review the *Curriculum* section for information on program-specific expenses.

Students may also be responsible for using personal funds to pay these additional fees:

- Application fee _____ \$20
- Accident insurance _____ \$6
- Change of Major processing fee _____ \$10
- COMPASS AND ASSET retest _____ \$15 per section
- Diploma replacement _____ \$25
- Exemption test fee _____ 25 percent of tuition
- Graduation fee _____ \$35
- ID card replacement _____ \$5
- Late registration fee _____ \$45
- Malpractice insurance _____ \$11 per year
- Parking tickets _____ \$10 per ticket
- Readmission fee _____ \$10
- Registration _____ \$39 per semester
- Return check fee _____ \$30
- Smoking violations _____ \$50
- Student activity fee _____ \$30 per semester
- Technology fee _____ \$55 per semester
- Transcript fee _____ \$5 per copy
- On-Demand Service _____ \$25 plus any cost incurred to ship overnight

Georgia Resident Defined

The director of admissions or designee will classify every person accepted by the college as an in-state, out-of-state, or international student. Determining a student's residency status must be based on the existence of surrounding objective circumstances that indicate a student's intent to maintain a permanent presence in the State of Georgia. No single factor is conclusive. Similarly, there is no predetermined number of factors to be met. The following indicators may be considered when documenting residency status of an individual, but this is not an exhaustive list:

- Location of employment
- Location of voter registration
- Location of property, including home purchases and taxes paid thereon
- State for which the individual filed and paid state income taxes
- Address and other information on federal and state income tax returns

- State where the person's automobile title is registered and where the payment of property taxes thereon is made
- Address on driver's license and the state in which the driver's license was issued
- Address on the Georgia Driver's License Bureau ID
- Reason for initially coming to Georgia
- State in which business, professional, or other licenses were issued
- Location of checking, savings, or other banking accounts

Citizenship Requirements

Students meet citizenship requirements if they are born in the United States, are naturalized citizens of the United States, or are classified as eligible non-citizens according to the federal Title IV definition. To qualify for in-state tuition, students who meet the citizenship requirements must establish and maintain legal, permanent residency in Georgia for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the academic term for which they seek in-state tuition.

Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States

All students applying for in-state tuition must provide validation of lawful presence in the United States. The following documents will serve as proof of lawful presence in the United States and documentation will be required before students are eligible for consideration of in-state tuition:

- A current driver's license issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008
- A current photo identification card issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008
- A current driver's license or photo identification issued by a state that verifies immigration status and only issues to persons lawfully present in the United States
- A certified U.S. birth certificate showing the student was born in the United States or United States territory (photocopies are not acceptable)
- A completed and approved *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*
- A current, valid permanent resident card (USCIS form 1-151 or 1-551)
- A U.S. Certificate of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State (DS-1350) or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)
- A current U.S. passport
- A U.S. Certificate of Citizenship (USCIS form N-560 or N-561)
- A U.S. Certificate of Naturalization (USCIS form N-550 or N-570)

Students who cannot be verified as lawfully present in the United States is not eligible to be considered for in-state tuition regardless of how long they have lived in Georgia. In addition to being lawfully present in the United States, students must meet the in-state tuition requirements as outlined in this section. Students that are initially classified as out-of-

state residents and successfully petition to have their residency changed to in-state also meet the verification requirement.

Dependent Students

Dependent students are defined as individuals under the age of 24 who receive financial support from parents or United States court-appointed legal guardians whose federal or state tax returns list the individuals as dependents. Dependent students meet the Georgia residency requirement if their parents have established and maintained legal, permanent residency in the State of Georgia for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the academic term for which they are seeking in-state tuition and provided that the dependent students graduated from an eligible high school located in the State of Georgia or if their parents claimed them as dependents on the parents' most recent federal income tax returns. Dependent students also meet the Georgia residence requirements if their United States court-appointed legal guardians have established and maintained legal, permanent residency in the State of Georgia for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the academic term for which they seek in-state tuition and provided that the appointment was not made in order to avoid the payment of out-of-state tuition.

An eligible high school is defined as any private or public secondary educational institution in the State of Georgia that is authorized to grant high school diplomas and is on the list of accreditation agencies approved by the Technical College System of Georgia.

Independent Students

Independent students are defined as individuals who are not claimed as dependents on the federal or state income tax returns of their parents or United States court-appointed legal guardians who have ceased to provide support and right to the individuals' care, custody, and earnings. Independent students meet the Georgia residency requirements if they have established and maintained legal, permanent residency in the State of Georgia for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes of the academic term for which they seek in-state tuition. It is presumed that independent students did not gain or acquire legal, permanent residency in the State of Georgia while attending Athens Technical College or any member institution of the Technical College System of Georgia without clear evidence of having established legal, permanent residency in the State of Georgia for purposes other than attending Athens Technical College or any member institution of the Technical College System of Georgia.

Retaining Georgia Residency

Dependent students shall continue to retain their status as Georgia residents if their parents or United States court-appointed guardian established legal, permanent residency outside the State of Georgia provided the dependent students remain continuously enrolled at Athens Technical College. Individuals are classified as continuously enrolled students if

they are making satisfactory academic progress toward completing an associate degree, diploma, or technical certificate of credit and are without a break in enrollment of more than one traditional academic term (see *Satisfactory Academic Progress* in the *Financial Aid* section). Individuals who are not enrolled for two or more consecutive academic terms are not classified as continuously enrolled students. Participation in eligible alternative study programs which require travel outside of Georgia but inside the United States are not considered breaks in enrollment.

Independent students who temporarily relocate outside the State of Georgia for a period of less than 12 months shall retain their status as Georgia residents for tuition purposes.

Eligibility for In-State Tuition Waivers

Students in the following classifications are eligible for in-state tuition waivers. These waivers do not affect students' eligibility for HOPE Scholarships or Grants, except for waivers for military personnel and their dependents as provided for in the Georgia Student Finance Commission regulations. The classifications include:

Employees and their children who move to Georgia for employment with a new or expanding industry as defined in Georgia Code §20-4-40

Full-time employees of the Technical College System of Georgia and their spouses and dependent children

Full-time teachers in the public schools, military bases, or at public postsecondary colleges in Georgia and their spouses and dependent children

United States military personnel stationed in Georgia and on active duty and their dependents living in Georgia

United States military personnel and their dependents who are legal residents of Georgia but are stationed outside the state

Students who are legal residents of out-of-state counties bordering on Georgia counties and who are enrolled in a technical college when there is a local reciprocity agreement in place

Career counselor officers and their dependents who are citizens of the foreign nation which their consular office represents and who are living in Georgia under orders of their respective governments

(This waiver applies only to those consular officers whose nations operate on the principle of educational reciprocity with the United States.)

Notwithstanding any provision in the residency policy, individuals who are unlawfully present in the United States are not eligible for any waiver of the tuition differential.

Penalties

Misrepresentation of facts to qualify for residency status will expose students to civil liability for back-due tuition and disciplinary action including suspension or permanent exclusion from all technical colleges. Moreover, the college may criminally prosecute students.

Electronic Authorizations of Financial Aid

Students may authorize the college to use federal financial aid funds (Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Academic Competitive Grant) to pay most fees, including late registration fees, HOPE book overpayments, NLN testing fees, SAT testing fees, standardized health program placement examination testing fees, and graduation fees. The authorization allows the college to apply federal financial aid funds to cover fees for the entire period students are enrolled at the college. Students may change or modify an authorization at any time. Students should verify that their financial aid benefits are sufficient to cover the fees; otherwise, they run the risk of being administratively withdrawn from their classes because they owe money to the college at the Tuition/Fee Payment Deadline as listed in the Academic Calendar (see *Academic Calendar*).

Insurance

General Accident Insurance – The college requires all students to purchase state-mandated accident insurance at registration. This coverage protects students while they are engaged in college activities during the entire semester. In case of accidents, students are responsible for any expenses not paid by this accident insurance. Accident insurance provides partial (supplemental) coverage for medical expenses related to accidents (accidental injuries or accidental death or dismemberment) as specified below:

- All activities sponsored and supervised by Athens Technical College, including travel with a group in connection with such activities
- Travel directly and without delay to or from the insured person's residence and the site of such activities

Except when they need emergency care, students who are injured should go to the Business Office on the Athens Campus, the Student Affairs Office on the Elbert County Campus, the Manager's Office at the Greene County Campus, or the Director's Office on the Walton County Campus to obtain claim forms prior to going to their doctors or a hospital. College staff members will verify student enrollment for that academic term. Students must submit the claim forms to their doctors or a hospital. If they need emergency care, students should go directly to a hospital. They should inform hospital personnel that they have coverage under a college accident insurance policy and have the hospital contact the Business Office at (706) 355-5116 for further instructions.

Malpractice Insurance – Students enrolled in the Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Early Childhood Care and Education, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Paramedic Technology, Patient Care Assisting, Phlebotomy Technician, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography, Surgical Technology, and Veterinary Technology programs must have malpractice insurance, and they must purchase this insurance from the college's cashier. The

group policy runs from July 1 through June 30 regardless of the date of payment by students. The insurance company does not prorate student payments.

The HOPE Grant and Scholarship programs will not cover the malpractice insurance fees. Students must pay this fee with cash, checks, money orders, or credit cards. Students must submit payment receipts to their program chair to verify coverage.

Tuition/Fees Payment Deadlines

Students must pay all tuition, fees, and other charges by cash, checks, credit cards, debit cards, money orders, or through financial aid procedures by the Tuition/Fee Payment Deadline as noted in the Academic Calendar (see *Academic Calendar*). The Financial Aid staff will automatically cover tuition and fee charges of students eligible and approved to receive these benefits. Students not eligible and approved to receive financial aid benefits must complete the registration process and pay all fees before attending classes.

Students who owe money to the college after the Tuition/Fee Payment Deadline will be administratively withdrawn from classes. Failure to pay an instruction and technology support fee, supply fee, malpractice insurance, graduation fee, radiation badge fee, fuel surcharge, or any other fee or charge not covered by financial aid will result in students being administratively withdrawn from their classes. Students who are administratively withdrawn from classes will have to pay a \$45 late fee to re-register for classes during the official Drop/Add period. The Business Office must approve any modification to the fee payment policy.

Students who have paid their tuition and fees with personal funds or who receive financial aid benefits must complete the formal withdrawal process if they later decide not to attend classes (see *Withdrawing From Classes Before the Midpoint of the Semester* for procedures). Withdrawing from classes prior to the start of the academic term will not affect academic progress and the withdrawal will not be reflected on academic transcripts.

Personal Check Policy

The Business Office accepts personal checks for the amount of tuition and fees. Students paying by check must provide proper identification. Proper identification includes the following information for the account holder: current address, driver's license number, date of birth, and gender. It is unlawful to issue bad checks. When banks return checks for any reason, the Business Office will notify students by mail to appear in person to make cash payment; the college will also require a \$30 returned check fee to clear returned checks.

Not attending classes does not relieve students from the responsibility of paying for bad checks. If the matter is not resolved within 10 days, the Business Office will refer the matter to the Clarke County Magistrate's Court for collection. Students are responsible for all court costs. The Business Office does not accept checks from students who previously issued bad checks to the college. The executive director of reg-

istration and records will not release records until students satisfy financial obligations to the college.

Refunds

Students will receive full refunds of tuition and fees (excluding the mandatory application fee) if they formally withdraw from the college by the last day to withdraw from classes without academic or financial penalties as listed in the Academic Calendar (see *Academic Calendar* and *Withdrawing Before the Semester Midpoint*). Reductions that result in a schedule of 15 or more credit hours are not eligible for a refund. The college will not issue refunds to students who withdraw from some or all classes after the last day to withdraw from classes without academic or financial penalties. Furthermore, the college will not issue refunds to students who stop attending classes and do not complete the formal

withdrawal process (see *Withdrawing Before the Semester Midpoint* and *Withdrawing from the College*).

If the executive director of registration and records administratively withdraws students because classes are canceled, because students fail prerequisite courses the previous semester, or because students are academically dismissed at the conclusion of the previous semester, the college will refund the original tuition if the reduction changes their enrollment from full-time (12 or more hours) to part-time status (less than 12 hours). If the administrative withdrawal results in students being withdrawn completely for the semester, the college will refund 100 percent of the tuition and fees (excluding the mandatory application fee and late registration fees). The college will refund 100 percent of the tuition and fees (excluding the mandatory application fee and late registration fee) paid by students who are reported as “No Shows” by their instructors (see *No Show Policy*).