

Financial Assistance

LFCC is committed to using all available funds to help students gain access to a college education. Financial aid is usually awarded based on financial need, but can be awarded based on merit or a combination of factors. Assistance is available through a variety of federal, state and institutional programs. Lord Fairfax Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation or disability in its programs or activities. For a complete list of financial aid currently available, check online at <http://www.lfcc.edu>.

How to Apply For Federal and State Financial Assistance

Students applying for aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There are two ways this form can be submitted. This form can be mailed and takes four to six weeks to process. Electronically submitted, the application takes one to three weeks to process.

The Web address for electronic filing is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Electronic processing is expedited by requesting a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at <http://www.pin.ed.gov>. The PIN number will serve as the electronic signature and should be requested by both the student and when applicable, the parent. The school code for LFCC is 008659. The student and the student's listed colleges receive a student aid report (SAR) from the Central Processing Service. No determination of eligibility can be made until the College receives a valid SAR and all requested documentation. Applicants may be required to provide additional information. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible after Jan. 1 of each year. The priority application deadline is June 15. Applications and information concerning financial assistance at LFCC are available in the Financial Aid Office or on the College's Web site at <http://www.lfcc.edu/FinAid/Index.shtm>.

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients

To be eligible to receive financial aid or scholarships at Lord Fairfax Community College, students are required to make satisfactory progress towards successful completion of the program of study to which they have been admitted.

Minimum Qualitative Progress Standard

Students must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 after they have attempted 12 credit hours. Some scholarships may have stricter GPA requirements.

Maximum Financial Aid Credit Hours Eligibility

Once a student has exceeded 150 percent of coursework for his/her individual degree/certificate program, their eligibility for aid at LFCC will be exhausted. Changes of curriculums do not constitute extended time limits for eligibility. Per Federal Regulations, all enrollments at LFCC will be considered whether or not aid was awarded or received.

All of the above conditions must be met each semester. The first time any of the above conditions is not met, financial aid will be discontinued until the student has completed enough credits to overcome the deficiency without the benefit of financial aid.

Reinstatement and Appeals

Students may appeal the loss of their aid, in writing, to the Financial Aid Office. Only appeals that document mitigating circumstances will be considered.

Return of Title IV Funds (PELL, FSEOG)

The Financial Aid Office is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing 60 percent of a payment period or term. The federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in these situations.

If a student leaves the institution prior to completing 60 percent of a payment period or term, the financial aid office recalculates eligibility for Title IV funds. Recalculation is based on the percentage of earned aid using the following Federal Return of Title IV funds formula:

- Percentage of payment period or term completed = the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date divided by the total days in the payment period or term. (Any break of five days or more is not counted as part of the days in the term.) This percentage is also the percentage of earned aid.

Funds are returned to the appropriate federal program based on the percentage of unearned aid using the following formula:

- Aid to be returned = (100 percent of the aid that could be disbursed minus the percentage of earned aid) multiplied by the total amount of aid that could have been disbursed during the payment period or term.

If a student earned less aid than was disbursed, the institution would be required to return a portion of the funds and the student would be required to return a portion of the funds. Keep in mind that when Title IV funds are returned, the student may owe a debt to the institution.

If a student earned more aid than was disbursed to him/her, the institution would owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement which must be paid within 120 days of the student's withdrawal.

The institution must return the amount of Title IV funds for which it is responsible no later than 30 days after the date of the determination of the date of the student's withdrawal.

Refunds are allocated in the following order:

- Federal Pell Grants for which a return of funds is required
- Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant
- Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants for which a return of funds is required
- Other assistance under this Title for which a return of funds is required (e.g., LEAP)

Need-Based Programs of Assistance

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is an entitlement program based on financial need. It is the foundation of all assistance programs and all students are encouraged to apply.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The FSEOG is a program awarded to Pell eligible students demonstrating the most need and based on

federal guidelines. Funds for FSEOG are limited and awarded on an annual basis.

Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

This is a federal grant which provides funds to first-year students who have completed high school on or after Jan. 1, 2005. All Academic Competitiveness Grant students must have completed a rigorous high school program of study as designated by their state and second-year students must have at least a 3.0 GPA from their first year in college. Students must be a U.S. Citizen and be enrolled full-time (12 or more credits). All recipients must be receiving the Pell grant.

Federal Work-Study (FWS)

This program for financial aid eligible students provides part-time employment for students who are enrolled in at least six credits. Student class schedules, curriculum and job skills are considered in assigning positions. Applications for this program are available in the Financial Aid Office or by e-mailing finaid@lfcc.edu.

College Scholarship Assistance Program (CSAP)

This program, administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, is reserved for legal Virginia residents with demonstrated need. Preference is given to full-time students. Funds are limited and awarded annually.

Commonwealth Award (COMA)

This state-funded program is for legal residents of Virginia in need of financial assistance. This grant assists students who are enrolled in six or more credit hours with tuition and fees. Funds are limited and awarded on an annual basis.

Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP)

Full-time Virginia domiciled dependent students who graduated from a Virginia high school with at least a 2.5 GPA may apply for this state grant program. Students must be first-time freshmen, must demonstrate financial need, and may qualify for renewal awards up to three additional years. VGAP provides financial assistance for tuition and books. Interested students should send their high school transcripts to the Financial Aid Office with a note indicating their interest.

Part-time Tuition Assistance Program (PTAP)

This state-funded tuition grant is for Virginia residents who enroll for one to six credits who demonstrate financial need. Funding is limited and awarded early each year.

Merit Based Programs of Assistance

LFCC Local Board Scholarship Program

Scholarships are sufficient to cover tuition for up to 12 credit hours for the fall and spring semesters.

Principal's Scholarships

One scholarship is named in honor of the principal at each high school. This scholarship recognizes high academic achievers who will attend LFCC. Each high school selects the recipient. Scholarships are sufficient to cover tuition up to 12 credit hours for the fall and spring semesters.

College Board Scholarships

One scholarship per high school is awarded in honor of the local College Board. This scholarship is competitive based on academic achievement, leadership as demonstrated through extra-curricular

activities and citizenship. Scholarships are sufficient to cover tuition up to 12 credit hours for the fall and spring semesters.

Tech Prep Consortium Scholarships

One scholarship per service area jurisdiction is awarded to recognize exemplary high school students enrolled in Tech Prep Programs. The award is for full tuition (12 credit hours for fall and spring semesters) for one academic year at LFCC.

Cultural Diversity Scholarships

Four scholarships are awarded that consider race or national origin as a factor in an applicant's favor in order to assist in assembling a student body with a variety of opinions, backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Scholarships are sufficient to cover tuition up to 12 credit hours for the fall and spring semesters.

LFCC Educational Foundation Inc. Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and/or merit, as determined by the donor. Review the complete list of Foundation scholarships, requirements, application materials and deadline information at <http://www.lfcc.edu/scholarships>.

Veterans Educational Benefits

Veterans who have served in the military or children, wives and widows of veterans may be eligible for educational assistance through the U.S. Department Veterans' Affairs (VA). For information concerning the VA and educational assistance, contact the Financial Aid Office or <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Military Survivors and Dependents Program (MSDEP)

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (MSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard or the Virginia National Guard Reserves. Armed conflict includes military operations against terrorism or as the result of a terrorist act, a peace-keeping mission or any armed conflict after Dec. 6, 1941. This program waives tuition, fees, room and board, and books at any state-supported college or university in Virginia. Benefits are available up to four years.

To be eligible, children and spouses of qualifying military service members must meet the following requirements:

- The child must be between ages 16 and 29; there are no age restrictions for spouses.
- The military service member must have been a Virginia citizen at the time he or she entered active duty or must have been a Virginia citizen for at least five years immediately prior to the date of the application for admission.
- In the case of a deceased military service member, the surviving spouse can meet the residency requirements if he or she lived in Virginia for at least five years prior to marrying the military service member or has been a citizen of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date of application.