

FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions (FA)

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money to help pay for college or career school. At South Piedmont Community College financial aid includes scholarships, grants, and federal work-study.

Who is eligible for Financial Aid at South Piedmont?

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must meet the following federal criteria:

U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens.

- A non-citizen, who is a permanent resident, is eligible for financial aid. The student must have the proper documentation, such as, a resident alien card (FAFSA requires this number be listed).
- Students who are on a temporary or student visa are not eligible for federal student aid.

Have a valid Social Security Number

Enrolled in an eligible program

Students who are not in default on any prior student loans; do not owe a repayment on any Title IV financial aid.

Male students between the ages of 18-25 must register with [Selective Service](#) on their website to receive financial aid.

Have a high school diploma or equivalent

Where can a student apply for Financial Aid?

All eligible students must complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) online to receive financial aid.

Does a student have to apply for financial aid every year?

Yes, financial aid is not automatic and students must re-apply each year by submitting the FAFSA application. The school year runs from August through the following July.

What is SPCC's Federal School Code?

Our Federal School Code is **007985**. This code is used to ensure your FAFSA information is submitted to SPCC.

Why is the FAFSA asking me to provide parent information?

Students are considered dependent or independent for financial aid purposes based on criteria

established by the Federal Government. Parents of dependent students must provide their financial information in order to determine eligibility for the various aid programs.

I have been selected for Verification. What does this mean?

Verification is the process of verifying the information reported on the FAFSA in comparison to you and your parent's tax returns. If you are selected you cannot be awarded until verification is complete. Please provide the documentation as soon as possible.

What is meant by Financial Aid Award?

A Financial Aid Award informs the student of the types and amounts of aid the student will receive for the academic year. The award is based on full time enrollment. The amount of financial aid received by the student is adjusted based on how many credit hours a student is enrolled in per semester.

Do I need to be a full-time (12 credit hours) student to receive financial aid?

No. Students may be enrolled less than half-time (6 credit hours) and be eligible for some federal financial aid programs. Awards are processed based on the enrollment status information indicated on the FAFSA.

Can I receive financial aid if am not a degree seeking student?

No. Students must be enrolled in a degree seeking program to receive financial aid.

Can I use financial aid for courses not required in my Program of Study?

No. Courses not required for completion of your degree, with the exception of developmental courses, cannot be considered when determining your eligibility for financial aid. Upon review of your schedule prior to disbursement of financial aid, if you are registered for courses not required in your Program of Study, your aid will be adjusted. If aid is disbursed prior to review and later determined that courses are not in your Program of Study, it will be adjusted retroactively and you will be billed for the overpayment. Therefore, it is imperative that you review the requirements of your Program of Study.

What is Cost of Attendance?

Cost of Attendance is the estimation of how much money it will cost a student to attend SPCC. It is based on totals of both SPCC costs billed directly to your student account (such as tuition and fees) and estimates of other expenses you will incur. These may include items such as books, transportation, and miscellaneous needs (such as personal items). Please note that the cost of attendance does not reflect a student's actual charges.

Can a student receive federal aid at SPCC and another school in the same semester?

No, a student may only receive federal aid at one institution in the same semester.

My parents make too much money for me to receive financial aid. What options are available to me?

Regardless of how much money you or your parents make, you should still submit the FAFSA. Some sources of federal aid are not need based which means you or your parents may qualify regardless of income.

What if my family's financial circumstances change drastically during a given year? What can be done?

There are circumstances that will enable the financial aid office to adjust a student's aid eligibility. These circumstances could include: job loss due to unemployment or illness, separation or divorce, or unusual medical expenses. If conditions such as these occur during the academic year, please contact the SPCC Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs.

Can I get financial aid for summer school?

Yes, you may be eligible for federal aid for summer. Summer school aid is based upon any remaining eligibility after fall and spring. State Grants are not funded during the summer term.

What happens if I drop or withdraw from a course during the semester? How will it affect my financial aid?

Your financial aid award maybe adjusted if you drop or withdraw from a course during the semester. Please consult with a financial aid technician to determine if your aid will be adjusted based upon your award and the date you are dropping the course. If you are currently on a plan of action due to a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal for the semester, you may be ineligible for aid for the next semester.

When will I get my financial aid funds?

If you have aid in excess of your tuition/fees and bookstore charges, the remaining funds will be disbursed after all semester charges have been satisfied. Your refund will be mailed to the address we have on file.

My parents are not US citizens. Can I still complete the FAFSA?

Yes. Parents who are not citizens should include their income and asset information on the FAFSA. Nine zeros should be used as their social security number since no social has been issued.