

# Student Financial Aid

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## Student Financial Aid

*Esther Manogin, Director*

[www.financialaid.appstate.edu](http://www.financialaid.appstate.edu)

Appalachian State University recognizes that some students do not have the financial resources to meet their educational expenses. Through student financial aid programs, Appalachian makes every effort to assist students in financing their education. With the exception of certain Appalachian academic scholarships, all students interested in receiving financial assistance must complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form on the Web. The student and at least one parent of a dependent student must have a U.S. Department of Education PIN to complete the FAFSA. Obtain these PINs at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

Complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

In order to receive priority consideration for certain state grants, North Carolina residents should complete the FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible and before Appalachian's priority deadline of February 15 for the upcoming year. All other students should complete the FAFSA by the March 15 priority filing deadline. The FAFSA may be completed after these priority deadlines, but the student will not receive priority consideration for need-based grants.

Students must reapply for financial aid each year. Financial aid funding does not transfer from one institution to another. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about Appalachian's financial aid application procedures for the academic year or for summer school.

Appalachian State University offers grants, loans and work opportunities for which a student will be considered once the FAFSA data have been received. Several of these programs are briefly described on the following pages. Further information may be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Aid, which is located on the second floor of John E. Thomas Hall.

Financial aid recipients should refer to the index for "Refund Policy" for information concerning the return of funds due to withdrawal from the university.

For further information, please visit our web site at [www.financialaid.appstate.edu](http://www.financialaid.appstate.edu). Our office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding University observed holidays.

## Information for Veterans, Dependents of Disabled or Deceased Veterans, and/or Members of National Guard/Reserves

The University is approved for training veterans and dependents of deceased or disabled veterans under the following programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty Educational Assistance (Chapter 30)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Selective Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP/Chapter 1607)
- Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 32)
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS) Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

Persons eligible to receive these benefits must process an application and enrollment data sheet with the Veterans Affairs Coordinator, Office of Student Financial Aid.

Children of disabled or deceased veterans who are North Carolina residents may be eligible for a scholarship from the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, Raleigh, North Carolina which pays tuition, some fees, and an allowance for room and meals. Applications may be obtained from a veteran's service officer located in the prospective student's hometown or county.

Members of the North Carolina National Guard and Selected Reserves may be eligible for tuition assistance. National Guard Members should contact their unit to obtain an application for state tuition assistance. Members filing for federal tuition assistance must apply online at [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com).

Additional information regarding VA related benefits may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Financial Aid, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina 28608, (828) 262-2583 or by visiting [www.financialaid.appstate.edu](http://www.financialaid.appstate.edu) and click on the Veterans/Military Education link.

## Student Employment Programs

Student employment programs are maintained to help students pay educational expenses while attending classes. Students participating in the programs are employed in administrative offices, in colleges and academic departments, and in service facilities such as the bookstore, the library, the food service areas, University Recreation, and the Student Union.

The on-campus student employment programs consist of the Student Temporary work program and the Federal Work-Study Program.

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On and off-campus job information is provided by the Student Employment Office located in the Career Development Center in John E. Thomas Hall. The function of this office is to provide referral information for on and off-campus jobs for enrolled students. In addition, Student Employment is responsible for placing Federal Work-Study students.

You may access our online job board at [www.studentemployment.appstate.edu](http://www.studentemployment.appstate.edu). Choose Student Employment to find links to some of our larger campus employers, or choose the Job Board to search for on and off-campus jobs by category.

Generally, students may work up to 10-15 hours per week in University-operated work programs. Work schedules will be arranged by the student and work supervisor with the understanding that class schedules have first priority.

### Student Loan Programs

Eligible undergraduate students must be enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours, excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) to receive a federal loan. Detailed information concerning student and parent loan programs will be included with the financial aid award letter. General information is available in *The Student Guide* (published by the Department of Education), which may be obtained from a high school guidance counselor, any post-secondary institution or by accessing the Office of Student Financial Aid Web Site. Loans available to Appalachian students include:

- Federal Perkins Loan (based on financial need)
- Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan (based on financial need)
- Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan (not based on financial need)
- Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) (not based on financial need)

### Grants-In-Aid and Special Talent Awards

In recognition of students with special talents, the University provides grants in fields such as dramatics, art, forensics, industrial arts, music, and athletics. In addition, many departments have their own scholarship funds about which students should inquire by writing to the departmental chair. Athletes should write to the coach of a specific sport.

### Federal Pell Grant

All undergraduate students who have not received their first baccalaureate degree are applying for a Federal Pell Grant when they complete the FAFSA. In order to qualify for a Pell Grant, students must have exceptional financial need as determined by Federal Methodology and be enrolled for at least three credit hours (excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours). Amounts awarded are determined by the federal government.

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

This grant is awarded to those students with "exceptional" need. Students must be undergraduates working toward a first baccalaureate degree and enrolled on at least a half-time basis (six credit hours, excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) each term. Funding for this grant is limited and awarding is subject to funds availability. Complete the FAFSA to apply for the FSEOG.

### Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

The ACG is available to first or second year students enrolled on at least a half-time basis who are U.S. citizens, eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, and have successfully completed a rigorous high school program, as determined by the state or local education agency and recognized by the Secretary of Education. A first-year ACG is awarded to a student who meets all eligibility criteria and who graduated high school after January 1, 2005. A second-year ACG is awarded to a student who meets all eligibility criteria, graduated from high school after January 1, 2006, and has at least a 3.0 GPA at the end of the first year. The FAFSA contains several questions that determine if a student may be eligible for an ACG.

### The National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant)

The National SMART Grant is available to third or fourth year students enrolled on at least a half-time basis who are U.S. citizens; eligible for a Federal Pell Grant; and are majoring in and taking coursework in physical, life, or computer sciences; mathematics, technology, or engineering; or in a foreign language determined critical to national security; and maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in the coursework required for the major.

### UNC Campus Scholarship (Undergraduate)

The UNC Campus Scholarship is a grant for North Carolina minority students with demonstrated financial need on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. These grants are awarded to African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians and other minority North Carolina residents.

### North Carolina Student Incentive Grant (NCSIG)

College Foundation of North Carolina administers this grant and makes awards based on the following: the student must be a North

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Carolina resident; must be an undergraduate working toward a first baccalaureate degree; must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours, excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) each term, and must have substantial financial need. The FAFSA must be submitted earlier than the February 15 priority deadline in order for a student to have priority consideration for this grant. Students who have earned more than 110% of the hours needed for graduation are not eligible for the North Carolina Incentive Grant.

### **UNC Need-Based Grant (UNCIG)**

College Foundation of North Carolina administers this grant and makes awards based on the following: the student must be a North Carolina resident; must be an undergraduate working toward a first baccalaureate degree; must be enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours, excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) each term and must have substantial financial need. The FAFSA must be submitted earlier than the February 15 priority deadline in order for a student to have priority consideration for this grant. Undergraduate students who are charged a tuition-surcharge are not eligible for the UNC Need-Based Grant.

### **North Carolina Need-Based Grant (NCNB)**

In order to be considered for this grant, a student must be a resident of North Carolina and have exceptional need. This grant may be awarded to undergraduate and graduate students who meet the above requirements and are enrolled for at least 12 credit hours (excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) for an undergraduate and at least 9 credit hours (excluding audit hours) for a graduate student. Students must complete the FAFSA to apply for the NCNB grant.

### **North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship (ELS)**

College Foundation of North Carolina administers this grant and makes awards based on the following: the student must be a North Carolina resident; must be an undergraduate working toward a first baccalaureate degree; must be enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours, excluding audit hours and hours classified as "permit" hours) each term; must meet all federal student eligibility criteria; and must have financial need according to the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) regulations and State Statute. The FAFSA must be submitted earlier than the February 15 priority deadline for priority consideration. Students who have earned more than 110% of the hours needed for graduation are not eligible for the North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship.

### **Education Access Reward North Carolina (EARN)**

College Foundation of North Carolina administers this grant and makes awards based on the following: the student must meet the definition of "Eligible Student" for Title IV aid and must meet the following eligibility requirements: (a) is a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes; (b) is a dependent student or is certified by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services as a ward of the court; (c) attends or plans to attend a post-secondary institution that has executed the EARN Participation Agreement; (d) is seeking a diploma, degree or certification on a full-time basis as an undergraduate student; (e) graduated from a North Carolina high school or home school or received a GED from a North Carolina institution within seven months of the fiscal year in which the grant is first disbursed; (f) is not in default, or does not owe a refund, under any federal or State loan or grant program; and (g) meets all other eligibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant, except the EFC requirement. The student must also certify that the student and family information and financial data are the same as that used for federal aid eligibility determination by the campus.

## **Scholarships**

The Office of Admissions acts as a clearinghouse for merit-based scholarships for incoming students. Currently enrolled students should contact their department, college/school or program of study, or the financial aid office, for information about scholarships available to them. Graduate students should contact the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School to inquire about scholarship opportunities.

Scholarship applications for incoming freshmen and transfer students are available online at [www.firstconnections.appstate.edu](http://www.firstconnections.appstate.edu). Traditionally, the deadline for these scholarships is in mid-November, so incoming students are encouraged to obtain scholarship information early in the fall prior to their enrollment. Applicants for all of these scholarships are expected to provide evidence of superior academic performance; other requirements vary.

Applicants should consult the scholarship web site at [www.admissions.appstate.edu/scholarships/](http://www.admissions.appstate.edu/scholarships/) for more information on specific requirements. In addition, some of the major scholarships are briefly described on the following pages. Questions about these scholarships should be directed to the scholarship coordinator in the specific college/school or to the Office of Admissions, Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32004, Boone, North Carolina 28608-2004, (828) 262-2120.

### **Chancellor's Scholarships**

**(Awarded only to incoming freshmen accepted into the Heltzer Honors Program)** Appalachian State University annually offers a small number of Chancellor's scholarships to excellent students in all majors. Scholarships are renewable for up to three years provided a 3.45 grade-point average is maintained. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of high school achievement, learning aptitude, and a commitment to the active and involved learning promoted in the Heltzer Honors Program. Application is by the

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standard University scholarship application form, which requires an essay, a resume, and two letters of recommendation; finalists are interviewed. During their first two years, Chancellor's Scholars are required to take at least one honors course each semester. Thereafter, they are encouraged to continue to pursue graduation with University honors. They also take the Chancellor's Scholars section of HON 1515 and live in the honors living-learning community in East Hall. For further information, contact Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones, Director of the Heltzer Honors Program at (828) 262-2083.

## College of Arts and Sciences

**College Scholars Program (Available to incoming freshmen and incoming transfer students.)** The College of Arts and Sciences offers scholarships (currently, approximately \$1,000) to students who plan to major in one of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. (See the Table of Contents for a list of departments in this college.) Students must provide evidence of scholastic aptitude, maturity, and quality of character which project a high probability of academic excellence. Application is by the standard University scholarship application form, which requires an essay, a resume, and two letters of recommendation; finalists are interviewed.

Scholarships are typically renewable for three years provided the students maintain a 3.25 grade-point average and funds are available. For further information, contact the Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences, Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32021, Boone, NC 28608-2021.

In addition to the freshmen awards, merit scholarships are available for upper-classmen and specific scholarships for various majors within the college are awarded annually.

**North Carolina Sheriffs' Association Undergraduate Criminal Justice Scholarship** A Criminal Justice scholarship will be awarded annually to a North Carolina resident undergraduate who is majoring in criminal justice. Recipients are chosen by the criminal justice faculty from a list provided by the financial aid office on the basis of academic standing and financial need. First preference is given to a son or daughter of any law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Second preference is given to a son or daughter of any sheriff or deputy sheriff who is deceased, retired (regular or disability) or is currently active in North Carolina law enforcement. Third preference is given to any criminal justice student meeting the academic and financial need criteria. Awards are nonrenewable and stipend may vary annually.

## Walker College of Business

The Walker College of Business offers several scholarships to entering freshmen business students. For all renewable business scholarships, a student must maintain good academic standing to retain the scholarship. In addition to the freshmen awards, other annual scholarships are available to upperclassmen.

The Walker College of Business scholarship committee considers factors such as the SAT score, high school grade-point average, class rank, extracurricular activities, interest in a business career and evidence of leadership and maturity in making its selection for each of the freshmen scholarships. Freshmen finalists will be invited to campus for an interview.

In addition to the freshmen awards, scholarships are available for juniors and seniors. Applicants must be full-time students making satisfactory academic progress towards a degree in business.

Information about these scholarships may be obtained from [www.business.appstate.edu/scholarships/](http://www.business.appstate.edu/scholarships/)

## Reich College of Education

The Reich College of Education offers a limited number of freshman scholarships of \$2,000 to students who plan to major in a teacher education area. Scholarship applicants must provide evidence of scholastic merit, commitment to teaching, potential to be an effective teacher and demonstrated leadership. Recipients are selected by the Reich College Scholarship Committee. Scholarships are renewable for three consecutive years provided a 3.25 grade point average is maintained and a major in a field of education is continued.

In addition to the freshmen awards, scholarships are available for juniors and seniors. Applicants must be full-time students enrolled in a degree program leading to a teacher's license for B-12 schools. A cumulative GPA of 3.25 is required. Recipients must be fully admitted to teacher education.

For further scholarship information, contact the Associate Dean's Office, Reich College of Education, Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32038, Boone, NC 28608-2038, (828) 262-6107; and for information regarding the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program (a four-year scholarship funded by the North Carolina General Assembly), contact the Director of the Teaching Fellows Program at Appalachian State University at (828) 262-2233.

## College of Fine and Applied Arts

The College of Fine and Applied Arts offers scholarships of \$1,000 to incoming freshmen and transfer students majoring in one of the departments in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. The departments are: Art; Communication; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health, Leisure and Exercise Science; Military Science and Leadership; Nursing; Technology; and Theatre and Dance. Recipients must

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be admissible as entering freshmen or transfers and have a minimum high school grade-point average of 3.25; or be in the upper 25 percent of their graduating class, and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1100; or be able to show exceptional performing talent in the disciplines of art, communication, or theatre. Continued eligibility requires the student to maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 and continue to meet defined departmental expectations. The selection committee considers maturity, scholastic and/or creative aptitude, and quality of character which projects a high probability of success in the academic discipline. For further information, contact: Office of Admissions, Scholarship Section, Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32060, Boone, North Carolina 28608-2060.

### Hayes School of Music

The Hayes School of Music offers opportunities for financial aid to music majors. Scholarship contracts are awarded in the spring prior to the academic year in which the scholarship is in effect. Unless stated otherwise, awards are renewable through the eighth semester (including the semester of the student teaching experience or internship) contingent upon the availability of funds. All scholarships may require recipients to participate in two ensembles on their major instruments or voice. A 3.0 GPA in the major and a 2.75 cumulative GPA must be maintained to renew any scholarship. The entrance audition **(REQUIRED FOR ALL MUSIC MAJORS)** serves as an application for a music scholarship.

For further information, contact Dr. Jay Jackson, Coordinator of Scholarships and Recruiting, Hayes School of Music, Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32096, Boone, North Carolina 28608-2096.