

**Financial Aid-Related Informational Web sites:**

Dept. of Education - [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)  
Financial Aid Information page - [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - [www.theccb.state.tx.us](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us)  
Fastweb Scholarship Search - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
Free Scholarship Information Service - [www.freschinfo.com](http://www.freschinfo.com)  
FAFSA on the web & electronic signature request (pin number) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp.- [www.tgslc.org](http://www.tgslc.org)

***Students are responsible for withdrawing from their classes if they do not attend or do not plan on attending. This includes Internet classes.***

**Scholarships Available**

GCC and the GCC Foundation have thousands of scholarship dollars available. Applications are accepted each spring for the next academic year, and are due by mid-March.

The Office of Financial Aid (OFA) is available to help eligible students meet the cost of attending college. The primary responsibility of financing an education rests with students and their families; however, scholarships, grants, loans, work opportunities and other financial benefits are available to students who qualify for these programs.

The level of federal and/or state financial aid provided to students is based upon demonstrated financial need. This is the difference between the reasonable cost of attending college for one year and the estimated family financial contribution, as determined by a review of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Processing time is 6-8 weeks if filing a paper application. GCC encourages students to file and sign their FAFSA electronically. Electronic filing reduces the processing time significantly. Both parent and student must obtain a separate PIN number and sign the FAFSA. Failure to sign the application electronically may delay the processing of your application. It is recommended that the application be completed and the necessary tax returns and other forms be provided to the OFA as early as possible.

Students who have received and accepted an award letter by the following dates will be allowed to use their federal and/or state assistance during early and regular registration:

Fall semester- June 1; Spring semester-October 1; Summer terms-April 1

For more information about requirements, qualifications, application deadlines, required satisfactory progress, pro-rata refunds and applications for all financial aid and scholarships may be obtained in the OFA located in the Administrative Services Building or GCC's website,

[www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu).

***PLEASE NOTE: Each student seeking federal and/or state financial aid must complete the Free Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA) on an annual basis. Grayson County College's school code is 003570.***

GCC's award year for financial aid purposes is fall, spring and summer.

All students applying for federal assistance must submit:

- A SIGNED copy of your and/or your parent's preceding annual year tax return if applicable and copies of the W2's.
- All students will be required to complete a current academic year Verification worksheet. This may be obtained from the OFA or downloaded from GCC's website under Forms.

Disbursement dates for the Federal Pell Grant and/or Federal loans are published each semester on GCC's website.

Students who are transferring hours from another institution or have applied for an Academic Fresh start must ensure the OFA is provided the number of hours accepted by GCC or the number of hours removed by the Admissions office relating to the Academic Fresh Start.

The student must provide this information in writing with their name, social security number and a copy of the transcript by the end of the first semester at GCC. Failure to provide this information may have an adverse affect of the student's financial assistance.

### ***Grant Programs***

• **Federal Pell Grant** - The Federal Pell Grant Program was designed to provide more students the opportunity to attend college. Grants are based upon financial need and are awarded to eligible students enrolled and accepted in an approved GCC degree or certificate program. The length of these grants is generally limited to the time required to complete an undergraduate course of study. Title IV assistance is solely for the classes toward your degree or certificate plan at GCC or that will transfer toward a bachelor's degree at another institution. Students who take classes outside their major at GCC must file and have a 150% hour appeal with the OFA. Failure to follow these procedures may require a student to repay the portion of Title IV received for those classes taken that are not within their degree plan at GCC. OFA Satisfactory Academic Policy for Title IV Assistance (SAP) - The Satisfactory Academic Policy (SAP) for Title IV purposes is different than the academic policy for GCC. SAP for financial aid purposes is provided to each individual student who applies with the OFA and is also available on the website. SAP Academic and Degree Plan Appeals - Students who have applied for either an academic and/or degree plan appeal for Title IV assistance may obtain the instructions and form either online or from the OFA. Once all of the appropriate documentation is received the office has 30 days to review and respond to the request. Special Circumstances for Title IV Assistance – Students wishing to make application for a Special Circumstance may obtain the instructions and form either online or from the OFA. Once the office has received all of the appropriate documentation the office has 30 days to review and respond to the request.

### ***Loan Programs***

#### **• Federal Family Education Loan Programs**

**GCC students must apply and complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN), Entrance and Exit counseling on an annual basis or loan proceeds may be delayed.**

The student loan process:

- Students must complete the FAFSA
- Provide the necessary documents including but not limited to the signed tax return(s) and W2's
- Complete the Loan Application Form and return to the OFA by the priority deadlines for the student loan(s). November 1<sup>st</sup> for fall and April 1<sup>st</sup> for spring.
- Once processed the student will receive an award letter indicating the amount awarded and the directions as to how to access the Loans-by-Web (LBW) to complete the MPN. Note: The student is responsible for mailing the MPN to their lender of choice. If the MPN is mailed or given to the OFA the office will return the MPN to the student asking the student to forward to their lender.

Beginning Fall 2006 regardless of the number of hours a student is taking each semester and as long as a student is taking at least 6 hours GCC students may receive one Subsidized Stafford loan in the amount of \$2,625 and one Unsubsidized Stafford loan in the amount of \$4,000 if they are enrolled in a one-year certificate program while enrolled at GCC. If the student is enrolled in an associates program they may receive two Subsidized Stafford loans in the amount of \$2,625 as a freshman (30 hours or less), \$3,500 as a sophomore (31 hours or more) and two \$4,000 Unsubsidized Stafford loans. GCC's cost of education is lower than most institutions and it is believed this is sufficient for a student to complete their degree. It is the institution's intent for the borrowers not to borrow more than needed and not to become over-burdened in debt.