



General Financial Aid Tips & Information

Financial Aid Basics

- ✓ Apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - It will cover the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms of that award year
 - Becomes available every January 1st
 - Priority Date is May 1st
 - The FAFSA asks questions about the prior tax year.
 - It is best to file your taxes before you fill out your FAFSA to avoid mistakes
 - Grants, Work Study, and Student Loans are all forms of Financial Aid that you may qualify for when you submit a FAFSA
- ✓ Reapply every year – it's free at www.FAFSA.gov
- ✓ TSJC's school code is 001368
- ✓ Eligibility is based on income, family size, how many family members are in college, and more!
- ✓ Utilize outside resources such as www.CollegeInColorado.org for financial literacy and planning
- ✓ After the FAFSA is submitted, periodically review your Portal to see if any additional documents are needed, this could take 1-2 weeks
- ✓ If you are not admitted to TSJC, your residency has not been established and/or you are not in an eligible degree or certificate program your financial aid cannot be processed.
- ✓ Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have any questions

Alternatives to Borrowing Loans

- ✓ Consider a part time job or seek work study positions
 - Work Study is a financial aid program designed to assist students with employment opportunities on campus. Complete the Work Study Interest Form on the Trinidad State website. Please contact the financial aid office at 719-846-5017 for further information
- ✓ Make a budget and stick to it
- ✓ Search for scholarships
- ✓ Meet the FAFSA priority date each year to maximize chances of grants and work study funds
- ✓ If you are a Colorado resident, make sure to apply for and "authorize" your COF stipend (College Opportunity Fund) <https://cof.college-assist.org/>

Things to Keep in Mind Each Term

- ✓ SAP Policy - Satisfactory Academic Progress:
 - Minimum 2.0 GPA or above and 67% Cumulative Completion Rate, and finish within 150% of your program length (*example: 60 credit AA program must be completed by the time 90 credits are attempted*)
 - Financial Aid checks SAP standing at the end of each term – notification information is available on your Portal under the Student Finance Tab
- ✓ Enrollment status may impact eligibility for financial aid. This includes non-attendance, dropping, adding, withdrawing or receiving an 'Incomplete' from a course(s)
- ✓ Contact the Financial Aid Office if you anticipate scheduling changes to determine the impact on your financial aid
- ✓ Frequently monitor your Portal under the Student Finance tab for updated information

When You Graduate or Transfer or are No Longer Attending 6.0 or More Credit Hours

- ✓ Complete Exit Counseling if you borrowed a Federal Stafford loan
- ✓ Notify TSJC Financial Aid Office if aid for a specific term needs to be canceled
- ✓ Utilize the National Student Loan Data System (www.nslds.ed.gov) to view your grant/loan history, enrollment and contact information, and more!
- ✓ Loans may temporarily enter six month grace period if you have gap in enrollment – contact your servicer!

Information for Transferring Students

- ✓ Add your new school's code to the active FAFSA if transferring during the current award year

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