



Frequently Asked Financial Aid Questions

<p>How must I be admitted to SMCC in order to be considered for financial aid?</p>	<p>The student admit status requirement in order to be considered for financial aid: (1) must have high school diploma, GED or pass with specific scores the Ability to Benefit Test (ATB) in the Testing Center AND (2) Be admitted to an approved degree seeking program, transfer program or certificate program. Students taking courses just for interest are not federal student aid eligible. Also, the two currently ineligible pgms include the Basic Behavioral Health program and the Networking Admin: CISCO pgm.</p>
<p>How do I apply for financial aid and general scholarships?</p>	<p>Apply electronically @ www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you have a PIN number use it. If you do not have a PIN obtain one at www.pin.ed.gov. If you fill out the FAFSA without a PIN, you must print and mail the signature page to complete the process. For scholarship info go to the Financial Aid pages of: www.southmountaincc.edu</p>
<p>What is SMCC's Federal School Code?</p>	<p>SMCC Federal School Code is 015001</p>
<p>When is the Financial Aid Application due?</p>	<p>Priority is given to students who apply by March 15th.</p>
<p>What does financial aid cover?</p>	<p>If eligible, financial aid covers tuition, books, living expenses and other education related expenses.</p>
<p>What type of aid is available?</p>	<p>Grants (free gift aid), Scholarships, Work-Study & Loans</p>
<p>How is aid awarded?</p>	<p>The most recently completed financial aid files in an award year are processed through a packaging program that automatically packages students with aid they are eligible for with the exception of loans and work-study. must come to the Aid Office to inquire on these two programs.</p>
<p>How long does it take for me to find out if I am eligible?</p>	<p>The electronic application process takes 1–2 weeks (or sooner) for SMCC to process your information & file</p>
<p>Do I need to be a U. S. Citizen?</p>	<p>A student has to be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen for federal and institutional student aid. Some private donor scholarship dollars are open to all students regardless of citizenship. Check the college scholarship web page for more information.</p>
<p>Are loans available?</p>	<p>Yes, SMCC participates in the Federal Family Educational Loan Program. Visit the website: www.southmountaincc.edu for loan limits in the financial aid section. Interest rate is fixed at 6% for Federal Stafford Loans. Pick up the '3 Steps to a Loan' process at the Aid Office or on the school website. Freshmen dependent students may borrow up to \$5500 depending on need; freshmen independent students, \$9500, depending on need; sophomore dependent students may borrow \$6500, depending on need; sophomore independent students, \$10,500 depending on need.</p>
<p>Do you have an emergency student loan program?</p>	<p>No. We no longer have an emergency student loan program. Students are encouraged to budget accordingly due to later disbursement of funds after the start of each semester.</p>

What if I'm eighteen years old and have moved out with friends, do I still need my parent's income?	The U.S. Dept. of Education requires parental income if you are under 24 years of age w/no dependents or other 'independent' deeming circumstances.
What if I have a child but I do not support him/her?	You are still considered a dependent of your parents.
What if I don't file taxes?	You need to prove how you supported yourself or what income you did earn but chose not to file on.
What can I do if I do not qualify for a Federal Pell Grant?	You can apply for the institutional Financially Needy Opportunity Grant at the Aid Office which opens May 1 st of every year. Funds are limited so apply early. Also, you may set up a tuition payment plan through E-Cashiering on the web pages or apply for a low interest student loan. Utilize the '3 Steps to a Loan' process on our web pages for a loan.
Is there part-time work available on campus?	Yes. There are a limited number of positions available under the federal and institutional work-study program. Inquire in Career Services.
How do I apply for Federal Stafford Loan Program and how much loan can I get?	Your FAFSA for the current year must be completed before you can apply for a loan and you must be enrolled in 6 credits or more. See "3 Steps to a Student Loan" at the Financial Aid counter or on the website, financial aid section. Loan limits vary. Visit the Financial aid website or pick up loan information at the Aid Office.
What happens to my student loans if I withdraw completely from school before graduating?	Student loans are deferred as long as you are enrolled in 6 credits or more. If you drop below 6 credit hours, your loans will go into repayment within 6 months. If you fail to maintain payment schedules, your loans will go into default status and eligibility for any future federal aid will cease.
Is there a tuition payment plan?	Yes, it is called E-Cashiering. You or your parents must have a bank account from which the payments will be debited. The earlier you apply for this plan, the longer timeframe you have to pay (5 month payment plan).
What if I want to attend another college in the spring semester? How does that college obtain my FAFSA information?	Call Central Processing at 1-800-433-3243. You must have your DRN (Data Release Number) from your Student Aid Report front page to add a college.
Do I need to register with Selective Service?	Men who are from age 18 through 25 are required to register with the Selective Service System. You can register at any local post office or online at: http://www.sss.gov/regist.htm or by answering 'yes' on the FAFSA question #22.
What if I'm past the age of 25 and did not register with Selective Service?	You need to speak with a FAO and fill out the Status Information Packet.
What if I want to take some courses at SMCC and at another college?	A consortium agreement may allow you to do this. Pick this form up at the Financial Aid Office.
How will my aid be disbursed?	Balance of funds (beyond debited tuition and books) is mailed typically 2 weeks after the start of the semester (with the exception of student loans which require delayed disbursement for freshmen).
What if I pick up my financial aid and then subsequently withdraw from a course or withdraw completely?	If you withdraw from enrolled courses, you may be required to repay all or partial federal funds . If tuition was paid with federal fund and a student withdraws, any tuition refunds will be returned to the federal student aid fund, not the student. The student may also be billed for any federal repayments required.
Why is Satisfactory Academic Progress important?	Students on federal aid are required to complete 2/3 of credits attempted during academic year. If students fall short of this requirement, they may be suspended or placed on FA probation. Students may appeal.