FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid Program

The goal of the financial aid program is to help remove the economic barriers to higher education for all individuals in our community. Trinity College attempts to provide financial assistance for students through scholarships, grants, loans, veteran’s certification, and federal work study, or in various combinations. Financial Aid information is also described on the College website at www.trinitycollegeqc.edu. The Financial Aid Office is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also call 309-779-7740 for assistance.

Financial Aid is the available federal, state and/or scholarship funding that a student may receive to be used toward educational expenses. Financial aid is not intended to cover a student’s total educational expense. However it is intended to act as a supplement to the family’s contribution to the student’s education expenses. Educational expenses are considered the responsibility of the student and, if dependent, their parents. All questions and concerns should be directed to the Financial Aid Specialist in Student Services.

Application Procedure

Students interested in receiving financial assistance must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Online applications can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. A completed FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), and the Illinois Monetary Award Grant (MAP). Students will need to enter the institutional code for Trinity College (006225). Also, if eligible, a student may receive funding from the Veterans Administration, the Nursing Student Loan Program, and Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences Scholarships.

A Student Aid Report (SAR) will be sent to the student via US mail or Email. The SAR should be reviewed for any updates or corrections. Changes can be made by submitting them on the FAFSA website. If any additional documentation is needed, the College Financial Aid Specialist will contact the student via My Pulse through the College website and/or through email. Once all required paperwork is received, a financial aid award letter will be created by the College and made available via My Pulse through the College website. The award letter outlines the types and amounts of assistance that the student may receive for the academic year.

PRIMARY CONSIDERATION FOR ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED ALL REQUIRED FORMS TO STUDENT SERVICES ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 of each year. Files completed after this date will be considered based on the availability of funds.

Student Classification for Financial Aid Purposes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Number of Semester Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>0-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>30-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>60-89 (BSN Students Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>90 &amp; above (BSN Students Only)</td>
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Student Reporting Responsibility

1. The student must report any funds received from outside sources such as scholarships, tuition assistance, and military benefits. These funds are part of the overall financial aid package.
2. Any change in enrollment status must also be reported (e.g. full vs. part-time). The financial assistance package will be revised in accordance with the awarding guidelines.
3. The student must respond to any requests for information that is sent by Trinity College. Failure to comply with such requests will delay processing of the student’s financial aid award.
Renewal of Financial Aid Awards

Financial Aid is not renewed automatically from one year to the next. The student must complete a FAFSA or renewal application every year if the student wishes to be considered for financial aid. The student’s eligibility will be evaluated for demonstrated financial need and for satisfactory academic progress according to College policy.

Return of Federal Financial Aid

If a student completely withdraws during the semester after federal financial aid payment has been received, the student may be required to return a portion of the federal financial aid awarded. The federal aid formula requires a return of funds if the student received assistance from the Pell Grant, Supplemental Grant, or Federal Direct Loan and withdrew on or before completing 60% of the semester. The calculation is based on the percentage of the semester completed. The portion of federal aid to be returned is equal to the number of days remaining in the semester divided by the total number of calendar days in the semester. Sample calculation and a complete explanation of this policy is available in Student Services. This information is discussed during the exit interview with the Financial Aid Specialist.

Last Day of Attendance Policy

Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences complies with all Department of Education (DOE) rules and regulations in regard to the Last Day of Attendance (LDA) reporting for an institution that is not required to take attendance.

A student withdrawing from Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences must secure a signed College Withdrawal Form from the Faculty Advisor in order to “officially withdraw”. The official withdrawal date will be determined by the Financial Aid Specialist.

A student withdrawing from Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences who fails to notify the College and does not complete the withdrawal process is considered an “unofficial withdrawal” and will be dropped from all coursework and withdrawn from the College as determined by the College. The last day of attendance is determined in compliance with federal regulations. Either the date at which Trinity College becomes aware of the student’s withdrawal, or the mid-point of the term, whichever is earliest.

Any student who fails to register for classes prior to the start of a semester will be considered to have withdrawn from the College. The last day of attendance will be reported as the last academic day of the preceding semester.

Students who withdraw and have financial aid (including loans) must complete an exit interview with the Financial Aid Specialist. Exit material will be mailed to “unofficial withdrawals” for completion.

Enrollment and Eligibility

Following are the enrollment requirements for the various aid programs. If a student changes enrollment after the aid is awarded, the aid may be adjusted.

- Enrollment level (three credits or higher) – Pell Grant, SEOG and Illinois State Grant (MAP)
- At least half-time (6 credits per semester) – Federal Direct Loans, Plus Loans, GradPLUS Loans
- Full-time (12 credits or more per semester) – Trinity College Scholarships and Grants

Verification

Selection for verification is determined by the U.S. Department of Education. Students will receive a message on their FAFSA results known as a Student Aid Report (SAR) indicating the selection. Students must submit a signed and complete verification worksheet and any appropriate tax transcript. The FAFSA IRS tax retrieval tool may be used in lieu of the tax transcript. Verification must be complete before any financial aid or state need-based aid can be disbursed. Documents must be submitted by the beginning of the semester. Failure to complete the verification process may result in loss of aid and an administrative withdrawal.
Revisions of Aid Packages
The Financial Aid Office has the right to revise financial aid packages according to federal, state, and institutional policies and regulations. Aid awards will be revised when there are changes in originally reported information or when additional scholarships are received.

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid
Students must meet satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving financial aid. Reviews are completed at the end of semester. Students who are academically suspended in any academic term (summer, fall or spring) will have their financial aid suspended.

Quantitative
Students must complete registered coursework at the end of each year at a 67% pass rate. All courses attempted are considered in this calculation. They include letter grades, pass/fail, withdrawn, repeated courses, incompletes and hours transferred in from other schools as determined by the Registrar’s Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled Semester Hours</th>
<th>Minimum Semester Hours That Must Be Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 or more (full time)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 11 (three quarter time)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 8 (half time)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 (less than half time)</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
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Students must also meet the following cumulative grade point average (GPA) requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Progress</th>
<th>GPA Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 12</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 24</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 or more</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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A student who falls below these minimums will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester (no appeal is required). If the student fails to make Satisfactory Academic Performance (SAP) by the end of the warning period, they will have their financial aid suspended.

The quantitative and qualitative standards used to judge academic progress include all periods of the student’s enrollment, even periods in which the student did not receive FSA funds.

Financial Aid Appeals
Students may appeal a financial aid suspension for mitigating circumstances. These appeals will be reviewed by the Financial Aid committee. The student must document, in writing, the unusual situation and provide an academic plan to demonstrate future success.

If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on probation for one semester. If the student passes all of the registered coursework and maintains a 2.00 grade point average for that semester, the student can stay on probation for the next semester.

Students who fail to pass all courses for the probationary semester and do not meet the grade point average requirement for the hours taken, will be ineligible for additional financial aid until they can reestablish their eligibility by meeting the required satisfactory academic progress criteria.
Federal and State Grants
Grants are considered gift aid; students are not required to repay them after completing their program of study. There are several types of federal and state grants. The Pell Grant and Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) are grants funded by the federal government.

The State of Illinois funds the Illinois Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) grant. Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences is an Illinois higher learning institution. State of Iowa grant programs do not apply.

Grants are awarded based on need as determined by the expected family contribution (EFC) of the FAFSA.

Federal Loans
Federal loans offered through Trinity College include the Federal Direct Loan Programs, the Federal Nursing Student Loan Program, and Federal Direct Parent Plus. Students and families may also apply for alternative consumer educational loan programs available from a variety of lending institutions. These loans have varying interest rates and repayment terms. The Financial Aid Office in Student Services will certify an alternative loan based on the student’s cost of education minus other financial aid the student receives.

Veteran Educational Benefits
Trinity College is veteran approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs for education programs including the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 Bill. Applications for VA benefits should be made to the VA Regional Office in St. Louis, MO. Certification of veterans for educational benefits will be processed by the Financial Aid Office.

To find out more about VA benefits, you may contact the VA at 888-442-4551 or visit their website at www.gibill.va.gov/. Additional information about the application for admission to Trinity College, financial aid and registration procedures can be found on the Trinity College website at www.trinitycollegeqc.edu.

Department of Defense
The Department of Defense announces the launch of the Postsecondary Education Complaint System which will provide a centralized online reporting system for service members and their families to use in reporting problems with education institutions. Agency partners including the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Education are also launching online feedback tools providing a centralized system for veterans, service members and eligible family members to file student complaints.

Students can submit a complaint if they believe their school is failing to follow the Principles of Excellence through the centralized online reporting system accessed via the Department of Defense website. Examples of education-related issues may include, but are not limited to, misrepresentation or deceptive actions with regards to private or institutional loans, high-pressure recruitment tactics, false representations about degree programs, and misleading statements regarding accreditation.

The complaint system is part of the President’s Executive Order establishing Principles of Excellence for educational institutions serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and other Family Members; designed to empower beneficiaries to report experiences related to misleading or unfair acts or practices by educational institutions serving veterans, service members and their families.

Military-connected students using Tuition Assistance (TA) or Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) Scholarships can submit feedback at: www.militaryonesource.mil/voluntary-education/complaint. Once a complaint is received, agency staff will contact both the student submitting the complaint as well as the referenced school, working with both parties to fully understand the issue raised and seek resolution.
Trinity College Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on the Trinity College website at www.trinitycollegeqc.edu. Scholarship application deadlines vary each semester. Please check the website for specific dates. Scholarship applications are reviewed by the College Scholarship Committee and awards are made based on student match with scholarship criteria and funding availability. Students must be enrolled to apply. Scholarship awards are to be applied directly toward tuition. Contact Student Services for additional information.

Dean's Scholarship

The Dean’s Scholarship is awarded to the top ranking incoming student for each academic program. To be considered for this scholarship, students must exhibit evidence of outstanding academic achievement for either high school or college coursework. The selection committee for each academic program selects the recipients of the Dean’s Scholarship.

Alumni Scholarships

The Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences Alumni Association awards scholarships to currently enrolled first or second year nursing or health sciences. Awards will be determined by academic performance and career and educational goals. Applicants must be a current member in the Alumni Association if completing an advanced degree. Please check the website for specific dates, criteria and application. Contact Student Services for additional information.

Outside Scholarships

Unless otherwise specified by the donor or organization, outside gift aid will replace existing self-help aid. Recipients of outside financial aid awards are required to submit to the Trinity College Financial Aid Office notification of any outside awards as soon as possible. Acceptable documentation will include a letter from the organization or donor that specifies the terms of the scholarship, total dollar amount, and renewal information.

Resources

For additional information on financial aid please go to the college website at www.trinitycollegeqc.edu. Required forms and loan applications are also available on the website.
ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation

All matriculating students are required to complete the College orientation. Orientation is held on or prior to the first official day of class. Students will be notified by mail of the orientation date. Students who miss orientation must make arrangements with Student Services to receive the necessary information.

Orientation is intended to provide students with needed information to assist in the transition to college life and their academic program. Students are provided basic and specific information regarding:

- Annual campus security report
- Emergency response information
- Evacuation procedures
- Drug and alcohol abuse information
- Violence Against Women Act Prevention and Awareness

Specific policies are reviewed, which require student signatures. Students are also introduced to faculty and staff as well as safety and security officers.