



Adult & Continuing Education Center

at York County School of Technology

Education That Pays

Financial Aid Student Handbook 2025-2026

www.ytech.edu

www.educationthatpays.com

Mission/Accreditation

Institutional Mission

The York County School of Technology is dedicated to providing a program of high quality, cutting-edge technical training integrated with a strong academic education and an emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and team-building skills.

Adult & Continuing Education Center Mission

To provide quality adult vocational, technical and basic skills education, training and services in a professional, customer-focused atmosphere that fosters continuous learning and promotes workforce development.

Institutional Accreditation

The Adult & Continuing Education Center at York County School of Technology is accredited by the PA State Board of Education, Bureau of Career & Technical Education.

This accreditation certifies that our programs, policies and procedures meet the high standards set by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education.

Practical Nursing Program Accreditation

The York County School of Technology's Practical Nursing Program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. It is an 11 month (1540 hours) program leading to the opportunity to complete the National Council Licensing Exam - PN (NCLEX-PN) and be a licensed Practical Nurse in PA.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The York County School of Technology will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability or because a person is a disabled veteran of the Vietnam era, in its admissions, educational programs, activities or employment policies. Publication of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and any other applicable federal or state regulations. Direct inquiries to the ADA/Title 6, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, York County School of Technology, 2179 South Queen Street, York, PA 17402-4696 (717) 741-0820

La Escuela de Tecnología del Condado de York no discrimina en base de la raza, color, origen nacional, etnicidad, religión, edad, sexo, orientación sexual, o discapacidad o porque la persona sea un veterano discapacitado de la era de Vietnam, en su proceso de admisión, programas educacionales, actividades o prácticas de empleo. La publicación de ésta política es en concordancia con las leyes estatales y federales, incluyendo el Acto de Americanos con Disabilidades, Título 6, Título IX del Acto de Amendación Educacional de 1972 y Sección 504 del Acto de Rehabilitación de 1973 y cualquier otra ley federal y estatal. Preguntas deben ser dirigidas a: Coordinador de ADA/ Título 6, Título IX y Sección 503/504, York County School of Technology, 2179 South Queen Street, York, PA 17402-4696 (717) 741-0820

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Application Process	5
Eligibility and Financial Need Determination	6
Program Eligibility	6
Student Eligibility	6
Citizenship Requirements	7
Default / Overpayment Requirements	7
How Financial Need is Determined.....	8
Satisfactory Academic Progress	9
Academic Year Definition.....	11
Advanced Placement	12
Grade Level Advancement	12
Repeated Course Work	12
Verification Policy	12
Federal Pell Grant.....	13
Federal Loans.....	13
Federal Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling.....	13
Federal Stafford Loan Exit Counseling	14
Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program	14
Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans).....	14
Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan).....	15
Federal Parent PLUS Loan	15
Loan Limits.....	15
Loan Limits for Transfer Students.....	16
Loan Cancellation	16
Alternative Loans	16
Textbook Credit Balance Refunds	16
Disbursement Policy	17
Overpayment of Federal Student Aid.....	17
Credit Balance Refunds	18
Title IV Refund Policy.....	19
Policies For Veterans Receiving Educational Assistance Allowance.....	20
Finding Scholarships	21
Scholarship Scams	22
National Scholarship Databases.....	22
Frequently Asked Questions	23
Payment Policy	29

Contact Information

Application to Complete	Web Site Address	Technical Support
FAFSA Application Loan Entrance Counseling Loan Exit Counseling Direct Stafford Loan Application Direct PLUS Loan Pre-approval Direct PLUS Loan Application	www.studentaid.gov	800-433-3243

Office to call	For questions regarding:	Email	Phone
Financial Aid Coordinator	Financial Aid Packaging/Disbursing	Jessica Klufkee jklufkee@lancasterctc.edu	717-464-7050 ext. 7101
Practical Nursing	Admissions, Billing, Payments & Credit Balance Refunds	Vickie Hake vhake@ytech.edu	717-747-2135
Adult Education	Admissions	Alexis John ajohn@ytech.edu	717-747-2130 Ext 5512
	Billing, Payments, & Credit Balance Refunds	Tawney Hensley thensley@ytech.edu	717-741-0820 Ext 5506

Agency to call	For questions regarding:	Phone
IRS	Tax Transcripts	800-829-1040 www.irs.gov
Social Security Administration	Correction of Social Security discrepancies.	717-299-5261 www.ssa.gov
Federal Student Aid History	Information on all of your Title IV Funding	https://studentaid.gov/

Financial Aid Application Process

Students are required to complete their financial aid applications on-line. The school cannot determine your financial aid eligibility until your financial aid applications have been processed and verified if required, so, it is important to complete your applications **as early as possible**. Some FAFSA applications are flagged for a process called verification. If your application is flagged, additional information will be required by our office. You will be notified in writing of what documentation is needed and no financial aid will be processed until it is received and verified. Once you have completed and submitted your financial aid applications AND the Office of Financial Aid has received all required paperwork from you, our office will have everything required to determine your financial aid eligibility.

Before you begin completing the FAFSA® application, you will need to Create an FSA ID. We recommend that you complete this step and wait for your FSA ID to be verified prior to submitting your FAFSA®. You and all FAFSA® contributors to your application must have an FSA ID to sign the form online. If you, or your contributors, don't have an FSA ID, each must create their own FSA ID online at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>.

Listed below are a few of the data items you will need in order to complete this application. You will be notified in writing if your application is flagged for verification.

- ☐ Social Security Number. Each contributor to your application will need to provide their SSN.
- ☐ Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. Citizen, but are an eligible non-citizen.
- ☐ Asset information.
 - Most assets are investments such as college savings plans, Coverdell education savings accounts, real estate, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), trust funds, mutual funds, money market funds, Uniform Gifts and Uniform Transfers to Minors (UGMA and UTMA) accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, commodities, and precious metals. If the asset isn't a business or farm, it is reported as an investment.
 - The following are **excluded** assets and should not be reported on the FAFSA® form: Possessions such as a car for personal use, a sound system, clothes, or furniture; a family's principal place of residence, even if it is part of a business or farm property; retirement and life insurance plans and ABLE accounts.
- ☐ Amount of Child Support **Received** in the last completed calendar year.
- ☐ Federal benefits received at any time in 2023 or 2024 such as SSI, Federal Housing, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, WIC, etc.
- ☐ Your current family size if it differs from your 2023 federal tax exemptions.
- ☐ **School Code –Your school code is located at the top of this letter.**

1. **Create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) on-line at studentaid.gov.**
 - a. At the top right side of the screen, click "Create Account" and then click "Get Started."
2. **Complete the 25-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) on-line at studentaid.gov.**
 - a. At the top of the page click "FAFSA® Form," select "Complete the FAFSA® Form" and then select "Start New Form."
 - b. **Tips for completing your application can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/articles/steps-to-complete-fafsa-form/>.**

****You must complete a FAFSA® application in order to receive any federal assistance be it a Pell grant or a Federal Student loan that must be repaid. This FAFSA® application step cannot be omitted.**
3. **Complete Loan Entrance Counseling on-line at studentaid.gov.**
 - a. At the top of the screen, click "Loans and Grants" and in the first column select "Loan Entrance Counseling." Be sure to log in as an Undergraduate Student by selecting "Log in to start" in the "I am an Undergraduate Student" section. Use your FSA ID information to log in and then follow the instructions on the screen.
4. **Complete a Master Promissory Note on-line at studentaid.gov.**
 - a. At the top of the screen, click "Loans and Grants" and in the first column select "Master Promissory Note." Be sure to log in as an Undergraduate Student by selecting "Log in to start" in the "I am an Undergraduate Student" section. Use your FSA ID information to log in and then follow the instructions on the screen.

FINANCIAL AID

The administration and faculty of the York County School of Technology believes that education is a family investment. Therefore, the primary responsibility for financing a student's education rests with the student and the student's family. Financial aid is intended to supplement, not replace, a family's resources. The Office of Financial Aid at the York County School of Technology strives to assist qualified students needing financial assistance in obtaining aid to meet the economic responsibilities to attend school. This assistance includes counseling students to understand the financial expenses of attending school, informing students of the kinds of aid available and how to apply, and assisting students with the application process. The application process that outlines the steps needed to apply for aid are located at the end of this handbook.

Eligibility and Financial Need Determination

Program Eligibility

York County School of Technology participates in various federal, state and local financial aid programs. The purpose of financial aid is to provide assistance to students of financial need who, without financial aid, would be unable to pursue an education. Listed below are the Financial Aid resources available to students who qualify.

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
 - Subsidized Stafford Loan
 - Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
 - Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- PHEAA Special Programs Grants (PA Tip, CHAFEE, MFEP, EAP)
- Veteran's Education Assistance (1-888-442-4551)
- York County CareerLink
 - WIOA / ITA – (717) 767-7600
 - TRA / TAA – (717) 767-7600
- Your Local County CareerLink Offices
 - WIOA / ITA funds
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (717) 771-4407

Student Eligibility

Each applicant for Federal Financial Assistance must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for processing. The FAFSA application is available on-line at www.studentaid.gov. It can be completed on-line or a paper copy can be downloaded from the www.studentaid.gov website by selecting the FAFSA Filing Options located on the homepage or obtained by contacting the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243. Students attending a program that crosses over into the new award year which begins July 1 of each year are most often required to complete a renewal application annually.

Financial Aid recipients must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements in addition to demonstrating need.

- Have a high school diploma, or a state-recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, be home schooled in a setting that meets state law, or be enrolled in an eligible career pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-to-benefit" alternatives;
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- Demonstrate financial need for need-based federal student aid programs;
- Have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- Be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Direct Loan Program funds;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress which includes meeting required attendance in non-degree programs;
- Provide consent and approval to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®); and
- Sign the certification statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form stating that you're not in default on a federal student loan, you do not owe money on a federal student grant, and you'll only use federal student aid for educational purposes.

Citizenship Requirements

1. In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, the student must be one of the following:
 - a. U.S. citizen
 - b. U.S. national (including natives of American Samoa or Swain's Island)
 - c. [U.S. permanent resident](#) with a Form I-551 or I-151 (Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card), also known as a "green card."
2. The student must have an [Arrival-Departure Record \(I-94 Form\)](#) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) showing one of the following designations:
 - a. Refugee
 - b. Asylum Granted
 - c. Conditional Resident Alien
 - d. Cuban-Haitian Entrant
 - e. Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
 - f. Parolee (you must be paroled for at least one year, and you must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or permanent resident)
 - g. Modified parole requirements for
 - i. Ukrainian citizens & nationals paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022, and Sept. 30, 2023
 - ii. Afghan citizens & nationals paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2023
3. You hold a T nonimmigrant status ("[T-visa](#)") (for victims of human trafficking) or your parent holds a [T-1 nonimmigrant status](#). Your college or career school's financial aid office will ask to see your visa (and/or certification letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if you have a T-1 visa).*
4. You are a "[battered immigrant-qualified alien](#)" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the *Violence Against Women Act*.*
5. You are a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau. If this is the case, you may be eligible for only certain types of federal student aid:
 - a. Citizens of the Republic of Palau are eligible for [Federal Pell Grants](#), [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants](#), and [Federal Work-Study](#).
 - b. Citizens of the Federal States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are eligible for Federal Pell Grants only.

**To qualify for federal student aid, certain eligible noncitizens must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Students **NOT** eligible for federal financial aid are those who:

- have a Permanent residence status that has expired;
- hold only a Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (I-171 or I-464);
- hold only Employment authorization documents (Form I-766, EAD);
- excluding students who have a Form I-94 with an eligible endorsement, have a ineligible nonimmigrant visa categories including, but are not limited to:
 - F-1, F-2, or M-1 Student Visas;
 - NATO Visas (NATO);
 - A2 and A3 Visas (foreign official, including attendants);
 - B-1 or B-2 Visitor Visas;
 - J-1 or J-2 Exchange Visitors Visas;
 - H series or L series Visas (which allow temporary employment in the U.S.); or
 - G series Visas (pertaining to international organizations).
- hold Form I-817, Application or approval for Family Unity Benefits;
- are temporary residents allowed to live and work in the U.S. under the Legalization or Special Agricultural Worker program;
- are Illegal aliens under the legalization (also called the amnesty) program established by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA);
- hold an approval notice or EAD forms stamped with "Temporary Protected Status";
- are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA);
- hold withholding of removal or deferral of removal orders;
- are U nonimmigrants or U-Visa holders unless documentation Form I-797 reflects approval of Form I-485;
- hold a Form I-797C, Notice of Action;
- Hold an Advance Parole document;
- are undocumented.

Default / Overpayment Requirements

Students who are in default on a previous student loan or owe an overpayment to the U.S. Department of Education must resolve the default or overpayment prior to being eligible to receive aid.

How Financial Need is Determined

The Office of Financial Aid encourages all students to file the FAFSA. Excluding the Direct PLUS Loan, the FAFSA is used to determine what sources and amount of aid you are eligible to receive through the Student Financial Aid programs.

Financial need is determined using the student's and parents' (if applicable) financial information specified on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), if you applied for aid last year. (The application was created to determine the student's need for the Federal financial aid programs. The YCST also uses this information in awarding need-based financial aid from state, institutional, and private funding sources.) Frequently asked questions regarding parent information that must be included on the FAFSA are in the Frequently Asked Questions section of this handbook.

The information you provide on the FAFSA is processed using a formula, established by the U.S. Congress that calculates your Student Aid Index (SAI), which is an eligibility index number that our school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attended our school. *Please note: The outstanding balance of your bill and the federal student aid you receive may differ. You are responsible for the outstanding balance.* The federal processor will send an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary. The federal processor also electronically transmits the analysis of the data you submitted to each of the institutions you specified on the FAFSA.

Each school determines how much it will cost for you to attend school, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation expenses. This is called your Total Cost of Attendance or Total Cost of Education and is unique to each school to which you apply. This is one reason you may be eligible for more financial aid at one school than another--it may cost more to attend another school. The Total Cost of Attendance at the YCST is based upon research done to review the costs annually to ensure that they are realistic.

To determine your financial need, your student aid index is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance as shown in the example provided below. **Cost of Attendance (COA) – Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need**

Example: Janice is a Pennsylvania Resident who is entering her first year of school. She filed her FAFSA using her and her parents' information, since she is a dependent student. When she received her FAFSA Submission Summary, the SAI was listed at \$5,782. We determine her financial need by the following figures:

Cost of Attendance (In-State, Undergrad, Off campus)	\$12,784
- Student Aid Index (SAI)	- 5,782
= Financial Need	\$7,002

Professional Judgment

Although the process of determining your financial aid eligibility is basically the same for all applicants, there is some flexibility in specific circumstances. If your family experiences a change in income due to an unusual circumstance (loss of job or reduction in hours, separation or divorce, death in the immediate family) contact the Office of Financial Aid regarding your situation. It may be possible to reevaluate your financial aid eligibility.

If your family has high unreimbursed medical expenses or pays private school tuition for elementary or secondary school (K-12), your financial aid eligibility may be re-evaluated. If you feel you have any special circumstances that might affect the amount you and your family are expected to contribute, be sure to contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Students requesting special circumstances are required to complete the Verification Process prior to being eligible to have their application reviewed. See the Verification section of this handbook for additional information.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal and state regulations require that students receiving financial aid be enrolled in an eligible program for the purpose of obtaining a certificate or diploma. An eligible program is defined as a program leading to a vocational certificate or diploma that meets federal criteria. Financial aid recipients are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to remain eligible to receive federal financial aid and are responsible for making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their program. The following sections outline the standards by which student progress will be measured. Three categories of academic progress are evaluated at the end of each payment period to determine Satisfactory Academic Progress; 1) Grades, 2) number of clock hours and weeks completed, and 3) maximum timeframe to complete the program of study. Federal regulations require that this policy apply to all students whether or not financial aid is received.

Students enrolled in Certificate or Diploma, Clock-hour programs will have their progress reviewed at the end of each scheduled payment period. Certificate and Diploma programs' payment period consists of one half of the scheduled hours and weeks in a complete academic year (see Academic Year Definition section of this handbook).

It is the responsibility of the student to stay informed of YCST's SAP standards and to monitor their own progress. Students who fail to meet one or more of the SAP standards will have their financial aid assistance either delayed or cancelled and may be required to repay all or part of the funds received.

Satisfactory progress definitions

Appeal—A process by which a student who is not meeting SAP standards could petition the school for reconsideration of his eligibility for FSA funds. *Students attending clock-hour programs are required by law to successfully complete all clock hours in a payment period and are therefore ineligible to appeal a delay in financial aid disbursements. If a student does not meet both the qualitative and quantitative standards, the school must delay all aid until the hours are successfully completed.*

Financial aid probation—A status a school assigns to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress and who successfully appeals. Eligibility for aid may be reinstated for one payment period. *Students attending clock-hour programs are required by law to successfully complete all clock hours in a payment period and are therefore ineligible to appeal a delay in financial aid disbursements.. If a student does not meet both the qualitative and quantitative standards, the school must delay all aid until the hours are successfully completed.*

Financial aid warning—A status the school assigns to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress. The school delays all aid eligibility for the subsequent payment period and may do so without a student appeal. Notification of the warning status and delay of aid is provided to the student in writing.

Maximum timeframe

For an undergraduate program measured in clock hours, a period no longer than 150 percent of the published length of the program as measured by the cumulative number of clock hours the student is required to complete and expressed in calendar time. (Note that a student in a clock hour program cannot receive aid for hours beyond those in the program; the maximum timeframe applies to the amount of calendar time the student takes to complete those hours.)

Academic / Attendance requirements:

Qualitative standard

A measurement of academic achievement must be maintained in order to receive financial aid. This measurement of achievement is defined as:

Qualitative Requirement: Student must maintain a grade of 70% or higher in the work defined by the course guidelines and for the career & technical clock hour (certificate or diploma) programs. Due to program accreditation or industry standards, some programs have academic progress standards (grades/attendance) that supersede the above minimum standards. Students must consult their program Student Handbook for academic progress standards.

For the purpose of this policy, grades of "A = 90% - 100%", "B = 80% to 89%", and "C = 70% to 79%" are considered making satisfactory academic progress.

Grades of “D = 60% to 69%”, “F = 0% to 59%” and “W = Withdraw” are considered not making satisfactory academic progress. Students cannot withdraw from courses within the clock-hour program. When a student withdraws, they are withdrawn from the program and the school.

Quantitative standard

Completion Rate (CR) is a measurement of progress towards completion of a program in a timely manner.

$CR = \text{Cumulative number of hours successfully completed} / \text{Cumulative number of hours attempted}$

Maximum Time Frame (MTF)

The student must complete a certain portion of the total program clock hours to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Quantitative/Pace of Progress Requirement: students must successfully complete attempted courses:

Students must successfully complete and pass all attempted classes, clock hours and weeks within a payment period.

Maximum Time Frame:

The student must complete a certain portion of the total program clock hours and weeks to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Practical Nursing students may continue to receive financial aid as long as they maintain the ability to complete their training within 105% of the scheduled program time. For example, a full-time student enrolled in the Practical Nursing program which is designated as 11 months in length must complete this program within 12 months.

Students enrolled in career and technical programs other than practical nursing may continue to receive financial aid as long as they maintain the ability to complete their training within 125% of the scheduled program time. For example, a full-time student enrolled in a career and technical program which is designated as 52 weeks in length must complete this program within 69 weeks.

- a. Students are expected to complete their diploma or certificate within a reasonable time frame. Time taken to repeat coursework will extend time to completion beyond the allowable pace to completion maximum timeframe. Therefore, students in this situation are required to be placed on an academic improvement plan to maintain financial aid eligibility.
- b. Transferred clock hours are not counted as attempted and earned hours in the evaluation of the pace of progress and in the maximum time frame.
- c. For financial aid purposes, grades of A, B, C, D, F, and W are all considered attempted hours and will be counted towards the maximum time frame.

Failure to attend class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from a course. Should a student decide to withdraw from a course or courses, he or she can do so by stopping into the Adult Education office to complete a Withdrawal form. Failure to officially withdraw from a program course will result in a grade of “F”.

Students who do not meet the above requirements will be placed on a financial aid warning status. Notification of the warning status will be provided to the student in writing. Student progress will be reviewed by the appropriate Adult Education Office during the subsequent grading period. The result of the review will be:

1. If the student doesn't meet SAP requirements, financial aid will remain on hold.
2. If a student meets SAP requirements, warning status will be lifted and aid will be disbursed.

The Financial Aid Representative will require an attendance/academic progress report from the Adult Education Office. Documentation supporting absences may be required and must be given to the Financial Aid Representative immediately upon the student returning to school for approval.

Considerations – Satisfactory Academic Progress

1. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is **not** the same as academic progress required for graduation.
2. Being declared ineligible for financial aid does not mean the student has been dismissed from YCST.
3. Students failing to maintain SAP will be issued a financial aid warning. A financial aid warning means all aid will be delayed until the student successfully completes the payment period. If the student fails to meet SAP after the warning period, their financial aid will remain on hold.

4. No federal loans or grants may be paid to the student's account for a subsequent payment period until AFTER grades have been reviewed and the student's status is determined to be satisfactory.

Review of Satisfactory Academic Progress

At the end of each payment period, student progress will be reviewed to determine if academic requirements have been met. Students who complete all the courses in a payment period will be assigned a numeric or letter grade. Below is a list of codes assigned that indicate the technical training program (certificate or diploma) are not considered complete:

W	Withdrawal
F	Failing

Suspension of Financial Aid

1. Financial aid will be suspended immediately if a student withdraws from training and the student may be required to repay all or part of the funds received.
2. If the student receives an "F" (failing) grade, the student may not be maintaining SAP and may receive a warning or suspension of their financial aid.

Reinstatement of Financial Aid

Once financial aid has been delayed, students may have their eligibility reinstated by meeting all of the following conditions.

Without the benefit of aid, students who have had their aid delayed must:

- a) Demonstrated grades of 70% or higher,
- b) Have successfully completed the required number of clock hours in the payment period, **and**
- c) Have successfully completed the required number of weeks in the payment period.

Appeal Process

Students may not appeal a delay in their financial aid payments since all students in clock-hour programs are required by law to successfully complete all clock hours within a payment period. Students who have questions concerning the delay of their aid may contact the Adult Education office in person or write to:

York County School of Technology
Attn: Student Services / Compliance Officer
2179 South Queen Street
York, PA 17402-4696

Academic Year Definition

The York County School of Technology's academic year for financial aid purposes is defined in Clock Hours and Weeks of Attendance.

Students enrolled in Diploma Programs of at least 900 hours but less than 1100 hours in length are eligible to apply for aid for one academic year. Base academic years by program are defined below.

Automotive Technology evening – 900 clock hours and 45 weeks.
HVAC evening – 900 clock hours and 45 weeks.
Welding evening – 900 clock hours and 45 weeks.
Medical Billing & Coding evening – 900 clock hours and 45 weeks.
Dental evening – 900 clock hours and 43 weeks.
Medical Assistant evening – 900 clock hours and 40 weeks.
Medical Assistant daytime – 900 clock hours and 33 weeks.
Mechatronics daytime – 900 clock hours and 34 weeks.
Cosmetologist daytime – 900 clock hours and 32 weeks.
Cosmetology Instructor daytime – 900 clock hours and 30 weeks.

Students attending the **Practical Nursing Diploma** program are eligible to apply for aid in both their first and second year of training. The aid received for the second year in each program is prorated per federal guidelines based upon the number of hours and weeks remaining in the program. Base academic years by program is defined below.

12-month daytime program – 900 clock hours and 29 weeks.

Advanced Placement

Students receiving advanced placement into any program are eligible to apply for financial aid, but will have their financial aid prorated based on the number of weeks and clock hours they have remaining in the program. Advanced Placement policies can be obtained through the Adult Education or Practical Nursing offices.

Grade Level Advancement

All students enrolled in programs that are more than one academic year in length are eligible for more than one academic year of financial aid. Upon successful completion of the first academic year, students are eligible to borrow additional prorated Stafford Loan funds at Grade Level 2 and receive additional grant assistance if crossing into a new Federal Fiscal year or have remaining grant eligibility in the current Federal Fiscal year. All financial aid for the second year of training will be prorated based the student's remaining period of enrollment within the program.

Repeated Course Work

Students who are unsuccessful in their first attempt at coursework and are required to repeat class work, clinical experiences or an entire term of training are NOT eligible to continue to receive financial aid during the repeat period nor are they eligible to apply for additional financial aid to cover the cost of the repeated coursework. All financial aid is cancelled during the repeat period and then re-instated when the next payment period is reached, as long as the student either maintains the ability to complete the training within the maximum timeframe as defined for their program of enrollment or has been placed on an approved academic improvement plan. Students are responsible to pay costs incurred for repeated coursework on their own. Students who withdraw from training for 180 days or more and then return to training regain full financial aid eligibility upon their return, as long as the student either maintains the ability to complete the training within the maximum timeframe as defined for their program of enrollment or has been placed on an approved academic improvement plan.

Verification Policy

Verification is a process where the financial aid officer must verify that information reported on the financial aid application is true and correct. Applicants are selected for verification at random by school officials or through computer edits by the Department of Education. Applications selected for verification by the Department of Education are flagged with an “*” next to the SAI number on the FAFSA Submission Summary and the student is notified of selection in Part I of the FAFSA Submission Summary as well as by a letter from the school. Applications selected by school officials will not have an “*” next to the SAI so these students will be notified of selection by a letter from the school only.

Specific items to be verified are:

1. Adjusted gross income (AGI)
2. U.S. Income Tax paid
3. Income Earned from work
4. Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions
5. Untaxed Portions of Pensions
6. IRA Deductions and Payments
7. Tax Exempt Interest Income
8. Education Credits
9. Foreign income exempt from federal taxation
10. Family Size
- 11. Identity/Statement of Educational purpose – Required to be provided in person by the student to an authorized official at the school. The student must present a valid government-issued photo ID, such as but not limited to a driver's license, other state-issued ID, or passport, etc.**

The Office of Financial Aid will notify all students selected for Verification by letter detailing what specific FAFSA items from above must be verified. Included with the letter will be all supporting documentation that must be completed, signed and returned to the school. In the event the student is selected for Verification of item **11** above, **Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose**, the student is required to report to the school in person, with appropriate ID, to sign all necessary documentation. Students who are unable to appear in person must notify the Office of Financial Aid **immediately** to obtain appropriate forms that must be completed in the presence of a Notary. The original notarized Statement of Educational Purpose form must then be provided to the school.

Students are required to provide all Verification documentation as specified in letter within 30 days of receipt of notice. Late applicants may be provided a shorter time period in which they must return required documentation in order for verification to be completed and aid processed prior to the end of their award year or program, whichever is earlier. Failure to meet this deadline will result in non-payment of awards for Pell, and loans will not be originated. Students will be responsible to pay all tuition costs.

If corrections need to be made to the FAFSA Submission Summary, the school will make the required changes and the student will be notified in writing of the changes made on an updated FAFSA Submission Summary sent to the student from the US Department of Education. No payments for federal student aid will be made until the updated FAFSA Submission Summary is received by the aid office. Students will be notified by the school in writing of award changes within 30 days of receipt of all required verification documentation.

The verification process is complete when all signed documents are reviewed by the aid officer and a valid ISIR/SAR is submitted to the aid office.

Students requesting a review of their application due to special circumstances must complete the verification process before the school can make any changes or adjustments to the students' cost of attendance or to the values of the data items required to calculate the SAI.

In the case where the student is responsible for an overpayment of federal aid to the U.S. Department of Education, the student will be notified in writing requesting full reimbursement of the overpayment. If, after notification, the student has not repaid or made satisfactory arrangements to repay the overpayment, the school will refer the overpayments to the United States Department of Education Student FSA's Management Collections (ED Collections) and notify NSLDS of the overpayment. At this point, the student becomes ineligible to receive Title IV funds until the overpayment is resolved.

Federal Pell Grant (FAFSA application)

Federal Pell Grants provide the "foundation" of financial aid to which other assistance may be added. Pell Grants provide money for tuition that does not have to be repaid unless a student withdraws from school and is determined to owe a refund. The U.S. Department of Education determines student's eligibility for this source. A student cannot receive a Pell grant if he/she already holds a bachelor's degree.

If you qualify for a Pell Grant for 25-26, you can currently receive between \$740 to \$7,395 annually depending on your family income and cost of education. Although your Pell Grant awards are paid through the school, your eligibility and the actual amount of your award is determined by the U.S. Department of Education through the completion of the FAFSA application and your program of enrollment.

The FAFSA application award year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Students attending any program that begins before June 30 and crosses over into the next award year beginning July 1, will have to complete two FAFSA applications, one for the current award year and one for the upcoming award year.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan Programs

Federal Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling

The Federal Government requires that all first time Federal Stafford Loan borrowers complete an entrance counseling session before they receive any loan proceeds. This session is designed to provide the borrower with important information about the Federal Stafford Loan program, including your rights and responsibilities as a borrower. Useful information to have to complete this session includes details on your income, financial aid, and living expenses. Some useful resources: A copy of the offer letter from your school's financial aid office, if available and a listing of the tuition and fees for your program.

It is important that you complete this session as soon as possible. You may not use your loan as credit against your bill until this requirement is satisfied. Disbursement of your loan funds will not occur before you complete this session. When you have successfully completed the required Loan Entrance Counseling, you will have the opportunity to print a Confirmation page that you can keep with your records.

The counseling session is provided through a link on the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan web site-- <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>. However, there are some specific issues of which you should be aware. Federal Stafford Loan borrowing levels are broadly defined on the Department's web site by the student's year in school. At the YCST, a student's year in school is specifically defined by the number of hours the student is scheduled to attend at the time of loan processing. Borrowing levels are described in the Loan Limits section of this handbook.

Federal Stafford Loan Exit Counseling

The Federal Government requires that all Federal Stafford Loan borrowers who withdraw or graduate complete an exit counseling session. This session is designed to provide borrowers with important information regarding rights and responsibilities as well as repayment information. Exit Counseling is also a graduation requirement for all programs and **MUST** be completed before students complete their program of enrollment.

Exit counseling is required when you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment. Exit counseling provides important information you need to prepare to repay your federal student loan(s). At the end, you'll need to provide the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number for your closest living relative, two references who live in the U.S., and current or expected employer (if known). Useful information to have in order to complete this session is any details on your financial aid, current or expected income, and living expenses.

This session is provided through a link on the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan web site at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>.

You should receive repayment information from your loan servicer approximately 3 months after you leave school. If you do not receive this information, **it is your responsibility** to contact your servicer before the end of your **6-month grace** period to arrange for the repayment of your loan. It is important that you plan for the repayment of your loan. You will have the opportunity to estimate your monthly payment as you proceed through the online exit counseling session. If you don't know your outstanding Stafford Loan balance but know who your loan is serviced through, you can contact them directly to receive your outstanding balance. If you do not know the name of your loan servicer and/or guarantor, you can login into your student aid account using your FSA ID and access your complete loan history at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

At the end of the session, you will be asked to complete a Student Information Form. You must provide all required information. When you have entered the required information and it has been accepted, you will receive a congratulations page stating that you have successfully completed your exit counseling. You can print or save a PDF copy of this page for your records. At this point, you have successfully completed the session and your information is available to the Office of Financial Aid.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan is a guaranteed student loan (only in the student's name). In order to obtain the Federal Direct Stafford Loan, all first-time borrowers must indicate on their FAFSA application that they want to take a student loan AND complete the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). This note is valid for a period of 10 years once a loan has been guaranteed and disbursed.

Direct Stafford loans are monies that students are eligible to borrow while attending school that must be repaid.

- The student is the borrower.
- Student has up to 10 years to repay the loan depending on the size of the student's debt.
- Amount borrowed is based on the student's academic level at the time the loan is processed. If the student receives other financial aid, the loan amount may be less.
- The loan **MUST BE REPAYED** to the US Department of Education.
- Payments are deferred while students are attending school.
- Students enter repayment six months following graduation or date of withdraw.
- During the repayment period, under certain circumstances, the US Department of Education may grant deferments, forbearances, or cancellations. A list of deferments and cancellations is provided at the time the student signs their Master Promissory Note.
- The school can refuse to certify a student's loan application OR certify the loan for an amount less than the student would otherwise be eligible. The school must document the reason for its action and explain the reason to the student in writing. The decision of the school is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.
- A student can receive a subsidized and unsubsidized loan for the same period.
- Fees of up to 4% may be deducted from the total loan amount at the time of disbursement.
- Loan funds are disbursed in at least 2 installments.

Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan

Eligibility for a Subsidized Stafford Loan is based on family income and financial need established by standards set forth by the federal government. The federal government subsidizes the interest on behalf of the student by paying the interest for the student during the deferment period (or period of enrollment) if the family meets the federal income and financial needs standards. The maximum Subsidized loan eligibility for the first academic year is \$3,500. Subsidized loans are not originated for amounts less than \$100. These loans must be repaid and payments are deferred (or payments are put on

hold) while you are in school and during a six-month grace period you are given after completing or discontinuing study. *If you received a Direct Subsidized Loan that was first disbursed between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2014, you will be responsible for paying any interest that accrues during your grace period. If you choose not to pay the interest that accrues during your grace period, the interest will be added to your principal balance.*

- **Effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**, interest on Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans is a fixed rate of 6.39%

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

The Unsubsidized Stafford Loan provides an opportunity for students to benefit from the low interest cost of the loan program. These loans are monies that students are eligible to borrow while attending school that must be repaid. Benefits of an Unsubsidized Loan are extended to other eligible applicants who fail to meet the federal income and financial need standards. The Unsubsidized Loan can be issued for the full amount of eligibility or in combination with a subsidized loan. On any portion of the Unsubsidized Loan the interest must be paid by the student on a quarterly basis while the student is enrolled in school, or the student can elect to capitalize the interest during the deferment period. These loans are deferred (or payments are put on hold) while you are in school and during a six-month grace period you are given after completing or discontinuing study.

- **Effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**, interest on Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans is a fixed rate of 6.39%

Federal Parent PLUS Loan

Parent PLUS loans are available to parents of dependent students to assist in meeting the costs of education. Parents are urged to apply for the PLUS Loan source of funding before submitting additional loan applications. In many situations, the combination of maximum Stafford Loans and PLUS loans will meet most of the financial need of the student. Repayment of the PLUS loan principal and interest begins within 60 days after receipt of the loan proceeds. Parents can elect to have the PLUS loan placed into forbearance until the student completes their training.

- **Effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**, interest on Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans is a fixed rate of 8.94%

Differences between the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans

Federal SUBSIDIZED Stafford Loan	Federal UNSUBSIDIZED Stafford Loan
Eligibility is based on financial need.	Eligibility is NOT based on financial need.
The Federal Government pays the interest on the loan as long as the student enrolled. <i>If you received a Direct Subsidized Loan that was first disbursed between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2014, you will be responsible for paying any interest that accrues during your grace period. If you choose not to pay the interest that accrues during your grace period, the interest will be added to your principal balance.</i>	The Federal Government DOES NOT pay the interest on the loan. Interest is charged from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. The student has two options in the repayment of the interest. It can be paid while enrolled in school (check the box on the MPN indicating you wish to pay the interest) OR the loan interest can be capitalized - that is, the interest will be added to the principal amount of the loan and additional interest will be based upon the higher amount.
Repayment on both the interest and principal begins SIX months after the student graduates or withdraws from training.	Repayment on both the interest and principal begins SIX months after the student graduates or withdraws from training.
Fixed rate of 6.39%	Fixed rate of 6.39%

Loan Limits

For the Practical Nursing program and post secondary programs that are one year in length, Independent students are eligible to borrow up to a total \$9,500 for their program. Dependent students, as defined by government criteria during the FAFSA application process, are not permitted to borrow more than \$5,500. However, parents of dependent students may obtain a PLUS loan if additional funds are needed. If a parent is denied a Parent PLUS loan, the dependent student then becomes eligible to apply for additional loan money on his/her own.

Students enrolled in the various post secondary that are less than one year in length are eligible to receive a prorated loan amount. Each program's loan amount varies based upon the required number of clock hours and scheduled weeks to be completed. For additional information on the total loan amounts for programs that are shorter than one academic year, please contact the office of financial aid.

Loan Limits for Transfer Students

Students who transfer mid year to the YCST will see loan amounts that vary greatly from students who did not transfer mid-year into the same program. A transfer occurs when the loan academic year at the school from which the student is transferring overlaps the start of the training at the YCST. In this situation, the student is restricted to receiving aid for the period of overlap in an amount that does not exceed the Grade Level 1 annual loan limit or the Cost of Attendance for the overlapping enrollment period. For example, a student was enrolled at *School A* and has a current Grade Level 1 loan academic year setup at *School A* as beginning on September 3 and ending May 25. On March 4, the student then begins training in a YCST program. The loan amount for the remaining period of the *prior school's academic year*, March 4 to May 25, cannot exceed the amount of a full year's aid minus the loan amount already received at School A. Also, the loan amount for this remaining period cannot exceed the student's total cost of attendance for the period to which the loan applies.

Annual loan limits are based on an academic year, which is at least 26 weeks in length. The 26-week limit applies to all students including those who change programs or those who transfer to another school.

Loan Cancellation

Students must notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing within 30 days of the date of disbursement if they wish to cancel all or a portion of their subsidized and/or unsubsidized loan or loan disbursement. If students request to cancel their subsidized and/or unsubsidized loan after the 30-day period, the school is not required to return the loan proceeds, cancel all or a portion of the loan or loan disbursement(s) or do both. The school will notify students in writing of the outcome of the cancellation request.

Third Party Loans / Alternative Loans

Third Party Loans / Alternative Loans are loans obtained by students on their own through a private lender. Private alternative education loans require the borrower to be a creditworthy student, parent or co-borrower. Generally, most private loans have a variable interest rate and charge a fee. Alternative loan funds are either transferred electronically (EFT) to the school or are checks made co-payable to the student and the school. Therefore, if a check is made co-payable to the student and the school, the student must come in to the office to endorse the check. Students are notified when Third Party Loan/Alternative Loan checks or EFT funds arrive. Third Party Loan funds are credited to the student's tuition account and any credit balance is refunded to the student unless the school has been directed otherwise.

Your Financial Aid Package

Once the Office of Financial Aid has received your FAFSA results and all other required forms, a financial aid package is developed for you based on your financial need. At this time the Office of Financial Aid will package your aid and send you a financial aid offer outlining the financial aid included in your package. Students who receive additional assistance from any additional sources are required to notify the Office of Financial Aid immediately.

Financial aid awards may be modified at any time during the award year due to the situations listed below.

- Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Any change in status (including grade level, program study or credit hours attempted).
- Receipt of additional funding not listed on the offer such as PHEAA State Grant, private scholarships,
- vocational rehabilitation assistance, veteran benefits, Pennsylvania EAP, PA Tip, tuition waivers, employee tuition assistance, etc.
- Previously submitted inaccurate, incomplete or conflicting information.

Students will be notified in writing of all changes made to awards.

Textbook Credit Balance Refunds

Students who are eligible to receive federal student aid funds may be eligible to receive excess federal aid in the form of a refund during the first seven days of school. The determination of issuing refunds will occur prior to the start of a student's program when a final determination of federal financial aid can be made. If a student has been awarded funds to assist with the payment of their tuition, fees and books, and the amounts awarded are greater than the amount owed to the school for tuition and fees, that student may be eligible to receive those excess funds. If eligible, excess funds for textbooks will be made available to students in the form of a check within the first seven days of school. In order to determine a student's eligibility for the textbook funds, students must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Must be a federal student aid recipient.
2. Must have all awards set and an offer letter in place no less than ten days prior to the start of the program.
3. Must have been determined to have a projected credit balance on account in the first period of enrollment.
4. Must commence training in the program.

Students who do not meet the above criteria will not be issued a textbook refund during the first week of training.

Disbursement Policy

Federal Pell Grants and Stafford Student Loan proceeds must be disbursed to students in multiple installments. Disbursements of these funds are made in periods of enrollment termed Payment Periods. The first payment period begins at the start of training and ends when the student successfully completes one half of the scheduled clock hours at which time the second payment period begins.

The first disbursement of PELL Grant funds are transferred electronically to the school and credited directly to the student's tuition account. PELL Grant payments generally arrive within the first 30 days of training.

The first disbursement of student loan funds occurs after a student has been enrolled for 30 days. To be eligible for the second disbursement of grant and/or loan proceeds students **MUST** maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined in the program's handbook and **MUST** have completed one half of the program's academic year. Failure to meet these standards will result in financial aid funds being either delayed or cancelled.

Student Loan disbursements are transferred electronically to the school and credited directly to the student's tuition account. Students are notified in writing when loan disbursements have been posted to their account. Students then have 30 days in which they can cancel all or a part of the loan.

Scholarships and payments from other sources, such as a student's employer, a student's parent, or other, are posted to the students' accounts as they arrive at the school.

If at any time a student's account is overpaid creating a credit balance after all tuition and fees are paid, the credit balance will be refunded to the student in the form of a check from the school. Students can elect to have their credit balances returned to the USDE to reduce loan debt or held on account for a future tuition bill.

In the case where your financial aid disbursements do not cover your total cost of your program, you are responsible for paying the balance owed to the school. Students are required to either pay the balance owed in full or make satisfactory payment arrangements prior to being able to continue in the program. Students who owe a balance to the school after all aid has been disbursed will not be eligible to take their final exams until the account is paid in full. All records and grades are held if an account is not paid in full. Accounts in arrears more than 30 days could be subject to collections and additional charges may be incurred by student in the collection process.

Overpayment of Federal Student Aid

An overpayment is created whenever the student receives FSA funds that exceed his/her eligibility. Overawards are one cause of overpayments; overpayments can also be caused by misreported FAFSA information, miscalculated costs or SAI, payments to an ineligible student, or payments in excess of grant or loan maximums.

In the case where the school is liable for the overaward, the school will immediately restore an amount equal to the overpayment to the appropriate Federal Student Aid (FSA) account. If the restoration of the overpayment leaves a balance due to school from the student, the student will be responsible to pay the balance due.

In the case where the student is responsible for the overpayment, the student will be notified in writing requesting full reimbursement of the overpayment. If, after notification, the student has not repaid or made satisfactory arrangements to repay the overpayment, the school will refer the overpayments to the United States Department of Education Student FSA's Management Collections (ED Collections) and notify NSLDS of the overpayment. At this point, the student becomes ineligible to receive Title IV funds until the overpayment is resolved.

Credit Balance Refunds

Credit balances occur when payments to a student's account exceed the tuition and fees charged to the student. Credit balances can be returned to the USDE to reduce loan debt or refunded to the student to be used for living/transportation expenses. If at any time a student's account is overpaid creating a credit balance, the credit balance is refunded to the student in the form of a check from the school unless the school has been directed in writing to return the money to the lender. Refunds to students will be processed through the school's Business Office and will be processed within 14 days of the credit balance being created. Students enrolled in Adult Education evening program will receive their refund checks by mail.

WITHDRAWAL / REFUND POLICY

Official withdraw

Student who voluntarily withdraws from the YCST, either during the term or at the end of a term, for whatever reason, must complete the school's withdrawal form. The date the form is completed is the official date of withdraw.

Unofficial withdraw

Withdraw at any time without proper notification is termed an unofficial withdrawal. When the school becomes aware that a student stops attending, the school reaches out to the student to determine if the student will or will not be returning. The day the school learns that the student is not returning is the date of withdraw. It is on this day that a school official completes and submits the a withdraw form. The date of withdraw will be no later than two weeks following the date the school became aware the student stopped attending.

Tuition Payment & Refunds

Refunds for Class/Unit or Program Cancellation: If a class is cancelled by the Adult & Continuing Education Center, all students will be refunded 100% of pre-paid tuition and fees.

Refund Policy for Registration and Administrative Fees

Application, Registration, Administrative fees, Books and Supplies (tool kits) are non-refundable.

Refunds for Students Who Withdraw On or Before the First Day of Class:

If a student fails to start in their program a class/unit or withdraws from the class/unit or their program on the first class day, the school may retain a portion of pre-paid tuition or fees. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a withdrawal.

Withdrawal from Program, Unit or class

Responsibility for withdrawing remains with the student. A student must officially withdraw from their program or class/unit by notifying the Adult Education office personnel in writing by completing a withdrawal form. The official date of withdraw is determined when school personnel or office is notified in writing.

Never attending is not an allowable refund exemption or an excuse of the debt incurred through registration. Failure to attend classes does not equal a withdrawal.

Students who **officially withdraw** from a clock hour program or a class/unit will be refunded according to the student's current payment period and the program hourly rate.

Refund Policy for Clock Hour Tuition

Students withdrawing from their program of choice or an individual class may be eligible for refunds based on scheduled hours in the program/class to date. Clock hour tuition is assessed by scheduled class hours and the program hourly rate; hourly rates are different for each program. Tuition may be adjusted based on the information provided at the time of withdrawal and will be assessed on actual scheduled class time in the student's current payment period.

Students who attend more than 60% of the scheduled program hours in a payment period do not qualify for refunds.

Students who received student aid, depending on when you withdraw, will be adjusted according to the Federal Return of Title IV formula, state grant refund calculation and institutional policy.

Refund checks or credits will be issued to the individual, agency or entity that initially paid the tuition/bill or in accordance with the agencies policies.

Please Note: Regardless of when a student drops or withdraws after classes/unit or program has begun, the cost for required tools, books and supplies, program fees, tests and other required items already given to the student cannot be returned, they are deducted from any refund due to the student.

TITLE IV REFUND POLICY

Title IV Refund Policy

Students benefiting from receiving Title IV federal funds will have their federal financial aid refunds calculated as per federal regulations. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) specifies that YCST must determine the amount of financial aid program assistance you have **earned** if you withdraw from your program of study. ED requires that when you withdraw during a payment period, the amount of the financial aid program assistance that you have earned up to that point is determined by a specific Title IV formula, commonly referred to as the *Return to Title IV* calculation (R2T4).

The amount of assistance that you earned is determined by using the Title IV Refund Calculation. That is, if you completed 30% of the payment period, you earned 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed more than 60% of the payment period, you are considered to have earned all your assistance for that payment period.

The Title IV calculation is generally completed within 5 business days of notification of the student's withdrawal. If, when the calculation is complete, the institution is required to return funds, the refund is processed through the business office and funds are generally returned within 14 days. The school works to ensure that all required refunds of Title IV funds are made as soon as possible, but no later than 45 days of the student's withdrawal.

When the Title IV calculation is complete, if the student is due a post-withdrawal Pell award the school immediately notifies the student of the award. The Pell payment is processed and generally posted to the student's account within 14 days, but no later than 45 days.

If the student is due a post-withdrawal Loan award, the school immediately prepares and sends a post-withdrawal loan offer letter to the student. This generally occurs within 14 days of the student's date of withdrawal, but no later than 30 days. The student is required to notify the school if they intend to accept the loan and must do so within 30 days from the date of the offer letter. If the student accepts the loan, the loan is immediately processed and then posted to the student's account.

Credit balance amounts, if any, that are created on the student's account as a part of the Title IV refund process are refunded to the student within 14 days of the credit balance being created.

When a student withdraws and refunds are required to be returned, the following distribution list is used to return the funds. The YCST completes the Return of Title IV Refund calculation and returns the amount of Title IV funds for which it is responsible as soon as possible but no later than 45 days after it determines that the student withdrew. Funds are returned in the order listed until all required amounts have been returned.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan | 2. Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan |
| 3. Federal PLUS Loan | 4. Federal Pell Grant |
| 5. Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grants | 6. PHEAA Special Programs Grant |
| 7. Other Aid | 8. Student |

If YCST is not required to return all of the excess funds, you must return the remaining amount. Any loan funds that you must return, you (or your parent for a PLUS loan) repay in accordance with the terms of your loan agreement, or you make scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time.

If you are responsible for returning grant funds, you do not have to return the full amount. The law provides that you are not required to return 50% of the grant assistance that you receive that is your responsibility to repay. Any amount that you have to return is a grant overpayment, and you must make payment arrangements with YCST or the U.S. Department of Education to return the funds.

The requirements for Title IV program funds when you withdraw are separate from any school refund policies. The amount of refund determined by the Title IV calculation determines how much financial aid you have earned for the current payment period, whereas the school refund policy determines the amount of tuition owed for the current payment period. Therefore, you may still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges and/or for any Title IV program funds that the school was required to return. The school's refund policies are located above.

Policies For Veterans Receiving Educational Assistance Allowance

Make-Up Work - Make-up work is not permitted for the purpose of receiving Veterans Affairs training allowance.

Class Cuts - Class cuts are not permitted and shall be recorded as unexcused absences.

Re-Admission - Students experiencing academic difficulties will be withdrawn from the program for the length of one term (9 weeks). Re-admission will be considered on an individual basis.

Transfer Credit - Transfer credit will be evaluated on an individual basis. Appropriate credit will be given and the length of the program will be decreased accordingly. DVA will be notified.

Probationary Period - The maximum length of the probationary period will be 9 weeks. DVA will be notified if a veteran fails to make satisfactory progress.

Attendance - Any veteran who is absent more than 5% of the required program hours will not be eligible for co-op placement or a clinical experience. The DVA will be notified if any veteran's attendance falls below 75%.

Tips on Finding Scholarships

Local Organizations - You can increase your odds of actually winning a scholarship by checking local organizations first. You may only be going up against a few other local students, versus the entire student population of the country.

Employers - Have your parents ask their personnel administrator if their company offers any sort of financial aid, tuition reimbursement, or scholarships, for employee's children. Most major companies do offer this benefit. If you have a job, ask your own company if they offer this sort of benefit.

Volunteer Work - If you have done any volunteer work at your local hospital, food bank, etc., these organizations may provide scholarships in recognition for unpaid assistance.

Organizations - Check foundations, religious organizations, fraternities or sororities, and town or city clubs to see if they offer any kind of scholarship. Include community organizations, and civic groups such as the American Legion, 4-H Clubs, YMCA, Elks, Kiwanis, Jaycees, and the Girl or Boy Scouts in your search. If you are NOT a member of any organizations, the next thing is to check with the organizations that represent what you are planning on studying.

Unions - If you or your parents are members of a Union, all the major labor unions offer scholarships for members and their dependent children (AFLCIO, Teamsters, etc.)

Church - Check with your church. Your local parish may or may not have any scholarships for their members, but the Diocese or headquarters may have some available.

The Library - Your public library is an excellent source of information on state and private sources of aid. Ask the librarian to help you research sources of scholarships. Your financial need is usually considered, but other factors may also be taken into account.

Chamber of Commerce - Check with your local Chamber of Commerce. Many offer (usually small, less than \$500) grants to students in the community, especially those planning on careers in business or Public Service. Even if they do not offer any themselves, you can usually get a listing of members, and many of them may offer small scholarships to local students.

High School - Check with your High School Guidance Counselor, Principal, Teachers, and other high school administrators on scholarship information that has been sent to the school.

Newspapers - Read your local newspaper every day. Especially during the summer, watch for announcements of local students receiving scholarships. Find out where you can apply for the next year for that same scholarship. Watch also for actual announcements of local firms and organizations offering scholarships. If your local newspaper has a "library" (most do) ask the librarian at the paper to help you find scholarship information posted in the newspaper in past issues. Do not expect to find much information from your local newspaper, but it is another source.

Yellow Pages - Find out if any professional or social organizations have a chapter in your city. Call them and find out if they offer any scholarships, both nationally and locally. You may even want to check with major corporations in your area.

The Internet - Hit the major search engines, and run searches on scholarships, financial aid, organizations, colleges, universities, and grants - anything you can think of. Be wary of any organization or company that charges you a fee for their services. Please see the next section for information on "Scholarship Scams."

Scholarship Scams

Don't Pay Money to Get Money

Some deceitful companies will go about swindling dollars by promising students free scholarship money in exchange for an up-front fee. Others claim to have access to untapped sources of financial aid, charging students for information on various scholarship awards. Many parents will receive letters in the mail promoting "free financial aid seminars" or "open interviews" for financial assistance, not knowing that the real purpose of the event is to plug unnecessary products and/or services. When a sales pitch implies that purchasing such a product is a prerequisite to receiving federal student aid, it violates federal regulations and state insurance laws. While some of these profit-making companies do offer legitimate services, there are several alternative routes students can take to acquire a wealth of scholarship information - for FREE. The bottom line: if you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam and you're better off looking elsewhere.

Six Signs of a Scam

The Federal Trade Commission urges students/parents to look out for six signs that a scholarship offer is a scam:

1. "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back." No one can guarantee students that they'll receive scholarship money. Always look for strings attached. FinAid (www.finaid.org), an acclaimed web site dedicated to providing students with comprehensive scholarship information, alerts that "some companies will not refund your money, but instead will offer to rerun the search for a specified number of times at no charge." It also has found that numerous organizations define the word "receive" ambiguously - students will receive information about scholarships, not the scholarships themselves.
2. "We will need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship." Never give out an account number without getting all the information in writing first.
3. "You can't get this information anywhere else." Don't believe a company that claims its search engine is entirely unique. Different scholarship databases overlap significantly since many utilize the same information-gathering techniques. There are several free search services on the Internet where students can enter information about themselves and instantly see valid scholarships for which they may qualify.
4. "The scholarship will cost some money."
5. "We'll do all the work for you." There are thousands of legitimate scholarship opportunities out there. However, these award donors often require substantial materials from their applicants - essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc. For these applications, you can't hire a company to do the work for you.
6. "You've been selected" by a "national foundation" to receive a scholarship or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered. Before sending anything, call directory assistance to see if the company has a listing. Find out how the company acquired your information and then be on guard for hidden fees.

If you or someone you know suspects that a scholarship offer may be a scam, you can report it to the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060, the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP, or by email to [Finaid.org](mailto:scams@finaid.org) at scams@finaid.org. You can also contact your State Attorney General's Office, the Better Business Bureau, U.S. Postal Inspection Service (if any part of the transaction was through the mail), U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General, or your high school counselor for more assistance.

National Scholarship Databases

Listed below are several scholarship databases available to assist students in finding private sector scholarships, fellowships and loans for which s/he may be eligible. Upon entering student-specific information (i.e. grade level, major, email address...) the search will retrieve information about scholarships pertaining to that student and send this information to his/her email account. This may include more detailed information about the scholarship, as well as how to request an application.

- Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver <https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/other-educational-aid>
- Mike Rowe Works Scholarship <https://www.mikeroweworks.org/scholarship/>
- Horatio Alger National Career & Technical: <https://horatioalger.org/career-technical-education-scholarships/>
- Guide to Paying for Nursing School: cnaclclasses.org/guide-to-paying-for-nursing-school/
- finaid.org <https://finaid.org/scholarships/>
- BigFuture Collegeboard <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Foundation for Enhancing Communities <https://www.tfec.org/scholarships/>
- Scholarship America <https://scholarshipamerica.org/>

Disclaimer: The Office of Financial Aid at the YCST does not monitor nor control the information provided on the web sites listed above.

Frequently Asked Questions

Numerous inquiries are made by students and their parents about financial aid programs available at our school. In anticipation of some of the questions you may have, the following information is provided for you to review:

FAFSA / APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

How Do I Apply For Financial Aid?

To be considered for the Federal Pell Grant and/or Federal Stafford Student Loan programs you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In addition, the federal government mandates that institutions verify at least 30% of its applicants. Students who are selected to undergo this process will be mailed a written notification of the selection. The written notification will include a Verification Form to complete and a list specific documentation that must be returned to the Office of Financial Aid prior to financial aid being awarded.

Where Do I Get The Applications?

The paper FAFSA is no longer available at high school guidance offices or at college/university financial aid offices. You must complete the FAFSA online at www.studentaid.gov. If you do not want to complete the FAFSA electronically, you can download a PDF copy from the studentaid.gov website, or contact Federal Student Aid at 1-800-433-3243 to have one mailed to you.

Returning students who were awarded financial aid in the previous award year will be able to complete a Renewal FAFSA online at www.studentaid.gov. If you do not want to complete the Renewal FAFSA electronically, you can download a PDF copy from the studentaid.gov website, or contact Federal Student Aid at 1-800-433-3243 to have one mailed to you.

Only returning students who borrowed a Direct Stafford loan in the prior award year will not be required to complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN). Their initial MPN is good for a period of ten years once it has been signed.

Do I Need To Be Admitted Before I Can Apply For Financial Aid?

NO. You can fill out the FAFSA and list up to 10 schools to receive the information before admission. However, to actually receive an (estimated or actual) offer, you must be admitted to the school.

What Are The Deadlines Or Suggested Completion Dates For Financial Aid?

Our school enrolls students on a continuous basis. Students can generally complete their applications at any time prior to the start of the program. It is important that students contact the Office of Financial Aid to receive appropriate deadlines that are based upon their program of enrollment.

When Will I Receive Information Regarding The Action Taken On My Applications?

The anticipated dates for receiving information are as follows:

Federal Pell Grants (FAFSA application) - Three to five days after the FAFSA has been submitted on-line, or four to six weeks after it has been mailed to the federal processor, a Student Aid Report (SAR) will be sent to the student (via mail through the postal service or via email if an email address is provided on the online application). Please refer to the SAR for an initial indication of your eligibility for a Pell Grant.

Federal Stafford Loans - The student's maximum eligibility will be indicated on the student's offer letter. Offer Letters will be mailed to students prior to the start of their program.

I Received A PHEAA State Grant Notice And It Says I Can't Get a State Grant. Why is that? - When you complete the FAFSA application you are actually completing two applications in one--both a Federal and State Grant application. You will receive a PHEAA State Grant notice in the mail explaining to you that you are not State Grant Eligible because our institution does not participate in this program. This is an accurate statement. We are not a 2- or 4-year degree granting institution, therefore, our institution is not eligible to participate in the State Grant Program. You do not have to complete and return the State Grant Notice.

Why Do I Have To Put My Parents' Tax Information On The FAFSA If They Are Not Paying For School?

The federal government expects both the parents and the student to contribute to the student's educational cost. Regardless of whether a parent will or will not contribute to your education, their income and assets must be reported and be used to determine your financial aid. Even if you do not live with your parents, if you are considered dependent by the federal government, you are required to provide parental information. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has questions for you to answer to determine if you are dependent or independent. Refer to the FAFSA instructions for instructions regarding parental information.

What Do I Do When I'm Considered Dependent But My Parent(s) Won't Provide Information Or Sign My FAFSA? Can Someone Else Sign It?

NO. No one other than your parent may legally sign the FAFSA (refer to the FAFSA to determine who is considered a parent). Unless your parent(s) provide the required information and sign the FAFSA, you cannot be considered for any need-based financial aid, including Federal Stafford Loans. If you find yourself in this situation, you should contact your Financial Aid Counselor at the Office of Financial Aid to help you explore other possibilities.

I Do Not Live With My Parents, But Live With Another Relative. Should I Put Their Information On The FAFSA As My Parent?

NO. No one other than your parent may provide financial information or sign the FAFSA. If you reside with grandparents, aunt/uncle, or someone other than your parents, contact the Office of Financial Aid as soon as possible to speak to a Financial Aid Counselor about your situation.

My Parents Make A Lot Of Money, So I Probably Won't Qualify For Financial Aid. Should I Still Apply?

YES! Many families mistakenly think they don't qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving financial aid by failing to apply for it. In addition, there are sources of aid, such as low interest loans - Federal Stafford and Federal PLUS loans - that are available regardless of need. It is wise to have something to fall back on, in case your family finds themselves in a financial crunch.

I Want To File My FAFSA But I Have Not Yet Completed My Tax Returns Or My Parents Haven't Filed Theirs. What Should I Do?

By now you should have already filed taxes for the year being requested since the FAFSA now asks for tax data that is two years old. If you have not yet filed your taxes for the required year, first complete your taxes, submit them to the IRS, wait three to six weeks to allow for processing, and then try to import your taxes into your FAFSA. If that does not work, you will need to enter the amounts you reported on the 1040 form you submitted to the IRS onto your FAFSA for processing. However, be advised that we may be required to obtain a copy of your IRS Tax Return Transcript to show that the taxes were actually filed.

My Parents Are Divorced. The Parent I Reside With Is Remarried. Do I Have To Provide My Step-Parent's Income And Assets On The FAFSA, Even If I Am Not Supported By The Step-Parent?

YES, provided that the parent you are living with is the one completing the FAFSA (your custodial parent). If your parent is married to your step-parent at the time you complete the FAFSA, both your parent and step-parent must report their income and assets, even if they weren't married the previous year (i.e. filed separate tax returns).

Do I Have To Provide Consent On The FAFSA Form Or Do My Parents Have To Provide Consent?

Yes! All contributors must provide consent and approval to: disclose their personally identifiable information provided on the FAFSA form to the IRS for matching purposes; obtain their federal tax information from the IRS via direct data exchange; allow the US Department of Education (ED) to use their federal tax information to determine the student's eligibility and amount of federal student aid; allow ED to share their federal tax information with colleges, career/trade schools, and state higher education agencies for use in awarding and administering financial aid; and allow ED to reuse their federal tax information on another FAFSA applicant's form. **NOTE:** Even if your contributors don't have a social security number, didn't file taxes or filed taxes outside of the US, they will still need to provide consent and approval.

When Will My Financial Aid Award Be Ready?

To receive an offer letter, the student must first complete the FAFSA. Once the school has received information from the FAFSA, an estimated award can be made for most students. Students can contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss their estimated awards. Actual awards are made once the student has been admitted to school and all required paperwork has been submitted to the Office of Financial Aid.

For **incoming students** - Offer letters are sent to admitted students prior to the start of their program. Students who have not received an offer letter prior to the start of school have either not completed the required applications or have not submitted all the required paperwork to the Office of Financial Aid. Students will continue to receive new offer letters if their financial aid changes.

For **transfer students** - Offer letters are sent to admitted transfer students prior to the start of their program provided that the school has their complete financial aid transcript on file for determination of remaining eligibility and all remaining financial aid has been cancelled at their previous school. Transfer students must contact the school they had previously attended and direct the school to cancel all remaining disbursements. Students will continue to receive new offer letters if their financial aid changes.

For **advance placed students** - Because advance placed students can continue to test out of classes even after the start of the practical nursing program, awards are determined and offer letters are sent to students when a final determination has been made as to what the student has to actually complete. For all other programs advance placement must be determined prior to a student starting the program.

For **Students entering their second year** - Students who ARE currently enrolled and are advancing into the second year of their program will receive offer letters prior to the start of year two. Students who do not receive their new offers before the start of the 2nd academic year in the program have either not submitted a new FAFSA application for the upcoming year or have not submitted all required paperwork.

For **students crossing over into a new FAFSA award year** - students who ARE currently enrolled in programs and are crossing over into a new FAFSA award year (July 1) - your offer letters will not be ready until approximately June of each year. In order to receive a new award for the new year, students must have submitted a new FAFSA application for the upcoming year. Students who do not receive their new offer letter by June have either not submitted a new FAFSA application for the upcoming year or have not submitted all required paperwork.

PAYMENT / DUE DATES

What Are The Anticipated Payment Dates For School Tuition And Fees?

Because students enroll on a continuous basis, tuition and fees are charged and payments are made based on payment periods. Each academic year is divided into two equal payment periods. Payments generally begin to arrive one month following the start of the program for the first payment period with the second payment generally arriving at the start of the second payment period.

For **Practical Nursing students** the first loan payment generally arrives 30 days following the start of the program and the second loan payment arrives at the start of Term 3. Pell grant payments generally arrive in February and August.

Will The School Extend Credit To Me Until My Aid Is Received?

For those individuals who have been officially approved for financial aid, the school will extend credit until financial aid is received. Any balance due to the school after all aid has been awarded is the responsibility of the student.

Are Credit Cards Acceptable For Payment?

Yes, the School will accept VISA and MasterCard.

How Do I Pay For Books?

Textbooks, Uniforms, and supplies must be purchased by students prior to the start of the program, therefore, financial aid cannot be used to pay for these items.

MY TUITION ACCOUNT

How Do I Check On My Financial Aid?

You can check on your financial aid by contacting the Office of Financial Aid. Contact information is located in the contact information section of this booklet.

How Do I Check On My Account Balance?

You can check on your tuition account balance by contacting the Billing Office for your program of enrollment. Contact information is located in the contact information section of this booklet.

My Federal Direct Stafford Loan Has Not Been Credited To My Account Yet. Why Is That?

If you have an offer letter showing that loans are to be disbursed to your account and you have not yet received these amounts, it could be that you have not signed your electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) on-line and have submitted it to the US Department of Education, or it may have been delayed due to an attendance issue. If all requirements are satisfied and you have previously signed the MPN, contact the Office of Financial Aid for further information.

I Received My Offer Letter And I Still Need More Money. What Can I Do?

If you are a dependent student, your parents may consider applying for a Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (**PLUS**). They can borrow any amount, up to the cost of your attendance. If they are denied for any reason, the student may borrow more money in Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. A copy of the denial must be on file at the Office of Financial Aid and the student or parent must contact the Office of Financial Aid to indicate the amount the student wants to borrow additionally in Stafford Loans. See the section on Loan Limits to determine the maximum amount the student can borrow additionally. Students who are independent are automatically eligible for the additional Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans.

If your parents know they will be approved for a PLUS Loan, but do not want a loan in their name, you can apply for an Alternative Loan. Since Alternative loans are credit-based bank loans, you need a cosigner. Check the requirements for each individual loan. Independent students are also eligible to apply for an Alternative Loan. If denied, a cosigner is allowed.

Will The School Allow Me Or My Parents To Make Monthly Payments To The School?

YES. Students and/or parents can setup a Monthly Payment Plan directly with the school. Contact the Bursar's office for your program of enrollment for details on how to initiate a payment plan. Students making payments to the school are required to have all tuition and fees paid before the end of each payment/billing period. Students who have not made satisfactory payments and have a balance at the end of the payment period will not be eligible to take their final exams, continue to the next period of enrollment, or graduate from their program.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING AID ELIGIBILITY

One Of My Parents Lost His/Her Job And My Family Is In A Financial Bind. Can The Office Of Financial Aid Help Me Out?

If your family experiences a change in income due to an unusual circumstance (loss of job, reduced hours, separation or divorce, death in the immediate family) contact the Office of Financial Aid regarding your situation. It may be possible to reevaluate your financial aid eligibility. If your family has high unreimbursed medical expenses or pays private school tuition for elementary or secondary school (K-12), your financial aid eligibility may be re-evaluated. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for further information.

LOANS (PLUS, STAFFORD, ALTERNATIVE)

My Parents Know They Will Be Denied A Plus Loan. Is There A Way To Quickly Apply For A Plus Loan?

If parents know they will be denied, they can complete an Online Pre-Approval through the US Dept. of Ed. website <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing>. If a parent is denied the PLUS loan, the parent has the right to request that the credit check be reviewed a second time prior to making a determination.

What Is The Difference Between A Subsidized Stafford Loan And An Unsubsidized Stafford Loan?

The school determines the amount of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans the student is eligible to receive. You must have financial need in order to receive a Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan.

A **SUBSIDIZED** loan means that the government subsidizes (or pays) the interest while you are in school - you are not required to pay interest, nor does it accrue on your subsidized loans until you are out of school and beyond your six-month grace period. **The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 has eliminated the subsidy payment (the payment of interest) during the grace period for loans with a first disbursement on or after July 1, 2012 and before July 1, 2014.**

An **UNSUBSIDIZED** loan means that you do not have financial need, therefore the federal government requires that you start paying the interest on your loan as soon as it is disbursed, or it will capitalize and you will have to pay it back when you start paying on your loans. It is recommended that, if you have an unsubsidized Stafford Loan, you pay the interest while you are in school to avoid larger payments when you enter into repayment on your loan. You will receive an interest statement every 3 months whether you elect to pay the interest now or have it capitalized.

How Do I Reduce The Amount Of My Federal Stafford Loan Or Cancel The Entire Loan?

Students may cancel all or a portion of the loan prior to receiving the loan or within 30 days after the date the school has sent notification that the loan funds have been disbursed and credited to the student's account. To cancel all of or a portion of your loan, contact the Office of Financial Aid to request a **Loan Cancellation Request Form**. Complete the loan cancellation request form and return it to the Office of Financial Aid for processing. If at the time you receive your offer letter you know you want to cancel all or a portion of your loan, note that on the offer letter and return it right away and we will process your request.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Who May Inquire About My Financial Aid Record?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) protects the confidentiality of student records. Only those individuals, who provided information on a student's FAFSA, can request information regarding the student's financial aid file. Therefore, if a student would like their financial aid information released to another individual and/or agency, the student must complete the **Authorization Release Form** and submit it to the Office of Financial Aid.

What Records Should I Retain?

Keep copies of all your applications along with the base year federal income tax form used to complete your FAFSA application to document your adjusted gross income or other data which appears on the 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ form.

Keep copies of all offer letters and any letters you send to or receive from various agencies.

What should I do if I need to make a FAFSA name change?

To change your name due to marriage, divorce or another reason, you must first submit a form through the Social Security Administration (SSA). Once the name change has been processed, update your FSA ID using your new last name. You will then need to change your name on your FAFSA by making a correction.

If I Withdraw From Class or Program, Will It Affect My Financial Aid?

If students are considering a withdraw from school, they are urged to discuss their student account status with someone in the Office of Financial Aid prior to making their final determination. Students who withdraw may end up owing a balance to the school, a balance to the U.S. Department of Education, a balance on a Stafford loan or a balance to all parties listed.

If I Repeat A Class, Will It Affect My Financial Aid?

If students are required to repeat a class or an entire level of training, it will affect your future financial aid disbursements. When students are required to repeat coursework, all financial aid is cancelled during the period in which the student is repeating the coursework and then re-instated when they reach the next payment period within the program.

I Was Selected For Verification. What Does That Mean?

The U.S. Department of Education requires that some students who apply for financial aid be verified. Verification is the process to make sure that the information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is accurate. Some applications are selected because of inconsistent information, while others are randomly selected. Any student who is selected will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid. The items required to complete verification are outlined in the "Verification Policy" section of this handbook.

The Office of Financial Aid will compare the information to the Student Aid Report (SAR/ ISIR) and correct any errors. Any corrections made will generate a new Student Aid Report (SAR) which will be sent to both the school and the student. After the verification process is complete, the student will be notified of his/her financial aid eligibility. **Failure to complete the verification process will prohibit you from receiving any federal financial aid for the award year.**

What Is Identity Theft And Should I Be Concerned About It?

Identity theft is a serious crime and can affect anyone. It occurs when someone uses your personal information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. As with any crime, you cannot completely control whether you will become a victim. But according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, you can minimize your risk by managing your personal information cautiously. You can help to protect your own identity by monitoring your own credit history report. A free copy of your credit report can be obtained from all three credit agencies one time per year by accessing the www.annualcreditreport.com website.

YORK COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT LENDING
CODE OF CONDUCT

York County School of Technology (YCST) is committed to providing students and their families with the best information and processing alternatives available regarding student borrowing. In support of this and in an effort to rule out any perceived or actual conflict of interest between YCST officers, employees or agents and education loan lenders, YCST has adopted the following:

- York County School of Technology does not participate in any revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender.
- York County School of Technology does not permit any officer, employee or agent of the school who is employed in the financial aid office or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept any gifts of greater than a nominal value from any lender, guarantor or servicer.
- York County School of Technology does not permit any officer, employee or agent of the school who is employed in the financial aid office or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept any fee, payment or other financial benefit (including a stock purchase option) from a lender or affiliate of a lender as compensation for any type of consulting arrangement or contract to provide services to a lender or on behalf of a lender relating to education loans.
- York County School of Technology does not permit any officer, employee or agent of the school who is employed in the financial aid office or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept any thing of value from a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders and/or guarantors in exchange for service on an advisory board, commission or other group established by such a lender, guarantor group of lenders and/or guarantors. York County School of Technology does allow for the reasonable reimbursement of expenses associated with participation in such boards, commissions or groups by lenders, guarantors, or groups of lenders and/or guarantors.
- York County School of Technology does not assign a lender to any first-time borrower through financial aid packaging or any other means.
- York County School of Technology recognizes that a borrower has the right to choose any lender from which to borrow to finance his/her education. York County School of Technology will not refuse to certify or otherwise deny or delay certification of a loan based on the borrower's selection of a lender and/or guarantor.
- York County School of Technology will not request or accept any offer of funds to be used for private education loans to students from any lender in exchange for providing the lender with a specified number or volume of Title IV loans, or a preferred lender arrangement for Title IV loans.
- York County School of Technology will not request or accept any assistance with call center or financial aid office staffing.

Payment Policy

All students who enroll in Adult Ed, Adult Nursing and Continuing Ed courses and any other programs at York County School of Technology ("School") are expected to pay their tuition, fees and related charges on their accounts, in full for the current term(s) as of either the published due date, first day/night of class, or have already enrolled in, and been approved for, an YTECH Adult Ed payment plan prior to the start of classes. The due dates for the payment of tuition, fees and related charges are determined by the dates of enrollment, the date a course/ program starts or the terms of the payment plan.

Payment can be made by credit card (MasterCard, VISA, and Discover), by check or money order. There is a service fee that is charged for returned checks and individuals who repeatedly submit returned checks will be required to remit payment via only a money order, or a certified check.

The school offers a tuition payment plan designed for students to pay tuition over a period of time rather than all at one time. (Please contact the office for more information on the payment plan.) The School reserves the right to refuse to issue grades, transcripts records, program completion certification as well as deny registration or readmission to students who owe money to the School, or who have failed to return School books or equipment. Any and all debts owed to the School must be paid in full prior to the completion of a course/program, certification exam, 3rd party exam or graduation/withdrawal from the School. Any accounts that are in arrears more than 30 days could be subject to collections. The Student will be responsible for any and all costs or fees (including collection agency costs) incurred by the School to collect any debt or obligation owed to the School.

Regardless of the methods a student expects to pay their tuition bill (financial aid, third party pay, loan or other form of financial assistance) ultimately it is the students' obligation to pay for all debts incurred. In the case where a financial aid disbursements or other form of third party payment do not cover the total cost of a program, the student is responsible for promptly paying the balance owed to the School. Students who owe a balance to the School, after all financial aid or 3rd party payments for the current payment period has been disbursed, must pay the balance due, or enter into a payment plan. Any student who has an account that is in arrears will not be permitted to continue attending classes. Student agrees to be responsible for all costs and charges on unpaid balances including, but not limited to, collection fees up to 50%, court costs and reasonable attorney's fees and all costs incurred by the School in the collection of debts (including collection agency costs).

In order to graduate, enroll in classes, take certification exams, 3rd party exams, have my records submitted, obtain verification of enrollment/attendance, I understand that I am responsible for any unpaid balance remaining on my account and I understand that balance must be paid in full prior to graduation or the release of any records.

YORK COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Financial Aid Handbook Review Form

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the York County School of Technology Center's Financial Aid Handbook. By signing this form I understand and agree to follow the policies contained in this handbook.

Student Name

Program

Student Signature

Date