

Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center

Financial Aid



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

This application is recommended for all students seeking any form of post-secondary education.

- Determines eligibility for all forms of federal and state aid
- Will require personal financial information to complete
- May not result in enough aid to cover your entire tuition cost

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

This form of aid does not require repayment. GACTC can help you identify grants and scholarships for which you might qualify.

- Federal Pell Grants may be awarded to students with exceptional financial need who have not earned a bachelor's degree
- Private scholarships
- State grants such as Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)

FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

Low-interest loans are made directly from the U.S. government to students for tuition.

- Not credit-based
- Repayment typically begins six months after a student leaves school, or falls below half-time enrollment
- Usually repaid over a 10-year period

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS

There are a variety of additional ways to fund your education.

- Credit-based loans, which may require a co-signer and are based on your credit
- Cash payments, which can be made to reduce the need for loans
- The GACTC is approved for veterans' training

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

Direct PLUS loans are one way parents can assist in funding your education.

- Credit-based approval
- 10-year repayment
- Fixed-rate interest
- May request in-school deferment
- No penalty for prepayment

Other loans may be available, and cash payments may also be made to reduce the overall need for loans.



Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

The GACTC will help you with a financial aid package.

Our Financial Aid Officer is ready to assist you in completing the financial aid process. Make an appointment to review your options by calling **814-505-1257** or contacting us via email at **dana.stoy@altoonactc.edu!**

Here are some steps you can take now. We need your FAFSA in order to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and institutional sources of assistance.

STEP 1

Create your FSA ID or retrieve your existing FSA ID online at **studentaid.gov/fsa-id**.

You will need this ID to file your FAFSA. If you are under the age of 24 and are a dependent student, your parent will also need an FSA ID.

STEP 2

File your FAFSA online at **studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa**.

Below is a list of information you may need when completing your FAFSA online. It is critical that you get your FAFSA started! If you have difficulty with completing it, please call the GACTC for assistance. You will need the following information to complete your FAFSA.

- FSA ID (student and parent of dependent student)
- Social Security number (student and parents of dependent student)
- Alien registration number, if not a U.S. citizen
- Federal income and tax information
- FAFSA School Code for the GACTC, which is 015272

STEP 3

Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note. You can complete both of these steps online at **studentaid.gov**.

First-time borrowers of federal Direct Loans must complete entrance counseling, which will explain your rights and responsibilities as a borrower. You also must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN), a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan. You will need the following information to complete entrance counseling and your promissory note.

- Student FSA ID
- School name
- Student contact information: address, phone, email
- Personal reference contact information (for two people with different U.S. addresses who have known you for at least 3 years)

STEP 4

Additional Funding

Once we have determined your eligibility for federal, state and institutional financial aid, you may need to cover any remaining balance through an additional funding source. Remaining balances can be paid via cash payments, credit cards, parent PLUS loans, private loans or payment plans. Talk with our Financial Aid Officer to review your options.



Contact us today at **814-505-1257**
or visit our website at **www.gactc.edu**