



## 2020 – 2021 Financial Aid Award Information

Financial Aid Office, P.O. Box 917, Henderson, NC 27536

Telephone: (252) 738-3280, Fax: (252) 738-3388, Email: [fao@vgcc.edu](mailto:fao@vgcc.edu)

### **How to Communicate with the Financial Aid Office**

The VGCC Financial Aid Office is pleased to offer a variety of ways for our students to access our resources. Most of our communications with students are sent to the students' VGCC e-mail address. For this reason, we encourage you to monitor your VGCC e-mail account at all times, as our communications contain very important information about your financial aid. You may contact the VGCC Financial Aid Office by telephone at (252) 738-3280 or via email at [fao@vgcc.edu](mailto:fao@vgcc.edu).

### **Why you are eligible for Financial Aid**

Financial aid award amounts are estimates. These estimates change as regulations and available funding fluctuate. If after your aid is awarded, it is discovered that information on your FAFSA is false, or if you make modifications to your FAFSA, it is possible that your award will be cancelled. In addition, you may be required to repay all or a portion of your financial aid.

Before VGCC can take any action on your FAFSA, you must [apply for admission to VGCC](#) and be an accepted student. You will need to meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be eligible to receive aid at VGCC (these criteria can be found on the VGCC Financial Aid website):

- Demonstrate financial need
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen
  - Students with temporary or student visas are not eligible
- Be enrolled in an eligible program of study
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Be registered with the Selective Service (if required)
- Have earned a High School Diploma, High School Equivalency (GED), Adult High School Certificate, or Home School Training
- Must not be in default on any guaranteed student loans, or have any overpayments of Title IV grants
- Must maintain Standards of Academic Progress at all times

In addition to submission of your FAFSA, VGCC requires students to complete specific forms that help verify eligibility of financial aid. The Financial Aid Office will send a notification to students' VGCC e-mail address, including a detailed list of any required forms/documentation. The documentation required from students can also be found by accessing the "Required Documents" section of MyVGCC Account.

### **Types of Financial Aid: Federal Pell Grant**

You will be eligible for the Pell Grant if after completing the FAFSA you meet a level of need as specified by the U.S. Department of Education. Completion of your FAFSA calculates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This number is used to determine the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive at VGCC. If your EFC is at a certain level, you will qualify for the Pell Grant (assuming you meet all other criteria as mentioned above). Your award letter will specify what amounts of Pell funds you are eligible to receive based on full-time enrollment. If you are less than full-time, or if you drop or withdraw from courses that bring you below full-time, your eligibility will decrease. Please note that you may only receive 12 full-time semesters, or 600%, of Pell funds in your lifetime.

### **Types of Financial Aid: North Carolina Community College Grant (NCCCG)**

Students who have completed the FAFSA may be eligible for the NCCCG if they are undergraduate residents of North Carolina. The amount you are eligible for depends on your EFC and enrollment status. You are not eligible to receive this Grant if you are enrolled less than half-time. The NCCCG is not offered during the summer term, or if the student has earned a bachelor's/professional degree. Please note that you may only receive the equivalent of 6 full-time semesters of the NCCCG.

The North Carolina General Assembly awards additional NCCCG funds to students who meet the "full-time PLUS" enrollment status (enrolled in 15 or more credit hours for a semester) and have an EFC ranging from \$1,001-\$8,500.

### **Types of Financial Aid: North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship (NCELS)**

Students who have completed the FAFSA may be eligible for the NCELS if they are undergraduate residents of North Carolina. Like the NCCCG, your EFC and enrollment status determine how much, if any, of the NCELS you are eligible to receive. The NCELS is not offered to students enrolled less-than-halftime. Additionally, it is not available during the summer term or if the student has earned a bachelor's/professional degree. Please note that you may only receive the equivalent of 10 full-time semesters of the NCELS.

### **Types of Financial Aid: Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

Students who have completed the FAFSA may be eligible for FSEOG funds if they meet exceptional levels of need. Any recipient of the Pell Grant is automatically considered. The award is available to those who are enrolled full-time as well as part-time. These funds are limited, so early submission of the FAFSA is strongly encouraged.

### **Types of Financial Aid: Federal Work Study Program (FWS)**

The Federal Work Study Program (FWS) offers part-time employment opportunities to students. In addition to the FAFSA, students must complete a separate application in order to be considered for FWS. This application is available in the Financial Aid Office at all campus locations. Depending on available funding, students typically work 10 to 15 hours per week (but no more than 20 hours per week) for VGCC while classes are in session. Students who are awarded a FWS position receive a monthly paycheck, based on an hourly wage, for their hours worked. Since job opportunities are limited, early application is encouraged. Higher priority is given to students enrolled in at least nine (9) credit hours for each of the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least six (6) hours for the Summer term.

### **Types of Financial Aid: VGCC Department Grants**

Funds made available from the previous year's VGCC Bookstore profits are used as departmental grants each academic year. Students receiving these grants are chosen by the Campus Dean, Academic Deans, Dean of Enrollment and Outreach, Dean of Student Support Services, the Student Learning and Success Center, or the Financial Aid Office. Available funds are limited each year, so the amounts awarded to students will vary.

### **Types of Financial Aid: VGCC Scholarships**

Scholarships are awarded by the VGCC Endowment Office to eligible students. In order to be considered, students must complete the [online application](#). Students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours with a 2.5 GPA in order to be considered for any scholarships. For more information on how to qualify for VGCC Scholarships, please visit the [Endowment Office website](#). The following scholarships are awarded to eligible recipients for the Fall and Spring semesters (awards are not offered for the Summer):

- 1) High School Scholar Award—for High School seniors in the top 20 percentile at the end of their junior year. The award amount is \$750 per academic year.
- 2) Presidential Scholar Award—for current or newly-enrolled students with exemplary scholastic records. The award amount is up to \$1,250 per academic year.
- 3) Presidential Merit Award—for current or newly-enrolled students with excellent academic performance. The award amount is currently up to \$750 per academic year.
- 4) Academic Achievement Scholarships—for current or newly-enrolled students with high academic ability. High School Seniors are also eligible for Academic Achievement Scholarships if selected by their guidance counselors or principals. The award amount is currently up to \$500 per academic year.
- 5) Annual Scholarships—these are funded by many local businesses, industries and individuals. Contact the [VGCC Endowment Office](#) for more information.

### **Types of Financial Aid: Student Loans**

Vance-Granville Community College does not participate in the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program (these loans are commonly referred to as Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans). If enrolled students have previously borrowed and have outstanding student loan debts, these students can defer their loans and delay repayment if enrolled at least half-time. Information about student loans is available on the [Direct Loan Program webpage](#).

Private/alternative student loans are an available option to students. These loans must be repaid and the student must select and apply through the lender. More information on private loans can be found on our [Private Loans webpage](#).

### **Summer Financial Aid**

Students who have not received full-time Pell disbursements for the Fall and Spring semesters are generally eligible to receive Pell for the Summer term according to their enrollment status and EFC.

The U.S. Department of Education has implemented a new policy that allows students who are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant to possibly receive a third Pell Grant disbursement after receiving two previous full-time disbursements during the same academic year. This additional Pell is now available to students who received two full-time disbursements already for the year. The general rules are

that students must be eligible for the Pell Grant as determined by the Department of Education and must be enrolled at least half-time for the summer term. Half-time enrollment is 6-8 credit hours (NOTE: NCCCG and NCELS awards are not available during the Summer term).

### **Special Circumstances**

It is possible that a student’s financial situation consists of rare and extenuating circumstances which may not be indicated on the FAFSA. Examples include job losses or medical emergencies. If you feel that you have unusual circumstances that may increase your eligibility for financial aid, you may visit the VGCC Financial Aid Office in order to discuss consideration for a Professional Judgment.

### **Your Financial Need**

Federal and state aid offered at VGCC is “need-based.”

- Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- = Financial Need

“Cost of Attendance” is made up of tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and many other expenses that help pay for your education.

Your EFC is calculated using the information you provide on your FAFSA and a formula created by federal regulation. Your EFC determines how much financial aid you qualify for, and what types you are eligible for. Several factors determine your EFC, including adjusted gross income, household size, untaxed income, and benefits.

### **Award Reduction/Proration/Disbursements**

As previously stated, your eligibility for financial aid is based on your enrollment status. It is important to remember that you are NOT allowed to receive financial aid (federal or state grants) from two schools for the same academic term. A student’s enrollment status for financial aid purposes is determined by examining the total number of credit hours in classes which are required for his/her program of study. Courses not in students’ programs of study are not included in the enrollment status calculation, nor are audit courses, courses dropped during the drop period, courses the student never attended (also referred to as a “no- show”), and credit by exam courses.

For financial aid purposes, you are considered full-time when enrolled in 12 or more credit hours for a semester.

You will have one of the following enrollment statuses if enrolled less than full-time:

#### **Pell Grant:**

- 9-11 credit hours: three-quarter time (75% of full-time Pell Grant)
- 6-8 credit hours: half-time (50% of full-time Pell Grant)
- 1-5 credit hours: less-than-halftime (25% of full-time for Pell Grant)

#### **North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship:**

- 6-11 credit hours: half-time (50% of full-time NCELS)
- 1-5 credit hours: NOT ELIGIBLE

North Carolina Community College Grant\*:

15+ credit hours:	“full-time PLUS”
12 – 14 credit hours:	full-time; award is less than “full-time PLUS” grant
9-11 credit hours:	three-quarter time (75% of full-time grant)
6-8 credit hours:	half-time (50% of full-time grant)
1-5 credit hours:	NOT ELIGIBLE

\*NOTE: The North Carolina General Assembly awards additional NCCCG funds to students who meet the “full-time PLUS” enrollment status (enrolled in 15 or more credit hours for a semester) and have an EFC ranging from \$1,001-\$8,500. If enrolled in less than 15 hours, the student’s NCCCG award will be adjusted.

**Clock to Credit Hour Conversion Programs**

If you are enrolled in one of the diploma or certificate programs listed below, your enrollment status for financial aid purposes is calculated differently. Students in these programs require the clock to credit- hour conversion for hours. Financial aid will be awarded by credit hours and contact hours, but specifically by the lower of the two.

The following programs require clock-to-credit-hour conversion:

- Basic Law Enforcement Training (Certificate)
- Carpentry (Diploma)
- Cosmetology (Diploma and Certificate)
- Electrical Systems Technology (Diploma)
- Practical Nursing (Diploma)

Enrollment statuses based on credit hours and contact hours:

<u>Credit hours</u>	<u>Contact hours</u>	<u>Enrollment Status</u>
15 credit hours	36+ contact hours	full-time PLUS (for NCCCG recipients only)
12+ credit hours	29+ contact hours	full-time
9 to 11 credit hours	22-28 contact hours	three-quarter time
6 to 8 credit hours	15-21 contact hours	half-time
1 to 5 credit hours	3-14 contact hours	less-than-halftime

**Cosmetology and BLET Programs**

Returning students enrolled in the Cosmetology diploma or certificate program (prior to the 2016-2017 catalog year) or new students in the BLET certificate program are awarded financial aid according to the number of clock hours that are completed during the program.

**Attendance and Census Dates**

If you stop attending and are withdrawn from one or more courses before attending past your census date, your financial aid enrollment status will be reduced, which in turn reduces the amount of financial aid you are eligible for. This may result in you being required to repay all or a portion of the financial aid awarded to you.

## **Using your Award for Tuition, Fees, and Books**

When your financial aid is awarded and viewable in WebAdvisor, tuition and fees are deducted from your award(s) first. Financial aid will only pay for courses that are required for your current program of study. Any unused financial aid can be used to purchase textbooks and necessary supplies from the VGCC Bookstore. Please monitor the [Bookstore website](#) for dates to begin purchasing your books with financial aid and for the most current information regarding textbook prices and store hours. Students are not required to purchase textbooks from our Bookstore.

**NOTE:** Students are expected to pay any costs, which may include books and supplies, not covered by financial aid.

## **Financial Aid Disbursements**

Disbursement occurs when VGCC receives our students' financial aid funds from the state and federal governments. Once all tuition, fees, and bookstore charges on a student's account are paid, any excess financial aid is mailed to the student in the form of a refund check. Checks are mailed within one week after the Business Office's disbursement processes are complete. VGCC mails these checks to the address on file for the student with the [Admissions/Records Office](#). You can verify your mailing address in the "My Profile" section of your WebAdvisor. If this address is not your current address, you must update it immediately to avoid having your check mailed to the wrong address. Below are the *anticipated* dates that the VGCC Business Office will process funds.

Excess aid checks are mailed within seven (7) days of processing:

Fall semester:	September 9, 2020
Spring semester:	February 4, 2021
Summer term:	June 8, 2021

**NOTE:** Excess aid checks will be mailed every 2-3 weeks following the first disbursement if you are enrolled in a late starting class or enroll in additional classes.

**Continuing Education/non-curriculum courses** and course audits are not eligible for financial aid funds.

## **Remedial Courses**

Students may receive financial aid, if eligible, for up to 30 attempted credit hours in VGCC remedial/developmental courses.

## **Course Repeats**

For financial aid purposes, a course repeat may be included in your enrollment status only once after earning a passing grade. Additional retakes will not be included in the calculation of your financial aid enrollment status.

## Standards of Academic Progress (SAP)

The U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to maintain minimum academic standards that students must abide by in order to be eligible to receive financial aid. Students must meet all of the following three SAP standards at all times:

1. **Grade Point Average:** Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
2. **Completion Rate:** Students must complete and pass 67% of the total credit hours attempted. For example, if a student has enrolled in 40 credit hours in his/her academic career at VGCC, then the student must have received credit for no fewer than 27 credit hours. Students do not receive credit for a course by withdrawing or receiving an “F” grade.
3. **Maximum Timeframe:** Students must complete their program of study within a timeframe not exceeding 150% of the length of the program. For example, if a student’s degree requires completion of 60 credit hours, then a student may receive financial aid for up to 90 attempted hours.

Any transfer credit hours that VGCC accepts from other schools are included in students’ SAP calculations and impact the Completion Rate. Forgiven grades, developmental/remedial coursework, proficiency credits (Credit by Exam), repeated courses and courses completed in a previous program of study that were not completed are also included in the calculations and impact the GPA and Completion Rate. Incomplete grades are treated as an “F” grade and negatively affect the GPA and Completion Rate.

For these reasons, a student’s grade point average viewed on their unofficial transcripts may be different from the grade point average calculated for financial aid purposes. A student with an Incomplete grade may request a reevaluation upon course completion.

### **Financial Aid Academic Warning and Suspension**

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of and maintain these standards of academic progress at all times. If after one semester a student fails to meet any one of the three standards, the student is placed on “Financial Aid Academic Warning.” This means that the student is given one additional semester to meet all three SAP standards. If after this additional semester the student is still not meeting all three standards, he/she is placed on “Financial Aid Academic Suspension.” The student will no longer be eligible to receive any financial aid at VGCC until he/she is meeting the minimum SAP standards.

### **Appeal of Financial Aid Academic Suspension**

On occasion, extenuating circumstances may have an adverse impact on a student’s academic performance, which may result in the student failing to meet Standards of Academic Progress. Possible circumstances to be considered include illness or other medical issues and death. Students who feel that such factors have led to their suspension from financial aid eligibility are encouraged to file a Financial Aid Academic Appeal. In filing the appeal, the student must document the extenuating circumstances and explain why these circumstances impeded his/her academic progress. In addition, the student must document how these circumstances have now changed so that he/she can continue as a student at VGCC and succeed academically. These appeals are reviewed monthly by a Financial Aid Academic Appeals Committee.

### **Appeal Denied**

When appeals are denied, students may not resubmit a new appeal until they successfully complete nine (9) credit hours with a 2.5 GPA and 100% completion rate for those 9 hours (no failing grades or withdrawals).

### **Appeal Approved**

If the appeal is approved, the student must establish an academic plan with the Financial Aid Office. Once this academic plan is signed by the student, financial aid is reinstated for an additional semester (assuming the student meets general eligibility requirements). This reinstatement is referred to as **continued probation**. Continued probation ends when a student meets all three Standards of Academic Progress or graduates in the case of a maximum timeframe appeal. The student will remain eligible for financial aid for every semester that the student meets the academic plan requirements. Failure to meet the academic plan requirements will result in the termination of financial aid unless the student is meeting all three Standards of Academic Progress.

If terminated, a student is not eligible for financial aid until all three SAP requirements are met. A student may appeal the terminated status once he/she has successfully completed 9 credit hours with a 2.5 GPA and 100% completion rate for those hours (no failing grades or withdrawals).

### **Return of Title IV Funds**

The Federal Student Aid Handbook, published by the U.S. Department of Education, states that financial aid is “awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that the student was originally eligible to receive” (from *Volume 5—Withdrawals and the Return of Title IV Funds, 2019-2020*).

If a student stops attending courses before completing their semester/term, our office is required to perform a “Return of Funds” calculation. This calculation will determine how much of their financial aid award they “earned.” Their “earned” portion of their award is calculated based on the date they stopped attending for their period of enrollment. This calculation could result in VGCC re-paying any “unearned” funds back to the Department of Education. Students are in turn required to repay VGCC for the amount of financial aid returned. If the student attended more than sixty (60) percent of their period of enrollment, then no funds are required to be returned. We strongly encourage students to communicate with their instructors as well as their Academic Advisor and the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from courses. Withdrawing could result in required repayment of financial aid.

### **Return of State Funds**

As described above with Federal funds, VGCC is also required to perform return calculations for any recipients of state aid who stop attending before completing the semester/term. If a student stops attending all courses during the first 35 percent of the term, a state return calculation will be performed. Like Federal funds, the amount of state aid to be returned is determined by the student’s last date of attendance.