



Financial Aid: FAQ's

Q. When should I apply for financial aid?

You should apply for financial aid before you start school, or **as soon as possible after January 1 of each school year once you have completed the previous year's taxes.** You may apply for financial aid before being accepted into a program; however, a financial aid award letter will not be processed until you are admitted into an eligible program.

Q. How long does the process take?

The financial aid process can take several weeks. It is recommended that you apply as soon as possible. You may apply at any time, however there is no guarantee that the awarding process will be completed by the time your tuition is due.

Q. How does the financial aid process work?

The process measures your financial strength and resources against your educational expenses while attending Southwest Tech.

- Most funding requires you be enrolled a minimum of half-time status (at least six credits each semester).
- Financial aid budget expenses include predetermined tuition, fees, room/board, books/supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.
- The government calculates an Expected Family Contribution on your Student Aid Report. The Expected Family Contribution is subtracted from the total expenses. If there is a positive difference, it is considered "financial need." This is the amount of financial aid for which you are eligible if funding is available.
- A financial aid award letter is sent to you once the awarding process is complete. This letter states the amount you have been awarded, however you must meet all funding requirements to be eligible.

Q. Can I get financial aid for part of my tuition and pay for part of it myself now?

Yes. You may pay for any or all of your tuition at any time.

Q. Can I receive financial aid for part-time enrollment?

Yes. State grants and student loans require a minimum of halftime enrollment (6 credits) each semester. Federal Pell grants, if eligible, can be awarded if you are enrolled in at least three credits per semester.

Q. What programs are eligible for financial aid?

All associate degree programs are eligible, along with most technical diploma programs. The following programs are not eligible: Farm Business & Production Management, Nursing Assistant, Nail Technician/Manicurist, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), and all certificate and continuing education programs.

Q. How are funds paid out?

For actual disbursement dates see "Important Dates" tab.

Southwest Tech orders/requests funds if you've met all funding requirements. Funds are posted to your student account and any semester fees will be deducted that are due at that time. Any remaining funds will be given to you in the form of a check on disbursement day. Disbursement day for grants and the first half of your student loan(s) is approximately 30 days into the semester. The second half of your loan(s) is paid approximately 60 days into the semester.