

Student Financial Aid Consumer Information

Randolph Community College makes every effort within the limitations of its available financial resources to assure that no qualified student will be denied the opportunity to attend the College because of a lack of adequate funds to meet expenses. Financial assistance is available in a variety of forms to help students who meet the need criteria for eligibility. Grants, work-study, loans, and scholarships may be used singularly or in combination to meet a student's total need.

Financial aid is awarded without regard to the applicant's race, religion, color, national origin, political affiliation, age, handicap, or sex. However, students must demonstrate financial need and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Because the North Carolina Community College System was initiated in order to make higher education readily available to all adult citizens of North Carolina regardless of their age or financial status, the state of North Carolina provides considerable financial support for institutions in the system. Thus, the tuition charged by Randolph Community College (set by the State Board of Community Colleges) in no way reflects the actual cost of the education the student receives. High-quality instruction, coupled with well-equipped laboratories and other educational facilities are available to the RCC student.

Student eligibility requirements for receiving grants and work-study funds follow:

- a student must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- a student must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- a student must be enrolled in an approved program of study at RCC;
- a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress while enrolled at RCC to continue to receive financial aid;
- a student receiving federal financial aid must not be in default on any student federal loan or owe a refund on any Title IV grant at any educational institution (individual situations may require additional documentation);
- a student must never have been convicted of any illegal drug offense. A drug-related conviction does not necessarily make a student ineligible for aid. Call 1-800-433-3243 for more information.

Students may apply, but may not receive financial aid at RCC until they have first been accepted for admission by the Admissions Office. Any student wishing to use financial aid funds to pay for tuition and fees at registration should have completed his/her financial aid file prior to registration. The financial aid office will make every effort to complete files that have late submissions; however, availability of eligible funds at registration is not guaranteed.

Rights and responsibilities of students receiving aid under the Title IV programs (Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study) include the following:

- the student has the right to accept or decline any aid package presented;
- the student has the responsibility of notifying the financial aid office of any other scholarships, grants, or loans extended to him/her from sources outside the College;
- all awards are based on full-time enrollment for the academic year. Adjustments will be made accordingly if a student is enrolled for less than full time or does not attend the entire year;
- students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as outlined by the College Catalog and Student Handbook in order to receive any type of financial assistance;
- the student who withdraws from school and creates an overpayment will not be allowed to receive financial assistance until the overpayment has been repaid in full;
- financial need will be reevaluated each year and appropriate increases or decreases in the amount of the assistance offered will be made. For the purpose of this reevaluation, a new FAFSA must be submitted.

Financial aid will be considered and awarded according to the student's appropriate classification:

- **Regular Student** – continuing programs of the College leading to an associate degree or diploma;
- **Full-Time Student** – 12 or more credit hours;
- **Three Quarters-Time Student** – 9 through 11 credit hours;
- **Part-Time Student** – 6 through 8 credit hours;
- **Quarter-Time Student** – 5 or less credit hours.

Following are types of aid available:

Federal Pell Grant

All students seeking financial aid at Randolph Community College begin the process by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and mailing or electronically submitting it (via the Internet) to the federal processor. Within three to six weeks the student will receive the resulting Student Aid Report (SAR). Concurrently, the SAR will be drawn down electronically by the College's financial aid office. The SAR is the official notification of the student's eligibility to receive a Federal Pell Grant. Determination of the grant amount is made by the information provided on the student's SAR and materials furnished to those institutions approved to administer the Federal Pell Grant.

Federal Pell Grants are disbursed each semester. Students eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant will be able to register, receive books and supplies, and charge these initial costs toward the Federal Pell Grant funds (provided the student has completed all of his/her paperwork). If there are any Pell monies remaining, when these other charges are subtracted, this balance will go to the student.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

The financial aid office will award the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant to eligible students on an individual basis. Student eligibility is determined by a student submitting a FAFSA as a needs analysis statement. This grant varies in amount and is awarded based upon student need each semester. As monies are limited in this fund, students are encouraged to apply early.

North Carolina Student Incentive Grant

Application for this state grant is made through the FAFSA. To be eligible to receive these funds, a student must (1) be a legal resident of North Carolina, (2) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full-time basis, (3) demonstrate substantial financial need based on the FAFSA information, and (4) submit a FAFSA application prior to the March 15 deadline of the academic year preceding enrollment. Grant monies are disbursed each semester.

Scholarships

Various individuals and organizations contribute monies yearly for scholarships. The scholarships are normally used for supplies, living expenses, and books. Some of the scholarships are restricted according to program of enrollment, home area, etc. The first step in applying is to complete the RCC Foundation Scholarship application available online at www.randolph.edu/scholars. Scholarship monies are disbursed each semester by check following 30 days of attendance in every class.

Federal Work-Study

Randolph Community College participates in the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program, which gives part-time employment to students who need the income to help meet the costs of postsecondary education. Federal Work-Study employment is available on campus on a part-time basis while classes are in session (usually 5-20 hours per week). The first step in applying is to complete the FAFSA along with completing a work-study employment application. Payment is made by check on the seventeenth of the month for hours worked in the preceding month.

North Carolina Community College Grant

Application for this state grant is made through the FAFSA. To be eligible to receive these funds, a student must (1) be a legal resident of North Carolina, (2) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at a community college in North Carolina on at least a half-time basis (6 or more credit hours), and (3) demonstrate moderate financial need based on the FAFSA information. Grant monies are disbursed each semester.

Privately Insured Student Loan Programs

The College has established a loan portfolio of private lenders to aid students in choosing the best lender for their individual needs. Contact the financial aid office for more information, (336) 633-0205.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance

Programs of this institution are approved by the North Carolina State Approving Agency for the enrollment of persons eligible for educational assistance benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Entitled veterans, participants in the Montgomery G. I. Bill Contributory program, active duty military in voluntary education programs, drilling National Guard, drilling Reservists, and eligible spouses and offspring, who have applied, met all admissions criteria, been fully accepted, and actively matriculated, may be certified to the U.S. DVA Regional Office as enrolled and in pursuit of an approved program of education. Information may be obtained by contacting the veteran's certifying official at RCC, (336) 633-0369, or the DVA at 1-800-827-1000.

Outside Scholarships

Students are encouraged to seek outside resources in addition to those provided through RCC. Some material on outside scholarships is available through the individual's high school, RCC's financial aid office, or in RCC's library. Other sources may include, but not be limited to, the Department of Social Services; Regional Consolidated Services; Vocational Rehabilitation; hospitals (for nursing students); Guilford Native American Association (for native Americans); Department of Veterans Affairs (for veterans); and other civic, social, and religious affiliations.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

All financial aid recipients are subject to the Randolph Community College Satisfactory Academic Progress policy regardless of when they initially began enrollment. Federal regulations require that students receiving Federal financial aid make satisfactory progress according to College policy. Randolph Community College has chosen to apply the standards listed below to all students who receive aid from the following programs: Federal Pell Grant (FPELL), Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study (FWS), North Carolina Community College Grant (NCCCCG), North Carolina Student Incentive Grant (NCSIG), and institutional aid.

The standards measured are both qualitative and quantitative and will be monitored at the end of each academic semester for all enrolled financial aid students. The standards of academic progress at Randolph Community College will be used as the basis for determining a student's eligibility for financial assistance. Any student who fails to meet the minimum standards will be placed on probation for one semester. This includes, but is not limited to, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal College Work-Study. At the end of the probationary semester, the Financial Aid Office will notify the student, by letter, of his or her eligibility status. Title IV aid will be withheld until the standards are met.

Qualitative Measure: Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

Student must maintain the required cumulative grade point average at of 2.0 in order to be eligible to receive assistance.

Quantitative Measure: 67 % Completion Rate and 150% Maximum Timeframe

The student must maintain the minimums as listed below:

Completion Rate Requirement:

The student must successfully earn 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted to meet the minimum requirement. Example: if the student has 60 hours during enrollment, the student must successfully complete 40 hours (60 hours attempted x .67%=40 hours). Successful completion is defined as receiving a grade of A, B, C, D.

Maximum Timeframe:

The maximum timeframe for a student to complete a program is 150% of the published length of the program. Example: if 75 semester hours are required to complete a degree, the student may attempt a maximum of 113 hours before the student exceeds his eligibility for financial aid (i.e. $75 \times 1.5 = 113$). One academic year of credit (30 semester hours) may be added for required remedial coursework.

Treatment of Selected Grades:

Withdrawals: Credit hours in which a student receives a grade of “W”, “WF”, “FW”, or “AW” are included in the number of attempted hours, but do not count toward successfully completed hours. Students who withdraw may have difficulty meeting the satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Incompletes: Credit hours in which a student receives a grade of “I” are included in the number of attempted hours, but do not count toward successfully completed hours. Students with “incompletes” may have difficulty meeting the satisfactory academic progress requirements at the time of evaluation, but may request reevaluation upon completion.

Transfer Credit: Students transferring from another college will be considered making satisfactory progress at the time of enrollment at Randolph Community College. A student’s maximum time to receive financial aid will be reduced by the equivalent transfer of credit hours towards his/her degree.

Audit, Proficiency (Credit by Examination), and No Show: An audit (AU), proficiency (X), or no show (NS) grade is not considered attempted coursework. It is not included in the grade point average or completion rate determinations. A student cannot receive financial aid for courses that he or she audits, completes by proficiency exam, or is considered a no show (AU, X, or NS).

Repeat Courses: For financial aid purposes, all hours attempted and earned will continue to be counted in the student’s cumulative total of hours.

Summer Session: Credit hours attempted and earned during summer session will be included in the calculation of satisfactory academic progress, just as any other enrollment period.

Eligibility Status:

Satisfactory: Satisfactory status is achieved when all criteria explained above is met.

Probation/Conditional Status: Students (who are not currently on probation) who do not have the required grade point average and/or have not successfully completed 67% of their attempted credit hours, will be placed on probation for the following semester. Satisfactory progress will be monitored at the end of the semester to determine if the student met the standards of progress and is eligible to continue to receive financial aid.

Termination: Students on financial aid probation/conditional status who have not attained at least a cumulative 67% completion rate and/or earned the minimum required grade point average listed above will have their financial aid terminated at the conclusion of the probation period. Students who have attempted the maximum allowable credit hours for their program of study will have their financial aid terminated.

Notification of Financial Aid Termination or Probation: The Financial Aid Office will send a warning letter to any student who is placed on financial aid probation/conditional status or a termination letter to any student who is no longer eligible to receive financial aid.

Regaining Eligibility: Students who attend college (without federal financial aid) may regain financial aid eligibility by achieving a 67% completion rate and/or earning the required GPA based on hours attempted. A student may request reconsideration of eligibility for financial aid by submitting a written request to the Financial Aid Office once all requirements are met.

Students who exceed the maximum allowable timeframe to complete a program of study must appeal by using a student petition and provide a graduation plan signed by their academic advisor. If the plan is considered reasonable, the student may receive financial aid on probation for one or more semesters until the degree is completed.

Petition of Waiver of Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards: Students who have been disqualified from receiving financial aid may petition the Financial Aid Office to waive the satisfactory progress requirements only where there are special circumstances. A student may submit written documentation to the Financial Aid Office that explains unavoidable circumstances that have affected academic performance. Supporting documentation must be presented. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to: illness of student or immediate family member or the death of family member. If a student is allowed to continue based on mitigating circumstances, the student will be given an additional increment of time to meet the standard requirements.

Returning students are evaluated on a continuing basis from the first enrollment at Randolph Community College unless a mitigating circumstance is considered. Returning students who are previously enrolled under an academic progress policy other than the current academic progress policy will be required to meet the standards of the current policy upon returning.

Complete academic record:

In order to measure a student's satisfactory progress toward degree, diploma, or certificate requirements, the student's total academic record at Randolph Community College must be evaluated whether or not the student received financial aid for the entire time of enrollment. When students complete course work for more than one major, college and financial aid academic progress standards must be met to receive student financial aid.

Appeals:

A student not eligible for financial aid may appeal financial aid eligibility. The process for appeal is as follows:

1. A student may appeal in writing to the Director of Financial Aid explaining why satisfactory academic progress requirements were not met. Documentation of extenuating circumstances is required.
2. A student may appeal in writing to the Dean of Student Services if they do not agree with the resolution from the Director of Financial Aid. If a student disagrees with the determination by the Dean of Student Services, the standard grievance procedure in the College Catalog must be followed.