

# GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID AT FORSYTH TECH



## 2022-2023

Be aware that this guide is subject to change throughout the year if policies and regulations change.



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## **Student Financial Services Mission Statement**

The mission of Student Financial Services is to assist students in applying for financial aid, to promote financial aid awareness, to offer aid funds in an equitable manner, and to administer all financial assistance programs at the College to ensure compliance with regulations.

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## Privacy

We are deeply concerned about student privacy, and we make every effort to protect student data. Therefore, please be prepared to present an unexpired government-issued picture ID upon every visit to our office. Please be aware that information provided by telephone and campus email may be limited since identification is often harder to verify through these channels. Please be sure to use your campus email account for all emails addressed to our office. You are also encouraged to check your campus email account frequently, as we often send important notices by email.

## TechLink

TechLink is an internal website designed for students. You can access TechLink by clicking [IT Support Students Technology Quick Start Guide](#) or by clicking “TECHLINK” at the top of our website ([www.forsythtech.edu](http://www.forsythtech.edu)) to check the status of your financial aid application and aid offer(s). Tutorials for your first login are available on the TechLink web page. If you have difficulty with accessing TechLink or setting up your password, please contact the Forsyth Tech IT Support Help Desk at 866.517.3567.

**Your aid offer, satisfactory academic progress, and important loan notifications will be sent to your Forsyth Tech e-mail. To access your e-mail, you must access TechLink. Your aid offer may be viewed through your *myForsythTech* portal (accessed by an icon within Techlink).**

## Enrollment Status

Forsyth Tech calculates estimated aid offers based on full-time enrollment (12+ credit hours) for federal funds. Aid estimations for state funds vary. There are more details about this in the sections to follow about financial aid programs. Students may enroll less than full time; however, most aid offers will be reduced. State aid and Federal Direct Loans require at least half-time enrollment.

Enrollment	Credit Hours
Less than half-time	1 to 5 hours
½ Time	6 to 8 hours
¾ time	9 to 11 hours
Full-time	12+ hours

This applies to all sessions: Fall, Spring & Summer.

Enrollment status is based on enrollment as of the census date for the *full* session. Courses registered for after that census date are not included in the enrollment calculation.

Financial aid is intended to provide assistance with coursework required for graduation from your approved program of study. Additional coursework will not be covered by financial aid.

A very limited number of academic programs require that financial aid enrollment be calculated on the basis of clock hours which may impact the number of credit hours allowed for enrollment and disbursement. Students in these particular programs of study are notified in their financial aid offer notification emails.

## Disbursement of Financial Aid

Your financial aid eligibility for the academic year is provided to you in the form of an offer of financial aid, which is available through your TechLink account at *myForsythTech*. Dollar amounts provided on aid offers are based on full-time enrollment and are prorated when the

enrollment status is less than 12 credit hours for most forms of aid and less than 15 credit hours for the North Carolina Community College Grant. This is described in more detail in the section above and in the sections to follow that pertain to the various financial aid programs.

Direct Loans are disbursed in two equal installments for every session and require at least 6 credit hours at the time of each disbursement.

A very limited number of academic programs require that financial aid enrollment be calculated on the basis of clock hours which may impact the number of credit hours allowed for enrollment and disbursement. Students in these particular programs of study are notified in their offer of financial aid notification emails.

Courses may not be considered for disbursement until they have actually begun and your class attendance has been confirmed through Forsyth Tech's formal attendance reporting process. We have provided disbursement dates in this guide, but because enrollment varies, disbursement dates for individuals also vary. If you are registered for a class that begins mid-term, for example, your financial aid will not reflect the credit hours for that course until after the attendance for that class has been confirmed. As a result, depending on how many late-start classes you are enrolled in, your financial aid may disburse later than you anticipate or in smaller increments than you expected until all course attendance has been confirmed.

Financial aid must first be used to pay tuition/fees and book/supply charges owed to Forsyth Tech. If there are funds remaining after all college charges have been paid, students will receive a credit balance.

Forsyth Tech partners with a third-party called BankMobile to deliver financial aid refunds and other credit balances to students. For more information, please [visit this link](#).

## Financial Aid Programs

### Federal Pell Grant

This grant program is offered to students who demonstrate financial need. Aid offers are based on enrollment status and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by a federally established formula.

Credit Hours	Enrollment
1 to 5 Hours	Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ Pell Aid
6 to 8 Hours	$\frac{1}{2}$ Pell Aid
9 to 11 Hours	$\frac{3}{4}$ Pell Aid
12+ Hours	Full Aid

Credit Hours/Pell Amount - Fall, Spring, and Summer Sessions

There are some Federal Pell Grant eligibility ranges that require a minimum enrollment status of six credit hours or more to receive any portion of the aid. Students with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA of 3401 or more may fall into this category. Please

contact the Office of Student Financial Services for more details regarding your minimum enrollment requirements.

Currently, the Department of Education allows up to 150% of a student's Pell Grant Scheduled Aid for the academic year. This is offered as 50% Fall Semester, 50% Spring Semester, and 50% Summer Term. The maximum aid offer per term may not exceed 50%, and disbursement of the full 50% per term is contingent upon full-time enrollment. If the summer disbursement includes any portion of additional Pell Grant funding (any portion over 100%), enrollment of at least six (6) credit hours is required. Please note: To receive the Federal Pell Grant for any term, all eligibility requirements for the Federal Pell Grant must be met, and all terms of Pell Grant disbursements apply towards a student's maximum lifetime eligibility amount of 600%.

Students may receive Federal Pell Grant funds for a maximum of 12 full-time semesters. Application Procedure: Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) at [studentaid.gov/](http://studentaid.gov/).

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

FSEOG is a federally funded grant offered to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need.

Application Procedure: Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

### **Federal Work Study (FWS)**

FWS is a federally funded, need-based student work program. Eligible students can work a maximum of 20 hours per week.

Application Procedure: Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). A Federal Work Study application will be available to students who indicate an interest in FWS on the FAFSA and meet basic qualification standards for the program.

Select students will be contacted to interview for open positions. If a position is offered, more details will be provided regarding the general conditions and terms applicable to any employment provided as part of the financial aid package.

### **Federal Direct Student Loans**

Direct Loans are low-interest loans for eligible students and parents to help pay for costs associated with attending college. Direct Loans are disbursed in two equal installments every semester.

Borrowers must be enrolled in and attending at least half-time (6 credit hours) in an eligible program of study at the time of disbursement to receive the loan proceeds.

**Direct Subsidized Loans** are offered based on financial need. The interest rate changes annually -- for loans first disbursed between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the interest rate is 3.73%. The government subsidizes or pays the interest due on the loan while the student is enrolled at least half-time, for the first six months after you drop below half-time enrollment (grace period), and during a period of deferment. The government charges a 1.057% origination fee on Subsidized Loans disbursed between 10/1/21 and 9/30/22. This fee is also adjusted annually.

**Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are offered regardless of need. The interest rate changes annually -- for loans first disbursed between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the interest rate is 3.73%. Interest is

charged on the loan from the time it is disbursed. Students have the option to ‘capitalize’ the interest due, which will add it to the unpaid principal amount of the loan. Forsyth Tech will always offer the maximum subsidized loan amount before offering any unsubsidized loan amount. The government charges a 1.057% origination fee on Unsubsidized Loans disbursed between 10/1/21 and 9/30/22. This fee is also adjusted annually.

**Direct PLUS Loans** allow the parent of a dependent student to borrow up to the student’s cost of attendance, less other aid received. The interest rate changes annually – for loans first disbursed between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the interest rate is 6.28%. Repayment begins when the loan is fully disbursed for the year. However, the parent may defer payment while the student is enrolled at least half-time. The government charges a 4.228% origination fee on PLUS loans disbursed between 10/1/21 and 9/30/22. This fee is also adjusted annually.

**Application Procedure:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and any additional documentation requested by the Student Financial Services office. We will review your eligibility for other types of financial aid first, then offer you the maximum amount of Direct Loans available to you.

**Additional Steps Necessary to Receive a Direct Loan:** Students must actively confirm that they want all or a portion of the Direct Loan offer(s) in the 'Financial Aid' > 'My Awards' section on the myForsythTech Self-Service portal on TechLink. *First-time borrowers* must also complete Entrance Counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note at studentaid.gov in order for the loan funds to be available to hold classes, buy books and/or receive a disbursement.

**Amount Limits:** There are annual and aggregate amount limits that apply to Direct Loans. In addition, no student can receive more than the cost of attendance as determined by the school, minus any other financial aid offered. Annual loan amounts for certificate programs will be prorated based on the number of credit hours required for the specific program. More information on loan amounts can be found on our website.

**Direct Loans are disbursed in two equal installments every semester.**

As stated previously, borrowers must be enrolled and attending at least half-time (6 credit hours) in an eligible program of study. Should a borrower reduce enrollment or attendance hours below half-time, an email will be sent with information regarding exit counseling.

### **North Carolina Community College Grant (NCCCG)**

The NCCCG is available to North Carolina residents who demonstrate financial need and are enrolled at North Carolina Community Colleges. Lifetime eligibility limits may apply to this grant.

Credit hours/NCCCG Amount – Fall and Spring Semesters

<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Aid Proration</b>
1 to 5 Hours	No aid
6 to 8 Hours	½ of aid for 12 hours

9 to 11 Hours	$\frac{3}{4}$ of aid for 12 hours
12 - 14 Hours	\$1,000 less than amount on the offer of aid letter
15+ Hours	Amount displayed on offer of aid letter

Please note: Students with an annual NCCCG offer of \$600 (or semester amount of \$300) or less must be enrolled in 15 credit hours to receive any portion of this aid. Other NCCCG aid amounts may have a minimum enrollment status as well, and no NCCCG offer can be made for less than 6 credit hours.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes
- Meet all eligibility requirements of a Federal Pell Grant, except the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) requirement
- Enroll for at least six credit hours per semester as an undergraduate student in a degree, certificate or diploma program (some NCCCG offers may require more credit hours)
- Students who have already earned baccalaureate (four-year) college degrees are not eligible.
- Meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) requirements
- NC Community College Grants are not available for summer sessions.

Application Procedure: Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

### North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship (NCELS)

The NCELS program was created by the 2005 General Assembly to provide financial assistance to North Carolina students showing financial need, attending eligible colleges and universities located within the state of North Carolina.

Credit hours/NCELS Amount – Fall and Spring Semester

Credit Hours	Aid Proration
1 to 5 Hours	No aid
6 to 11 Hours	$\frac{1}{2}$ NCELS Aid
12+ Hours	Full Aid

Please note: Students with an annual NCELS offer of \$100 must be enrolled full-time to receive any portion of the offer.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes
- Enroll for at least six credit hours per semester in a curriculum program
- Meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) requirements
- Be admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status in a degree, certificate, or diploma program
- Meet all eligibility requirements for the Federal Pell Grant
- Students who have already earned baccalaureate (four-year) college degrees are not eligible.
- NC Education Lottery Scholarships are not available for summer sessions.

Application Procedure: Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

### Verification of Aid Application

Students who are selected for verification are sent a letter and an email specifying the documents that need to be submitted to the Office of Student Financial Services. Federal and state financial aid will not be offered until

the required information is submitted and verified. In order to be considered for all available funds, required documents must be submitted within 45 days of notification and no later than August 1. Verification documents will be compared to FAFSA data. If an error is discovered, an electronic correction will be submitted by the office to the Central Processing System and may change the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). An offer of financial aid will be made only after the data has been verified to be correct. If, during the verification process or at any time, it is determined that fraudulent information was purposely provided on the FAFSA or during the application completion process, we are required to refer that information to the Office of the Inspector General and may do so by phone call, email, or letter. Failure to submit the required documentation will result in an incomplete financial aid application.

## StudentForms

Forsyth Tech uses a platform called [StudentForms](#) to make it convenient for you to complete verification. First-time users will create an account. Once that is created, documents can be securely and easily completed online.

## Special Circumstances

We recognize that students and families have experienced hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. If your income for 2021 or 2022 is less than the income you were required to report on your FAFSA, you may request consideration for a special circumstance. Please contact your financial aid technician for more information.

## Courses Not Eligible for Aid

The following courses are not counted toward enrollment status when determining financial aid eligibility:

- *BSP Courses*
- *Economic Workforce and Development (continuing education)*
- *Audit courses or courses classified as Special Credit*
- *More than 30 hours of developmental or refresher coursework*
- *Passed courses repeated more than once*
- *Courses registered for after the census date of the full term*
- *Courses outside of the curriculum graduation requirements*

## Academic Programs Eligible for Financial Aid

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must be enrolled in an eligible post-secondary program of study. A classification of Special Credit is not eligible for financial aid, but most associate degree programs (AA, AS, AFA or AGE) are, as well as many diploma and several certificate programs. Students are notified by the Office of Student Financial Services if their program of study is not approved for financial aid. For inquiries about a specific program of study, contact the Office of Student Financial Services.

## Consortium Agreements

Students wishing to complete coursework at two schools at one time may request consideration for a consortium agreement, however, no blanket requests will be provided. If serving as the visitor school, Forsyth Tech will review how many credits the student is taking at each school to determine whether to enter into an agreement. When serving as the home school, the student must be enrolled at Forsyth Tech at least half-time (at least 6 credit hours), and the coursework taken at the visitor school must be acceptable for the student's Forsyth Tech graduation requirements. Students wishing to study abroad may inquire with the Office of Student Financial Services to determine whether a course would qualify.

## Forsyth Tech Refund Policy

- A 100% refund may be given if students officially withdraw prior to the first day of class(es) of the session as noted in the academic calendar. If Forsyth Tech cancels a course, the portion of tuition the student paid for the canceled course will be refunded in full.
- For classes beginning at times other than the first week (seven calendar days) of the semester a 100 percent refund shall be made if the student officially withdraws from the class prior to the first day of class meeting. A 75 percent refund shall be made if the student officially withdraws from the class prior to or on the 10 percent point of (census date) the class.
- Student activity fees will be refunded only when classes are canceled and students are not registered in any other class.
- Students passing proficiency exams for courses they have registered and paid for are not eligible for tuition refunds.
- Tuition refunds are not transferable to other individuals.
- Late tuition refund requests will not be considered.
- Tuition cannot be held from one semester to a future semester.
- Malpractice insurance and the College Access, Parking and Security (CAPS) fees are non-refundable unless the class(es) are canceled by the school.

Students may drop class(es) using the “Online Course Drop Form” located on TechLink. If you have questions, contact the Cashier's Office at 336.734.7210.

### **Attendance Requirement – Avoid Owing Money Back, Stay in School!**

Students must attend class(es) to be eligible for aid. Students who stop attending all courses and/or officially withdraw from all courses and are receiving federal financial aid or state grants are only eligible for the portion of financial aid that corresponds to the amount of time they attended as prescribed by federal and state regulations.

Students are considered to “earn” their financial aid by attending class. Students withdrawing from all courses after the 60% point of the semester are considered to have earned 100% of their aid. However, withdrawals still impact Satisfactory Academic Progress.

**Students who withdraw or stop attending courses before the 60% point has been reached are required to repay the U.S. Department of Education any “unearned” funds. Students who never attend courses or are reported as “no shows” are not entitled to any aid for those courses.**

However, it is possible that students may still be responsible for tuition/fees for “no show” courses. For complete details, feel free to request a copy of the full policy from the Office of Student Financial Services.

## Important Dates

\*Please note: These dates are contingent upon the academic terms each semester and therefore subject to change in emergency circumstances.

### Fall 2022:

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Important Notes:</i>
<b>August 8, 2022</b>	Books/Supplies	Financial Aid charging begins in the bookstore
<b>August 26, 2022</b>	Books/Supplies	Last day to charge or receive a credit from the bookstore
<b>September 22, 2022</b>	Credit Balance Day	<p>Grants and the first half of the federal student loans are disbursed on this date. Financial aid will be applied to institutional charges first, such as tuition and bookstore charges. If funds remain, they will be disbursed through the method selected with BankMobile. Financial aid is disbursed only for coursework in progress.</p> <p>Financial aid for coursework that has not started yet cannot be included until the course begins and attendance has been officially verified.</p>
<b>October 20, 2022</b>	Credit Balance Day	Financial aid disbursed for August coursework to students that did not have a financial aid application completed in time to be included in the September balance date.
<b>November 17, 2022</b>	Credit Balance Day	<p>Financial aid disbursed for any coursework that began in October, if financial aid eligibility increased as a result.</p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the federal student loans also disbursed on this date to students still enrolled in at least 6 credit hours.</p>
<b>December 13, 2022</b>	Credit Balance Day	Financial aid disbursed to students for any coursework that began in November, if financial aid eligibility increased as a result. Financial aid disbursed for students that are due any fall funds as a result of a late-fall application.

**Spring 2023:**

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Important Notes:</i>
<b>January 5, 2023</b>	Books/Supplies	Financial Aid charging begins in the bookstore
<b>January 20, 2023</b>	Books/Supplies	Last day to charge or receive a credit from the bookstore
<b>February 16, 2023</b>	Credit Balance Day	<p>Grants and the first half of the federal student loans are disbursed on this date. Financial aid will be applied to institutional charges first, such as tuition and bookstore charges. If funds remain, they will be disbursed through the method selected with BankMobile. Financial aid is disbursed only for coursework in progress.</p> <p>Financial aid for coursework that has not started yet cannot be included until the course begins and attendance has been officially verified.</p>
<b>March 16, 2023</b>	Credit Balance Day	Financial aid disbursed for January coursework to students that did not have a financial aid application completed in time to be included in the February balance date.
<b>April 20, 2023</b>	Credit Balance Day	<p>Financial aid disbursed for any coursework that began in March, if financial aid eligibility increased as a result.</p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the federal student loans also disbursed on this date to students still enrolled in at least 6 credit hours.</p>

**Summer 2023:**

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Important Notes:</i>
<b>May 17, 2023</b>	<b>Books/Supplies</b>	Financial Aid charging begins in the bookstore
<b>May 26, 2023</b>	<b>Books/Supplies</b>	Last day to charge or receive a credit from the bookstore
<b>June 26, 2023</b>	<b>Credit Balance Day</b>	<p>Grants and the first half of the federal student loans are disbursed on this date. Financial aid will be applied to institutional charges first, such as tuition and bookstore charges. If funds remain, they will be disbursed through the method selected with BankMobile. Financial aid is disbursed only for coursework in progress.</p> <p>Financial aid for coursework that has not started yet cannot be included until the course begins and attendance has</p>

		been officially verified.
<b>July 20, 2023</b>	<b>Credit Balance Day</b>	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the federal student loans disbursed on this date to students still enrolled in at least 6 credit hours.

**NOTES:**

\*Please note, financial aid is paid only for classes that you attend. If you are taking courses that begin after the first official day of the semester (a course that starts mid-term, for example), payment for that coursework will be reflected at a later date after that course actually begins and your attendance has been confirmed. For more details on payment dates, feel free to contact the Office of Student Financial Services.

\*\*Financial aid is disbursed only for courses required for your current program of study. Additional coursework taken outside of your program of study does not figure into the number of credit hours calculated for financial aid disbursement purposes. A course outside of your program of study would be any course not specifically required for completion of the degree. Note: required remedial coursework can be included for a maximum of 30 credit hours.

\*\*\*Federal student loans are disbursed in two equal installments per semester. The first disbursement will occur mid-way through the first half of the semester, and the second will occur mid-way through the second half of the semester. Federal student loan eligibility requirements must be met in order to receive the federal student loan disbursement. Students must have met the Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN) requirements and be enrolled (and attending) a minimum of 6 credit hours.

\*\*\*\*These dates are subject to change. Please visit [our bookstore webpage](#) for Bookstore Hours.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy**

Federal regulations require that students receiving Title IV financial assistance must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). At Forsyth Technical Community College, satisfactory academic progress is measured using three standards, Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA), Completion Rate - the percentage of credit hours attempted that are successfully completed, and the maximum number of credit hours allowed before graduation from the student’s program. These standards are checked at the end of each semester/term for students receiving financial aid who are enrolled in credit hour programs. For financial aid students enrolled in clock hour programs, SAP is checked at the end of each payment period.

**Cumulative GPA** - A student must maintain at least a 2.00 *cumulative* grade point average. Transfer credits, credits by examination, P and R grades are not counted as part of the GPA calculation. A “WF” grade is counted as an “F”. A class that has been repeated will have the last grade received counted in the GPA.

**Completion Rate** - A student must complete, with a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or P, at least 67% of all coursework attempted. This includes **every** course (a cumulative history) on their Forsyth Tech transcript. Transfer courses accepted by the College are included in addition to all courses taken

at Forsyth Tech. Hours for each attempt of a repeated course will be included. However, courses dropped during the 75% refund period are not shown on the transcript and, therefore, are not counted. Once a student graduates from a program, the completion rate starts over if the student enrolls in a new program. WE grades received during the Spring Semester, 2020, as a result of a COVID-19 emergency will not count as either attempted or completed.

**Credit Hour Limitation:** Students are required to complete programs within a maximum credit hour limitation, excluding up to 30 hours to complete any necessary remedial courses determined by institutional testing. In addition, a grade of WE Spring Semester, 2020, will be excluded from consideration. The maximum may not exceed 150% of the number of credits required for the program. For example, a student enrolled in a program that requires 64 credits for graduation may receive federal aid for up to 96 hours. All periods of enrollment, regardless of whether or not the student received aid, are included. Withdrawals, incompletes, repeated courses, transfer credit, and credit by examination will count toward the 150% credit hour limitation. The college is required to suspend aid eligibility as soon as it is determined that the student cannot meet the 150% requirement. If a student has not completed the graduation requirements for the program by the 120% point, the aid office will review the student's record to determine if the student can graduate on time and keep their aid. For students in clock hour programs, they must complete a maximum of the number of clock hours required for the program within a maximum of 150% of the number of weeks required for the program.

**Incomplete:** Incompletes will count as credit hours attempted, but not completed.

**Withdrawal:** All grades of W, WP, and WF will count as credit hours attempted but not completed. "WF" will count as an "F". "WE" grades were issued in Spring Semester, 2020, for students with COVID-19 emergencies. These "WE" grades will not be calculated as either attempted or completed.

**Repeated Course:** Repeated courses count as credit hours attempted for each enrollment.

**Audit or Credit by Examination:** Audits and proficiency exams are not covered by any type of financial aid. Students are responsible for all costs incurred with these types of courses. Credit by exam hours do count toward credit hours attempted and earned. Audits do not carry credit hours and are not counted as attempts or completions.

**Program Change:** Students who change programs should be aware that all hours attempted, regardless of the program, will count toward the maximum credit hour allowance until the student graduates. Students who graduate from one program, and wish to earn another Associate Degree, Diploma, or Certificate will be allowed to complete a new program within a new 150% credit hour allowance.

**Academic Forgiveness:** Forsyth Technical Community College sometimes allows academic forgiveness for academic purposes. However, it is not allowed for financial aid. Both the grade and the credits will continue to be included in the satisfactory academic progress calculation.

**Consequences of Failure to Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress:** Students receiving financial aid who do not satisfactorily complete either the cumulative GPA or the completion rate will be placed on financial aid *warning*

status. Students will be sent an email through the campus email system. A student who has not met the requirements will have the next enrolled term to reestablish satisfactory academic progress. If a student does not earn the required cumulative grade point average and completion rate at the end of the following term, he/she will be ineligible for financial aid and will be placed on financial aid *suspension* status. Federal and state aid will remain suspended until the student enrolls for subsequent semesters/terms, at his or her own expense, and completes the work necessary to regain satisfactory progress. If it is determined the student cannot complete the program graduation requirements within the 150% time frame, the student will be ineligible for financial aid until the student graduates from a program.

**Note:** Maintaining satisfactory academic progress for financial aid may not be the same as remaining in good standing in the program. Each program has its own requirements. As a result, even though a student may meet satisfactory progress for financial aid purposes, they may not be meeting the requirements necessary to continue in their program. It is the student's responsibility to know his or her program requirements.

**Appeal Procedures for Financial Aid Suspension:** Students whose financial aid has been suspended due to unsatisfactory progress may appeal this decision. However, the student must be able to document mitigating circumstances. A student must indicate in writing to the Office of Student Financial Services why the aid should not be terminated. The student must explain why satisfactory progress was not maintained and what has changed to allow the student to be successful. Appeals may be made if there are unusual situations such as injury to or illness of the student, death of a family member, undue hardship, or other serious crisis. External documentation may be required. The appeal will be reviewed to determine whether or not reinstatement of aid is justified, and the student will be notified of the decision by email. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on academic probation which will allow another term of financial aid. The student will be given an academic plan that must be met at the end of each subsequent enrolled term or until the student returns to satisfactory progress. The academic plan generally requires a term GPA of 2.25 and a 75% completion rate; under certain circumstances different requirements may be set.

Adhering to this plan will not always restore both metrics to good standing simultaneously, although that is what is required to be in good standing. If one metric is restored before the other, you will remain on probation until the other metric is restored and both GPA and completion rate are simultaneously in good standing. In other words, you will need to continually demonstrate forward progress in accordance with the plan until both metrics are simultaneously restored to good standing. If the appeal is not approved, the student has the right to submit a second appeal to the Forsyth Technical Community College Financial Aid Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee's decision will exhaust all avenues of the appeal process. If the student's first appeal is approved but the student does not meet the academic plan, financial aid will be terminated until the student has returned to satisfactory academic status. All students are permitted a second appeal, but students who are terminated from their probationary status must wait a term before a second appeal will be considered. All second appeals are considered by The Advisory Committee, and their decision will exhaust all avenues of the appeal process. Two appeal requests are the maximum allowed per student regardless of whether the appeals were approved or not.

For students receiving financial aid, Satisfactory Academic Progress notifications will be sent to the Forsyth Tech campus e-mail address after grade posting in the fall, spring and summer. Students

may access this e-mail via TechLink at [www.forsythtech.edu/techlink](http://www.forsythtech.edu/techlink).

If, at any time during the year, students have any questions about financial aid, they should call or come by the Office of Student Financial Services.

## Scholarships

Many Forsyth Tech Foundation scholarships are available to Forsyth Tech students each year. The general scholarship application period for the 2022-2023 academic year is April 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022. During this time period, applications are available online at [forsythtech.academicworks.com](http://forsythtech.academicworks.com). Scholarships established through the generosity of community businesses, organizations, and individuals may be limited to students majoring in specific professions.

## Cost of Attendance

A cost of attendance budget is available in the Office of Student Financial Services or by calling 336.734.7235. A copy is also posted to the Forsyth Tech website and may be accessed from [this link](#).

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

### Students have a right to:

- Know what financial aid programs are available
- Know the deadlines for submitting applications
- Know how financial aid will be disbursed
- Know how their financial aid was determined
- Know how much of their financial need has been met
- Know what resources were considered in the calculation of their need
- Request an explanation of the various programs in their financial aid package
- Know the school's refund policy
- Know what portion of the financial aid received must be repaid and what portion is grant aid
- Know how the school determines whether they are making satisfactory academic progress

### Students have the responsibility to:

- Complete all application forms accurately and submit them on time
- Provide correct information
- Return all additional documentation requested
- Read and understand all forms they are asked to sign
- Accept all agreements they sign and comply with the provisions of any promissory notes signed
- Perform the work agreed upon in accepting federal work-study employment
- Be aware of and comply with the deadlines for application or reapplication for aid
- Be aware of the institution's refund procedures
- Be aware of the institution's policy for satisfactory academic progress

## Consumer Information

### About Forsyth Technical Community College

Consumer and disclosure information relating to current degrees and programs offered by the college, accreditation information, credit transfer policies, and lists of faculty and administrative personnel can be accessed in the Forsyth Tech College Catalog, <https://www.forsythtech.edu/e-catalog-publications/>.

### Safety on Campus - Your Right to Know

Forsyth Tech places the highest priority on safety, and we rely on community members to share our commitment and actively participate in creating a safe and secure living, learning, and working environment. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), Forsyth Tech's Annual Crime Statistics includes data for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus. You can find crime statistics and other campus safety information by navigating to the Campus Police web page on TechLink. To obtain other information or to speak with a security representative, please contact the Campus Police Department at 336.734.7243.

### Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1989

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1989 requires that all students be notified annually of Forsyth Tech's Alcohol and Controlled Substance Use Policy and Drug Free Workplace Policy. Other policies regarding student conduct can be found in the Forsyth Tech College Catalog. More information on local resources to assist you with the prevention of substance abuse is available from the Forsyth Tech Human Resources Office.

### Privacy Rights of Students in Education Records

The federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), and regulations adopted subsequent to the Act, set out requirements designed to protect students' privacy in their records maintained by the college. The college has incorporated FERPA into our student records administration policies which can be found by navigating the [Records Office page](#) of the Forsyth Tech website. The [complete FERPA policy](#) is also available via the U.S. Department of Education's website. For more information, or to obtain a copy of the student records policy, please call the Records Office 336.734.7473.

Due to federal regulations, we are not allowed to release information regarding your financial aid application process, even with your permission, to any party except an agency granting financial assistance. If you need information released for the purpose of financial assistance, please contact the Office of Student Financial Services for instructions on how to submit a written request for that information.

### Completion of Degrees and Graduation Rate Information

Graduation Rates for full-time, first-time undergraduates are available online at <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>. Search for "Forsyth Technical Community College". The information is also displayed by gender and by ethnicity. Degree completion and graduation rates can also be obtained by calling the Office of Institutional Research at 336.734.7159.

## Cohort Default Rate

Our Cohort Default Rate is published on [College Navigator](#), and for your convenience, we are also making it available here. This rate is subject to change annually, but as of the end of December 2022, Forsyth Technical Community College's Cohort Default Rate is 12.3%. For comparison purposes, the national percentage is 7.3%, and the percentage among other public 2-3-year colleges is 11.5%. Forsyth Tech has partnered with Student Connections to help student borrowers avoid loan default. Student borrowers are also highly encouraged to work with their loan servicer(s) when facing hardships with loan repayment. There may be options available to assist.

For your convenience, a Multi-Year Tuition Calculator is located on the [College Navigator](#) website. Search for "Forsyth Technical Community College," select the "Tuition, Fees, and Estimated Expenses" tab, and click on the calculator icon.

More Consumer Information is available on at this [link](#).

## Terms of Agreement

By accepting and utilizing your financial aid, you agree to the Terms of Agreement, as follows:

- I understand that in some instances aid amounts are estimated and subject to change based on available funding and/or regulatory changes.
- I understand that false or incomplete information submitted by me or on my behalf may result in the cancellation of my aid and may require repayment of part or all of the funds disbursed to me.
- I agree to repay any funds disbursed to me in error or for any period of time I was not eligible or enrolled. I understand that if I should be over-awarded and repayment is required, I will be ineligible to receive additional financial aid funds at this college, or at any other college, until full repayment is made. I understand that money that could be disbursed in the form of a balance may be used instead to repay any debt owed to the College.
- I understand that if I receive financial assistance from Forsyth Tech, I am required to notify the Office of Student Financial Services if I receive any other scholarships, loans, employer reimbursement or other assistance from sources outside the College prior to acceptance of outside aid.
- I understand that I must update any changes in name, address, and telephone number with the Forsyth Tech Records Office or items relating to financial aid eligibility with the Office of Student Financial Services immediately.
- I understand that I must notify the Office of Student Financial Services if I withdraw from classes at Forsyth Tech. I also understand that withdrawals may adversely affect my satisfactory academic progress in accordance with Forsyth Tech's Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.
- I understand that it is important to read and keep copies of all financial aid offers, registration and bookstore receipts as all or part of my aid offer may be considered taxable income. I also understand that it is my responsibility to report this information to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) if necessary. The Office of Student Financial Services is not responsible for determining the taxability of aid. Please consult with the IRS or a tax consultant.
- I understand I must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.
- I understand I must not be in default of any federal student loans.
- I understand that failure to comply with the above terms may result in the loss of financial

assistance.

## **Books and Supplies**

These items may be purchased at one of the College's bookstore locations. Bookstore locations and times of operation are located on Forsyth Tech's bookstore [website](#).

Information regarding textbooks (ISBN, price, etc.) for specific courses can be found by calling the campus bookstore at 336.734.7100. Students using financial aid to purchase textbooks in the bookstore should purchase all required textbooks and materials for the entire semester during the published bookstore charging dates.

The College allows students with financial aid offer to charge books and supplies to their aid. Students should be prepared to pay any costs not covered by financial aid. Limits apply to the amount a student is allowed to purchase using their financial aid offer.

Students are not required to purchase books and supplies in the College's bookstores. This service is provided by the College as a convenience. Books and supplies may be purchased at off-campus locations with financial aid funds under the following conditions:

- Students have the option of purchasing from local vendors that charge purchases against the student's financial aid offer using the student's College issued payment card, if activated.
- Students planning to use their financial aid offer at an off-campus vendor that does not accept the College issued payment card must notify the Student Financial Services department in writing. Additionally, students must provide the Student Financial Services department a written statement (on letterhead) from the off-campus vendor that indicates that the vendor will (a) allow the student to make a charge against his/her account and (b) bill the College within the seven-day period after the first day of the semester.

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We are here to help. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding the material in this guide or any other financial aid topic.