

Book Vouchers

Only students with **actual** financial aid in **excess** of their semester bill will be allowed to charge their books in the Campus Bookstore. It is NOT possible to charge books if your aid is estimated or your financial aid application is not complete. Book vouchers usually begin two weeks before the start of each semester.

Late Starting Classes

When a student takes coursework that begins after the normal start day of the semester, it could alter their eligibility for aid. Check with the One Stop Center if you intend to add a late starting class to your course schedule after the third week of classes.

TAP · Students must carry at least one course that runs the entire 15 weeks of the semester.

Pell · If all of the coursework begins after the third week of classes the Pell grant will be altered.

Loans · Students must begin the sixth credit of the semester before funds can be disbursed.

Excess Financial Aid

In addition to paying for books, excess financial aid funds can be used for other expenses related to attending college. The Student Accounts Office, the office responsible for billing and disbursing financial aid, will apply financial aid funds towards payment of the College bill first, before any excess will be paid to the student or FL College Suites. **Excess aid funds** are typically disbursed during the sixth week of the semester. From then on they will be disbursed bi-weekly. Students should contact the **One Stop Center** regarding the availability of these funds. They can be reached by calling 585-785-1000. **Since excess aid will not be disbursed until the 6th week of the term, students need to budget and plan accordingly! Excess financial aid can NEVER be used to make the first (40%) of your Finger Lakes College Suites housing payment of the semester.**

The Student Accounts Office uses **BankMobile**, a financial services and payment company, to send all financial aid disbursements. All new students will receive a **green envelope from BankMobile** (approximately 7-10 days after they register for classes) to select a refund option. If you do not want to receive your refund on the BankMobile Vibe card, you may also choose to receive your refund via ACH (electronic) transaction into an already existing bank account or paper check. For more information, please go to <http://www.flcc.edu/onecard>

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility to report any outside awards, such as grants and scholarships that you receive, to the Financial Aid Office.

To keep your federal aid intact, you are required to attend all classes during the semester. Not doing so may result in adjustment or return of your federal aid. If the adjustment to an award results in a balance, you will be responsible for the unpaid balance.

When you applied for financial aid you certified that you (1) will use aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education (2) are not in default on a federal student loan (3) do not owe money back on a federal student grant (4) will notify the college if you default on a federal student loan and (5) will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one college for the same period of time.

You must check your FLCC email account regularly!

Important College information, including financial aid and billing information, will be sent to your *fingerlakes* email address.

If you decide to not attend FLCC, remember to officially withdraw from your classes PRIOR to the first day of the semester to avoid incurring tuition charges.

Want to learn more about Financial Education and Debt Management? Set up an account with **SUNY Smart Track's financial education tool** at www.flcc.edu/aid.

Log in to find out about budgeting, credit and money management. This free service is brought to you by SUNY.

Questions?

Contact our

One Stop Center

Phone: 585-785-1000

Email: onestop@flcc.edu



Understanding Your SUNY Smart Track Award Letter

Enclosed you will find a listing of your current financial aid awards and estimated costs for the **2017-2018** academic year. This information has been determined based on an analysis of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To view a short instructional video about the SUNY Smart Track Award Letter go to <http://flcc.edu/offices/financialaid/apply.cfm>.

All awards and costs are offered assuming **full-time** attendance. Revisions will be made if you register **part-time**.

This award letter is only valid if:

- You are matriculated into an eligible degree program.
- You are in good academic standing.
- You are not in default on a federal loan or grant overpayment.
- You have not exhausted your federal and state aid eligibility.
- You are taking coursework within your degree program.

Revised Award Information

Please be advised that you will receive only one (1) paper award letter. If your awards change, you will be sent an email notification and asked to login to WebAdvisor at www.flcc.edu/webadvisor to view your revised awards. Changes to aid regulations, eligibility, level of enrollment, housing status, receipt of additional scholarships or funding levels may require a revision to your original awards.

Estimated Costs

Estimated costs represent *average* direct and indirect expenses for full-time (12 credits or more per semester) attendance. Actual costs may vary depending on legislative changes, living arrangements, enrollment, personal and transportation needs.

Grants and Scholarships

NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

Only full-time* students who have at least one course that covers the 15 week semester and are taking coursework within their degree program are eligible to receive TAP. It will

continue to show on your award letter when you are part time because we wish all students to be aware of what they could receive if they attended FLCC full-time. [*Students with disabilities or, under certain conditions, students attending half-time after a period of full-time attendance, may be eligible for TAP. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more details.] TAP may appear on your award letter as an **estimate**. It will not become an actual award until you complete the separate TAP application at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov and your application is processed by the state for FLCC. (Our four-digit state school code is 2256.)

Federal Pell Grant

If eligible, your Federal Pell Grant will appear on the award letter as a full-time award. The College will prorate the award to match the number of credits that you are actually registered to attend. Note: A student may only receive Pell for the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
SEOG is a grant and does not need to be repaid. Students with a zero Expected Family Contribution, who are Pell eligible and are taking 3 credits or more, are given first consideration. Funds are limited.

NYS Excelsior Scholarship

To be eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship, you must be a NYS resident taking full time credits. It requires you to work and live in NYS after you graduate or leave college. The Excelsior program is best further explained at www.flcc.edu/excelsior

Institutional Scholarships

These are awards that have been granted by FLCC and may include such awards as Foundation scholarships, EOP grants, Resident Assistant Waivers and Employee Tuition Waivers. The FLCC Foundation is responsible for awarding most institutional scholarships. For more information go to <http://flcc.edu/scholarships/index.cfm>.

Outside Awards

Outside awards are monies from external sources and may include but are not limited to private, local or national scholarships, Americorps, VESID and employee tuition assistance.

Federal Loans

Federal Direct Stafford Loans

All eligible students will be offered a Federal Direct Stafford Loan(s). You are not obligated to accept the loan nor do you need to borrow the recommended offer. Only borrow what you

need to cover *YOUR* estimated expenses. In order for a Stafford Loan to appear as a credit on your bill, you will first need to go to www.flcc.edu/webadvisor to accept the loan(s). If you choose not to borrow, you may decline or accept a reduced loan amount on WebAdvisor. **New borrowers** will also need to (1) complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentloans.gov. (If you are transferring and previously borrowed from the Direct Loan Program, you should NOT need to complete a new Direct Loan MPN.) **Borrowers new to FLCC** will also need to (2) complete an online Direct Loan Entrance Counseling session at www.studentloans.gov.

Federal Direct Stafford Loans are student loans that are borrowed directly from the federal government. They MUST BE REPAYED according to the terms of the master promissory note (MPN). A Federal Direct Stafford Loan may be subsidized or unsubsidized. The federal government pays interest that accrues on your **Subsidized Stafford Loan(s)** while you are at least half time. The loan then enters repayment and you become responsible for the interest. You are responsible for the interest that accrues on your **Unsubsidized Stafford Loan** while you are attending school. Interest only payments can be made or deferred until six months after you drop below half time. Unpaid interest will be capitalized (added to your principle balance) and will result in a larger monthly payment amount.

Loan funds are always disbursed to the college in two disbursements beginning in the 6th week of the term. When a single semester loan is required, disbursements will occur during week six and after the midterm of the semester (week eight). The award letter will show the gross amount of the award. A small origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement. You have the right to cancel your loan at any time prior to the disbursement of funds. Be advised that if you used the loan to defer payment of your tuition, your tuition will become due immediately. If you wish to cancel your loan, please write to the Financial Aid Office.

Federal Work Study

If you have been offered Federal College Work Study funds and accept the award, you will receive a packet of information in August explaining job search procedures. Awards of \$2200 equal approximately 9 hours of work per week. More information is available at www.flcc.edu/aid.

Student and Family Options

Some families may need additional resources to help cover their estimated costs. This section lists various options such as:

Payment Plans

The College does offer different payment options. Please go to <http://flcc.edu/offices/bursar/index.cfm> for more information.

Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Parents of dependent students may apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, up to the total cost of attendance (minus other financial aid). To apply go to www.flcc.edu/aid for instructions. Loan funds are sent to the college in two disbursements at the start of each semester. When a single semester loan is required, the first disbursement will occur at the start of the semester and the second after the midterm of the semester. A small origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement. Parents have the right to cancel their loan at any time prior to the disbursement of funds.

What's Next?

Please make sure to carefully read the back page of your award letter. It contains information regarding important NEXT STEPS for finalizing your offered awards.

Other Essential Information

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

IMPORTANT! Continuation of your awards is contingent upon review of your academic progress. This review is done at the end of each SEMESTER (including summer) regardless of financial aid eligibility. *Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for financial aid.*

In general this means:

- Receiving passing grades in their coursework
- Advancing steadily towards a degree
- Not taking coursework outside of their degree program
- Not repeating coursework
- Not being on *financial aid warning* for more than one consecutive semester
- Receiving a minimum 2.0 GPA by the end of the second semester
- Completing a degree within the maximum timeframe (the equivalent of 6 full-time semesters or 96 attempted credits)

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the criteria required for making satisfactory academic progress for federal and state aid. A more detailed explanation of SAP can be found at <http://flcc.edu/offices/financialaid/eligibility.cfm>.

Billing

Tuition bills are typically due in August for the fall semester, January for the spring semester and May for the summer term. Students who do not have actual financial aid, or have not

made payment arrangements before their bill due date risk losing their classes. All bills will be sent electronically. An email reminder will be sent your FLCC email account when bills have been posted. For more information regarding e-Billing, go to www.flcc.edu/ebilling.