

A GUIDE FOR FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION/2011-2012

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE - FINANCIAL AID OFFICE - CODE #003792

Mount Vernon Campus: 2405 E. College Way • Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5899 • (360) 416-7666

Whidbey Campus: 1900 S.E. Pioneer Way • Oak Harbor, WA 98277 • (360) 679-5320

HOURS: Fall, Winter, Spring School Days 9:00-10:00 am, 10:45 am-2:00 pm, 3:00-4:45 pm

Summer & Non-School Days Monday- Thursday 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, 3:00-4:30 pm;

Friday 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Skagit Valley College's Priority FAFSA Submission Deadline for 2011-2012 is February 20, 2011

Skagit Valley College (SVC) believes that every individual should have the opportunity to achieve his or her educational goals. The Financial Aid Office seeks to provide financial assistance to students who would otherwise not be able to attend school. Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment. Changes may occur in both state and federal regulations. Information in this brochure is current as of its publication date of December 2010, but is subject to change without notice.

For information on the privacy act and the use of your social security number, please see the back of the FAFSA or contact the Registration Office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In general you are eligible for financial aid if you meet the following requirements:

1. You are a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
2. You demonstrate financial need.
3. You are not in default on any student loan and do not owe a repayment on any grant received at any institution of higher education.
4. You have a high school diploma, GED certificate, or demonstrate (through official testing) an ability to benefit.
5. You enroll in an approved program of study and are in classes that lead to a degree or certificate offered by Skagit Valley College.
6. You maintain satisfactory progress as defined in this document.
7. You are registered with Selective Service, if required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The following checklist will help you complete the application process:

- Complete the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) or Renewal Application if you are reapplying. Request a PIN # at www.pin.ed.gov and apply on the web at www.fafsa.gov. SVC code # 003792.
- Approximately 6 weeks after you apply for aid your file will be loaded onto the SVC system. You will then be sent a letter asking you to submit additional information. You should complete these items and submit them to the Financial Aid Office.
- Based on your FAFSA, your file will be reviewed and an award made or an additional information request will be sent for further clarification or verification.
- Apply for admission to SVC if you are a new student. Admissions: 416-7697 or www.skagit.edu.**
- If you have previous college enrollment you must request copies of your previous official grade transcripts be sent to the Admissions Office.

- Request an official evaluation of SVC and other transcripts if you have **ANY** prior degree or certificate, greater than 30 prior credits from SVC or any other institutions, or 1 year or more of any postsecondary enrollment at any time. Ask Financial Aid about an Excessive Credit Petition.
- You may not receive aid at 2 schools during the same time period.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. READ all directions before completing the forms. Answer all questions unless instructed to skip the question. Specify "0" or NA (not applicable). Do not leave blanks.
2. Your file will not be awarded until the FAFSA is submitted and all questions or discrepancies are resolved.
3. Complete your 2010 tax return before you complete the FAFSA. Keep a photocopy of your return and W2's.
4. Military applicants must accurately compute the untaxed income portion of the form using BAS, VHA, clothing allowance, untaxed combat pay, etc.
5. Inform BOTH the Financial Aid Office and the Registration Office of any change in your address or phone #.
6. Bring photocopies of documents you are required to submit. We cannot make copies for you.
7. You must answer all questions accurately and honestly. We may report instances of suspected fraud to the appropriate agencies.
8. Ask for help when you are uncertain. **DON'T GUESS!**

FINANCIAL AID ADVISING

Most questions can be answered at the Financial Aid counter. Appointments can be made for long questions or confidential items.

The Financial Aid Office will have periodic closures during the year for file processing. Please call before coming in for financial aid assistance.

SVC APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial aid applications are evaluated and reviewed according to the student EFC and the date the file is completed within each award cycle. By completing the application process before the end of the awarding cycle date, you should have your eligibility determined before the start of the quarter. Earlier files will receive full funding consideration. For **FULL** funding consideration for '11/'12 you should submit your FAFSA by **February 20, 2011** and complete your file by **April 15, 2011**.

Students who do not have their file completed by the appropriate date (see dates below) should plan on paying their own school expenses if they plan on starting school that quarter. Additional information regarding tuition payment is available in the Financial Aid Office.

NOTE: In order to meet deadlines, you should electronically submit your FAFSA at least **5-8 weeks** in advance, but no earlier than January 1 of the award year.

NOTE: Incomplete or inaccurate information will result in your application having to be reprocessed and put back in the cycle, resulting in significant additional delays.

Summer 2011 Financial aid will not be available until approximately July 8, 2011. File completion deadline is **April 15, 2011**. File completion deadline means **ALL** items are submitted and no further corrections are necessary.

Fall 2011	June 8, 2011
Winter 2012	November 11, 2011
Spring 2012	February 10, 2012

If the possibility exists that you will be eligible for **STUDENT LOAN FUNDING ONLY**, the completion deadline dates are **six weeks earlier than those listed above**.

Summer loans will not be available for four-to-six (4-6) weeks after the start of summer quarter for early applicants.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

When you complete the SVC application process in its entirety, you will be considered for all the following federal and state programs. Your financial aid may consist of one or more of these programs.

Federal Programs

(See "The Student Guide" for details)

1. Federal Pell Grant
2. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
3. Federal College Work Study-*Federal community service work-study "America Reads Tutoring" jobs are available. Contact the Financial Aid Office for information.*
4. Federal Direct Stafford and Direct Plus Loan (See "Separate Application Required".)

Washington State Programs

1. State Need Grant (SNG)
2. State Work Study

SVC Programs

1. SVC Grant
2. Tuition Waiver

DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Your financial aid need is determined using the following formula:

COST OF ATTENDANCE, MINUS EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION, EQUALS FINANCIAL NEED.

COA – EFC = Financial Need

Cost of Attendance (COA)

The cost to attend Skagit Valley College for the academic year is **estimated** as follows:

	With Parent	Primary Support
2011-2012 Estimate		
Tuition/Fees	\$3300	\$3300
Books/Supplies	\$1000	\$1000
Room & Board	\$3000	\$8700
Personal Expenses	\$1500	\$1800
Transportation	<u>\$1200</u>	<u>\$1200</u>
TOTAL	\$10000	\$16000

NOTE that your expenses may be more or less depending on your lifestyle and variations from these budgets may be used. Special expenses such as computer, or expenses related to a disability may be added if appropriate.

Department of Education Price Calculator:
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

A standardized formula is used to determine your ability to pay for your educational expenses. This formula is called "Federal Methodology" and is written into law by Congress. The information you supply on the FAFSA is analyzed and a Family Contribution figure is calculated. Students who have had major changes in their ability to pay may petition for use of expected year income. The FAFSA calculation is used to insure that all financial aid applicants pay their fair share of educational expenses. Remember that financial aid is a secondary source of funding for your educational expenses and that you make every effort to work and save as much as possible to pay for your education.

Financial Need

Your financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance at Skagit Valley College and your expected family contribution. Once the Financial Aid Office determines your need, we attempt to meet that need with a combination of federal, state, and institutional aid programs. Your level of funding is contingent upon when you complete the application process. (See *Application Deadlines.*)

NOTICE OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants will be sent a Financial Aid Award Letter. This will indicate the amount and kind of aid awarded from each program and the conditions and terms of the award. Applicants who apply by February 20, 2011 will receive full funding consideration and receive their eligibility notices via SVC email in July and August. Complete and accurate applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. Ineligible applicants will be notified via SVC email of alternative funding sources.

CRITERIA FOR SATISFACTORY PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

Federal and State regulations require that you maintain satisfactory academic progress in the course of study you are pursuing to retain eligibility for financial aid. The criteria for satisfactory progress at SVC for financial aid recipients are summarized below. Based on your enrollment status, you must complete a minimum number of credits each quarter with letter grades of A, P through D- with a minimum GPA of 2.0. You must have a college level GPA of 2.0 or higher after 2 calendar years to remain eligible.

Letter grades of E (failure), I (incomplete), N (audit), V (vanished), Y (on going), and Z (no credit) have no grade or point value and no credit is given. Therefore, these grades are not acceptable for financial aid recipients.

NOTE: If you complete -0- credits, you may be required to repay funds that you received. Failure to repay funds you owe will result in your name being turned over to Federal and State agencies for collection. You may also be required to repay school tuition funds.

You can obtain more detailed information by requesting the "Satisfactory Progress Policy" and "Refund Repayment Policies" from the Financial Aid Office.

SEPARATE APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR:

1. Federal Direct Loans, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans

You must complete the entire financial aid process starting with the FAFSA application. Once you receive an Award Notification or letter of non-eligibility for grants, you may apply for a Stafford Loan online from SVC's website, www.skagit.edu.

2. Federal Direct PLUS Loan - This loan is taken out by the parent on behalf of the student. Completion of the FAFSA is not required, but is recommended.

NOTE: Student loan processing ends May 15, 2012. Loan applications received after this date will not be processed for 2011/12 school year.

Loan checks are not disbursed earlier than the 1st day of day classes for the quarter which the loan is intended. To be loan

eligible, students must be enrolled in at least 6 or more eligible credits per quarter.

OTHER SOURCES - ASSISTANCE

1. SVC Scholarships – Information regarding scholarships is located on SVC's website at www.skagit.edu.
2. Veterans' Education Benefits.
3. WorkSource, DVR, L and I, Workforce Training.
4. Student employment in the SVC Financial Aid Office and the Placement Office in Counseling Center.
5. Short Term Loans - Available to needy students who have successfully completed one quarter at SVC. Other criteria will apply.
6. Foundation Emergency Funds - Available on a limited basis to students who have unexpected emergency needs arise.
7. Native American Students - Funding may be available from the BIA. A FAFSA should be completed and the student should contact the appropriate tribal group. Questions can be directed to Financial Aid, the tribe, or SVC Multicultural Office.

RIGHTS OF FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

As a financial aid recipient, you have the right to ask the college about the following:

1. The names of its accrediting agencies.
2. Its programs, instructional and laboratory facilities.
3. The cost of attendance and refund policy.
4. Financial assistance programs available from federal, state, local and private sources.
5. Procedures and deadlines for aid.
6. The criteria to select recipients.
7. The computation used to determine financial need.
8. How and when you will be paid.
9. The type and amount of assistance received.
10. Loans and your future responsibilities.
11. Academic progress standards.
12. Changes in the aid package.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

Students who receive financial aid to attend SVC bear the following responsibilities:

1. Review and consider information about a school's program before you enroll.
2. Submit an accurate and timely application.
3. Provide documentation, verification and corrections of information as requested by Financial Aid.
4. Read, understand and maintain copies of important forms you sign.
5. Accept responsibility for the agreements you sign.
6. Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
7. Perform satisfactorily in a work/study assignment.
8. Inform Financial Aid of changes in your financial circumstances.
9. Contribute financially toward your own educational expenses.
10. Repay loans and related debts in the time specified.