



FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

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A college education is among the most valuable investments a person can make. Many SCCC/ATS students rely on financial aid to help with the expenses of a college education. The main purpose of financial aid is to supplement, not replace, the amount that students and their families spend on an education. Financial aid is packaged with different sources of assistance and combined to meet the financial need of the student. Federal, state, local, private organizations and institutional financial aid programs are available in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans. Most financial aid programs require the student to show specific financial need and to maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree or certificate. The type and amount of aid received are primarily based on the eligibility requirements of each specific financial aid program and the student's enrollment status.

Eligibility for Financial Aid

Traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply for student financial aid. Selection to receive financial aid through SCCC/ATS will be made without regard to age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability. The majority of student financial aid is available through the federal government and eligibility is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.ed.gov. Accuracy is of the utmost importance when completing the FAFSA since verification may be required of the information submitted. This "verification" is similar to an IRS Audit. If a student's file is selected for verification, support documents will be requested. Notification of specific documents such as a Verification Worksheet, signed copies of federal income tax returns, W-2's, etc. may be requested by the SCCC/ATS Financial Aid Office.

Application for grants and scholarships through SCCC/ATS and/or the SCCC Foundation are made through the SCCC/ATS Financial Aid Office. Student loan requests are also available in the SCCC/ATS Financial Aid Office. Numerous grants and scholarships through outside agencies are available; it is the responsibility of the student to locate these opportunities.

Types of Financial Aid

Scholarships and grants are considered gift-aid and do not have to be repaid. Students may apply for scholarships and grants in addition to other financial aid. They are available through many sources including the federal government, state agencies, professional and service agencies, private organizations, and Seward County Community College/Area Technical School. More information concerning specific scholarships and grants can be found in the SCCC/ATS Catalog. All scholarships or grant funds awarded to the student must be reported to the Financial Aid Office.

Scholarships

Scholarships at this institution are categorized into two groups, institutional scholarships (those funded by SCCC/ATS) and outside scholarships (those funded by other organizations, such as the SCCC Foundation, private companies, etc.). Institutional scholarship recipients are selected by a designated scholarship committee using the student's information provided on a completed SCCC/ATS Scholarship Application. This scholarship application is available in the Student Financial Aid Office or the Development Foundation Office. Outside scholarship recipients are selected by the different organizations and are based on their own unique criteria. Application for a SCCC Foundation Scholarship is made on the same application form mentioned above. Other outside scholarships require application through the organization.

In-District Tuition Grants

The Tuition Grant is authorized by the Seward County Community College/Area Technical School Board of Trustees and will be awarded to qualifying students based upon availability of funds. The Tuition Grant for full-time students will pay the tuition cost for the recipient for a maximum of 18 credit hours, in a fall or spring semester. The In-District rate of tuition will be utilized; the student recipient is responsible for tuition costs that exceed the maximum credit hours or exceed the In-District rate of tuition.

A limited number of Part-time Tuition Grants will be available for students enrolled in less than 15 credit hours; based upon availability of funds, these Part-time Tuition Grants will pay the tuition cost for the recipient for a maximum of 6 credit hours, in a fall or spring semester. The In-District rate of tuition will be utilized; the student recipient is responsible for tuition costs that exceed the maximum credit hours or exceed the In-District rate of tuition.

Tuition Grants will be awarded by the Scholarship Committee of Seward County Community College/Area Technical School based upon the following criteria:

1. An application should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by the priority date or April 1.
2. The student must have a high school diploma or GED certificate and be officially admitted to Seward County Community College/Area Technical School.
3. The student must be a legal resident of Seward County, Kansas, for tuition purposes.
4. Full-time student Tuition Grant recipients must be certified in at least 15 credit hours and complete 12 credit hours each Fall/Spring semester.
5. The student must participate in an approved SCCC/ATS activity or organization. Participation will be verified each semester and reported to the Scholarship Committee.
6. The recipient must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average for previous college work completed and must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 to continue eligibility.
7. Part-time Tuition Grant recipients must be certified in at least 6 credit hours and complete the 6 credit hours. If student has no previous college hours, a minimum high school GPA of 2.0 is needed to receive the grant.

The priority date for applications to be submitted for the Fall/Spring academic year is April 1. Tuition Grants are renewed for the Spring Semester if the recipient has met all requirements; only one application for the Fall/Spring academic year is necessary. The priority date for applications to be submitted for the spring semester is November 1.

Tuition Grants for all semesters are contingent upon available funds.

Book Rental Scholarship

This scholarship is available to students who participate in certain programs. This scholarship pays book rental for full-time students (15+ hours) and requires sponsor recommendation. Programs participating are: SIFE, Journalism, Ag Judging, Athletic Training, Drama, Sports Medicine, Cheerleading/Dance, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Art Club, Criminal Justice, Athletics, Peer-tutoring, and Saints-N-Action. Funds are limited and competitive. Priority application dates are April 1 for the following Fall Semester and November 1 for the following Spring Semester. Fall scholarships are automatically renewed for spring if the recipient has met all of the scholarship's criteria (application is necessary only once a year).

Student Living Center Book Scholarship

Residents of SCCC/ATS Student Housing who are full-time students may be eligible to receive a Student Living Center Book Scholarship in the amount of \$400. Student will see the scholarship deducted from total dorm amount owed in the amount of \$200 per Fall/Spring Semester and cannot be stacked with any other SCCC/ATS Book Scholarship.

The criteria for the scholarship include:

- Residency in SCCC/ATS Student Housing.
- Enrollment in at least 15 credit hours on certification date each semester.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.
- Comply with SCCC/ATS Student Code of Conduct.
- Recommendation by SCCC/ATS Student Housing Manager.

Applications are available from the Admissions Office and from the Student Housing Manager.

Federal Pell Grant

A need-based grant funded by the federal government for undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. The maximum award for the 2008-09 award year will be \$4,731. The amount a student is eligible for depends upon the estimated family contribution (EFC) and their enrollment status for each semester they attend. Federal Pell Grant funds may not be received at more than one institution at a time. This grant money is to be used toward education-related expenses. To determine eligibility, the student must complete the FAFSA which is available online at FAFSA.ed.gov.

Athletic Scholarship

These scholarships made by SCCC/ATS are governed by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) regulations which allow the total award amount for a certified athlete not to exceed the cost of tuition and books. If a student who receives an SCCC/ATS Athletic Scholarship is awarded another scholarship by a source not affiliated with a particular college, and if that source awards such scholarship without restriction to college of attendance, and if the student competes for the scholarship in the same manner as any other student, he/she may accept such additional scholarship. If a student who receives an SCCC/ATS Athletic Scholarship has a high school GPA of at least 3.5 on his/her final official transcript, they may be eligible to receive an additional SCCC/ATS Academic Scholarship that does not exceed \$500 each semester. The 3.5 SCCC/ATS cumulative GPA must be maintained for the student to continue to receive the award.

Work-Study

Considered self-help aid. It provides jobs for students who wish to earn a portion of their college expenses while gaining practical work experience. At SCCC/ATS there are federal (Federal Work-Study) and institutional (College Payroll) positions available. A student will typically be employed for one academic year, August through May. Summer employment, June and July, may also be available. The work-study positions are located on campus and the rate of pay is at least the current federal minimum wage. The scheduled hours and pay may vary according to the job position. The amount earned cannot exceed the total amount of the work-study award. A maximum of 10 hours may be worked weekly.

SCCC/ATS requires students interested in Work Study to first file a "FAFSA". International students should give written notice to the Financial Aid office if interested in Work Study.

A list of jobs is available in the Student Financial Aid Office. Students must file a FAFSA to be considered for a work-study or institutional job. Priority is given to full-time students in good standing. Before a student may start working, the following documents must be on file: FAFSA or SAR/ISIR, a W-4, and an I-9. A valid photo ID and Social Security Card are required to complete the I-9. Students are required to attend a seminar explaining SCCC/ATS procedures.

SCCC/ATS Student Ambassador Program

The SCCC/ATS Student Ambassadors Program allows students the opportunity to serve in a public relations support capacity by assisting campus personnel with college-sponsored events and functions, and by performing duties that promote Seward County Community College/Area Technical School.

Selection to the Ambassadors is made by a Student Ambassador Committee; students can be nominated from various areas across campus. Students who are nominated and selected must attend an orientation session before beginning the program; employment as a SCCC/ATS Ambassador usually consists of assignment to a specific area on campus as well as numerous campus events and activities.

For more information contact the Admissions Office.

Student Loan

Considered self-help aid. It is a legal obligation to repay all funds that are borrowed (principal plus interest). All borrowers are encouraged to read and understand the obligation assumed in any student loan; know what the terms and conditions of the loan are and do not borrow more than is needed.

Financial Aid Requirements

Federal Student Aid Requirements

Students must:

- Have earned a high school diploma or GED Certificate and provide official transcripts to SCCC/ATS Registrar's Office as proof of their accomplishment.
- Enroll as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program.
- Be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Sign statements regarding Educational Purpose and a Certification on overpayments and Defaults (both are on the FAFSA).

Institutional Aid Requirements

Students must:

- Have earned a high school diploma or GED Certificate and provide official transcripts to SCCC/ATS Registrar's Office as proof of their accomplishment;
- Write a thank-you note to the Development Foundation;
- Reside in student housing;
- Make satisfactory academic progress;
- Have a completed application on file; and
- Abide by individual award criteria.

Eligibility requirements for different financial aid programs vary, therefore specific requirement inquiries should be directed to the financial aid program for which application is being made. Please refer to the SCCC/ATS Financial Aid Handbook for additional information.

Veteran's Benefits

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is approved by the Kansas Veterans' Commission to offer education to veterans eligible to receive Veterans' Benefits. Applications for Veterans' Benefits while attending school are available in the Registrar's Office. For further information, telephone 1-888-GI Bill1, which is available 24 hours daily. The telephone number for the Wichita, Kansas VA Office is 1-800-827-1000 and the website is www.GIBILL.va.gov.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Students with disabilities may be eligible for financial assistance to complete their post secondary educational program. Additional information regarding eligibility may be obtained from the nearest Vocational Rehabilitation Office.