

Determining Eligibility

All qualified students are eligible for some type of aid. A qualified student is one who meets all the academic and enrollment criteria. Aid amounts are determined by financial need, enrollment status and availability of aid.

To be eligible for aid, you must:

- Complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or Renewal Application.
- Be a United States citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
- Be admitted to or enrolled in an eligible program at the College.
- Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by the College.
- Not owe a refund on a federal student grant or be in default on a federal student loan.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

A federally mandated formula calculates the expected family contribution from information on your FAFSA, such as taxed and untaxed income, family size, and number of dependents in college, savings and investments. The expected family contribution is always computed from a base-year income. If there has been a significant change in your family's income or resources since the base calendar year, you can complete a financial aid appeal for a possible adjustment to your expected family contribution.

Enrollment Status

SWCC calculates financial aid eligibility based on the number of credits in which you enroll. Calculations are based on the following guidelines:

Full-time	3/4 Time	1/2 Time	Less than 1/2 Time
12 or more credit hours	9-11 credit hours	6-8 credit hours	1-5 credit hours

When financial aid awards are not enough to satisfy the balance due on your student account, you must pay the remaining amount with personal funds by the deadlines outlined on TMS Tuition Payment Plan.

Dropping vs. Withdrawing

During the add/drop period of the semester, you will **drop** a class by filling out the proper paperwork in the Admissions and Records Office or on our website using MySouthwest. Dropped classes never show up on your record; you do not pay for them, and we do not count them toward your enrollment status. Your aid will most likely be reduced if you drop a class. After the end of the add/drop period, it is considered a **WITHDRAWAL** from a class. Withdrawals can only be executed in the Admissions and Records Office. The withdrawal stays on your record; we do count it toward your enrollment status, and you may owe funds to the federal government and/or the College if you withdraw from all courses. Students who withdraw frequently run the risk of losing their eligibility in the future.

Total Withdrawal and Return of Federal Financial Aid

If you withdraw from or stop attending **all classes** after the end of the add/drop period but before the 60% point of the semester (last day to withdraw without academic penalty) has passed, you will have to repay a portion of your aid that was disbursed. The longer you attend, the less you might owe. Stick with it as long as possible.

Federal and state law requires us to return part of your financial aid if you withdraw from or stop attending **all** classes before the 60% point of the semester has passed. You will have to repay part of your financial aid that is deemed “unearned” by the U.S. Department of Education. The specified percentage of funds you are financially liable to return is based on your last date of attendance for that particular semester.

A school is required to return Title IV funds to the programs from which the student received aid during the payment period or period of enrollment as applicable, in the following order, up to the net amount disbursed from each source:

- Federal Pell Grants for which a Return is required
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) for which a return of funds is required.
- Virginia Commonwealth Grant (COMA)