



Financial Aid Introduction

The primary purpose of financial aid is to provide financial assistance to those in need to attend school. Our Student Services Center personnel are available to assist students in the application process and provide additional assistance for students in need. Computers are available in the Student Services Center for applicants to use to apply for financial aid. These computers can also be used to access career planning sites such as: One Stop for Education and Career Planning and FACTS.org Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students.

Financial Aid Personnel

Mendy Owens – Melinda.Owens@okaloosaschools.com
Office Number – (850) 833-3500, Option 1, Option 2
Jerry Lawhorn- VA Jerry.Lawhorn@okaloosaschools.com

Pell Grant

Okaloosa Technical College participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office. Applying for federal student aid is FREE by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We will be happy to help you through the steps to apply for federal student aid. You will need our school code for your financial aid application. Okaloosa Technical College - school code - **032303**.

1. Go to www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid to apply for and create a FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID and Password. A FSA ID lets you apply, "sign" your online FAFSA, make corrections to your application, and more – all online. If you are a dependent your parent(s) must also apply for a FSA ID .
2. Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income). Collect your Social Security benefits information for anyone in the household, as well as information on child support / alimony paid or received. A full list of what you will need may be found at: www.fafsa.ed.gov .
3. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible. Apply online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov .
4. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) – the result of your FAFSA application. If necessary, make changes or corrections and resubmit your SAR for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility.
5. **Once you have been accepted into a program at OTC contact the Financial Aid Office to schedule an appointment and review your Financial Aid eligibility.** If you are selected for verification, the financial aid office will ask you to submit additional documentation such as - Tax Transcripts, proof of high school graduation/GED, etc, as required. **Be sure to meet any of the school's deadlines, or your financial aid may be delayed.**
6. Whether you're selected for verification or not, make sure the financial aid office at the school has all the information needed to determine your award eligibility.
7. All students: Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered.

Florida Student Assistance Grant for Career Education (FSAG-CE)

The FSAG-CE is a need-based grant program available to Florida residents enrolled at full-time in certificate programs of 450 or more clock hours at OTC. FSAG-CE is a decentralized state of Florida program, which means that each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts.

To qualify for FSAG-CE funding, a student must be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and complete the current year FASFA. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by OTC financial aid staff. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid or admissions office at OTC. Students owing a repayment or who are in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program are NOT eligible. Current enrollment is also a requirement. FSAG-CE recipients must have a high school diploma, a GED, or be at least 18 years of age. Students must meet Florida's general eligibility requirements for receipt of state aid.

Veterans' Benefits

Veterans' education benefits are approved for virtually all courses offered at Okaloosa Technical College.

Students planning to use veterans' education benefits should contact the Financial Aid Department at 850-833-3500 for details. You will receive general information on veterans' educational benefits, assistance in applying for benefits, and an explanation of attendance policies and satisfactory progress requirements. The necessary Veteran Administration forms are available from the Student Services Kiosk.

How to apply for VA Education Benefits:

1. Go to www.vets.gov/education/apply
2. Education Benefits (drop down menu) Click on "How to Apply for Benefits"
3. Apply for Benefits online – Click "HERE"
4. Look through any of the categories under the red buttons on the Veterans On-line Application (VONAPP) website as needed. We recommend that all new students read the information under the "Instruction for Filing out Applications" button.
5. Click on the "Start VONAPP" button
6. Complete the OTC Request for Certification Form EACH Term.

MyCAA

My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) is a workforce development program that provides tuition assistance to eligible Military Spouses. Spouses of service members on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5 and O-1 to O-2 who can start and complete their course work while their military spouse is on Title 10 military orders. This program includes spouses married to members of the National Guard and Reserve Components. Spouses may visit the MyCAA Spouse Portal at www.aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa for additional information and to apply.

CareerSource Okaloosa Walton

CareerSource may have funding available for certain high demand programs. The goal of the Florida Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) is to build a skilled workforce. The Ft Walton Beach Office is located at 409 Racetrack Rd (850)833-7587. **WIOA Orientations are held at 9am every Tuesday at the Ft Walton Beach Center.** No appointment needed for the orientation.

Other Scholarships and Sources of Financial Aid

Okaloosa Technical College can process aid for students qualifying for funds from the following sources: Florida Prepaid College Tuition Program, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, Vocational Rehabilitation, and some third-party agencies. Other scholarship programs may be available to help you with costs associated with attending Okaloosa Technical College.

Completing the FAFSA is the gateway to earning any of these forms of financial aid. You cannot get any other form of financial aid from the school if you have not first completed the FAFSA.