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# Financial Aid focus

GEORGIA COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER 2018-2019

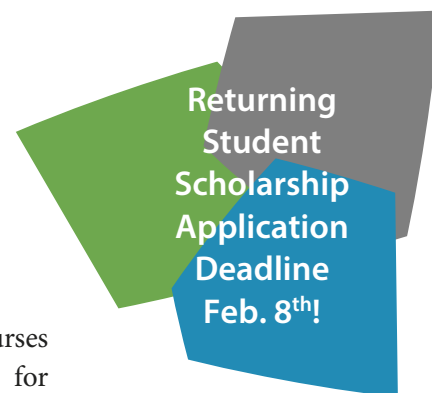
## Course Program of Study

When registering for courses, students must keep in mind a federal regulation for financial aid. Federal Financial Aid can only be applied toward courses that are required for degree completion. This includes Federal grants, work-study, and loans, but does not include HOPE or Zell Miller scholarships. In order to be necessary for degree completion,

courses must fulfill a core, major, minor, or degree requirement. Registering for courses that are not required to complete their degree could result in a student's Federal Aid being decreased or removed and could increase the amount a student owes out-of-pocket for their bill. During the Drop/Add week each semester, the Financial Aid Office will notify students

who are enrolled in courses that are not required for their degree that their federal awards have been adjusted. Students are responsible for enrolling in appropriate courses and can find the courses necessary for their degree on DegreeWorks through their PAWS account, or by setting up an appointment with their Academic Advisor.

For the full Course Program of Study policy visit [www.gcsu.edu/financialaid/general-information](http://www.gcsu.edu/financialaid/general-information) and click on Course Program of Study Requirements. Or contact the Financial Aid Office at (478) 445-5149 or [financialaid@gcsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@gcsu.edu).



Returning Student Scholarship Application Deadline Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>!

## Important Dates

**\*February 8, 2019\***  
**Returning student scholarship application deadline**

March 8, 2019  
 Last day to withdraw from all courses with a W grade (unless already assigned an F by your professor)

March 11, 2019  
 Summer/ Fall registration begins

March 11, 2019  
 Nelnet payment plan begins for Summer 2019

May 14, 2019  
 Summer courses begin for part of terms beginning in May

July 1, 2019  
 Fall deadline for Financial Aid Applications

# Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

At the end of each academic term, the Financial Aid Office staff will determine whether students are meeting the minimum standards for each of the components listed below. Students not meeting the Time Frame standard will become ineligible for all federal and state aid programs immediately, without a warning semester. Students that are not meeting the Qualitative and/or Quantitative standards at the end of a term are automatically given one warning semester. Appeals can be made for extenuating circumstances for students who are not eligible for aid based on SAP.

## Qualitative Standards

Students must maintain a minimum **cumulative** grade point average (GPA) as indicated below:

<i>Undergraduate Students</i>	
Have 0-29 earned hours AND have not reached the end of the second academic year (measured in time not grade level)	<b>1.75</b>
Have 30 or more earned hours OR have passed the end of the second academic year (measured in time not grade level)	<b>2.00</b>
<i>Graduate Students</i>	
Every Term	<b>3.00</b>

## Quantitative (Incremental progress) Standards

Students must complete **67%** of all attempted coursework. This cumulative calculation includes all Georgia College, transfer, repeated, and non-credit coursework *attempted*.

*Cumulative hours Successfully Completed divided by Cumulative hours Attempted = % Completed*

## Maximum Time Frame Standards

Students have a maximum of **150%** of the average program to complete their degree requirements while continuing to qualify for federal and state aid. The maximum time frame allowed consists of *all attempted hours*. The allowable time frame at Georgia College is below:

Undergraduate Students	180 Attempted Hours
Graduate Students	55 Attempted Hours

*Allowances for 2<sup>nd</sup> Bachelor Degree and Specialist Degree will be made for eligible recipients.*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:



Ms. Shannon Simmons became Georgia College's Financial Aid Director November 1, 2018. She began her service as Director with 23 years of Financial Aid experience. Of those 23 years, she previously served as GC's Associate Director of Financial Aid for 5 years. Ms. Simmons is most excited about serving with a team that is known for exceptional customer service to students and parents. She plans for this legacy to continue while coming up with more innovative ways to serve the GC Community while also improving financial aid processes. Of course, all of the moving forward is while continuing to adhere to federal, state and institutional regulations. A leadership quote that she admires is "The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers" by Ralph Nader.

## 2019-2020 Awarding Begins

The third year of processing the early FAFSA is underway with the Georgia College Office of Financial Aid. The 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid became available October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow students time to prepare for the upcoming school year. This year, the FAFSA is even easier, as students can now apply using the myStudentAid app. Students who have completed a FAFSA in the past, can log into the

app, using their FSA ID and be able to complete the FAFSA in minutes. The Financial Aid Office recommends students complete the application as soon as possible to insure ample time for processing. The FAFSA is the application for all federal aid including grants, student loans and the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship. Applications are received daily and the Financial Aid Office will communicate to students

via their bobcat email to let them know when their FAFSA is processed and if any additional information is needed. The deadline for the 2019-2020 FAFSA at Georgia College is July 1<sup>st</sup>. To check the status of Financial Aid and awards, visit the Financial Aid Tab of the student's PAWS account.

**For 8 steps for filling out the FAFSA visit:**

<https://blog.ed.gov/2018/09/8-steps-to-filling-out-the-fafsa-form-2/>