

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT, TARGETED ASSISTANCE & LOAN

Policies for the North Carolina Community College Grant and Loan Program and Targeted Financial Assistance

G.S. 1150-40.1 establishes a need-based financial assistance program for community college students, targets a portion of the funds to students enrolled in high demand/low enrollment programs, and provides tuition assistance to eligible Vocational Rehabilitation students.

The State Board of Community Colleges is required to establish rules and policies for the implementation of the grant and loan program and the targeted financial assistance program. The following are policies for the administration and implementation of the programs.

A. Policies for the North Carolina Community College Grant Program

1. The State Board of Community Colleges will contract with the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) to administer the financial aid program. Procedures for administering the program will be developed by the NCSEAA and the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Office.
2. To be eligible for need based grants under this program, students must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) be admitted to a curriculum program and be enrolled for at least six credit hours per semester;
 - (b) be a North Carolina resident;
 - (c) have completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
 - (d) qualify for the grants based upon a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation under Federal Methodology and the program's recognized "required educational expenses" for attending a North Carolina community college; and
 - (e) meet all other eligibility requirements for federal Pell Grant.
3. Financial aid officers at the community colleges will certify eligibility of their students. A graduated schedule will be used to provide grants to curriculum students who meet the criteria in #2.

The program's recognized "required educational expenses" for a North Carolina resident will be determined annually based upon tuition and fees for fall and spring terms, the estimated cost of books and supplies, and a small travel allowance. The amount may be adjusted to ensure that all eligible applicants receive need based grants.

4. The State Board will receive an end-of-year report from NCSEAA and will review its rules and policies annually. The NCSEAA will transmit data on community college students applying for and receiving grants to the System Office, which has responsibility for evaluating the program.
5. Consistent with this act, each community college will designate at least one financial aid counselor to inform students of federal financial aid programs, the Hope and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits, the North Carolina Community College Grant Program, and other financial aid options. The NCCCS Office will coordinate a training program for financial aid counselors and will disseminate information about the program to the public.