

Financial Aid Charts

Going to college is an increasingly expensive endeavor. To make the experience more financially accessible for students, there are a variety of funding sources offered by the state government, federal government, and other entities. The charts below highlight key information about different funding sources available to TN students. Note: scholarship and grant funding amounts and eligibility requirements can change, so be sure to check this information directly with the funding sources. Unless stated, the award amounts are for the 2019-2020 academic year.

| Federal and State Level Aid | Federal Aid | Pell Grants 2020-2021 Award Amount | Federal Work Study | Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants | Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Award Amount | Through the FAFSA application, students with disabilities may qualify for Pell Grants, Federal Work Study, federal loans, or the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Many awards are determined based upon individual student need. ¹ | Up to \$6,345 ² | Students are paid at least minimum wage by the hour. The total work-study award depends on factors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of application³ • Financial need³ • School's funding level³ | \$100 to \$4,000 per year ⁴ | Up to \$3,000 per semester for two academic years ⁵ |
| Basic Eligibility Requirement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school diploma or GED certificate¹ • Enrollment in an eligible program¹ • Maintain satisfactory academic progress¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of financial need² • Meet eligibility criteria for the FAFSA and complete the FAFSA² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet eligibility criteria for the FAFSA and complete the FAFSA³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional financial need⁴ • Meet eligibility criteria for the FAFSA and complete the FAFSA⁴ | Contact your local VR office to learn more about eligibility requirements. |

| Federal and State Level Aid | Federal Aid | Pell Grants 2020-2021 Award Amount | Federal Work Study | Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants | Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Accepted by community colleges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Determined by VR on an individual basis |
| Accepted by colleges of applied technology | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Determined by VR on an individual basis |
| Accepted by inclusive higher education programs | Yes, except for federal loans | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Determined by VR on an individual basis |

| Scholarship or Merit-based Aid | TN HOPE Scholarship | Tennessee HOPE Access Grant | Aspire Award |
|--|--|--|---|
| Award Amount | Up to \$2,250 ⁶ | Up to \$1,250 per semester depending on school type ⁷ | Up to \$750 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE Scholarship ⁸ |
| Basic Eligibility Requirement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a Tennessee resident for one year⁶ • Graduate from an eligible high school in TN⁶ • Enroll in a public college, university, or private college in TN⁶ • Entering freshmen must achieve a at least a 21 on the ACT or a 1060 on the SAT OR have an overall weighted minimum 3.0 GPA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student is not eligible for HOPE Scholarship⁷ • Graduate from a TN eligible high school⁷ • Enroll in a TN public college, university, or private school⁷ • Final high school GPA 2.75-2.99 AND 18-20 ACT or 960-1050 SAT, without essay⁷ • Adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS form⁷ • Expires after 24 attempted credit hours but may become eligible for HOPE Scholarship⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet TN HOPE Scholarship requirement⁸ • Have parents' or independent student's and spouse's adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form⁸ • Complete the FAFSA⁸ |
| Accepted by community colleges | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Accepted by colleges of applied technology | No | No | No |
| Accepted by comprehensive transition programs | No | No | No |
| Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| Scholarship or Merit-based Aid | TN Promise | Tennessee Student Assistance Award | Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship |
|--|--|---|---|
| Award Amount | TN Promise provides two years of tuition-free attendance. It covers tuition and fees not covered by other aid. At eligible 4-year programs, the maximum amount is the average cost of aid and mandatory fees at a two-year school. ^{9/10} | Up to \$4,000 per year depending on institution ¹² | Up to \$1,750 per semester as a freshman and sophomore and up to \$2,250 a semester as a junior and senior ¹³ |
| Basic Eligibility Requirement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a TN resident, U.S. citizen, or an eligible non-citizen^{9/10} • Graduate from an eligible high school or earn a GED/HISET^{9/10} • Attend mandatory meetings and participate in a mentoring program^{9/10} • Perform 8 hours of community service prior to each term the award is received^{9/10} • At a traditional 4-year institution, student must enroll in an associate's degree program¹¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a TN resident¹² • Complete FAFSA and have Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 2100 or less¹² • Enroll at least halftime at an eligible TN institution¹² • Maintain satisfactory academic progress¹² • Not be in default on a loan or owe a refund on previous grant¹² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a TN resident for 1 year¹³ • Complete high school in TN¹³ • Receive a regular, occupational, alternate academic, or special education diploma¹³ • Enroll in a comprehensive transition program no more than 16 months after completing high school¹³ |
| Accepted by community colleges | Yes | Yes | No |
| Accepted by colleges of applied technology | Yes | Yes | No |
| Accepted by comprehensive transition programs | Accepted at some programs; check with the organization | Yes | Yes |
| Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges | Yes, but only for an associate's degree program | Yes | No |

Descriptions of Financial Aid Sources

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is an application that students can fill out for free to access the federal student aid (e.g. federal grants, work-study, and loans) for which they qualify.¹

Pell Grants are forms of federal financial aid which do not have to be repaid with the exception of a few circumstances. To access Pell Grants, students must complete the FAFSA.²

Federal Work Study is a student aid program that provides part-time employment for students enrolled in postsecondary education to help pay for their education.³

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant “is a grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need.” It is directly administered by the financial aid office at each school participating in the program.⁴

The **Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department** offers \$3,000 each semester in Transitional Learning Services funds for two academic years for their clients.⁵

The **TN HOPE Scholarship** is a scholarship and grant assistance program designed to help Tennessee residents attending eligible postsecondary institutions in Tennessee partake in post-secondary education opportunities.⁶

The **Tennessee HOPE Access Grant** is a grant assistance program for students that are not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship based on GPA and test scores. Students can receive the HOPE Access grant up to 24 attempted credit hours but may be eligible to receive the HOPE scholarship if they meet the requirements at that time.⁷

The **Aspire Award** is for students that are eligible for the HOPE scholarship and need some additional financial assistance. They “must have parents’ or independent student’s and spouse’s adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form.” Students apply with the FAFSA.⁸

TN Promise is a scholarship and mentoring program that provides two years of tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college or a 4-year university for an associate’s degree in Tennessee. TN Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, which means that it will cover tuition and fees not covered by other sources of financial aid such as the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. If used at a 4-year university, TN Promise will cover up to the average price of community college (\$4,000)^{9/10/11}

The **Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program** is a program for undergraduate students with significant financial need. Students apply with the FAFSA.¹²

The **Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship** is for Tennessee residents with intellectual disability who enroll in an inclusive comprehensive transition program.¹³

For further information about...

¹ The **FAFSA** application visit: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help>

² **Pell Grants** visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>

³ **Federal Work-Study** visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/work-study>

⁴ **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants** visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/fseog>

⁵ **The Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department Transitional Learning Services** funding visit: <https://tnihealliance.org/financial-information-for-families/>

⁶ **TN Hope Scholarship** awards and eligibility requirements visit:
<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-scholarship.html>

⁷ **Hope Access Grant** visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-access-grant.html>

⁸ **Aspire Award** visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/aspire-award.html>

⁹ **TN Promise Scholarship** awards visit: <https://www.tn.gov/tnpromise>

¹⁰ **TN Promise Scholarship** requirements visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-promise-scholarship.html>

¹¹ **TN Promise Scholarship** eligible institutions visit: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tnpromise/archive-files/TNPromiseListofInstitutions_011417.pdf

¹² **Tennessee Student Assistance Award** visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/grant-programs/tennessee-student-assistance-award.html>

¹³ **The Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship** visit: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-step-up-scholarship.html>

Last updated August 27, 2021