

## 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 2021-2022 academic year.

Federal and State Level Aid	Federal Aid	Pell Grants 2021-2022 Award Amount	Federal Work Study	Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants	Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department
<b>Award Amount</b>	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. <sup>1</sup>	Up to \$6,895 <sup>2</sup>	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"> <li>• Time of application<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Financial need<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• School's funding level<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	\$100 to \$4,000 per year, depending on financial need <sup>4</sup>	Up to \$3,000 per semester for two academic years <sup>5</sup>

<b>Federal and State Level Aid</b>	<b>Federal Aid</b>	<b>Pell Grants 2021-2022 Award Amount</b>	<b>Federal Work Study</b>	<b>Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants</b>	<b>Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department</b>
<b>Accepted by community colleges</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Determined by VR on an individual basis
<b>Accepted by colleges of applied technology</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Determined by VR on an individual basis
<b>Accepted by inclusive higher education programs</b>	Yes, except for federal loans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges</b>	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
<b>Award Amount</b>	<p>Four-year institutions: Up to \$2,250 per full-time enrollment semester as a freshman and sophomore; up to \$2,850 per full-time enrollment semester as a junior and senior</p> <p>Two-year institutions: Up to \$1,600 per full-time enrollment semester as a freshman and sophomore<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>Up to \$1,375 per semester at an eligible four-year institution or an eligible two-year institution that offers on-campus housing.</p> <p>Up to \$688 per semester at an eligible two-year postsecondary institution.</p> <p>Total dollars awarded for this scholarship is \$2,341<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Four-year institutions: Up to \$750 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE Scholarship; including summer</p> <p>Two-year institutions: Up to \$250 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE scholarship; including summer<sup>8</sup></p>
<b>Basic Eligibility Requirement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have been a Tennessee resident for one year<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Graduate from an eligible high school in TN<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Enroll in a public college, university, or private college in TN<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student is not eligible for HOPE Scholarship<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Graduate from a TN eligible high school<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Enroll in a TN public college, university, or private school<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Final high school GPA 2.75-2.99 AND 18-20 ACT or 960-1050 SAT, without essay<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS form<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Expires after 24 attempted credit hours but may become eligible for HOPE Scholarship<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet TN HOPE Scholarship requirement<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Have parents' or independent student's and spouse's adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Complete the FAFSA<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Accepted by community colleges</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Accepted by TCATs</b>	No	No	No
<b>Accepted by comprehensive transition programs</b>	No	No	No
<b>Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

Scholarship or Merit-based Aid	TN Promise	Tennessee Student Assistance Award	Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship
<b>Award Amount</b>	TN Promise provides two years of tuition-free attendance. Award amount varies based on amount of remaining tuition and mandatory fees after all other gift aid has been applied. At eligible 4-year programs, the maximum amount is the average cost of aid and mandatory fees at a two-year school. <sup>9/10</sup>	Four-year/two-year private: \$4,000  Four-year public/Two-year public/ Career schools/ TCATs: Up to \$2,000 <sup>12</sup>	Four-year institutions: Up to \$2,250 per full-time enrollment semester as a freshman and sophomore; up to \$2,850 per full-time enrollment semester as a junior and senior  Two-year institutions: Up to \$1,600 per full-time enrollment semester as a freshman and sophomore <sup>13</sup>
<b>Basic Eligibility Requirement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a TN resident, U.S. citizen, or an eligible non-citizen<sup>9/10</sup></li> <li>Graduate from an eligible high school or earn a GED/HISET<sup>9/10</sup></li> <li>Attend mandatory meetings and participate in a mentoring program<sup>9/10</sup></li> <li>Perform 8 hours of community service prior to each term the award is received<sup>9/10</sup></li> <li>At a traditional 4-year institution, student must enroll in an associate's degree program<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a TN resident<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Complete FAFSA and have Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 2100 or less<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Enroll at least halftime at an eligible TN institution<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Maintain satisfactory academic progress<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Not be in default on a loan or owe a refund on previous grant<sup>12</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have been a TN resident for 1 year<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Complete high school in TN<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Receive a regular, occupational, alternate academic, or special education diploma<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Enroll in a comprehensive transition program no more than 16 months after completing high school<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Accepted by community colleges</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Accepted by TCATs</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Accepted by comprehensive transition programs</b>	Accepted at some programs; check with the organization	Yes	Yes
<b>Accepted by traditional 4-year colleges</b>	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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

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

The TN HOPE Scholarship is a state program, administered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, established to provide need-based aid to Tennessee residents who are enrolled in one of the Tennessee public colleges, universities, or private colleges. The award is based on the financial need and merit.<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup>

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)<sup>9/10/11</sup>

## For further information about...

- <sup>1</sup> The FAFSA application visit: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help>
- <sup>2</sup> Pell Grants visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>
- <sup>3</sup> Federal Work-Study visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/work-study>
- <sup>4</sup> Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/fseog>
- <sup>5</sup> The Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Department Transitional Learning Services funding visit: <https://tnihealliance.org/financial-information-for-families/>
- <sup>6</sup> TN Hope Scholarship awards and eligibility requirements visit: <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/high-school-students/scholarships-for-high-school-seniors/tennessee-hope-access-grant#:~:text=Additional%20Information%3A%20The%20Tennessee%20HOPE,%2C%20universities%2C%20or%20private%20colleges>
- <sup>7</sup> Hope Access Grant visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-access-grant.html>
- <sup>8</sup> Aspire Award visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/aspire-award.html>
- <sup>9</sup> TN Promise Scholarship awards visit: <https://www.tn.gov/tnpromise>
- <sup>10</sup> TN Promise Scholarship requirements visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-promise-scholarship.html>
- <sup>11</sup> TN Promise Scholarship eligible institutions visit: [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tnpromise/archive-files/TNPromiseListofInstitutions\\_011417.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tnpromise/archive-files/TNPromiseListofInstitutions_011417.pdf)
- <sup>12</sup> Tennessee Student Assistance Award visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/grant-programs/tennessee-student-assistance-award.html>
- <sup>13</sup> The Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship visit: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-step-up-scholarship.html>