



2011-2012

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

NGCSU Office of Student Financial Aid
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Fall 2011 - Summer 2012
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Important Information

We are pleased that you are interested in studying at North Georgia College and State University (NGCSU). We are aware of your concern for financing your college education, and we want to assist you in making the appropriate financial arrangements. **It is important for you to read all financial aid material provided to you before beginning the application process.**

This packet contains:

- A checklist that allows students to follow their financial aid application process by documenting when they have reached each step.
- A brief explanation of federal and state programs along with the application process. The Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress which all students are required to maintain in order to be eligible for any financial aid.
- The Cost of Attendance/Budget for 2011-2012.
- Financial Aid Internet Resources.

By completing the FAFSA application process described in this form, you may be considered for federal and state aid; grants, loans, work-study, state grant programs, and the HOPE Scholarship programs.

While borrowing options exist for students and parents, we caution you to borrow conservatively! We will determine your maximum eligibility for a loan. However, you are not obligated to borrow that amount. We urge students to borrow only what is needed. The amount a student borrows will have an effect on repayment amounts and future credit ratings.

The most important application factor is to apply early!

Some campus-based aid is limited and will be offered to the first students that have completed their financial aid packet and meet the requirement.

Our office looks forward to assisting you with your financial aid. Please call, e-mail, or come by our office with your questions.

The Veterans' Affairs representative is located in the Office of Student Financial Aid. Stop by our office to apply for educational benefits.

Top 6 Financial Aid Tips

1. **Get Organized:** Start to get organized now by maintaining a financial aid notebook. Students have found this to be a very valuable tool.
2. **Check out our Website:** Our website, www.northgeorgia.edu/finaid, will be updated with the latest information. Refer to it for more information about programs and applications and so many other things.
3. **Ask Questions:** Learn all you can about the financial aid process. If you have questions, please ask us.
4. **Apply!** You cannot win awards or receive funds if you do not apply for them, so pay attention to deadlines.
5. **Respond Quickly:** Our office may send you requests for more information. To avoid any further delay in your application process, respond quickly. Check your NGCSU Email at least twice a week.
6. **Review BANNER:** Access BANNER for your financial aid status, awards, and history. Review often.

Submit Applications by March 17, 2011, for Priority Consideration

Student Financial Aid Checklist

The following checklist can be a valuable tool in assuring you successfully complete the application process. It is very important to read all materials thoroughly and to complete all applications correctly.

ALL STUDENTS

Done Date

- _____ If you choose to apply for **only** the HOPE Scholarship then go to www.GAcollge411.org to apply. (see box below for “Something New in Georgia”).
- _____ If you want to apply for all Federal aid **plus** HOPE Scholarship then complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- _____ If you apply for federal financial aid online with the FAFSA, within two weeks of submitting it, you should receive an electronic Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Department of Education. It is very important to check for the following:
 - _____ EFC: followed by a number (should be located under the date near the top right corner of page 1). If it does not appear, follow the directions given.
 - _____ Accuracy: If you need to make corrections, follow the directions on page 1 of the SAR.
 - _____ Make sure the Department of Education is not asking for more information.
- _____ If you want to apply for the GA-ROTC grant, or any other State Scholarship/Service Loan Program go to www.GAcollge411.org to apply. (see box below)
- _____ When all information is submitted, we will review your file. A review of your file includes:
 - review of all your documents for accuracy and information
 - review of your NGCSU academic records and review of your previous financial aid records
 - review of additional records, if required
- _____ Once your file is reviewed, we will notify you with **one** of the following:
 - A 2011-2012 Financial Aid Award Notice offering you financial aid. Read all the instructions, review your financial aid award, respond accordingly, and submit. If your notice contains additional instructions, follow them. The award letter is available electronically on your BANNER access.
 - A Letter of Ineligibility. If you are not eligible to receive financial aid, you will be informed of the reason. Contact us if you have questions or additional information concerning a change in financial status.
 - An Additional Information Notice will be sent if corrections are necessary and/or if something is missing from our file. Sometimes we are required to collect more information to clarify your circumstances.

Only in Georgia! www.GAcollge411.org

This site is to apply for several programs specific to Georgia students and North Georgia College and State University students. You must “Create an Account”... be sure to use your LEGAL Name and Correct Information (Address, SSN, DOB, etc.). Your Account on this state web site is valid for your entire college career. Once your account is created look for “Applications & Transcripts.” Then review the Scholarship & Grants list and the Service Cancelable Loans list... there may be several you wish to consider. Skip the “Loan Applications” list as this process will come later, if needed.

TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes: grants, work-study, scholarships and loans.

SAR stands for Student Aid Report. The SAR shows the results from completing the FAFSA. If you completed the FAFSA electronically with an email address listed, your SAR will come to you electronically.

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. The EFC is the number the financial aid office uses to determine what and how much financial aid you are eligible to be awarded.

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS

FEDERAL PELL GRANT is awarded to undergraduate students working toward a first bachelor's degree. The amount of the grant is determined by a U.S. Department of Education calculation and is administered by the college. Awards range from \$400-\$5550 per year.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG) is a campus-based fund awarded by the school based on the SAR information. SEOG is a grant available for undergraduates only. The award at NGCSU averages \$600 per year.

TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) GRANT PROGRAM

Details for this program have not been finalized. Check on the website under New News for more details.

GA-(LEAP) GRANT PROGRAM (Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership) is a jointly funded state and federal program specifically intended for undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need and PELL Grant eligibility.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM provides jobs to undergraduate and graduate students who are then paid an hourly rate. Community Service type jobs are also offered.

FEDERAL LOAN PROGRAMS

The type of loan a student is eligible for is determined by their FAFSA results.

Students are encouraged to budget wisely and borrow conservatively. Remember: **ALL** student loans must be **repaid by the borrower**. All NGCSU student borrowers **must** complete an initial Entrance Loan Counseling session AND sign a Master Promissory Note prior to receiving the first loan check. The Entrance Counseling requirement and Master Promissory Note may be completed via the World Wide Web: www.studentloans.gov

All student borrowers must complete Exit Counseling before graduation,

transfer, or withdrawal. This may be completed at www.studentloans.gov

Perkins Loan is a low-interest need-based loan, which must be repaid. Awards range from \$300-\$3000 per year.

Subsidized Direct Stafford Loan is a student loan, which must be repaid. If you qualify, based on need, the government will pay the interest on your loan during enrollment periods. We electronically complete this process for most students.

Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan is a student loan, which is not interest free and is not need based. Most students qualify for this loan. We complete the process electronically for most students.

Direct Parent Plus Loan is a loan for parents to help pay the educational cost for their student. The parent must be approved by the lender for this loan. Contact the OFSA for more information and the application.

For details on the Federal Programs mentioned above, refer to *The Student Guide* published by the U.S. Department of Education. This guide is available online at www.ed.gov or in our office.

Private Alternative Loans are loans of last resort. Do not apply before contacting your financial aid counselor. Counts towards Cost of Attendance.

STATE PROGRAMS

(The state residency requirement can vary by program. Please consult with us if you have any questions.)

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) is funded by former Governor Zell Miller's Georgia Lottery for Education and is available to Georgia residents. Full-time enrollment is not a requirement. Grade point eligibility for entering freshmen is based on a high school GPA of 3.0 or better as determined by Georgia Student Finance Commission. Sophomores, juniors and seniors may renew the HOPE Scholarship based on NGCSU's certification of their grade point eligibility.

GA-ROTC GRANT is for cadets who maintain full-time enrollment status, fully participate in the ROTC program, and make satisfactory academic progress. To be eligible, the cadet and his/her parents must be Georgia residents. The award is given to the student the last week of the semester. A separate application must be completed during the first two weeks of the first enrollment term each year.

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INTERNET RESOURCES

For many families the World Wide Web is fast becoming a valuable resource in learning about available financial aid services. The following are reliable sources of information.

For Financial Aid Information

Website	Description
www.northgeorgia.edu	<i>NGCSU web page with a link to the financial aid page.</i>
www.gacollege411.com	<i>Georgia Student Finance Commission- HOPE Scholarship</i>
www.ed.gov or www.studentaid.ed.gov	<i>U.S. Department of Education - The Student Guide to Financial Aid</i>
www.fafsa.ed.gov	<i>FAFSA on the Web - Apply or check your application status here.</i>
www.finaid.org	<i>Dept. of Education Financial information page</i>
www.studentloans.gov	<i>Fast and easy entrance/exit loan counseling required for all students</i>
www.nsls.ed.gov	<i>National Student Loan Database System</i>

For Scholarship Information

Website	Description
www.fastweb.com	<i>FREE, legitimate scholarship search firm</i>
www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml	<i>Information on how to identify potential scholarship scams</i>

Key Financial Aid Terms

Cost of Attendance (COA)

The total amount it will cost you to go to school—usually expressed as a yearly figure. It is determined using rules established by law.

Default

Failure to repay a student loan according to the terms agreed to when you signed a promissory note. For most student loan programs, default is more specific—it occurs if you fail to make a payment for 270 days if you repay monthly.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Used by some schools and lenders to wire funds for Direct Stafford and PLUS loans directly to participating schools without requiring an

intermediate check for the student to endorse. The money is transferred electronically instead of using paper, and hence is available to the student sooner. If you have a choice of funds transfer methods, use EFT.

Financial Aid Award

The total estimated amount of financial aid (federal and nonfederal) a student receives.

First-Time Borrower

A first-year undergraduate student who has no unpaid loan balances outstanding on the date he or she signs a promissory note for an educational loan. First-time borrowers may be subjected to a delay in the disbursement of the loan funds. The first loan payment is disbursed 30 days

after the first day of the enrollment period. If the student withdraws during the first 30 days of classes, the loan is canceled and does not need to be repaid. Borrowers with existing loan balances are not subject to this delay.

Half time

For a school measuring progress in credit hours and semesters, “half time” is at least six semester hours per term for an undergraduate program. You must be attending school at least half time to be eligible for a Direct Stafford Loan.

Regular Student

One who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree.