Financial Aid

Financial aid is any form of funding that helps students pay for college. Financial aid consists of federal and state grants, scholarships, incentive awards, student loans and federal work-study. To apply for financial aid, students need to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually.

Financial Aid for Part-Time Students

Financial assistance for part-time students (less than 12 credit hours) is available in the forms of federal and state grants, loans and scholarships, including Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loan program (PLUS Loans), LCCC Trustee Scholarship, LCCC Presidential Scholarship and LCCC Incentive Award for non-traditional students.

Applying for Financial Aid

To be considered for federal financial aid programs including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study and Federal Direct Loans, students must complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.gov annually on October 1 for the following award year. LCCC's financial aid award year starts with the summer term, followed by fall and spring. Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. Some forms of federal need-based financial aid is awarded to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, LCCC has priority FAFSA filing dates: June 1 for fall semester and October 1 for spring semester.

Eligibility for need-based financial aid programs is determined by household and financial information reported on the student's FAFSA. Upon successful submission of the FAFSA, the student's expected family contribution (EFC) will be used to determine the student's eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Students may request to have their eligibility for the Federal Work-Study program and Federal Student Loan(s) by the Financial Services Center.

Once Financial Services receives a complete and valid FAFSA, students are notified. If additional documentation is required by the U.S. Department of Education before financial aid eligibility can be determined, the student will be notified via their LCCC email address. Students are encouraged to review their To Do list in the student center to ensure completion of all financial aid requirements. Monitoring the To Do list will help students avoid untimely delays.

Computers and advice from experts in the Financial Services Center are available on the first floor of the Bass Library. Students and parents can receive assistance with the following: completing the FAFSA on line, Federal Loan requirements, financing options and scholarship information.

Detailed information on eligibility for financial aid, the student's rights and responsibilities, eligible academic programs and other financial aid requirements is available in the Financial Services Center.

Students should follow these steps to apply for financial aid at LCCC:

1. Apply for an FSA-ID (consisting of a username and password) which will serve as your electronic signature. Dependent students will also need to have one parent apply for an FSA-ID (the parent's information must be reported on the FAFSA).
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
3. Keep copies of all applications, tax forms and financial documents. (required for all)
4. Check for accurate information on the Student Aid Report (SAR). (required for all)
5. Provide verification documents. (if REQUIRED). (students for whom this is required will be notified via LCCC email and student center to-do list)
6. Submit other requested documents as soon as possible. (as applicable – review Student Center To Do list)

Grants from Federal and State Agencies

Grants are free dollars given to college students by the U.S. Department of Education or the State of Ohio and are awarded based on financial need (as determined by the FAFSA application). LCCC participates in the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs. FSEOG is awarded to student's with the highest need (zero EFC) and those who apply earliest for the award year. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours in the term for which FSEOG has been awarded. FSEOG is awarded on first-come, first-served basis (based on the current year FAFSA completion date) for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

State of Ohio funding includes The Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG), Ohio War Orphans Scholarship, Choose Ohio First, Nursing Education Loan Program and Ohio National Guard. Information about these programs, eligibility criteria and application process can be obtained at the Ohio Department of Higher Education website, www.ohiohighered.org (http://www.ohiohighered.org/).

Scholarships and Incentive Awards

See a complete list of LCCC scholarships and incentive awards (https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/scholarship-programs/).

Federal Work-Study Program

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides the opportunity for students to earn money through federally sponsored part-time employment. Employment sites are available at LCCC and off-campus. Eligibility for Federal Work-Study is determined by the results of the FAFSA. Students interested in a FWS position must complete the FAFSA, and apply online via LCCC's Human Resources website (https://www.lorainccc.edu/human-resources/employment-opportunities-at-lccc/). More information is available at Career Services (https://www.lorainccc.edu/career-services/student-employment/).

Student Loans

LCCC participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Steps for Borrowing a Federal Direct Loan

- Complete current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
• Sign the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentaid.gov (http://www.studentloans.gov/) (http://studentaid.gov)
  • The Master Promissory Note contains important information regarding the student’s rights and responsibilities as a federal student loan borrower. Please read all sections, including Section D which contains the promise to pay.

Additional eligibility requirements for Federal Direct Loan borrowers are:

• Must be enrolled (with reported attendance) for a minimum of six credit hours for each semester the student intends to borrow funds.
  • Student loan borrowers who graduate or drop below six credit hours in a term are required to complete a Federal Direct Loan exit counseling session at http://www.studentaid.gov/ (http://www.studentloans.gov/)
  • Must be meeting the College’s satisfactory academic progress (https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/every-student-should-know/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements/) standards.
  • Must be meeting all other U.S. Department of Education eligibility requirements.
  • The length of time students have access to subsidized (need-based) loans is limited for new borrowers. Students cannot borrow more than 150 percent of a student’s program length. For example, students who enroll in a two-year degree program can only borrow subsidized loans for three years total. Once that limit has been reached, a student may borrow only unsubsidized loans, and will begin to accrue interest on outstanding subsidized loans. For more information, please visit: https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized#is-there-a-time-limit-on-how-long-i-can-receive-loans (https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized/#is-there-a-time-limit-on-how-long-i-can-receive-loans).

Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)

Students are limited to the equivalent of six, full-time years of Pell Grant eligibility. This federal law monitors students’ Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (referred to as LEU). The Pell Grant LEU calculations apply to all undergraduate coursework including other schools the student attended or will transfer to. More information is available: https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell/calculate-eligibility (https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell/calculate-eligibility/).

Financial Aid Disbursement and Refund Policies

Recipients of Title IV financial aid (Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loan program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study) must enroll in courses for credit that apply to the student’s program of study (audit enrollments are not eligible for funding) and must be LCCC degree-seeking students.

Attendance will be verified for each credit class in which a student is enrolled before any Title IV financial aid is disbursed.

Financial aid will not be disbursed for any credit hours for which class attendance cannot be verified or that do not count towards the student’s program of study. The student will be responsible for payment for all charges for which financial aid cannot be applied.

Pell Grant Disbursement

For Pell Grant recipients, enrollment status for each semester is determined by combining the total number of credit hours enrolled that apply to the student’s program of study for all sessions in the semester on the 14th calendar day from the start of the semester. Classes that do not count towards the student’s program of study or that added after the 14th calendar day from the start of the semester will not count towards the student’s enrollment status and are not eligible for Pell Grant payment.

Enrollment status is defined as follows.

• Full-time (12 credit hours or more).
  • Three-quarter-time (9, 10 or 11 credit hours).
  • Half-time (6, 7 or 8 credit hours).
  • Less than half-time (5 credit hours or less).

Student Loan Disbursement

In an effort to incent student success and completion of courses, student loans will be disbursed in two payments during each term. The payments will be based on commencement of attendance and the midterm grades. For full-term classes, the disbursements will occur about the fifth and 10th week of fall and spring semesters. At the first disbursement, student attendance must be reported by the instructor and the student must currently be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours. To receive the second loan disbursement, students must be currently enrolled and actively pursuing course completion in a minimum of six credit hours. Final grades of W, F, U or a midterm/final grade of FAW will not be counted towards the total hours for the minimum six credit hour disbursement requirement. For more information: (https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/loans/#disbursement).

Permission Required to Use Federal Financial Aid for Educationally-Related Activities

Students wishing to use the available balance of their federal financial aid for other educationally-related charges after tuition and fees charges are satisfied may do so by completing an electronic permission slip. These charges may include purchases made in the LCCC Bookstore, graduation fees, child care fees, campus meal tickets, bus passes, emergency loans, non-credit course fees, library fines and parking fines. Students may rescind this authorization at any time during the award year by visiting the LCCC Financial Services Center and completing a “Cancelling of Permission for Bbookstore and Oother Ccharges” form. The electronic student permission form is found in the student’s MyCampus account and detailed directions can be found at https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid/using-financial-aid-for-books-and-other-expenses-permission-slips/.

Financial Aid Refunds

Federal financial aid funds are first applied to any unpaid tuition and fees, then to books and supplies and other applicable charges for which the student has given authorization. (See above and “Bookstore Purchases with Financial Aid: https://www.lorainccc.edu/campus-technology/mycampus-login/bookstore-purchases-with-financial-aid/). The balance of the federal financial aid is disbursed to the student in check form after the fifth week of class for Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Students are responsible for ensuring their contact information, including mailing address, is up-to-date in the student center of MyCampus.

Financial Aid Refunds
Students may be required to complete their admission application (including all high school and college transcripts) prior to the release of federal refunds. It is recommended that students check their To Do list in the student center of MyCampus for outstanding items.

**Return of Title IV Funds for Students Who Completely Withdraw**

Students who completely withdraw from school or do not successfully complete any courses during a term are subject to a Return of Title IV Funds calculation according to Department of Education regulations.

This policy assumes students earn aid based on the period of time enrolled/attending the semester. Unearned Title IV funds, other than federal work-study, must be returned to the U.S. Department of Education. During the first 60% of the semester, students earn Title IV funds in direct proportion to the length of time each student remains enrolled. Students remaining enrolled beyond the 60% point of the semester earn all aid for the semester.

Students return their share of unearned aid attributable to a loan under the terms and conditions of the promissory note. Students return their share of unearned aid attributable to a grant from the student’s own funds. LCCC may allow students to repay unearned aid attributable to a grant under a payment arrangement satisfactory to the institution. For students officially withdrawing (completely) from LCCC, the withdrawal date determination is the date students initiated the withdrawal. This date is indicated on the withdrawal form.

LCCC’s R2T4 policy can be found online at [https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/return-title-iv-funds-policy/](https://www.lorainccc.edu/paying-for-college/return-title-iv-funds-policy/).

**The Withdrawal Process is Initiated in Canvas**

For students not providing notification of a withdrawal, the date of withdrawal determination is the last date of attendance or the midpoint of the semester. Specific examples of the Return of Title IV Funds Policy are available upon request from the financial services representative in the Financial Services Center.

If you withdraw from all courses prior to disbursement, a calculation is completed to determine the amount of earned aid for the term. This disbursement may help to reduce your balance for the withdrawn term. This disbursement is called a post-withdrawal disbursement and will be calculated within 45 days from notification of withdrawal. If you are eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement, you will have funds applied to your account in this order: Pell, SEOG, Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loan, Direct PLUS Loan. If you qualify for a post-withdrawal disbursement, any funds you are eligible to receive, based on the return calculation, will be applied to your account within 14 days.

**Tuition Reimbursement**

Many employers offer tuition reimbursement programs to their employees, meaning the employer pays for college coursework. Students are encouraged to check with their employer for more information about tuition reimbursement opportunities. For information about transferring tuition reimbursement from your employer to LCCC, please contact the Bursar’s office at (440) 366-4045.