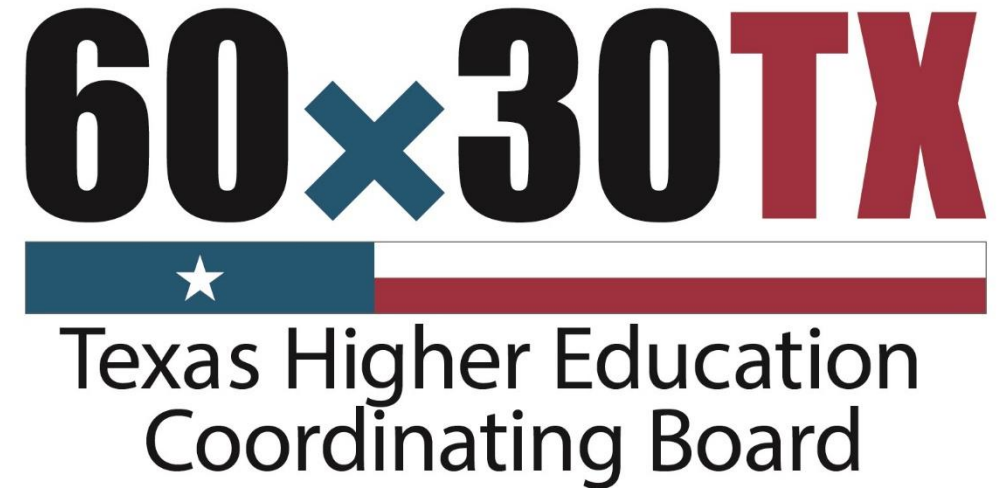


State Financial Aid Webcast

Leah Smalley
Student Financial Aid Programs
May 12, 2020






COVID-19 State Financial Aid
Updates

Program Guidelines Updates

Deadlines, Training, and Updates

Where to Find COVID-19 Updates



Our Mission

The mission of the THECB is to provide leadership and coordinate the efforts of 60x30TX, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that...

Our Work

In 2015, Texas launched 60x30TX, the state's higher education initiative, among the highest achieving states in the country and main...

60x30TX is entirely student-centered: its overarching goal is to ensure that every student will hold some type of postsecondary credential by 2030.

It also proposes that at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from a Texas institution of higher education; graduates will have identifiable marketable skills regardless of major; and students (statewide) will not graduate with debt exceeding 60 percent of their first-year wages.


Coronavirus Update for Higher Education

The information on this page is updated regularly. Last Updated on April 27, 2020 (8:30 AM CDT)

Texas institutions of higher education are taking proactive measures to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) primary role in this crisis is to act as a facilitator, partner and an advocate for institutions of higher education, especially to:

1. Serve as a resource to all Texas colleges and universities, to help collect information about and address the challenges they're facing in response to the disruption caused by COVID-19;
2. Work with Governor Greg Abbott's office, state leadership, and other agencies to ensure maximum flexibility of rules and regulations to help institutions adapt to the current public health emergency; and
3. Collaborate with public and private institutions of higher education across the state to adapt to the changes that may be needed to ensure continuity of instruction for students through the current semester, and to prepare for the summer and fall semesters.

Please find below links to several resources that may be helpful to administrators, faculty and other campus stakeholders as they navigate the weeks ahead. This page will be updated continuously as new information becomes available.



Request for Applications: Texas Emergency Aid Program

Application Deadline: May 11, 2020

[click here for more info](#)

Latest THECB Updates:

- April 27, 2020 - [THECB, Greater Texas Foundation and Trellis Foundation Join Forces to Benefit Student Emergency Aid Program](#)
- April 18, 2020 - [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Endorses "Statement of Principles on Acceptance of Credit"](#)
- April 7, 2020 - [Apart We Stand Together Campaign Flyer - English \(PDF\)](#)
- April 7, 2020 - [Apart We Stand Together Campaign Flyer - Spanish \(PDF\)](#)
- March 9, 2020 - [Testimony to the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Public Health \(PDF\)](#)
- March 6, 2020 - [Commissioner Harrison Keller's Coronavirus Update to Texas Institutions of Higher Education \(PDF\)](#)
- January 31, 2020 - [Commissioner Harrison Keller's Memorandum on Coronavirus Information for Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Office of the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott

- May 1, 2020 - [Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Relating to the Expanded Reopening of Services as part of the Safe, Secure, and Sound Plan](#)
- April 17, 2020 - [Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Establishing Strike Force To Open Texas](#)
- April 11, 2020 - [Governor Abbott Eases Regulations On Physicians-In-Training To Increase Health Care Capacity In Texas](#)


| | |
|------------|---|
| 04/20/2020 | CANCELLED |
| 04/23/2020 | Agency Operations Committee (via conference call) |
| 04/23/2020 | Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (via conference call) |

Frequently Asked Questions

Institutions of Higher Education

- [Courses, Calendars, and Reporting FAQs \(Updated 4/22/2020\)](#)
- [General FAQs \(Updated 5/1/2020\)](#)
- [Perkins Grants FAQs \(Updated 5/4/2020\)](#)
- [Teacher Preparation FAQs \(Updated 3/27/2020\)](#)
- [Tuition, Refunds, and Financial Aid FAQs \(Updated 4/27/2020\)](#)
- [VA Benefits and CARES Act FAQs \(Updated 4/27/2020\)](#)

#STAYATHOME MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR ABBOTT



WE TAKE CARE #STAYHOMETEXAS

COVID-19 Response

Impact on TCWS & WSMP Transfer Restrictions

- Institutions can *temporarily* transfer up to 100% of unexpended Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) or Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) allocation to their state grant program allocation.
- An Authority to Transfer form must be submitted to the THECB to allow an institution to access the transferred funds into the grant program.

IMPORTANT: Institutions may not exceed the limitations on transferring grant funds **into** TCWS or WSMP. Up to 10% of the institution's total annual program allocation or \$20,000 (whichever is less) may be transferred from TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG into either TCWS or WSMP in a given fiscal year.

COVID-19 Response Impact on Agency Operations

The THECB's customer phone lines are **unavailable** until further notice.

- Institutional phone line: (844) 792-2640
- Texas Financial Aid Information Center: (888) 311-8881
- Borrower phone line: (800) 242-3062

All inquiries must be submitted online through the **CONTACT US** web form.

- Loan reporting requests
- Loan processing changes
- State financial aid program eligibility questions

The screenshot shows the 'Contact Us' web form for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The form includes fields for 'Received From' (a dropdown menu with 'STUDENT' selected), 'Institution' (a text box), 'Contact Reason' (a dropdown menu with '-- please select an item --'), and 'Description' (a large text area with a '4000 characters max' limit). Below these fields is a red warning message: 'Please do NOT include your full Social Security Number inside the issue description. If you have a question about the status of a new loan application, accounts in repayment, or deferments, please use the last four digits of your SSN instead.' The form also has radio buttons for 'Is this a complaint' (No selected, Yes unselected) and 'Contact Preference' (E-MAIL selected, LETTER unselected, PHONE unselected). Further down are fields for 'Salutation' (a dropdown menu with 'Dr.' selected), 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'E-mail', 'Phone (10-digit)', 'Phone Ext', 'Mail Address', 'Mail Address2', 'Mail Address3', 'City', 'State' (a dropdown menu with '-- please select State --'), and 'Zip Code (5-digit)'. At the bottom are 'Submit' and 'Help' buttons.

Submitting a CONTACT US

To ensure inquiries are routed correctly, complete these steps:

- Select “Institution” in Received From box
- Enter the institution’s full name
- Always select “Financial Aid Question” for Contact Reason

For loan inquiries, enter the following in the Description box:

- HelmNet Loan portal ID
- Commonline Unique ID #: (16 characters)
- Student’s complete name
- Last four digits of the student’s SSN

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Contact Us

*An asterisk * by the field indicates a required field!*

Received From* INSTITUTION ▼

Institution

Contact Reason* -- please select an item -- ▼

Description*

4000 characters max

Please do NOT include your full Social Security Number inside the issue description. If you have a question about the status of a new loan application, accounts in repayment, or deferments, please use the last four digits of your SSN instead.

Is this a complaint No ☒ Yes ☐

Contact Preference E-MAIL ☒ LETTER ☐ PHONE ☐

Salutation* -select- ▼

First Name*

Last Name*

E-mail*

Phone (10-digit) **Phone Ext**

Mail Address

Mail Address2

Mail Address3

City

State -- please select State -- ▼ **Zip Code (5-digit)**

| [Help](#)

Stay Connected

Subscribe to the SFAP listserv, download SFAP published memos, and view the archive of Financial Aid Services monthly webcasts on the Stay Connected SFAP webpage.

Stay Connected

Recent Communications

- [04/06/2020 UPDATE: Selective Service Status Statement Requirement - New Guidance Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [02/12/2020 Financial Aid Database \(FAD\) Reporting Cycle One 2019-20 \(FY 2020\) Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [02/10/2020 B-On-Time \(BOT\) Loan Certification Deadline FY 2020 Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [02/03/2020 College Access Loan \(CAL\) Opt-In/Opt-Out Form 2020-21 \(FY 2021\) Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [02/03/2020 Texas State Financial Aid Opt-In/Opt-Out Form 2020-21 \(FY 2021\) Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [02/03/2020 Good Neighbor Program 2020-21 \(FY 2021\) Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [01/30/2020 Tuition Equalization Grant \(TEG\) Award Amounts for 2020-2021 \(FY 2021\) Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [01/30/2020 Toward EXcellence, Access and Success Grant and Texas Educational Opportunity Grant \(TEOG\) Award Amounts for FY 2020-2021 Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [01/27/2020 State Financial Aid Resource Update Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [12/20/2019 Financial Aid Database \(FAD\) Manual for FY 2020 Memo \[PDF\]](#)

Webcast

Join the Financial Aid Services (FAS) team for our monthly live informational webcast. Access prior webcast recordings.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS LISTSERV

Subscribe to receive memos, notifications, reminders and announcements through the

CALENDAR OF PROGRAM DEADLINES

Download the Institutional calendar of events and deadlines to know what is coming

- [Institutional Financial Aid Calendar Summer 2020 \[PDF\]](#)
- [Institutional Financial Aid Calendar Spring 2020 \[PDF\]](#)
- [Institutional Financial Aid Calendar Fall 2019 \[PDF\]](#)

FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Follow the Financial Aid Advisory Committee and provide the THECB with advice and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students.

ARCHIVE MEMOS

[Memos 2019 Expand](#)

[Memos 2018 Expand](#)



This list is intended to provide a communication medium devoted to the sharing of information about state-funded programs administered by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board office of Student Financial Aid Programs. Subscriptions are authorized by the Coordinating Board and are limited to Texas public and private institutions of higher education.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| First Name: | <input type="text"/> |
| Last Name: | <input type="text"/> |
| Affiliation/Institution: | <input type="text"/> |
| Title: | <input type="text"/> |
| Designated Program (Optional): | <input type="text"/> |
| Email: | <input type="text"/> |
| Phone Number: | <input type="text"/> |
| Address: | <input type="text"/> |
| City: | <input type="text"/> |
| State: | <input type="text"/> |
| Zip Code: | <input type="text"/> |

☐ **Subscribe** I understand that my information will be stored and that periodic correspondence will be sent to the e-mail indicated.

☐ **Unsubscribe** I understand that my information will be deleted and I will no longer receive any correspondence from this listserv.

2020-21 Program Guidelines Updates

Program Guidelines – Overarching Updates

The following items were updated throughout all guidelines:

- Program years
- Award amounts/Loan totals
- Deadline dates
- Proration and calculation examples
- Appendix standardized

Selective Service Statement

Effective April 6, 2020:

When is the statement NOT required?

- **NEW** When the Selective Service registration is confirmed through the [SSS.gov website](https://sss.gov): The institution can save the confirmation directly from the website to serve as the student's official, signed statement on record.
- **NEW** When the ISIR confirms that a student is under the age of 18: No statement or documentation is needed for the applicable award year, even if the student turns 18 during that year.



SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT

Male students must be registered with or exempt from Selective Service (SS) in order to be eligible to receive federal or state financial assistance. In accordance with [TEC, Section 51.9095](#), male students must file the required **Selective Service Statement of Registration Status** (found below) with their institution or other entity granting or guaranteeing financial assistance. This includes grants, scholarships, loans, or other assistance funded by state revenue, including federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by the state.

When is the statement NOT Required?

- When the SS registration is confirmed through the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR): The ISIR confirmation serves as the student's official, signed statement because the Department of Education validates registration directly with the Selective Service System (SSS).
- **NEW** When the SS registration is confirmed through the [SSS.gov website](https://sss.gov): The institution can save the confirmation directly from the website to serve as the student's official, signed statement on record.
- **NEW** When the ISIR confirms that a student is under the age of 18: No statement or documentation is needed for the applicable award year, even if the student turns 18 during that year.

When is the statement REQUIRED, including all supporting documentation?

- When the student completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but is flagged "not registered" on the ISIR and SS status **cannot** be confirmed on the [SSS.gov website](https://sss.gov).
- **NEW** When the student completes a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA): The required statement is embedded in the 2020-21 TASFA and must be completed by the student.
- **NEW** When the student does not complete a FAFSA or TASFA but applies for state financial aid, such as through exemptions or waivers, and SS status **cannot** be confirmed on the [SSS.gov website](https://sss.gov).

Institutions may collect the required status statement and documentation either electronically or on paper.
([English Statement](#) or [Spanish Statement](#))

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FREQUENCY COLLECTING THE STATEMENT

If the student's status will NOT change, the statement and supporting documentation can be used for subsequent semesters. (Example: The student entered the U.S. after the eligible age to register.)

If the student's status is temporary, the statement must be collected each academic year until the student is registered or determined exempt. (Example: Student is under age 18 but did not complete a FAFSA or TASFA.)

RETENTION SCHEDULE

The status statement and all documentation must be retained in the student's record for 7 years after the date of completion of the award period ([TEC, Section 441.1855](#)).

REPROCESSED ISIRS

If the student's most recent ISIR transaction has been reprocessed by the Central Processing System (CPS) and the registration with the SSS was confirmed, the institution does not need to collect the status statement or any documentation.

Selective Service Statement

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REPROCESSED ISIRS

If the student's most recent ISIR transaction has been reprocessed by the Central Processing System (CPS) and the registration with the SSS was confirmed, the institution does not need to collect the status statement or any documentation.

Selective Service – Fillable Form

Institutions may collect the required status statement and documentation either electronically or on paper.

([English Statement](#) or [Spanish Statement](#))

| SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION STATUS | |
|---|---|
| Male students must verify their current Selective Service registration status by marking one of the statements below and providing proof of their registration status to their current institution. Failure to do so may result in the loss of eligibility for state financial aid. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am under the age of 18 and not currently required to register. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am REGISTERED with the Selective Service and, <i>Check the following box that applies:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have already submitted proof of registration to my current institution. <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of registration is included with this statement. <input type="checkbox"/> I will submit proof of my registration. NOTE: Proof is required to be considered eligible for financial aid. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am EXEMPT from registration and, <i>Check the following box that applies:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have already submitted proof of my exemption to my current institution. <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of my exemption is included with this statement. <input type="checkbox"/> I will submit proof of my exemption. NOTE: Proof is required to be considered eligible for financial aid. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am over the age of 18. I am not registered with Selective Service and I am not exempt from registration with Selective Service. | |
| I, _____, hereby certify that the Selective Service status statement provided above is true and accurate. | |
| Student ID: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ | |

Grant Programs – Summer SAP



STOP: Summer Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Requirements

If the student ***receives*** state grant funding for the summer term(s), institutions **must** include credits attempted for summer coursework when calculating the satisfactory academic progress (SAP).

If a student ***does not receive*** state grant funding for the summer term(s), a student could take summer coursework to re-establish eligibility if they failed to meet SAP requirements during the last term or semester. Summer coursework (not funded using state grants) should not be used to recalculate SAP if the attempted credits will result in the student losing their eligibility for the fall term.

Grant Programs – Grant Payment Portal

PROCESSING FUNDS

REQUESTING AND RETURNING PROGRAM FUNDS

Institutions must submit a form online through the [Grant Payment System](#) software application (app) to request or return funds. The app can be accessed through the secure Coordinating Board Pass System (CBPass) portal on the Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) Information Webpage.

- **Requesting Funds:** Institutions can begin submitting requests for funding on **August 3, 2020**. The THECB will begin processing funds *after* **September 1, 2020**. Institutions have *until* the close of business on **August 1, 2021** (or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday) to request program funds.
- **Returning Funds:** Institutions that submit a return of funds through the Grant Payment System should use the [Electronic Funds Transfer](#) process.

NOTE: Each biennium (the two-year state budget period), funds not requested in the first year can be carried forward for use in the second year. Any funds not requested in the second year of the biennium become available for redistribution as determined by the THECB.

Grants and Texas Work-Study Programs

NEW [Texas Administrative Code, Section 22.11](#)

AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS

Institutions participating in a combination of TCWS, TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG may transfer up to 10 percent of the institution's total annual program allocation or **\$20,000** (whichever is less) between programs within the relevant fiscal year. Transfer requests are submitted online through [CONTACT US](#) (select "Financial Aid Question" under Contact Reason). Institutions requesting a transfer of funds must submit a request by **July 1, 2021**. The Financial Aid Services staff will respond to the institution to provide next steps for the process.

institution. If the funds cannot be re-awarded, they must be returned to the THECB based on the [Timely Distribution of Funds](#).

OVER AWARDS

If an award has been disbursed and a student receives other assistance that exceeds the student's financial need, the institution is **not** required to adjust the award unless the sum of the excess resources is greater than \$300 (see **NEW** [19 TAC, Section 22.11\(d\)](#)).

TEXAS Grant and TEOG – Priority EFC

ALERT: Priority Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The **priority EFC** set by the THECB should serve as a method for prioritizing initial year awards for eligible students and is not an eligibility requirement to receive an award. The calculated priority EFC for 2020-21 is **\$6,047**.

TEXAS Grant - Eligibility

- ***Accumulated*** was replaced with ***attempted*** to better align with “entering undergraduate,” which is defined as:

A student ***enrolled*** in the first 30 semester credit hours or their equivalent, excluding hours taken during dual enrollment in high school and courses for which the student received credit through examination.

- Text for the high school graduation and associate degree pathways was clarified.

TO RECEIVE AN IY AWARD, A STUDENT MUST:

- ✓ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident
- ✓ Be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt
- ✓ Have applied for any available financial aid assistance
- ✓ Have financial need
- ✓ Be enrolled at least 3/4 time
- ✓ Not have earned a baccalaureate degree
- ✓ Be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a public 4-year or HRI institution as a first-time undergraduate and qualify through one of the following four pathways:
 - **High School Graduation Pathway:** Graduation from an accredited public or private high school in Texas and enrollment at an approved institution **prior to the end of the 16th month**, after high school graduation. The student must not have **attempted** more than 30 semester credit hours (SCHs) (excluding credits for dual enrollment or by examination); **OR**
 - **Associate Degree Pathway:** Enrollment in an eligible institution **prior to the end of the 12th month**, after the calendar month in which the student earned an associate degree from a public or private nonprofit Texas institution of higher education; **OR**
 - **Honorable Military Discharge Pathway:** Enrollment in an eligible institution of higher education within 12 months after being honorably discharged from military service. Enlistment in the military must have occurred within 12 months after graduation from an accredited public or private high school in Texas on May 1, 2013 or later. The student must not have **attempted** more than 30 semester credit hours (SCHs) (excluding credits for dual enrollment or by examination); **OR**
 - **TEOG Transfer Pathway:** Completion of at least 24 SCHs with a minimum 2.5 GPA after receiving an IY Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) in Fall 2014 or later and transferring to an eligible institution with a minimum 2.5 GPA.
- ✓ Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance or under the law of any jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by [Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code](#) (Texas Controlled Substances Act)

TEXAS Grant – Priority Model

PRIORITY AWARD MODEL REQUIREMENTS

To receive priority consideration for an IY award through the TEXAS Grant program, an eligible student must meet at least **one** high school graduation requirement in **at least two** of the following **four** areas:

| AREA | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS |
|---------------------------|--|
| ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 Hours of College Credit (Dual Credit or AP Courses)• Complete the equivalent of the Recommended or Advanced High School Program*• Complete the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program |
| TSI READINESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet the Texas Success Initiatives (TSI) assessment thresholds or qualify for an exemption |
| CLASS STANDING | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate in the top 1/3 of the HS graduating class• Graduate with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale or the equivalent |
| ADVANCED MATH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete at least one math course beyond Algebra II• Complete at least one advanced career and technical or technical applications course, as determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) |

*For additional information on high school graduation requirements, visit the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) website](#) or contact TEA's Curriculum Standards and Student Support Division at curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

Resource: [Graduation Programs Side by Side](#)

TEXAS Grant Awarding Priority

Statutory Priorities Include:

- Priority EFC
- Priority Model
- Priority Deadline



[Table of Contents](#)

AWARDING

Example 1: Two IY students meet both the Priority EFC and the Priority Model criteria. *These two applicants are similarly situated.*

- The student who meets the Priority Deadline would be given priority consideration over the student who does not meet the Priority Deadline.

Example 2: One IY student meets the Priority EFC and the Priority Model criteria but does not meet the Priority Deadline. A second IY student meets the Priority Deadline and the Priority Model criteria but does *not* meet the Priority EFC. *These two applicants are not similarly situated.*

- The first student has met the two legislative priorities for IY TEXAS Grants and would thus take precedence over the student who does not meet the Priority EFC.

defined as cost of attendance minus the calculated EFC ([TAC, Section 22.226\(15\)](#)).

The Priority Deadline ([TEC, Section 56.008](#)) is used as an additional determining factor for otherwise similarly situated applicants.

TEOG Updates

- ***Accumulated*** was replaced with ***attempted*** to better align with “entering undergraduate,” which is defined as:
A student enrolled in the first 30 semester credit hours or their equivalent, excluding hours taken during dual enrollment in high school and courses for which the student received credit through examination.

| ELIGIBILITY | |
|---|---|
| ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS | |
| TO RECEIVE AN IY AWARD, A STUDENT MUST: | TO RECEIVE AN RY AWARD, A STUDENT MUST: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident✓ Be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt✓ Have applied for any available financial aid assistance✓ Have financial need✓ Be enrolled at least 1/2 time as an undergraduate student in an associate degree or certificate program at a 2-year institution✓ Not have attempted more than 30 semester credit hours (SCH) (excluding credits for dual enrollment or by examination) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident✓ Be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt✓ Be a previous TEOG initial award recipient✓ Have financial need✓ Be enrolled at least 1/2 time as an undergraduate student in an associate degree or certificate program at a 2-year institution✓ Maintain satisfactory academic progress✓ Not have earned an associate or baccalaureate degree |

TEG Update – Ministry-Related Degrees



STOP: Enrollment in Programs Related to Religious Ministry

Any enrollment in a religious ministry degree program, whether the program is the student's sole major, an additional major, or a minor, makes the student **ineligible** for a TEG award. If a TEG recipient adds a religious ministry major or minor, there is no uniform method or procedure available that gives institutions the capability to separate funds for an eligible program versus a religious ministry program. The institution must determine when the new program was added and either return TEG funds to the THECB or follow the procedure for timely distribution of funds for ineligible aid.

TEG – Tuition Differential

TUITION DIFFERENTIAL

Tuition differential is defined as the difference between the tuition paid at a private or independent institution and the tuition the student would have to pay to attend a comparable public institution in Texas. Fees are not included in this calculation, only tuition rates.


The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) identifies institutions by the highest levels of degrees they offer. These levels are used by the THECB to identify “comparable” institutions for the purpose of calculating tuition differentials, regardless of accreditation.

NOTE: All tuition rates (including public law school) will be published at a later date since the College Student Budget (CSB) Report was extended until **June 1, 2020**.

TCWS Updates

AWARDING

Institutions must use the TCWS allocation for employment during the nine-month academic year (fall and spring terms). A TCWS award, which includes state and employer matching funds, cannot exceed the student's calculated need.

 **ALERT:** Beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, institutions are no longer required to provide any off-campus positions. House Bill 3808 **repealed** TEC, Section 56.076(b), which required institutions to ensure that at least 20 percent, but no more than 50 percent, of the employment positions through TCWS are provided by off-campus employers.

SUMMER AWARDS

Institutions may use any **reallocated** funds for summer awards and those funds must be expended by **August 31** of the current fiscal year.

EAE Updates

Teacher Shortage Areas for the 2020-21 Academic Year

- Bilingual/English as a Second Language - Elementary and Secondary Levels
- Special Education - Elementary and Secondary Levels
- Career and Technical Education - Secondary Levels
- Technology Applications and Computer Science - Secondary Levels
- Mathematics - Secondary Levels

CONTINUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

A student can continue to receive this exemption in subsequent semesters or terms if the student:

- Meets the institution's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirement for financial aid.

NOTE: A student who fails to meet the grade point average (GPA) to satisfy the institution's SAP requirement may have the ability to regain eligibility for this exemption if he or she meets the GPA requirement during an upcoming term or semester in which the exemption was not awarded. The student may also be granted a hardship **exception** by the institution.

DISCONTINUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

A student may **not** continue to receive this exemption in a subsequent semester or term if the student:

- Has attempted a number of undergraduate hours considered to be excessive under [TEC, Section 54.2001\(a\)\(2\)](#).

NOTE: At the start of a semester or term, if an undergraduate student is attempting hours considered to be excessive, the student may continue to receive this exemption if he or she is granted a hardship **extension** by the institution.



STOP: EXCESSIVE UNDERGRADUATE HOURS

The excessive hours calculation excludes:

- Hours earned exclusively by examination
- Hours earned for a course credit received toward the person's high school academic requirements
- Hours earned for developmental courses that the institution required the person to take under [TEC, Section 51.331](#)
- Hours described in [TEC, Section 61.0595\(d\)](#)

HARDSHIP PROVISIONS

Institutions must adopt a hardship policy that may grant a student an **exception** from meeting the GPA requirement to satisfy the institution's SAP, or an **extension** of eligibility for excess undergraduate hours, when a student has a showing of a hardship or other good cause, including:

- A showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition that could affect the student's academic performance;
- An indication that the student is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and that the student's provision of care could affect the student's academic performance;
- The student's active duty or other service in the United States armed forces or the student's active duty in the Texas National Guard; **or**
- Any other cause considered acceptable by the institution.

All hardship decisions must be documented in the student's record and be available for submission to the THECB, if requested.

EAE - Awarding

AWARDING

REQUIRED MATCHING

Participation in the EAE Program requires that institutions use institutional matching funds to cover **at least** 10 percent of each recipient's exemption.

| Example | Total Tuition & Fees | Institutional Match Percentage (10% minimum) | Institutional Match Total | EAE Award Amount (Tuition/Fees <i>minus</i> Institutional Match) |
|---------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Institution A | \$1480 | 10% | \$148 | \$1332 |
| Institution B | \$1800 | 20% | \$360 | \$1440 |
| Institution C | \$1100 | 30% | \$330 | \$770 |

- [Student FAQs](#)

CAL Awarding

AWARDING

Students may receive CAL funding to cover reasonable expenses only, not to exceed the Cost of Attendance (COA) (see [IRS Certification Requirements](#)). When certifying a CAL, institutions are confirming that the amount of the requested loan is \$100 or greater and does not exceed the difference between the student's COA and other forms of financial assistance for which the student is eligible (regardless of whether the student actually accepts the aid). The other forms of student assistance that must be considered when determining the amount of a CAL eligibility include:

- Free sources of student aid, such as gifts, grants and scholarships; **AND**
- The amount of any Federal Direct Stafford Loan (including subsidized and unsubsidized) that a student borrower is eligible to receive.
 - Eligibility for Federal PLUS loans should not be considered when determining the amount of a CAL.

NOTE: A student's federal Direct Loan Program eligibility must be taken into consideration even if the institution does not package Direct Loans or if the student declines to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

CALCULATING ELIGIBILITY FOR TASFA FILERS:

If a student files a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA), the financial assistance to be deducted should include all aid they were awarded. No Title IV eligibility would be included in the deduction of other forms of financial assistance when calculating the loan amount.

CALCULATING ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-FAFSA FILERS:

If a student is eligible but chooses not to file a FAFSA, the financial assistance to be deducted should include all aid they were awarded. The institution must also deduct the maximum Direct Loan eligibility (including subsidized and unsubsidized) based on the student's grade level and the institution's best determination of dependency status (even if the institution does not participate in the Direct Loan program). If the institution has nothing in their records that would suggest the student is independent, then dependent can be used as the default.

CAL – Student Loan Debt Letter

UPDATED: ANNUAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT DISCLOSURE ([19 TAC, SECTION 21.49](#))

All participating institutions must provide students with a letter, in an electronic format, estimating each student's total loan obligations, at least once a year. The purpose of this letter is to provide students with timely information on their education loan debt so that they can make informed decisions about student loan borrowing.

Student loan debt disclosures must include:

- All education loan debt from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), as well as information that the institution may reasonably collect from its own records.
- An estimate of the unpaid amount of federal education loans and state education loans obtained by the student at the current institution. The types of education loans must be identified for each total included.
- *An estimate of the total payoff amount or a range for that amount, including principal and interest.
- *An estimate of monthly repayment amount, including principal and interest.

*At a minimum, institutions shall provide this information based on a 10-year repayment plan.

TASSP – Comprehensive Updates

Please review **ALL** sections of the 2020-21 TASSP guidelines....

2020-21
Program Guidelines
Texas Armed
Services Scholarship
Program (TASSP)



Student Financial Aid Programs
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

TASSP – Comprehensive Updates

TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, AN APPOINTED STUDENT MUST:

- ✓ Be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt
- ✓ Be enrolled and in good standing in a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program or another undergraduate officer commissioning program as certified by the institution
- ✓ Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as indicated by the financial aid office at the recipient's institution of higher education
- ✓ Enter into a written agreement with the THECB

TASSP – Comprehensive Updates

PROMISSORY NOTE

AWARDING

The TASSP maximum is determined and announced annually by the THECB. A student cannot receive a scholarship for more than:

- **four of the six years** that are allowed for a student to graduate if the student is enrolled in a degree program of **four years or less**; OR
- **five of the six years** allowed for graduation, if enrolled in a degree program of **more than four years**.

| Institution Type | 2020-21 Scholarship Maximum |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Public and Private Institutions | \$10,000 |

The scholarship must be reduced by the amount paid to the student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed services if the combined total exceeds the student's total cost of attendance (COA) for that academic year.

- Marine, or the branch of the armed services with which the student enters into a contract; and
- Repay the scholarship according to the terms of the promissory note if the student fails to meet the requirements in the [Conversion of a Scholarship to a Loan](#) section.

TASSP – Comprehensive Updates

LOAN REPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Once the scholarship is converted to a loan, the repayment requirements include:

- The student will have a 6-month grace after the scholarship becomes a loan before repayment begins; however, interest begins to accrue on the date the scholarship is converted to a loan.
- The TASSP loan has a 15-year repayment period, and a required minimum monthly payment of \$100, or an amount required to repay the loan within 15 years, whichever is greater.
- The TASSP interest rate will be the same rate charged for a College Access Loan at the time the funds were disbursed.
- If a past due payment amount is not received within 20 days of the scheduled due date, a past due penalty of 5 percent of the scheduled monthly payment or five dollars, whichever is less, will be charged.

NOTE: Students experiencing a medical disability or any type of financial hardship can apply for postponed or reduced payments and cancellation (medical disability only) of their TASSP loan either **verbally** or by submitting a [General Postponement Request](#) to the THECB.

Poll: Comprehensive Guidelines

Do you use the comprehensive program guidelines?

1 = Yes, I use them.

2 = No, I don't.

Program Resources

Institutions can find information to assist with the administration of state financial aid programs through the following program resources:

- [Grant Programs](#)
- [Loan Programs](#)
- [Work-Study & Scholarships](#)
- [Exemption and Waivers](#)
- [Tuition Set Asides](#)

For a comprehensive understanding of all state funded programs download:

- [2019-2020 State Financial Aid Program Guidelines \[PDF\]](#)
- [2018-2019 State Financial Aid Program Guidelines \[PDF\]](#)

Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

To determine eligibility for applicants that do not qualify for federal aid, download the TASFA.

2020-21 TASFA

- [2020-21 TASFA Application Instructions \[PDF\]](#)
- [2020-21 TASFA Application Instructions \[PDF\] en Español](#)

2019-20 TASFA

- [2019-20 TASFA Application Instructions \[PDF\]](#)
- [2019-20 TASFA Application Instructions \[PDF\] en Español](#)

Selective Service Statement of Registration Status

In accordance with [TEC, Section 51.9095](#), male students must file the required Selective Service Statement of Registration Status with their institution or other entity granting or guaranteeing financial assistance. This includes grants, scholarships, loans, or other assistance funded by state revenue, including federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by the state.

- [English Statement \[PDF\]](#)
- [Spanish Statement \[PDF\]](#)

Deadline Reminders

- COVID-19 Survey deadline is **May 12, 2020**.

(FASOperations@thecb.state.tx.us)
- The deadline for institutions to submit College Student Budgets has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.
- The April 15, 2020 deadline for the 2018-19 Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Engagement Report has been extended to **June 30, 2020**.
- This year the annual update of the Net Price Calculator will occur **Sept. 1, 2020**. Guidance will be released in the coming months.

Training

- TASFAA NAOW – **Canceled**
- TASFAA Fall Conference & ABC – **Canceled**
- Monthly Webcast – **June 9, 2020**

Updates – Coming Soon

- Preliminary Allocations
- Foster Care Fact Sheet
- Bilingual Education Program Guidelines
- Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) Guidelines

Questions?