



Texas State Technical College Harlingen
Financial Aid Announcement
April 25, 2011

State and Federal financial aid program cuts are affecting college students throughout the country. Be aware that changes have been made to several financial aid programs. The TSTC Financial Aid Office will continue working to assist students with resources to fund their education. Awards for 2011–2012 will be revised, due to these budgetary and regulatory changes. Below are some of the changes and anticipated cuts that affect state and/or federal programs.

State Programs

- TANF scholarship, Early High School Grad and Educational Aide Exemptions most likely will not receive any funding, at the state level.
- Additional program funding reductions are expected for the following programs: Texas Grant, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant, Top 10% Scholarship, and Texas College Workstudy.

Federal Programs

- Academic Competitive Grant – will be eliminated, starting July 1, 2011, as planned.
- Proposed for elimination is the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program.
- Other funding reductions are proposed for the FSEOG, TRIO, and GEAR UP programs.
- Federal Pell Grant Year–Round Pell has also been affected. More details about Federal Pell Grant are listed below.

Legislative spending bills have affected many programs and savings will be seen with the reduction of the year round Pell grant. At this time, on a more positive note, maximum annual Pell grant awards for low–income students will be maintained at \$5550. This is for a full–time student. The part–time student will receive pro–rated amounts, as was the case in the past. This is good news for Texas State Technical College students, since a high percentage of our population is eligible for the program and for the maximum award. In response, TSTC will be making the following changes, effective Fall 2011.

- The TSTC academic year will, once again, be defined as Fall, Spring, and Summer.
- Awards for Pell grant will be disbursed in three semesters.

- Example: Students with a '0 ' Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will have an annual Pell Grant award of \$5550. The semester full-time awards will look like this: Fall \$1850, Spring \$1850, and Summer \$1850.
- In summary, the student's full time scheduled annual award amount will not change. What will change are the academic year disbursement amounts for each semester. Eligible students will receive 33% or 34% of the scheduled Full or Part-Time award per semester, if they register.

As you know, recent TSTC tuition changes are in effect starting the Fall 2011 semester. For those students who had already been awarded and those who have recently completed the 2011-2012 FAFSA and have completed verification requirements new and/or revised award letters and e-mails will be sent within the next week. We recommend that all students register for Fall 2011 and that they review their registration statement.

As in the past, we cannot guarantee that Federal Pell Grant will cover all of your tuition. We will attempt to help students with their direct educational expenses, for example mandatory state and designated tuition.

- Log-in to WebAdvisor to access registration statements at my.tstc.edu.
- Tuition Rate Tables for 2011-2012 can be reviewed at:
http://harlingen.tstc.edu/acctsreceivable/documents/11FAI_Tuition_Tables.htm

Notice: Summer 2011 registered students will be awarded Pell, if they are eligible based on the 2010-2011 FAFSA information and they meet the eligibility requirements for Summer awards. 2011-2012 FAFSA eligibility will not be used for Summer 2011.

The 2011-2012 FAFSA will be applicable to semesters Fall 2011- Summer 2012 only.

We are committed to continuing to work hard and to help students with their dream of earning a higher education. Student success is our goal!

WE VALUE OUR STUDENTS

We are a partner with our students in providing high quality education by:

- supplying them with relevant programs in the current career environment.
- preparing them for lifelong learning.
- establishing reliability and trust with our students to ensure mutually beneficial long-term relationships.