

Return of Funds Policy for Financial Aid

Recipients

The tuition and fees return of funds policy for financial aid recipients differs from the SWIC refund policy as listed above.

1. Return of Funds Policy

Students at SWIC who are receiving Title IV financial aid (Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, Direct Loans), and who withdraw completely on or before the 60 percent point in time of the enrollment period for which they were charged, will be subject to the return of funds policy. For further information, specifics regarding return of funds policy and/or examples of refunds, contact the Financial Aid and Student Employment office for more information.

2. Return of Funds Distribution Policy

The distribution of any return of funds is prescribed by law and regulation* and is as follows:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loan
3. Federal Plus Loan
4. Federal Pell Grant
5. FSEOG
6. Other Title IV aid programs

*Federal programs that the institution does not participate in are not included in this distribution list.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial Aid Student Handbook
swic.edu/finaid/handbook

Financial Aid

To be considered for financial aid, a student must be in an eligible program. While most associate degree programs are financial aid eligible, there are a few exceptions.

The following associate degree programs are not eligible for financial aid:

Massage Therapy (027B)
Construction Cement Mason (039A)
Construction Sheetmetal (039B)
Construction Bricklayer (039C)
Construction Ironworker (039D)
Construction Electrical Specialist (039E)
Construction Painting & Decorating (039F)
Construction Carpentry (039G)

In addition, not all certificates are financial aid eligible. Please check certificate eligibility at swic.edu/finaid.

Complete the FAFSA – for grants, loans and student employment – apply early to be considered for the best financial aid opportunities.

Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov. Have your Federal Student Aid ID, Social Security card, driver's license, citizenship documentation, tax records and financial records available when you complete the FAFSA. You also will need your parents' information if you are a dependent student.

For help completing the FAFSA, make an appointment at a SWIC PALS office. Visit swic.edu/pals for hours and phone numbers.

Tuition Scholarships

Tuition scholarships are available to:

- Entering freshmen graduating in the top 10 percent of their District 522 high school class
- Outstanding college sophomore students
- Home-schooled students who meet established criteria
- GED® (High School Equivalency) graduates who meet established criteria
- Students who excel in athletics and activities such as the performing arts, journalism and student activities

For information on academic tuition scholarships, students should contact their high school counselor, GED® (High School Equivalency) coordinator or the SWIC scholarship specialist.

For athletic and activity tuition scholarships, contact the appropriate dean in the area of interest, including directors of College Activities and Athletics, or the Financial Aid and Student Employment office.

Transfer Scholarships

Community Scholarships

The Financial Aid and Student Employment office coordinates the award of community and governmental organization scholarships. For information about specific awards, contact your high school counselor or visit swic.edu/scholarshipinfo.

SWIC Foundation–Sponsored Scholarships

In addition, businesses, individuals and organizations in the region fund more than 200 scholarships each year for students. Specific criteria are designated by the donor. Applications are accepted from Jan. 1 to March 1, or until scholarships are awarded. Apply online at swic.edu/foundation. Contact the Foundation for more details.

Student Employment and Federal Work-Study

Two student employment programs are available: the college-funded Student Employment program and the federally funded Federal Work-Study program. Demonstrated financial need is not required for the Student Employment program. However, all other Federal Work-Study program requirements do apply.

The Federal Work-Study program is primarily funded with federal funds. Students are eligible for this program on the basis of financial need and that they have met all other federal requirements. To determine eligibility, students must apply for federal student aid by completing the FAFSA. If you are interested in either program, information and applications are available at swic.edu/employmentaid.

Veterans Services

SWIC maintains a Veterans Services office to assist eligible veterans and their dependents with their federal and state education benefits. Students working toward an approved program of study are provided a direct monetary payment of benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dependents of veterans also may be eligible for benefits if the veterans' total disability is permanent and service-related or death occurred while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

The Illinois Veterans Grant/MIA/POW scholarship pays in-district tuition for eligible students.

Students using veterans benefits must follow the Academic Alert/Probation/Suspension Warning/Academic Suspension regulations outlined in the SWIC college catalog to meet Standards of Progress. Contact the SWIC Veterans Services office for details.

Applications for all education benefits are available at Veterans Services offices at the Belleville or Sam Wolf Granite City campuses and online at swic.edu/veterans. Federal and state benefits can be used simultaneously. All veterans and recipients of all benefits must register with the Veterans Services office each semester. For details, contact the office.

Federal Programs

Federal Pell Grant

Eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant is established by the Department of Education. Students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually; applications are available in October for the following academic year at fafsa.ed.gov. Visit the Financial Aid and Student Employment office for more information or for help in filing the FAFSA, contact the Personal Advocate Linking Service office at any SWIC campus; your local high school counselor; or the Educational Opportunity Center in your area.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The FSEOG is a federal grant awarded by the Financial Aid and Student Employment office to the neediest Pell-eligible students. FSEOG funds are limited and awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Eligibility is also established by the Department of Education by means of the FAFSA.

Federal Direct Loan Program

To participate in educational loan programs, students must complete the FAFSA, meet federal eligibility requirements, be enrolled in a minimum of six eligible semester credits, meet Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements and be enrolled in an eligible program.

Students may borrow subsidized and/or unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, dependent upon financial need and borrowing history through the Department of Education. The federal government pays the interest on the subsidized Federal Direct Loans while the student is in college. Repayment, with a low interest rate, begins six months after the borrower ceases to be enrolled at least half time.

Non-need based loans are the unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan and Federal Parental Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). For more information on loan programs, visit swic.edu/loans.

Illinois State Programs

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission Monetary Award Program provides grants to eligible Illinois residents attending Illinois colleges. Awarded based on need determined by federal and state need analysis, these grants pay up to 100 percent of tuition costs for eligible students. To apply, students must annually submit the FAFSA.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

WIOA provides training funds for eligible dislocated workers and adults who meet WIOA eligibility guidelines. Applicants attend an eligible full-time program, and meet the financial aid satisfactory progress requirements set by the college. For more information on WIOA funding, call Selsius™ Corporate and Career Training at 618-235-2700, ext. 5686.

Southwestern Illinois workNet Center – Resource Room

The Resource Room may be used by the public to create online and paper resumes, and search job and career websites such as Illinois workNet. Information on WIOA job training is available. The Resource Room has tutorials to practice skills before interviewing. The Resource Room is located on the Belleville Campus in the Information Sciences Building in Room 1140. For information, call 618-235-2700, ext. 5183.

PALS (Personal Advocate Linking Services)

The PALS program supports each student’s endeavors and encourages each student’s success by linking students to educational and community resources.

PALS services include:

- Financial aid form, FAFSA, assistance
- Employment consultation, job skill assessment
- Career and mentor programs
- Referrals to campus and community services
- DHS link for information, updates and monthly reports
- PALS Page (newsletter)
- Support and encouragement necessary for success

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

To be eligible for most financial assistance at SWIC, students must meet the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements mandated by federal regulation. Students are evaluated once they have applied for financial aid and then at the end of each semester. The standards are cumulative; all prior academic work will be considered including transfer credits accepted at SWIC regardless of whether or not financial aid was previously received.

Each financial aid applicant/recipient must be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program, complete 67 percent of the cumulative hours attempted, and maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Students failing to meet one or both of these standards are allowed one Warning Semester. Failure to meet both of these standards at the end of the Warning Semester will result in Financial Aid Suspension.

A student on Financial Aid Suspension may re-establish financial aid eligibility after he/she has completed 67 percent of the cumulative hours attempted with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

In addition to the requirements stated above, every student applying for and receiving financial aid is required to complete his/her program of study within 150 percent of its published length. This is referred to as Maximum Timeframe. Maximum Timeframe is a projected calculation – a student’s total hours remaining to complete a program is added to total hours already attempted. Students will receive a Timeframe Notice upon exceeding 130 percent of the program length and will be placed on Timeframe Suspension upon exceeding 150 percent of the program length. This calculation is unique to each student situation.

Students who have been suspended from financial aid, may, under certain circumstances, make a written appeal. See the Financial Aid office or the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy at swic.edu/academicpolicy for more information.

***NOTE:** Financial Aid applicants/recipients need to be aware that the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements differ from the institution’s Scholastic Warning/Probation/Suspension policy.*