

### **5000.3D Financial Aid: Grants, Loans, Student Employment, and Scholarships**

Gillette Community College District (GCCD) administers the following financial aid: state, institutional, GCCD Foundation, and private scholarships; institutional grants; and private loans, in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations, and GCCD Policies and Procedures. Federal financial aid, including federal grants and loans, is awarded through the accreditation of Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD). The Office of Financial Aid manages student financial aid programs and serves as a resource to students, parents, and community members.

#### **Federal Title IV Student Financial Aid Program**

Through the accreditation of NWCCD, GCCD is authorized to offer federal Title IV student financial aid based on information provided by the student and/or family through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Criteria, award amounts, deadlines, and other requirements are established by the U.S. Department of Education.

The FAFSA must be completed annually, and the student's financial aid file must be marked as "complete" before any federal financial aid can be awarded and disbursed to the student account. To establish and maintain eligibility for federal financial aid, students must be enrolled in a Title IV-eligible degree or certificate program, attend class, and meet GCCD's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards as outlined in the Satisfactory Academic Progress Procedure (5000.3K).

Any student's FAFSA may be selected by the U.S. Department of Education for a process called verification. The Office of Financial Aid will notify the selected student via their primary email address. This notification will include instructions on how to complete the verification process. Verification must be completed before any Title IV aid can be packaged and disbursed to the student account.

#### **TYPES OF STUDENT AID**

##### **Federal Pell Grant**

Pell Grant awards are based on student financial need, cost of attendance, enrollment status, and the student's plan to attend school for one semester or the full academic year. The Pell Grant is a form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid unless the student fails to complete the classes for which the grant was awarded during the semester.

Adopted: May 18, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised:

### **Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**

The SEOG is another form of financial aid that does not require repayment. It is awarded to students with the highest unmet financial need. To be eligible for the SEOG, students must have a Student Aid Index (SAI) of zero, as determined by the FAFSA. Students must also be eligible for the Pell Grant. Priority consideration is given to students who submit the FAFSA early.

### **Student Loans**

Unlike grants, student loans must be repaid. Depending on a student's eligibility, as determined by the FAFSA, the loan may be subsidized or unsubsidized. To be considered for a federal student loan, the student must be enrolled in at least six credit hours and must complete both Entrance Counseling and the Master Promissory Note (MPN).

If additional financial aid is needed, a parent may be eligible to apply for a Parent PLUS Loan through the U.S. Department of Education, or the student may apply for additional loan funds through a private lender. It is the student's responsibility to select a private lender and complete all application requirements to receive a private loan.

### **Student Employment**

The GCCD Student Employment Program provides job opportunities to eligible students through either the Federal Work-Study Program or institutional funding. Federal Work-Study is a federally subsidized program administered by the U.S. Department of Education and may include both on-campus and off-campus employment opportunities.

Students are strongly encouraged to consider employment as a means to reduce the need for student loans. A variety of job types and locations are available. To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time for the current semester, be in good academic and conduct standing with GCCD, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

If a student qualifies for Federal Work-Study, as determined by the FAFSA, they will be paid with Federal Work-Study funds. Students who do not qualify for Federal Work-Study may still be employed through institutional funding.

Adopted: May 18, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised:

## Scholarships

Scholarships are generally merit-based, need-based and/or program-based and are funded by GCCD, the GCCD Foundation, local organizations, or private individuals.

- **Merit-based Scholarships** may be defined as the quality of being particularly good and worthy of praise. These scholarships are awarded based on qualities such as academic, artistic, athletic, or other demonstrated skills and achievements.
- **Need-based Scholarships** depend on remaining unmet financial need as determined by the FAFSA. Need may also be based on the student's remaining balance, particularly if FAFSA was not submitted.
- **Program Scholarships** require a commitment to a specific program of study leading to a certificate or degree.

## District Sponsored Scholarships

GCCD scholarship budgets are established annually. Criteria for scholarships may be determined by the donor (through the GCCD Foundation) or by GCCD. Both institutional and GCCD Foundation scholarship priorities are aligned annually with the District's strategic initiatives and enrollment goals.

Any degree- or certificate-seeking student registered for the upcoming semester is eligible to apply for institutional and/or Foundation scholarships. If selected, recipients will be notified via their NWCCD email address with scholarship details, recipient requirements (e.g., thank-you note), and any important deadlines.

GCCD and GCCD Foundation scholarships are applied to the student account once all recipient requirements have been fulfilled. Students are responsible for understanding and maintaining the terms of any scholarships received. Scholarships will be terminated if requirements are not met or maintained.

## Private Scholarships

Students may apply for private or external scholarships. Donors send scholarship checks directly to GCCD to be applied to the student's account. Some private scholarships require proof of enrollment and/or final grades to maintain eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to submit the required documentation.

## Hathaway Scholarship

Adopted: May 18, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised:

The Office of Financial Aid administers the Hathaway Scholarship, which is funded by the State of Wyoming. Established for the graduating class of 2006 and beyond, this program offers merit- and need-based awards to eligible students. Students have up to four years from their high school graduation date to apply.

To apply for the Hathaway Scholarship at GCCD, students must complete a Hathaway application. In addition, an official high school transcript and ACT scores must be submitted to both the Office of Financial Aid and the Admissions Office prior to the start of the semester in which the student intends to use the scholarship.

### **GCCD Grants**

- **Golden Age Grant**

Available to individuals 60 years of age or older, this grant covers 50 percent of tuition for credit classes and is subject to the availability of funds. The remaining balance, including all fees, is the responsibility of the student. The grant may be applied to either audited or graded classes.

- **Employee/Family Grant**

The Employee/Family Grant offers in-state tuition assistance for eligible employees and their family members, as described in the GCCD Employee Handbook. Grant availability is limited to available funding. The grant is available for:

- Faculty or staff of GCCD
- The employee's spouse
- The employee's child(ren) under the age of 24
- A legal dependent claimed on the current federal income tax return
- All must be attending GCCD

The grant amount is based on the employee's Full-Time Employment (FTE) status, as outlined below:

- Full Time (40 hours per week): 100% tuition-only waiver
- Half Time (20-39 hours per week): 50% tuition-only waiver (employee only)

Adopted: May 18, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised:

Gillette Community College District  
Board Procedure  
Series 5000

- Part Time (1-19 hours per week): 25% tuition-only waiver (employee only)

The grant request must be submitted each semester via the HR homepage on The Bridge. The Office of Financial Aid receives the request, and Human Resources verifies employment status. Once confirmed, an email notification is sent to both the employee and the student to acknowledge receipt. Employees and their dependents must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. Recipients are responsible for any remaining tuition, course fees, mandatory fees, books, supplies, and any associated late fees. The grant can be applied to audited (non-credit) classes, but it cannot be used for repeated coursework. Each student is limited to coverage of 24 credits per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer).

If a student receiving the employee grant withdraws from a course at any point during the semester, the grant will be revoked, and the student will be responsible for the full remaining tuition.

The employee grant cannot be used for the following courses:

- CDL training courses
- Bachelor of Applied Science courses offered through NWCCD

*Note: Online courses taken through NWCCD are eligible.*

Adopted: May 18, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised: