

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Financial aid programs are intended to eliminate the economic barriers to higher education. Aid is available from four sources: Federal, State, Local, and College. These sources are broken down into four types of assistance: Scholarships, Grants, Employment, and Loans.

Scholarships

In addition to the **State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship**, individual scholarships from area businesses and private organizations are available each year. *Scholarship Information Guides* listing qualification information and application deadline dates are available in the Financial Aid Office. Scholarships currently being promoted through the Financial Aid Office can be located in the Financial Aid Office, or by referring to KVCC's web site, www.kvcc.edu. Go to students, then Financial Aid, then click on Scholarships.

Conducting an Internet search is a fast and easy way to look for college scholarship information. We suggest the following sites, which will also include Michigan specific sources: at www.wiredscholar.com or www.fastweb.com. For additional Internet scholarship sites, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Grants

Federal grant programs are available to KVCC students. The **Federal Pell Grant** is an entitlement program and is awarded based on the number of credit hours a student is enrolled for, the cost of attendance, and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. **The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** is an additional grant program awarded per established guidelines to students showing greatest need for financial assistance. Priority is given to Pell Grant recipients. The **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)** builds on the Pell Grant program to provide increased funds for students who complete a rigorous high school program of study. First year student maximum award is \$750 per year, second year student maximum award is \$1,300 per year. You are eligible for this program if you are a U.S. citizen, a Pell Grant recipient, and are enrolled full-time in a degree program. First year students must not have been previously enrolled in a program of undergraduate education and have completed secondary school program of study after January 1, 2006. Second year students must have completed secondary school program of study after January 1, 2005 and have a 3.0 GPA in an eligible program. Student must have completed a rigorous high school program of study. Students can inquire about this grant through the Financial Aid Office for further instructions on how to determine eligibility.

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) provides tuition and fee assistance to eligible lower income students under 20 years of age who graduated from high school or obtained a G.E.D. after April, 1988.

Employment

Students applying for financial aid may also qualify for the **Federal Work Study Program**. This program is designed to give students the opportunity to work and earn money to assist with educational expenses while enrolled in classes. Students who are awarded funds through the Federal Work Study Program are encouraged to participate in community service activities, especially the America Reads/America Counts program.

- **America Reads** - A President Clinton initiative that challenges every American to help all our children learn to read, including those with disabilities and limited English proficiency. The program will touch citizens from all walks of life and spark collaborations between educators, parents, librarians, business people, senior citizens, college students, and community religious groups.

- **America Counts** - A Department of Education mathematics initiative, developed to support former Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley's priority for all students to master advanced skills in mathematics to prepare them for college and promising careers of the 21st century.

Loans

Federal Subsidized Loan - This is a federally subsidized program where the state and federal government guarantee loans made by private lending institutions up to \$3,500 per year for a student's first year of study, and \$4,500 per year for a student who has completed the first year of study. A maximum of \$23,000 may be borrowed as an undergraduate student. For new loan borrowers, the loan carries a variable interest rate. This rate changes annually each July 1 and is based on the interest rate of U.S. Treasury Bills. The maximum interest rate that can be charged is 8.25%. The interest rate is paid by the federal government which the student is attending school at least half-time. Repayment begins six months after graduation or termination of enrollment on at least a half-time basis.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan - This loan program is similar to the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, with the exception that interest payments begin on the day the loan is disbursed and the student is responsible for interest accrued during in-school and deferment periods. Interest payments can be paid monthly, quarterly, or capitalized by the lender and added to loan principal. For dependent students, the amount a student can borrow from this program during an academic year is: the Stafford Loan limit plus \$2,000 (prorated based on program length) for first two years. For independent students, the amount a student can borrow from this program during an academic year is: the Stafford Loan limit plus \$4,000 (prorated based on program length) for the first two years.

Federal PLUS Loan - This is a non-need based source of loan funds available to parents of dependent undergraduates. For loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2008, parents can agree to defer repayment until six months after their student graduates or fails to enroll at least half-time. Interest will continue to accrue during this time period. The interest rate is variable with a maximum of 9%. The parent may borrow up to the cost of education minus other aid.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Special Populations - This program will assist in the reimbursement of educational expenses (tuition and possibly books) to eligible applicants who meet the definition of a Special Populations student. Eligible applicants must be enrolled in a vocational education program. Application materials are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Veterans Administration Benefits - This funding source offers educational assistance to eligible veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

Michigan Promise Scholarship - This scholarship provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education. All students who took the Michigan Merit Exam have the opportunity to receive up to \$4,000 if they meet all eligibility requirements. Students who receive qualifying scores (Level 2 or above) in each of the required test components are eligible to receive up to half of their scholarship in the first two years of postsecondary enrollment (in installments of \$1,000 each year).

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver - This program provides a waiver of tuition for those students who are Michigan residents and have documentation of at least 1/4 blood quantum by tribal affiliation or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Act - This program provides a waiver of tuition at public community colleges and state universities for the surviving spouse and children (under age 21) of Michigan police and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

