



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

**2018-2019 Financial Aid Awards Will Soon Go Out!!!!**

**If you have not already completed your FAFSA, please complete it now at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).**

**NCAT School Code:  
002905**

**OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SPRING NEWSLETTER**

**Summer Sessions 2018**

**Year Round Federal Pell Grant is back for summer 2018!**

Year-round Pell allows students to receive up to 150% of a regular grant award over the academic year assisting students taking classes in the summer which could help with finishing their degree and graduating earlier.

Students must:

- meet all the [Basic Student Eligibility](#) criteria;
- have a processed 2017-2018 FAFSA on file;
- complete a Summer School Application 2018 (*located on the financial aid website – available March 1, 2018*);
- be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress;
- have remaining Pell eligibility; and
- must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours in one session.

Students are encouraged to repeat failed courses during the summer to assist in increasing their cumulative grade point average.

***Students who are close to or have exceeded 140 attempted hours and may be soon charged a tuition surcharge. Looking to take summer courses and not have an additional expense? Good News:***

***No Tuition Surcharge for Summer School!***

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**Department of Education – New Guidance on Release of FAFSA Information**

Due to a new regulation by the Department of Education, students' FAFSA data cannot be released by the institution unless the release is for one of the specific purposes permitted by law, even with the student's written authorization. Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the Higher Education Act (HEA) specifies that FAFSA data, which includes information related to Expected Family Contributions (EFCs) and awards, "shall be used only for the application, award, and administration of aid awarded under federal student aid programs, state aid, or aid awarded by eligible institutions or such entities as the Department may designate."

Many private scholarship providers request that scholarship recipients sign a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release authorizing the private scholarship provider to obtain FAFSA information directly from the institution. This practice is not permissible under the Higher Education Act because the release is not related to federal, state, or institutional aid. The only permissible method for the scholarship provider to receive the FAFSA information under the HEA would be directly from the student.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

The Higher Education Amendment Act of 1965, as amended, mandates institutions of higher education to establish a minimum standard of "Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)" for students receiving federal financial aid. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University makes its standard applicable to all federal, state and some institutional funds.

The Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements apply to all terms regardless of whether financial aid was received. Satisfactory Academic Progress will be evaluated for all students (full or part-time) annually (at the end of each spring semester). Students who enroll at the mid-point (January) of an academic year or attend one semester only will also be evaluated at the end of the spring semester. Students who begin enrollment in the summer will not have their Satisfactory Academic Progress reviewed until the end of the next spring semester.

Students re-admitted under the "three year rule" or any other rules must also meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards to receive financial aid.

To ensure Satisfactory Academic Progress students must meet all of the following minimum standards:

- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher for Undergraduate students;
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher for Graduate students;
- Earn 0.67% of total attempted hours; and
- Not exceed 150% of hours required for the degree.

Students who fail to meet one or more of the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards at the time their academic progress is reviewed are not eligible for financial aid and will have their financial aid terminated.

**Withdrawal "W" grade** – A withdrawal is recorded on the student's academic record and will be included as credits attempted and may have an adverse effect on the student's ability to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students who officially withdraw from the University may need to make up the deficit hours and are encouraged to attend summer school.

### Unofficial Withdrawals

Should a student leaves the University without official notification, the Office of Student Financial Aid may establish a withdrawal date by using the midpoint of the semester or using the student's last day of attendance as documented by an academically related activity.

If a student earns all F's during a semester, it may be considered an unofficial withdrawal if the last date of attendance cannot be determined.

## RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO YOUR PARENT(S) AND OTHERS

Under the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's policy, the Office of Financial Aid is prohibited from releasing financial aid information to anyone other than the student. Financial information can be discussed with dependent students' parents or custodial parents, if the student has completed the authorization form indicating who information may be released to. The form is located on the Registrar's website at:

<http://www.ncat.edu/registrar/forms/student-release.pdf>

## Verification 2018-2019

Students are encouraged to check their AGGIE ACCESS account for missing or incomplete financial aid documents for the 2018-2019 academic year.

If the student's record indicates School Servicing Center (SSC), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University has partnered with College Foundation Inc. (CFI) to complete the verification process. The student should have received an email from [verification@SSCwp.org](mailto:verification@SSCwp.org) or [echosign@echosign.com](mailto:echosign@echosign.com) with instructions on completing the verification process. Students should follow the instructions carefully and respond to all requests. Please be sure to complete the online verification interview on the "Students" tab at [www.SSCwp.org](http://www.SSCwp.org) and submit all documents requested. Requested documents may be uploaded through the portal. Should you have questions concerning the verification process with SSC, please select "Contact US" at the bottom of the portal or call the School Servicing Center at 1-855-328-4400.

If your record does not include SSC, please submit the requested documents to the Office of Student Financial Aid in person, via the mail or fax to 336-334-7954. Please do not email personal information. Should you have questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 336-334-7973.

***Students and parents are requested not to email sensitive information such as tax returns and other documents containing social security numbers and other personally identifiable information.  
Students and parents should mail or fax information to 336-334-7954.***

### Please Note

Students should check Aggie Access online and their Aggie email on a regular basis to: determine what documents are missing to complete verification; to view/accept financial aid award; to view holds on account. The Office of Student Financial Aid also communicates important information and/or updates via the students' Aggie email.

\*It is the students' responsibility to check their account regularly.

## Useful Scholarship Links

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University:  
<http://www.ncat.edu/admissions/financial-aid/aid/scholarships/index.html>

United Negro College Fund:  
<https://scholarships.uncf.org/>

Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarships:  
<http://www.tmcf.org/our-scholarships/current-scholarships>

College Foundation of North Carolina:  
[https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/all\\_schols.jsp](https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/all_schols.jsp)

Gates Millennium Scholars Program:  
<http://www.gmsp.org/gates-millennium-scholars-program/>

### **RESIDENCY DETERMINATION**

In compliance with state law effective February 20, 2017, the University of North Carolina system now requires undergraduate students to request a residency classification from the new Residency Determination Service (RDS). (RDS is the entity responsible for all new classifications of residency in North Carolina.

The specific requirements for establishing residency for tuition purposes and for eligibility for State financial aid are prescribed by state law. A North Carolina resident for tuition purposes (and for State financial aid consideration) is a person, or a dependent person (dependent according to IRS tax code – not the FAFSA definition of dependency), whose parent or legal guardian has established and maintained legal residence in North Carolina for at least 12 months.

To learn more about residency and complete a determination, please visit [www.NCresidency.org](http://www.NCresidency.org). For questions, please contact them at 844-319-3640.

[www.ncat.edu](http://www.ncat.edu)

*North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is an AA/EEO employer, and it is an ADA compliant institution; thus, facilities are designed to provide accessibility to individuals with physical disabilities.*

## **Calendar of Important Dates and Deadlines**

**March 1, 2018**

Merit Application Deadline

**March 1, 2018**

Summer School Applications Available

**March 28, 2018**

Last Day to Withdraw from a Class without a Grade Evaluation.

**April 2 – 23, 2018**

Registration for Summer & Fall 2018

**April 7, 2018**

Last Day to Withdraw from the University without a Grade Evaluation.

**April 24, 2018**

Financial Literacy Day

**July 2, 2018**

SAP Appeal Fall Deadline

**July 15, 2018**

Deadline to Submit All Verification Documents to be awarded before Fall Bills are Due

## **Financial Literacy**

### **Spring Break Budget Tips**

It can be difficult to go to an exotic place on a college budget. With careful planning and enough time, it can be done.

- Go with friends.
- Splitting a hotel room between a couple people makes it less expensive. If you can find enough people to go, take advantage of group rates that many places offer.
- Take a staycation.
- Is there a big city or small town nearby that you have been meaning to check out? Take a visit! Spend some time exploring your hometown. Try a new restaurant, check out the new museum that just opened, or attend a local band's concert.
- Plan your trip in advance and leave plenty of time to spare.
- As soon as you know that you want to take a trip for spring break, start saving your money. Calculate how much you need to get going and set as much money aside as possible. Figure out your schedule for each day while leaving room to have a few spontaneous adventures.
- Do your research.