



FAQ'S FOR POLICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE POLICE ACADEMY. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID?

All Police Academy students are encouraged to apply for Federal Student Aid. Your eligibility will be determined once the Office of Financial Aid Services receives and reviews your processed financial aid application from the Federal Student Aid Information Center. The Police Academy program is considered an eligible program for Federal Student Aid funds. However, since the courses are non-credit, it can NOT be considered an eligible program for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority (PHEAA) State Grant or for the Certificate of Residency (for reduced tuition charges).

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID?

By filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using the Internet. Be sure to list HACC's school code – **003273** on the form.

FAFSA ON THE WEB at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

You will need a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to electronically sign your FAFSA. If you do not already have a PIN, apply for one now at www.pin.ed.gov. If you are a dependent student, your parents must also apply for a PIN so they can electronically sign your FAFSA. Your PIN will be e-mailed to you within 1 to 5 days. If you do not provide an e-mail address, the PIN number will be mailed to your permanent mailing address within 7 to 10 days.

Parents and Students are encouraged to use the IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL to answer FAFSA tax questions. Using the IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL will decrease chances of being selected for review by the Federal Department of Education and being required to submit tax return transcripts to the Financial Aid Office.

WHAT DOES THE FAFSA DO?

It measures your/your family's financial strength by analyzing the information you listed on the application. The FAFSA will determine your eligibility for a FEDERAL PELL GRANT, money that does not have to be repaid, and a FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN, which is borrowed money that **MUST BE REPAYED** with interest. FYI: Students who have already completed a Bachelor's Degree program are not entitled to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

WILL MY FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID COVER THE COST OF THE POLICE ACADEMY'S TUITION?

It depends. A PELL grant alone might not cover your tuition. Dependent students are eligible for a maximum Direct loan of \$4607. Independent students may be eligible for a maximum of \$7958.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN?

After filing your FAFSA, and all subsequent documentation has been submitted and reviewed, the Office of Financial Aid Services will calculate your Financial Aid Award. An Award Letter identifying your total Financial Aid package will be mailed to you and posted to your MyHACC account under the Financial Aid Tab. Students have the option of reducing or canceling student loans by completing the Online Aid Reduction/Cancelation Form found on their MyHACC account.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN?

A SUBSIDIZED loan is awarded on the basis of financial need. You will not be charged any interest before you begin repayment or during authorized periods of deferment. The Federal Government “subsidizes” the 3.4% interest rate during these periods. The maximum subsidized loan that a student can receive for the Police Academy is \$2932.

An UNSUBSIDIZED loan is NOT awarded on the basis of need, all who apply may receive this loan. You will be charged a 6.8% fixed interest rate from the time the loan is disbursed until the loan is paid in full. If you allow the interest to accrue (accumulate) while you are in school or during other periods of nonpayment, it will be **CAPITALIZED** — interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan, and additional interest will be based on that higher amount.

WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON? — Both have a six (6) month grace period. Repayment begins 6 months after completion of the program.

WHY WAS I ONLY AWARDED A FEDERAL UNSUBSIDIZED DIRECT LOAN?

Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans are awarded on the basis of need (as determined through the financial aid process) minus any other financial aid/assistance such as a Federal Pell Grant, VA benefits, PAEAP, employer reimbursements, etc. If there is still unmet need, once these sources have been subtracted from the Academy’s Cost of Attendance (COA) a Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan can be awarded. VA/PAEAP recipients may find that they have little if any unmet need for loan eligibility.

I RECEIVED FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID BEFORE, AND THE LOAN MAXIMUMS WERE HIGHER. WHY?

The Policy Academy is a clock hour program. Therefore, it does not meet as many hours or last as many weeks as a semester hour program. As a result, Federal Regulations mandate that your aid be pro-rated to adjust for this difference.

HOW DOES MY AID GET PAID?

Federal Regulations mandate that the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Direct Loan be paid in two disbursements for clock hour programs. The first disbursement will occur approximately 30 days after the start of your program as long as all required documents are processed. The second disbursement will occur midpoint into the term. No disbursement will be made until confirmation is received from the Police Academy that you are meeting both academic and attendance requirements. Disbursements are made directly to the college. Once any outstanding balance is paid, a refund check will be mailed to you within 14 days from the date your award is disbursed to your account.

I HAVE BEEN ON MY OWN FOR A WHILE WITHOUT ANY PARENTAL SUPPORT. WHY AM I CONSIDERED A DEPENDENT STUDENT?

The Department of Education defines an independent student as an individual who is either over the age of 24, married, a veteran, ward of the court, or someone who has a dependent for whom

he/she provides more than 50% of maintenance. The Department of Education specifically excludes financial independence unless there is proof of abandonment or abuse.

I'M AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT WITH A FAMILY WHO HAS HAD TO QUIT MY JOB TO ATTEND THE POLICE ACADEMY. WHILE THE DIRECT LOAN COVERS MY TUITION AND FEES, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO COVER LIVING EXPENSES. ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS FOR ME?



You can apply for an Alternative Loan. The best place to start would be to contact your local bank or credit union. You could also search the internet by using the key words "private student loans."

I HAVE SOME OTHER STUDENT AID QUESTIONS. WHOM CAN I SPEAK TO IN HACC'S OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID SERVICES?



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