

- Be enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours) for all programs except Federal Pell Grant and IL State MAP Grant (est)
- Meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards of IECC;
- Not have already received a bachelor's degree (applicable to Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG and MAP);
- Not be in default on any federal student loan;
- Not owe a repayment of a federal grant or ISAC gift aid to any postsecondary institution;
- Not have a federal drug conviction while receiving federal financial aid.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is administered by the Department of Education and used to apply for financial assistance by analyzing financial need.

The FAFSA is available on October 1st annually for the upcoming aid year. First-time users (and at least one parent of a dependent first-time user) must first create an FSA ID at fsaid.gov. Then, visit fafsa.gov to begin the process of submitting your FAFSA.

When IECC receives this application information, student eligibility for the following programs is considered:

Gift Aid (No repayment required)

- ❖ **Federal Pell Grant** is an entitlement fund awarded to undergraduate students based on the Estimated Family Contribution, Eligibility Criteria, IECC Cost of Attendance, Enrollment Status, and Length of Enrollment.
- ❖ **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** provides additional assistance to low-income, undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. IECC receives a limited amount of funds in this program to distribute annually.
- ❖ **Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP)** provides grants to those Illinois residents who attend approved Illinois colleges and demonstrate financial need. The funds from this program are only applied toward tuition and mandatory fees, not to exceed the maximum award amount for the academic year. The deadline to apply for funds is announced annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Self-Help Aid

- ❖ **Federal Work Study** is an employment program operated by the Financial Aid Office with the assistance of Human Resources and Payroll. This program provides a part-time position to employ students for 5-20 hours each week. Students receive a bi-weekly paycheck to assist with meeting their cost of attendance.
- ❖ **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans** are borrowed, low-interest funds to assist students with financing a college education when out-of-pocket monies cannot meet the needs within the cost of attendance. All

loans must be paid back, with interest, regardless of the completion of the student's educational goal or a student securing a career in the field of study following graduation. Repayment generally begins approximately six months after the student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment.

- **Direct Subsidized Loans** are available to eligible undergraduate students with financial unmet need.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are available to undergraduate students that may not have financial need as determined by the expected family contribution and cost of attendance.
- **Direct PLUS Loans** are available to eligible parents of undergraduate students. Parents must apply for the loan at studentaid.gov and should not have an adverse credit history. Repayment begins right away. However, parents may have the option to defer payment until approximately six months after the student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment.

VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

Most IECC academic programs are approved for veterans' education benefits. Each IECC campus has a VA Certifying Official to administer the reporting requirements as defined in the School Certifying Official Handbook for the following programs. Veteran information can be found at www.iecc.edu/financial.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679(e), IECC adopts the following additional provisions for students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch.33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment from the VA is pending to the educational institution. IECC will not: prevent their enrollment, assess a late penalty fee, require they secure alternative or additional funding, or deny access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution. However, to qualify for this provision, students may be required to: produce the VA Certification of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class, provide a written request to be certified, or provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies (see the VA School Certifying Officials for all requirements).

- ❖ **Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)** offers up to 36 months of education benefits for higher education