

Loans

****New to 2012-2013 Academic Year: Loans will be applied to your student account in 2 disbursements per semester.**

****Loans should be considered only after exhausting all other aid sources. They are serious financial obligations that must be repaid. Loans may have long-term implications and the amount of money borrowed may affect your ability to borrow for a home or car after college.**

The William D. Ford Direct Loan Program

The following loan programs provide assistance to students who have additional financial need to cover the cost of attending college.

Direct – Subsidized Stafford Loan - A low interest loan based on need available through the U.S. Department of Education. The Federal Government pays the interest on the student's loan while he or she is enrolled at least half-time. Those who do not qualify for the subsidized loan (in whole or in part) may be considered for the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. The current interest rate is 3.4%.

Direct – Unsubsidized Stafford Loan – A low interest loan not based on need available through the U.S. Department of Education. Interest accrues on this loan during the entire period of the loan (from the time it is disbursed to the school until you pay it off). The current interest rate is 6.8%.

Direct – Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – Available for parents of dependent undergraduate students.

Eligibility:

1. Completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application is available through FAFSA on the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. WTC's school code number is 009549.
2. Enrolled in at least half-time (6 hours) in an eligible degree or certificate program at WTC.
3. Your financial aid file must be completed – i.e. FAFSA submitted to WTC, WTC Worksheet, and verification (if applicable) completed.
4. All students attending Western Texas College and receiving federal or state financial aid funds must maintain satisfactory academic progress. See www.wtc.edu financial aid webpage for detail information on Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Borrowing Limits

There are limits on how much a student can borrow per school year based on dependency status, need, cost of attendance and prior loans. The Financial Aid office will determine your maximum eligible amount. Western Texas College will not certify a loan for a student or parent if histories of delinquent or defaulted loans exist. A student who is in default on any student loan will not be eligible for student loans.

It is the student's responsibility to apply for a student loan. Western Texas College does not apply for you. *The Federal Government will be your lender.*

APPLYING FOR A SUBSIDIZED/UNSUBSIDIZED DIRECT LOAN:

1. If transferring hours from another college, request a degree audit from the WTC Registrar's office.
2. Complete entrance counseling. You will need the following information during the course of this procedure:
 - a. Social Security number;
 - b. First two (2) characters of your last name;
 - c. Date of birth;
 - d. FAFSA PIN# (if you do not have or cannot remember your PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for or access your PIN.)
3. Go to <https://studentloans.gov>; and Sign In
4. Click "Complete Entrance Counseling".
5. Complete and **Submit** the Entrance Counseling.
6. Print or save the Counseling Verification Page for your records.
7. Sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) at <https://studentloans.gov>
8. Select the subsidized/unsubsidized loan.
9. Complete and **SIGN** the MPN
 - a. The entry of your name and clicking "sign" is an electronic signature saying you agree to the terms and conditions of the loan(s)
 - b. You do not need to mail the MPN.
10. Once your loan has been processed by WTC, you will receive an Award Acceptance Letter informing you of the amount available to you. **You must accept or decline your loan and by signing your award letter and returning it to the WTC Financial Aid Office or by accepting online through your MyWTC account. Acceptance cannot be completed over the phone.**
11. **If you are a first time borrower, there is a mandatory 30 day hold period before your student loan can be disbursed.**

Applying for a Parent Plus Loan

Parent (+) Loans must be requested by the student's parent.

1. Parent must fill out an application and sign the Parent (+) Loan Master Promissory Note, located on studentloans.gov.
2. A credit check will be done and must be accepted through the Dept. of Education before the loan can be processed.
3. Neither the student nor the parent can be in default with any prior student loans.

You should receive a confirmation email that your Entrance Counseling and MPN have been submitted.

Award Acceptance Letters can be submitted to WTC via email financialaid@wtc.edu, fax: 866-270-6184, or mail: Attn: Financial Aid, 6200 College Ave, Snyder, TX 79549.

*******IMPORTANT – EXIT COUNSELING*******

One requirement of receiving your student loan is to complete Exit Counseling shortly before you leave WTC, either by graduation or withdrawal. Exit Counseling is a **federally required action**. Upon graduation or your withdrawal, WTC will maintain a hold on your student account until it is completed and reported to the school. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS BEFORE LEAVING WTC!!!!**

Complete Exit Counseling by going to www.studentloans.gov and selecting Exit Counseling. Complete and submit.