

IECC Employees – Refer to Policy and Procedure 500.14 for current tuition waiver information. This tuition waiver does not apply to work-study students.

Discretionary tuition waivers – May be granted at the recommendation of the chancellor or their designee.

REFUND POLICY

A refund of 100% of the tuition and fees will be made to a student who withdraws during the first 10 days of a 16-week class period. No refunds will be given after the 10th day of the semester for regular 16-week courses.

For courses which are offered outside the regular 16-week schedule, contact the Records Office to determine the refund period. All students registered for a 24, 32, or 40-hour New Hire Mining class must cancel 48 hours prior to the start date of the class to receive a refund.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges believes that the talents, hopes, and ambitions of our students are among the most valuable resources this nation possesses. While financing a college education is the primary responsibility of the student and his/her family, the fundamental purpose of the financial aid program is to make it possible for students, who would normally be deprived a college education because of inadequate finances, to attend college. With this thought in mind, IECC continues to promote college financing opportunities with gift and optional aid for its qualified and deserving students who must find funds to attend college. For complete financial aid information, please go to www.iecc.edu/financial.

ELIGIBILITY

In general, to be eligible for the federal and state aid administered by IECC, students must:

- Demonstrate financial need as determined by the financial aid office;
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen with a valid social security number;
- Have a high school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) and/or are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State of Illinois;
- Complete and submit FAFSA;
- Submit required documents to the financial aid office;
- Be admitted to IECC in an eligible program leading to an approved certificate or degree;
- 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;

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 typically available on October 1st annually for the upcoming aid year. Visit <http://studentaid.gov> to create an account and apply for aid.

When IECC receives this application, 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 Student Aid Index, Eligibility Criteria, IECC Cost of Attendance, Enrollment Intensity, 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.

In some instances, Illinois students who are not eligible for federal financial aid (and do not file FAFSA) may apply for a MAP grant using the online Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. For more information, visit <https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act.html>

Optional 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.**