



ILLINOIS VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Guide to Financial Aid 2026-2027

ivcc.edu/financialaid

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FINANCIAL AID AND VETERANS SERVICES

Illinois Valley Community College

815 N Orlando Smith Rd
Oglesby, IL 61348 | CTC-101S

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:00 am-7:00 pm

Utilizing Colleague Self-Service

Colleague Self-Service is available at the top of ivcc.edu under I am a/an > IVCC Student > [IVCC Self-Service](#)

The Financial Aid Tab

- View outstanding documents needed to complete your financial aid file.
- Your awards
- Your latest Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation
- Helpful Links

Student Email

Once you register for classes, your ivcc.edu email will be used to notify you about important information. It is important you check your email at least once a week.

Address

It is very important the Financial Aid Office has your correct address on file. You will be notified by mail on the status of your Financial Aid application, award, and SAP status, just to name a few examples.

Guide to Financial Aid

This guide has been designed to help students understand the process of applying for financial aid at Illinois Valley Community College. We also want to inform students about the requirements for aid to be disbursed and retaining financial aid eligibility. Please take a few minutes to go through the information presented in this guide.

*The content of this publication is
subject to change.*

Email
financialaid@ivcc.edu

Website
ivcc.edu/financialaid

Phone
815-224-0438

Fax
815-224-0638

Financial Aid Eligibility



Before the Financial Aid Office can calculate your eligibility for financial aid, the following steps must be completed:

1. Apply for admission to IVCC at ivcc.edu.
 - You must be admitted as a regular student, which requires you to have graduated from an accredited high school or to have successfully passed the High School Equivalency Exam (HSE/GED), before enrollment.

2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - The application is online at studentaid.gov
 - IVCC's school code is **001705**.

3. Notify the Admissions and Records Office of the certificate or associate degree program you plan to pursue.
 - Certificate programs requiring less than 16 credit hours to complete are considered “short-term training programs” and are not eligible for financial aid.
 - However, if eligible, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) may be used to finance short-term programs that are not eligible for federal financial aid.

4. Keep an eye on your email and Self-Service account
 - The Financial Aid Office may contact you requesting additional documentation or information to be submitted to complete your application.
 - Additional information can include federal tax transcripts.



Financial Aid Awards

The Financial Aid Office processes the information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine your financial aid awards. The awards are administered as follows:

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Scholarships are forms of “gift aid” that do not require repayment.
- Scholarships are awarded based on need or merit.
- The IVCC Foundation has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships over the last 4 years.
 - Awards start at \$500 and can reach up to \$4,500.
- Many organizations outside of Illinois Valley Community College offer additional scholarship opportunities. A list of these opportunities can be found on our IVCC website.
 - The availability of these scholarships is subject to change.
 - IVCC does not endorse or sponsor these external scholarships.

Financial Aid Awards Cont.



PELL GRANT:

- Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree.
- A Federal Pell Grant does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances.
- The Federal Pell Grant can be used for:
 - Tuition
 - Fees
 - Bookstore Charges
- The duration of lifetime eligibility for the Pell Grant is limited to 12 full-time equivalent semesters (6 years).
- The Pell Grant award amount is based on full-time enrollment of 12 hours per semester.
- The award amount is prorated based on enrollment as follows:

Enrollment	12+ Hours	1-11.5 Hours
Pell Grant Amount	Full Award	Prorated by # of credit hours



Financial Aid Awards Cont.

ILLINOIS MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP) GRANT:

- MAP Grant funds are only available in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Payment for each semester is made according to the number of credit hours enrolled, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15.

Enrollment	MAP Grant % of Award
15+ Hours	100%
14-3 Hours	Prorated by # of credit hours
2 or Less Hours	0%

- The MAP Grant can be used for:
 - Tuition
 - Fees
- All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution.
- Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP Grants are possible.
- There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant:
 - Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you've received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs).
 - The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of full-time enrollment.
 - Visit the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org for more information on MPCH limitations.

Financial Aid Awards Cont.



ILLINOIS MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP) GRANT:

- To be eligible, you must:
 - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen, or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the RISE Act
 - be an Illinois resident (if you are a dependent, the parent whose information is used on the FAFSA must be an Illinois resident)
 - demonstrate financial need
 - be enrolled in a minimum of 3 hours per term at an approved Illinois college, in a degree or certificate program (includes credit-bearing certificate programs that are offered at public institutions and are less than one academic year in length)
 - maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by your college
 - not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant (if you are in default, you may reestablish your MAP eligibility).
 - not have received a bachelor's degree
 - not have used the equivalent of 135 MAP Paid Credit Hours* or more (MAP Paid Credit Hours usage is determined by your enrollment status each term)
 - not be incarcerated



Financial Aid Awards Cont.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

- FSEOG is a grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need.
- FSEOG does not need to be repaid, except under certain circumstances.
- You can receive between \$100 and \$4,000 a year, depending on your financial need, when you apply, the amount of other aid you get, and the availability of funds at your school.
- Each participating school receives a certain amount of FSEOG funds each year from the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid. Once the full amount of the school's FSEOG funds has been awarded to students, no more FSEOG awards can be made for that year.
- Enrollment in at least 6 credit hours a semester is required to receive payment of this award.

Financial Aid Awards Cont.



FEDERAL WORK STUDY

Federal Work Study Facts

- It provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school.
- It's available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need.
- It's available to full-time or part-time students.
- It's administered by schools participating in the Federal Work-Study Program.
- Enrollment in at least 6 credit hours a semester is required to receive payment of this award.
 - Limited exceptions for enrollment below 6 credit hours may be considered by the Financial Aid Office on a case-by-case basis.

How much can I earn?

- You'll earn at least the current federal minimum wage.
- Your total work-study award depends on
 - when you apply,
 - your level of financial need, and
 - your school's funding level.

How will I be paid?

- As an undergraduate student, you're paid by the hour.
- Your school must pay you directly unless you request that the school send your payments directly to your bank account or use the money to pay for your education-related charges



Financial Aid Awards Cont.

DIRECT LOANS

- Direct Loans are funds a student borrows that must be repaid, with interest.
- You must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours a semester to request a loan.
- There are two types of Direct Loans:
 - Subsidized:
 - You must have financial need to receive this type of loan.
 - The U.S. Department of Education will pay (subsidize) the interest that accrues on subsidized Direct Loans while the student is enrolled in a qualified degree program, on at least a half-time basis, and during a 6 month grace period after the student ceases being enrolled on a half-time basis.
 - Beginning July 1, 2026, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3) will introduce federal student loan changes, including prorated annual loan limits for students enrolled less than full-time (12+ hours). This means students taking fewer than 12 credit hours may qualify for reduced loan amounts.



Financial Aid Awards Cont.

DIRECT LOANS CONT.

- Unsubsidized:
 - Financial need is not a requirement to obtain this type of loan.
 - The student is responsible for paying the interest on the unsubsidized direct loan from the time it is disbursed until the direct loan is paid in full.
 - You may pay the interest while you are in school or you can allow the interest to accrue (accumulate) and have the interest added to the principal amount of your direct loan. This is called ***capitalization***.
- Interest rates are based on when your initial student loan is disbursed. Interest rates for first-time borrowers, with funds first disbursed after **July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, are 6.52%** on subsidized Direct Loans and unsubsidized Direct Loans.
- No loans will be processed for Fall semester after **November 15th** or for the Spring Semester after **April 15th**.
- Repayment of Direct Loans begins six months after you cease to be enrolled at any post-secondary school on at least a half-time basis.

Financial Aid Awards Cont.



DIRECT LOANS CONT.

- Beginning July 1, 2026, the Tiered Standard Plan will replace traditional repayment options for new federal student loan borrowers under OB3. The new plan will have fixed monthly payments with terms ranging from 10 to 25 years, determined by the total loan balance.
- Also beginning July 1, 2026, the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) has a 30-year repayment period which offers income-based payments (1%-10% of income) with a \$10 minimum.

Maximum Annual Direct Loan Amounts for Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans*

Borrower's Academic Level	Maximum Subsidized Eligibility	Additional Unsubsidized Eligibility		Maximum Combined Eligibility	
		Dependent	Independent	Dependent	Independent
1st year undergraduate	\$3500	\$2000	\$6000	\$5500	\$9500
2nd year undergraduate	\$4500	\$2000	\$6000	\$6500	\$10500

* These are the maximum amounts that you can borrow for a full academic year. For periods of study that are shorter than an academic year, the maximum amounts you can borrow may be less. The Financial Aid Office will determine the specific amount that you are eligible to borrow. You must have completed 30 college level credit hours or more to be considered a 2nd-year undergraduate.

To apply for a Direct Student Loan, you must complete the [2026-2027 Student Loan Request Form](#), which is available at on our school website.

New borrowers will need to also complete Loan Entrance Counseling at studentaid.gov.

Each academic year you will need to complete and sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN). This step must be done to start the processing of the loan. ALL borrowers must complete the online MPN at studentaid.gov.

All loan requests are reviewed by a Financial Aid Loan Committee. IVCC can refuse to originate your loan request or can modify the loan amount if the school documents the reason for its action and explains the reason to the borrower.

Additional information on direct loans, including a debt calculator, can be found at studentaid.gov.

How Financial Aid Eligibility Is Determined

Financial aid is awarded to supplement a family’s ability to pay the costs of education. When you submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a Student Aid Index (SAI) is calculated. To calculate an SAI, the Financial Aid Office conducts a need-based analysis. The analysis takes into account your income and assets and those of your parents or spouse, if applicable.

The analysis formula used considers both taxed and untaxed income, as well as any assets and benefits received, such as unemployment or Social Security. You can find a [federal student aid estimator](https://studentaid.gov) at studentaid.gov.

The Financial Aid Office calculates a student’s cost of attendance (see below), then uses the following equation to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

The student budget for 2026-2027 used to estimate cost of attendance is as follows for a full-time in-district student during the nine-month school year.		Room, board, transportation, and personal expenses vary greatly with each student’s individual situation, however, for financial aid purposes, these costs are estimated as follows:		
		For dependent students living with parents:		For independent students not living with parents:
Direct cost:				
Tuition and fees (based on 16 credit hours for 2 semesters @ \$154 per credit hour)*:	\$4,938	Food and Housing	\$4,257	\$8,064
Books and supplies:	\$1,800	Transportation	\$3,480	\$3,480
Total direct costs:	\$6,738	Personal Expenses	\$1,440	\$1,935
		Total indirect cost	\$9,177	\$13,479
Total Student Expense Budget:			\$15,915	\$20,217

***Cost of Attendance (COA) – Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need**



Special Circumstances

The calculation (SAI) of your financial aid eligibility may not reflect your family's current financial situation. In some cases, an individual or your family has experienced a significant change in your financial situation resulting in a special circumstance. The financial aid office may take these special circumstances into account and adjust your FAFSA information. Your school may ask you to document your special circumstances so that they can consider making an adjustment to your FAFSA information.

Common special circumstances include:

- lost or reduced income
- divorce
- death of a spouse or parent
- a parent in college
- high medical or dental bills
- natural disasters

To request a recalculation of your financial aid eligibility, you must complete and submit a Special Circumstance form, which is available on our school website under financial aid forms.

Last Day to Add Classes

Federal regulations require IVCC to specify a date each semester to finalize financial aid eligibility. If you add classes after the dates indicated below your eligibility for federal aid will not increase.*

Fall Semester: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Spring Semester: Friday, January 29, 2027

Summer Term: Varies per Summer session start/end dates

*** That date also applies to late-starting classes.**

Classes dropped before or added after these dates do not count toward federal financial aid eligibility. For example, if you are enrolled in 6 credit hours (half-time) on August 27 then add 6 more credit hours on August 28 (increasing your enrollment to full-time) you will only receive aid for half-time enrollment.

Complete Withdrawal

Students who need to request a complete withdrawal (withdrawal from all courses) may do so using Self-Service or by submitting a Withdrawal Form to the Records Office. Students who receive financial aid are strongly encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office to determine what effect it may have on their current and future financial aid eligibility.

NOTE: If you completely withdraw from the college, or stop attending all of your classes after the dates indicated above, you may be required to repay some of your financial aid. See below for more information.



Return of Title IV Policy

Students receiving Federal Financial Aid are subject to the **Federal Return of Funds Policy** if they stop attending the college (officially or unofficially). This complex policy is explained below.

Contact the Financial Aid Office before you stop attending classes to learn about the consequences.

Tuition and Fees:

The college must return financial aid funds to the Department of Education when students stop attending the college (completely withdraw from all classes) before 60% of the term has been completed. **This includes students who successfully complete courses that end prior to the 60 percent point of the term if the remaining courses for the semester are not successfully completed or attended beyond the 60 percent point of the full semester.** If the student stops attending before these dates the student must return a percentage of “unearned” financial aid.

For the Fall 2026 semester, this 60% date is October 21, 2026

For the Spring 2027 semester, this 60% date is April 1, 2027

The amount a student owes is calculated based on the last date of attendance and the student’s tuition, fees, and Bookstore charges. Students wishing to review the calculation of Return of Title IV funds need to make an appointment with the Financial Aid Office.

The Return of Title IV Aid calculation determines the portion of federal funds that were earned by the student up to the time of withdrawal. The withdrawal date (last date of attendance) will be determined by official withdrawal from classes by the student, or as reported by the instructor in cases of unofficial withdrawal. If the student withdraws beyond the 60 percent point in the semester, they are considered to have earned 100 percent of the federal financial aid they were scheduled to receive.

Return of Title IV Policy Cont.

Federal financial aid disbursed in excess of the earned amount must be returned to the federal government. The college will perform the “Return of Title IV Aid” calculation within 30 days of the date of determination that a student has completely withdrawn and return any unearned federal funds it is responsible for returning within 45 days of the date the school determined the student withdrew. If the student previously received a refund from financial aid, which was to be used for education-related personal or housing expenses, they may be required to return a portion of those funds to the college. When the college returns a student’s unearned funds to the government, they will be billed for any balance due for any unearned refunds received or institutional charges that are now unpaid as a result of the return of federal funds.

If it is determined through a “Return of Title IV Aid” calculation that the federal financial aid already disbursed to the student is less than the earned amount, the school will generate a post-withdrawal disbursement to the student no later than 45 days after the date of the school’s determination that the student withdrew.

Funds returned to the federal government based on the “Return of Title IV” Aid calculation referenced above, reduce the outstanding balances in individual federal aid programs. Federal aid returned by the student or the college is allocated in the following order:

- Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan
- Federal Subsidized Direct Loan
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

If financial aid is awarded after the conclusion of the semester, federal aid is awarded based on the courses completed for that semester.

Tuition Deferments

Tuition deferments allow financial aid recipients to delay payment of tuition and fees. These charges are paid when financial aid is disbursed. To take advantage of tuition deferment you must be eligible to receive one of the following:

- State Of Illinois MAP Grant
- Illinois Veteran or National Guard Grant
- Federal Pell Grant, or SEOG Grant
- Federal Direct Student Loan
- IVCC Foundation Scholarships
- Federal Post 9/11 (Chapter 33) benefits
- MIA/POW Scholarship
- Private Scholarships



You must contact the Cashier to receive a tuition deferment each semester.

If you do not initiate the deferment and do not pay your tuition charges, your registration will be cancelled.

Book Vouchers

A bookstore voucher allows financial aid recipients the opportunity to delay payment of standard Bookstore charges (i.e., books and required course supplies only). These charges are paid when financial aid is disbursed. To take advantage of this benefit you must be eligible to receive one of the following:

- Federal Pell Grant
- FSEOG Grant
- IVCC Foundation & Selected Scholarships
- Federal Direct Loans
- Private Scholarship

Note: Bookstore vouchers are only available at the beginning of each semester, no matter the start date of your courses. Please plan accordingly.



Contact the Financial Aid Office Each Semester for Bookstore voucher information

If you receive a Tuition Deferment or a Bookstore Voucher and later change your registration (by adding or dropping classes, or by withdrawing from college) your deferment or voucher privileges may become null and void and you will owe money to the College or the Bookstore for the expenses you have incurred.



How Financial Aid is Disbursed To Students



“**Disbursement**” means the payment of financial aid funds to a student’s account and the delivery of excess funds to the student. If a student obtains a Tuition Deferment or a Bookstore Voucher, the Business Office will deduct those charges from the student’s financial aid disbursement.

The Business Office will generate a check for the remaining (excess) funds, which will be mailed approximately mid-semester to the student’s mailing address on their student account. Any disbursements made after mid-semester will also be mailed. Summer semester disbursements are mailed to the students in mid-July.

It is important to verify your address is up to date with the Records Office to avoid returned mail.

**YOUR ATTENDANCE WILL BE VERIFIED
BEFORE YOU RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID**

The Financial Aid Office **does not** disburse the student’s aid until attendance in coursework has been verified.

If you are enrolled in a “non-traditional” course such as a Tele-course, Web-course, Independent Study, or Self-Paced Course, you must begin your coursework during the first 10 days of the semester – and have it documented by your instructor – or you will not receive aid for that course until after the instructor has determined your participation in the course.

Students enrolled in late-start classes or non-traditional courses may receive financial aid in multiple disbursements throughout the semester. Aid for courses that have not yet started cannot be disbursed until the course begins and attendance has been verified.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal and state regulations require that IVCC establishes and implements standards of academic progress for students receiving financial aid. The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy applies to all new, continuing, or transfer IVCC students (herein referred to as students) receiving federal Title IV financial aid, state aid, institutional aid, and/or military benefits. Students must meet these standards of progress to maintain financial aid eligibility, which includes Veteran Benefits (except where noted).

STANDARDS:

Satisfactory academic progress is measured in three ways:

- Cumulative Grade Point Average
- Cumulative Course Completion Rate
- Maximum Timeframe to complete program

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):

Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Withdrawal courses (W) are not included in the GPA calculation. Incomplete (I) courses will be calculated as an 'F' grade until the final grade has been submitted. See the "Appeal Process" below for instructions when an incomplete course has been completed. An 'F' grade in a pass/fail course will be included in the GPA calculation. Developmental courses and all repeated instances of a course will be included in the GPA calculation, regardless of whether or not the class was academically "forgiven".

Students who do not meet the cumulative 2.0 GPA will be placed on "Warning" status for their next semester of attendance. Students will be eligible to receive financial aid while on "Warning" status. If students fail to meet the cumulative 2.0 GPA standard at the end of this semester of warning, they will be placed on "Suspend" status. While suspended, students cannot receive federal or state financial aid, including grants, student loans, and military benefits.

Cumulative Course Completion Rate:

Students must successfully complete 66.67 percent (2/3) or more of the credit hours attempted, including those credit hours transferred in. Credits for coursework completed with a grade of 'D' or better will count as successfully completed credit hours. Credits for withdrawn (official or unofficial), incomplete, developmental, and all repeated courses (regardless of whether or not the credits were academically "forgiven"), as well as transfer courses, are included in credit hours attempted. Credits for coursework attempted/completed with a pass/fail grade will be included in the completion rate calculation. The cumulative course completion rate is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of successfully completed credit hours by the cumulative number of attempted credit hours.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy Cont.

Students who do not meet the cumulative completion rate of 66.67 percent will be placed on “Warning” status for their next semester of attendance. Students will be eligible to receive financial aid while on “Warning” status. If students fail to meet the cumulative completion rate standard by the end of this semester of warning, they will be placed on “Suspend” status. While suspended, students cannot receive federal or state financial aid, including grants, student loans, and military benefits.

Note: Illinois Veteran’s Grant and Illinois National Guard Grants are exempt from course completion rate requirements.

Maximum Time Frame to Complete Program:

Students may pursue completion of a degree or certificate program on a full or part-time basis, but the federal government requires that students make progress toward completion of a program in a timely fashion, measured in terms of credit hours attempted. Withdrawn (official or unofficial), incomplete, developmental, and all repeated courses, as well as transfer credits, are included in credit hours attempted.

Note: A student’s attempted credit hours include all credit hours attempted at IVCC, regardless of whether or not the student previously received financial aid while attempting those credit hours and whether or not the class was academically “forgiven”.

- A student cannot receive financial aid beyond the maximum time frame (MTF) for completion of his/her program. Students who change their Program of Study, or who choose to receive an additional credential(s), will have all credit hours counted toward all three SAP standard requirements.
- A program’s MTF is determined by multiplying the required credit hours of the program by 150 percent. For example:
- Associate degree program requiring 60 credit hours: $60 \times 150\% = 90$ credit hours MTF to complete the program.
- Certificate program requiring 24 credit hours: $24 \times 150\% = 36$ credit hours MTF to complete the program.

Students whose attempted credits meet or exceed the MTF for completion of their program will be placed on “Suspend” status. While suspended, students cannot receive federal or state financial aid, including grants, student loans, and military benefits.

Note: Illinois Veteran’s Grant and Illinois National Guard Grants are exempt from the maximum time frame requirements.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy Cont.

Students whose attempted credits meet or exceed the MTF for completion of their program will be placed on “Suspend” status. While suspended, students cannot receive federal or state financial aid, including grants, student loans, and military benefits (Note: Illinois Veteran’s Grant and Illinois National Guard Grants are exempt from the maximum time frame requirements.)

If financial aid is suspended under the Maximum Time Frame Standard, special consideration may be given, through the Appeal Process (see below), only for the following reasons:

- Students are allowed a maximum of 30 attempted hours of developmental course work in addition to the MTF limit (e.g., in addition to 90 credit Maximum Time Frame for an Associate degree).
- Students who have changed their program of study may be granted a reasonable extension of hours provided they submit a letter from an IVCC Counselor verifying the change in program and the remaining courses required for program completion. Students must have been meeting the required Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress prior to changing their program

Graduation/Completion:

Students who have completed their program of study requirements, regardless of whether they have received their degree or certificate, will be suspended from receiving further financial aid. Financial aid cannot pay for coursework taken to meet prerequisites for a program of study at another college or university. Students who plan on pursuing a second degree or certificate at IVCC may submit an appeal (see below) for the reinstatement of their financial aid.

Evaluation:

The evaluation of a student’s adherence to these standards begins when the student attempts the first credit hour course at IVCC and includes all prior credit hours transferred from other institutions. The evaluation is done at the end of each academic semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer) that the student is in attendance, or completes his/her program.

Appeal Process:

Any student placed on “Suspend” status has the right to appeal. Appeal forms are available in the Financial Aid Office or may be printed from the Financial Aid web page (ivcc.edu/financialaid/). All appeals must be complete and provide detailed information about extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include personal illness/accident, serious illness or death within the immediate family, an auto accident, or other situations beyond the reasonable control of the student. Third-party documentation is required with each appeal when applicable. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, copies of medical records, accident reports, and/or letters from an IVCC counselor, work supervisor, or other counselors. Appeals must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office before or during the semester for which the student is seeking financial aid. Students will be notified **by mail** of the Standards of Academic Progress Committee’s decision as promptly as possible. **All appeal decisions are final.**

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy Cont.

Students whose initial appeal is denied cannot submit a subsequent appeal until successful completion of at least one additional term, in which a minimum of six credit hours have been attempted.

Students may also regain good standing by completing additional semester(s) at their own expense and bringing their cumulative GPA and/or course completion rate up to the required standard or by completing 'I' grades or repeating failed courses for a higher grade. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office, through an appeal, in order to have their financial aid reinstated.

Students who are reinstated by the *Standards of Academic Progress Committee* are placed on either Probation or Academic Plan:

- "Probation" (one semester) students are expected to meet the cumulative 2.0 GPA and successfully complete 66.67% or more of attempted coursework by the end of the semester for which he/she was reinstated. If students fail to meet these standards by the end of this probationary semester, they will be placed back on "Suspend" status.
- "Academic Plan" (two or more semesters) students are expected to have a term GPA of 2.0 while improving their cumulative GPA, with other requirements as specified in their plan.

Additional Information:

If a student is not meeting the minimum standards of academic progress at either the time of initial application or after the warning semester and the student has shown academic improvement during the preceding term(s), the Director of Financial Aid reserves the right, on a case-by-case basis, to "place" or "continue" a student on probation. The Director also reserves the right to suspend a student without a semester of warning based on academic performance during the preceding term(s). This includes new transfer students and Veterans (IVG/NG) who failed to meet the required standards of academic progress at their previous postsecondary institution(s).

While the Financial Aid Office will attempt to notify students of their warning, probation, or suspended status, **it is the student's responsibility** to read, understand and follow the Standards of Academic Progress Policy. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this policy or appeal procedures, please contact the Financial Aid Office, CTC-101, (815) 224-0438.

Student Employment

Part-time student employment at IVCC is designed to be part of a student's entire educational program. Holding an on-campus job while attending IVCC offers financial benefits and enhances career development. Student employment is classified as:

- **Federal Work Study**
 - This program is partially funded by the Department of Education because it is "awarded" to students with financial need
- **College Employment**
 - College Employment is funded solely by IVCC and is open to all students, regardless of need.

Each office wanting to employ a student contacts the Financial Aid Office to obtain applications of interested students and then conducts interviews.

Student employees can work up to 20 hours per week and earn the state minimum wage. Employment may include office work, computer work, manual labor, or working outdoors. Federal Work Study funds may not be credited to tuition, fees, or Bookstore purchases, and are paid directly to the student on a bi-weekly basis, based on hours worked.

Employment is not guaranteed. If you did not initially indicate a desire for employment on your FAFSA, you may still qualify for a job by contacting the Financial Aid Office for an employment application. You are also free to contact any department about employment opportunities.

Your Rights As A Financial Aid Recipient

Financial aid applicants and their families have the right to fair and equal treatment under the law. IVCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or marital status in the admission to, and participation in, its educational activities, services, or employment practices. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, IVCC is committed to making all programs accessible and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with special needs. For additional information please call the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at 815-224-0409.

As a student you have the right to:

- Know how your financial aid is determined, how your family contribution is calculated, and receive an explanation of the type(s) and amount(s) of financial aid you are receiving.
- Know the costs of attending IVCC and the policy on refunds to students who withdraw from the college.
- Know about financial aid policies, procedures, and deadlines for each available financial aid program.
- Know how and when you will receive financial assistance.
- If you are a loan borrower, know the type of loan, the interest rate, the amount to be repaid, when you must begin repayment, as well as cancellation, deferment, and forbearance provisions for borrowers.
- If you are offered a Federal Work-Study job, know the kind of job, what hours you must work, what your duties will be, as well as how and when you will be paid.
- Know how IVCC determines if you are making satisfactory academic progress and what happens if you are not.
- Know the names of accrediting and licensing organizations to which IVCC is subject.

Privacy:

All financial aid information is kept in the strictest confidence and will not be released to any party other than those listed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Once submitted, all information becomes the property of the Financial Aid Office and cannot be returned.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

This law governs the manner in which student educational records are maintained and disclosed. In general, students have the right to inspect and review their financial aid records within 45 days of a written request to do so. After the review, the student may request an amendment to those records and request a hearing (if the request to amend the records is denied) to challenge the contents of the financial aid records, on the grounds that the records are inaccurate, misleading, or violate the rights of the student. The student's parents and spouse do not have these privileges. Contact the Financial Aid Office for additional details on this matter.

Release of Financial Aid Information to Another Agency:

You must complete and sign an Authorization to Release Information Form before any information will be released to another person or agency. On the release form, you must indicate for which semester(s) you want the information released. You must allow 10 days for processing. Information regarding tuition, fees and Bookstore charges must be obtained from the Business Office. Your signature on a loan application authorizes IVCC to release to the U.S. Department of Education any requested information pertinent to student loans.

Your Responsibilities As A Financial Aid Recipient

Students are encouraged to read the [IVCC Catalog](#) and the [Student Handbook](#) to become fully informed about their general responsibilities as a student at IVCC. In addition, financial aid recipients should be familiar with all of the information contained in this guide, especially the following:

Application Materials and Information:

- Students are required to truthfully report information requested on application materials and verification forms. From time to time that information can change. If a change does occur, the student must report those changes to the Financial Aid Office immediately. Please report changes in the following:
 - Name (changes due to marriage, divorce, etc.)
 - Phone Number
 - Address
 - Enrollment (increase or decrease after the official drop period of a given semester)
 - Program of Study (changes in the degree or certificate you are seeking)

Outside Financial Assistance:

- Students are required to inform the Financial Aid Office of any outside educational assistance (tuition, books, travel, etc.) they are receiving. Please report your eligibility for any of the following:
 - Private Scholarships
 - Employer Paid Tuition
 - Education Assistance (from a federal, state, or private agency)

For information on [IVCC's Code of Conduct](#), please visit the Financial Aid website.

Financial Aid Contact Information

Students seeking information on the status of their financial aid should contact the Financial Aid Office at: (815) 224-0438.

Students or parents with specific concerns regarding financial aid or want to file a complaint, or report suspicious activity may contact one or more of the following:

IVCC Director of Financial Aid:

- Isamar Taylor
- isamar_taylor@ivcc.edu
- (815) 224-0440

Federal Student Aid Ombudsman Group:

- [Student aid feedback center](#)
- (877) 557-2575 or (800) 433-3243



ILLINOIS VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE