



SAU TECH—Financial Aid Office
870.574.4511

Financial Aid—Top Ten FAQ's

1. How do I apply for financial aid?

Answer: The very first step is to complete the FAFSA. This is done online at www.fafsa.gov. Once you have completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) you will receive a 1 page Student Aid Report (SAR) back from the Department of Education. You must apply for financial aid every year. The school(s) you listed on the FAFSA will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR). The federal school code for SAUTech is 007738. When we receive the ISIR, we will send a request for additional information, if necessary, needed to complete your financial aid file. SAU Tech will only process those applications in which our federal school code is listed first. If we receive an ISIR and our school code is not listed first, then a prospect letter will be sent. The prospect letter must be returned in order for your financial aid file to be processed. Complete any requested forms/ letters and return them to the financial aid department as soon as possible. Once we have the results of the FAFSA and a complete financial aid file we will determine your eligibility for financial aid. If you are eligible, we will send you an Award Letter. You can also log onto CampusConnect to view aid awarded (see #3 below).

2. What is a FAFSA, how do I fill it out and why do I need to fill it out?

Answer: FAFSA is an acronym for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is used to gather information on you &/or your parents by which your eligibility for aid can be determined. The FAFSA is online, but a worksheet to assist you is available for download or you can pick one up in the Financial Aid Office. Be sure to apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number) in order to electronically sign the FAFSA. You (and at least one parent for dependent students) must have a PIN for the FAFSA to be processed. If you do not have a PIN, be sure to print the signature page and mail it immediately as instructed on the form. If you do not complete the FAFSA, you will not be eligible for any federal Title IV aid (this includes student loans). At first glance, the FAFSA Worksheet can seem a bit intimidating. But, further examination reveals that there are only 4 pages of the worksheet and some instructions. Read the instructions carefully, fill out ALL the questions you know the answer to, then, if you still need help with the tax portion on the worksheet, the financial aid office will be glad to assist you. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete the FAFSA Online worksheet and key it in. You will need to have a copy of your tax return and other amounts of income in order to complete the application.

3. When will I know if I am eligible for financial aid?

Answer: When you send in your FAFSA the school will receive an ISIR based on the information you submitted. Upon receiving the ISIR, we will send you a letter requesting additional information, if necessary. Please fill out and return all requested materials in a timely manner. All requested documents, including tax forms, must be signed. If you are transferring from another institution, be aware that we will still process the application just like any other, and the process can take several weeks. We will send you an award notification letter informing you that your aid package, which is a detailed listing of the financial aid for which you are eligible, has been awarded. You can also access your award amounts by logging onto CampusConnect. The website for CampusConnect is <http://poise.sautech.edu>. If you need assistance with login in to CampusConnect or need to obtain your CampusConnect username and password, please contact the Registrar's Office at 870.574.4587. The whole process can take up to 6 weeks.

4. How do I apply for a loan?

Answer: The first step in applying for a loan is to complete the FAFSA (see #2 above). Once we have the Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) back (usually 1-2 weeks) we can begin to determine your eligibility for all aid, including loans. To determine your eligibility, you must have a complete financial aid file. Students MUST also complete a loan application, the entrance interview (for the time borrowers at SAU Tech), a signed MPN (Master Promissory Note), and activate your SAU Tech student email. The entrance interview and MPN may be complete at www.studentloans.gov. Once we have received a completed loan application and confirmation of your completed entrance counseling interview and MPN, we will complete a Needs Analysis to determine your eligibility for a loan. The proceeds may be disbursed in 2 installments per loan period (subject to change without notice) and can be picked up in the Business Office. (see # 7 for information regarding whether your loan check is in.)

5. Has my Pell grant been approved?

Answer: Technically, there is no such thing as a person's Pell grant being "approved" or "disapproved". A student's eligibility for a Pell Grant, or any other federal/state financial aid is determined primarily from the information submitted on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). When SAU Tech receives the results of the FAFSA, we determine if the student is, or is not, eligible for a Pell grant and/or other federal/state aid. This is done per federal and state guidelines. Factors used in determining a student's eligibility for aid include, but are not limited to, the following: info submitted on FAFSA, verification documents, tax forms, number in household, etc. Once the determination has been made that a student is eligible to receive aid, SAU Tech will send the student an award letter. (see #3 above regarding eligibility for financial aid).

6. Has my pell grant check come in yet?

Answer: The terminology "pell grant check" is a bit mis-leading. There really is no such thing as a "pell grant check". What most students mean when they ask this question is, "has my refund been processed and is the check ready to be picked up?" If a student receives financial aid in excess of their tuition, fees, books, housing, (if applicable) the Business Office will process a refund check. Refund checks are issued on dates specified by the Business Office. Notices will be posted on all campuses when checks are available to be picked up in the Business Office. You must present proper I.D. to pick up a refund check.

7. Is my loan check in yet?

Answer: First, be sure that you have actually applied for a loan. (See #4 above on applying for a loan) Many students think they have applied for a loan when they fill out the FAFSA. However, the loan application is totally separate from the FAFSA. The loan proceeds may be disbursed in 2 installments per semester (Subject to change without notice). It takes AT LEAST 7 to 10 business days from the date of the loan disbursement (and sometimes as many as 14 days) for loan refund checks to be ready for pickup in the Business Office.

8. How do I apply for a Federal Work Study (FWS) job?

Answer: The first step in applying for FWS is to fill out the FAFSA (see #2 above). Once we have the results, we will inform you of your eligibility for FWS in your award package, if you specified you were interested in work study on the FAFSA. Open work study jobs will be listed on SAU Tech's website (www.sautech.edu) under the Financial Aid Section. Students should contact the supervisor(s) to set up an interview for the position(s) they are interested in. If hired, the student will complete a contract and employee packet with the financial aid office. Students that are hired are required to submit two forms of identification to complete the employee packet.

9. Can I receive financial aid in the summer?

Answer: Yes! Students may be eligible to receive a Pell grant or other aid in the summer. You must still meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements at the end of the spring semester. Some programs are based on annual maximums and/or a funds available basis. If you meet the SAP requirements, we must then determine what funds are available for which you are eligible. There are many sources of aid that may be available such as Pell grant, work study, SEOG &/or loans.

10. How do I know what scholarships I am eligible for and how do I apply for them?

Answer: SAU Tech has many Institutional and Foundation scholarships available. A complete list of scholarships and the qualifications for them can be found on SAU Tech's website (www.sautech.edu). In order to apply for scholarships, you must fill out the Scholarship Application and return it to the financial aid department along with any additional documents needed for the scholarship. Incomplete scholarship applications will not be considered! SAU Tech's priority deadline is March 1st. You can also check the internet for other scholarships. Check with the financial aid office for a list of some of the best sites available. General scholarship announcements are posted on the Financial Aid Bulletin Board, outside the Financial Aid Office, in the Administration Building