

Financial Aid

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Financial assistance in the form of 1) scholarships, 2) grants, 3) loans and 4) employment is available to a number of qualified students.

Interested students should visit the Student Services office or my.lamarpa.edu for additional information.

Apply for Financial Aid

Lamar State College-Port Arthur requires students applying for grants, loans or college work-study employment to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* and the LSCPA Financial Aid Supplement to determine the degree of need.

Both applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. Processing requires four to six weeks, so students planning to meet the April 1 deadline should file applications by mid-February.

The College considers an applicant's degree of need before awarding financial aid. New and continuing students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) criteria according to standards established by federal regulations for continued eligibility.

The amount and type of assistance is determined by the Financial Aid Office. Notification of awards is mailed during late spring and early summer.

The College will continue to award aid as long as funds are available. However, the most desirable types of aid normally are expended early. So, students should make every effort to meet the April 1 deadline.

Students applying for scholarships must complete the Application for Scholarship for Lamar State College-Port Arthur that is available in the Admission Office. High school seniors should meet the April 1 deadline to be given first priority. All other scholarship applicants should meet the June 15 deadline for the following academic year.

Qualifications

Those applying for need-based grants, loans or work-study employment must have their eligibility established by the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*.

Scholarship awards to entering freshmen are determined by the applicant's high school class rank

and/or financial need. Freshmen may be able to obtain required forms from their high school counselors or directly from the Financial Aid Office.

Scholarship awards for upperclassmen are determined by their cumulative grade point average at the college level. Scholarship applicants must have at least a 2.5 grade point average to be eligible for a college administered scholarship. Current students may obtain the forms from the Admission Advisors Office in the Student Center. Students must reapply annually to be considered for continued assistance.

Grants

The Federal Pell Grant is the foundation source for all other aid programs. Applicants must submit the Student Aid Report for all grants. No other need-based assistance grants, loans, or work-study can be awarded until a student's eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant is determined.

When a student files a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, the government processes the application and sends a Student Aid Report to the student's address.

The student then should submit the Student Aid Report to the Financial Aid Office for an estimated grant amount to be determined. The final Pell Grant will be determined at the time of enrollment.

Other available grants are the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG) and Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP). Students with exceptional need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid may be awarded one of these grants.

TEXAS Grant Program

The TEXAS (Toward Excellence, Access & Success) Grant Program provides grants to help academically-prepared, eligible students attend higher education institutions in Texas. To compete for a grant, a student must be a Texas resident; a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in Texas since fall 1998; enroll in college and receive his/her TEXAS Grant within 16 months of high school graduation; have completed the recommended or advanced high school curriculum or its equivalent; have financial need; have applied for any available financial aid or assistance; be enrolling full-time as of September 2005 in an undergraduate degree or certificate program; and not have been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance.

Students may apply for the TEXAS Grant Program through the LSC-PA Financial Aid Office. The award amount is based on a minimum of 12 semester hours taken by the student and the type of institution the student attends. In general, it is an amount equal to the student's tuition and required fees.

Students who continue in college and meet the program's academic standards can receive awards for up to 150 semester credit hours or for six years, whichever occurs first. In the first year of college, the academic standards are set by the institution. In subsequent years, the requirements are completion of at least 75 percent of the hours taken in the prior semester plus an overall grade point average in college of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)

The Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program provides grants to financially needy students enrolled in Texas public two-year colleges. To compete for the grant, a student must be a Texas resident; show financial need; if applying for the first-time award, have a family contribution of no more than \$2,000; register for the Selective Service or be exempt from this requirement; be enrolled at least 1/2 time (six semester credit hours) in an associate degree or certificate program at a two-year college in Texas; have not been granted an associate or a baccalaureate degree; and have not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance.

Students who continue in college and who meet program academic standards can receive awards for up to 75 semester credit hours, for four years, or until they receive an associate degree, whichever comes first. In the first year of college, the academic standards are set by the institution.

The academic requirements for continuing in the program are completion of at least 75 percent of the hours taken in the prior academic year, plus an overall college grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. A student does not have to be a recent graduate but must have less than 30 attempted hours.

Valedictorians

Valedictorians from accredited Texas high schools are entitled to an exemption from payment of tuition for the two regular semesters immediately after graduation.

Fees are not exempt. During registration, valedictorians should report to the Admission and Records Office for fee adjustments. Valedictorians of all Texas high schools are certified by principals to the Texas Education Agency. The College receives the list for reference.

Scholarships

Scholarships awards cover a portion of a student's expenses. Scholarships are of two types – those administered solely by the College, including the selection of recipients, and those administered by the College at the request of donors who select the recipients themselves. The College's scholarship program is financed solely by public donations.

Some scholarships are based on a student's financial need while others are based on academic excellence. Scholarship applications from high school students are due on April 1st. The deadline for other students is June 15th. Students are encouraged to apply before the application deadline. For more information or to apply, contact an admissions advisor.

Half of the scholarship normally is disbursed for the Fall Semester, and the remaining half for the Spring Semester, unless otherwise stated.

The College awards approximately 300 scholarships annually. Among these are scholarships made available by the following individuals and organizations.

Top 10 Percent Scholarship Program

The 80th Texas legislature created the Top 10 Percent Scholarship Program to encourage students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class to attend a Texas public institution of higher education.

Initial eligibility requirements:

1. Must be a Texas resident.
2. Demonstrate financial need (determined by college or university financial aid office).
3. Complete a FAFSA or TASFA (if applicable) and file by deadline date.
4. Complete Recommended or distinguished Achievement HS curriculum.
5. Rank in the Top 10 percent (as of his/her 7th semester or 6th if the college uses that semester for admissions).
6. Graduate from an accredited Texas high school.
7. Enroll fulltime in a Texas public two-year or four-year college or university.

Renewal Requirements (contingent upon available funding):

1. Complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in the previous year.
2. Maintain cumulative 3.25 GPA.
3. Complete at least 75 percent of hours attempted.
4. Meet all eligibility and ranking criteria.

5. Complete a FAFSA or TASFA (if applicable) and file by the deadline date.

Students are notified by the college regarding their financial aid award.

Endowed Scholarships

1. SSgt. Lucian Adams Scholarship
2. Ahlbom Family Memorial Scholarship
3. H.S. & Bernice B. Anderson Scholarship
4. Ella Atwell Memorial Scholarship
5. G.W. Bailey Scholarship
6. Sue Bates Scholarship
7. Better Business Bureau Scholarship
8. Gail Bienvenu Memorial Scholarship
9. Beulah Bosarge Scholarship
10. Donald T. Boumans Memorial Scholarship
11. Miss Marie Bright Scholarship
12. W.A. "Dub" Brown Scholarship
13. Dr. Ronald Buchanan Scholarship
14. John B. & Estelle M. Caldwell Scholarship
15. Carabelle Family Scholarship
16. Centennial Scholarship
17. Bobby Terrell Cowart Scholarship for Legal Assistants
18. Fred S. Davis, Jr. Scholarship
19. Del Papa Distributing Company College Endowment
20. Department Club of Port Arthur
21. Jennie Mae Duhon Estate Scholarship
22. Manton L. Dunham & Delwin D. Dunham Memorial Scholarship
23. Gabby Eldridge Scholarship
24. Endowed Nursing Scholarship
25. Dr. Jim Garcia Scholarship
26. Jane Goins-Flanagan Scholarship
27. Sydalise Fredeman Award
28. John W. Gates Scholarship
29. Golden Triangle Cajun Association
30. Betty Guarnere Scholarship
31. Joe & Lloyd Hayes Memorial Scholarship
32. Mary Evelyn Dunn Hayes Scholarship
33. Wilbur & Josephine Hebert Scholarship
34. Norman Helms Scholarship
35. LCdr. Peter D. Herlin Memorial Scholarship
36. Dr. Mark Honea Scholarship
37. John C. Huval Memorial Award
38. Norma Provost Irwin Scholarship Fund
39. Joe James Memorial Scholarship
40. O'Dell James Memorial Scholarship Fund
41. Judice Family Scholarship
42. Kiwanis Club of Port Arthur – Sam Aquilina Scholarship
43. Kiwanis Club of Port Arthur – Leland Lacy Memorial Scholarship
44. Kiwanis Club of Port Arthur – Pat Wood Memorial Scholarship
45. Logan Family Memorial Scholarship by John & Shirley Logan Riedmueller

46. Dr. Charles Lance Lyday Scholarship
47. John Robert Mansinger Scholarship
48. Ann & Floyd Marceaux Scholarship
49. Herman & Carol Mazur Scholarship Fund
50. W. K. Milner Scholarship
51. Dr. Madison & Mrs. Thelma Monroe Memorial Scholarship
52. Dr. Sam Monroe Scholarship Fund
53. Everette Ford Montgomery Memorial Scholarship
54. Charles E. Neumann Scholarship
55. North Port Arthur Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship
56. Parker Family Scholarship Fund
57. Marlene & Roosevelt Petry Jr. Scholarship
58. Phi Theta Kappa
59. Pilot Club of Port Arthur
60. Volney & Florence Pinder Scholarship
61. Mildred & William. J. Pitts Memorial Scholarship
62. Mary Kay Place Scholarship
63. Mack A. Pond Scholarship by Rotary Club of Port Arthur
64. Port Arthur Founder's Lions Club -
65. Thomas S. Balac/James A. DeLee Scholarship
66. Port Arthur Improvement Association
67. Port Arthur Men's & Women's Bowling Association
68. Port Arthur Symphony Club Scholarship
69. David A. Provost Memorial Scholarship
70. Bodie Pryor Scholarship
71. Robert Rauschenberg Scholarship Fund
72. Retail Merchants Association Scholarship Fund
73. Prof. W.E. Sampson Scholarship
74. Capt. Wm. Sanders Chapter of DAR
75. Mary Skeff Schlesinger & A. W. Schlesinger Scholarship Fund
76. South Jefferson County Medical Society Alliance Scholarship
77. Mac Timmerman Jr. Scholarship
78. TOTAL Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc. Scholarship
79. Jack & Beverly Verret Scholarship
80. Carl & Stella White/DAR Scholarship
81. Elsie & William White Memorial Scholarship
82. Wommack Family Scholarship

General Scholarships

1. Alumni Association of Lamar State College-Port Arthur
2. American Legion Dorie E. Miller Post #817
3. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
4. Paul Beard
5. Beaver Bottom Berms, LLC
6. Mr. & Mrs. John Benoit
7. Joan Brown/LSCPA Alumni Association
8. Casey Industrial
9. Chapter CP of PEO Sisterhood
10. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company
11. Chickasaw Nation Education Services
12. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
13. Mr. & Mrs. William R. Coons
14. Eber W. Ephlin Scholarship Fund

15. Extension Education Assoc. of Jefferson County
16. Fred & Leila Mae Erwin/LSCPA Alumni Association
17. First Baptist Church, Groves
18. First Baptist Church, Nederland
19. First Financial Bank
20. First United Methodist Church, Groves
21. First United Methodist Church, Port Neches
22. Flint Hills, LLC
23. Julia D. Fredeman
24. Juliette George/LSCPA Alumni Association
25. Golden Triangle Trail Riders Association
26. Brooks Goodhue
27. Gene Graham Safety Foundation
28. Avery Anne Guerra Memorial Foundation
29. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harlow
30. Norman & Betty Helms
31. Patricia Holmes
32. James & Betsy Triplett Hurt
33. Dr. Barbara Huval
34. Jones Memorial United Methodist Church
35. Junior Achievement of SE Texas
36. Knights of Columbus Council #12809
37. Knights of Columbus Port Neches Council #2461
38. Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC
39. Dennis Lanclos Scholarship by Robert & Pat Harlow
40. Little Cypress Mauriceville Young Farmers Chapter
41. Charles Martin/LSC-PA Alumni Association
42. Mr. & Mrs. William McCoy
43. Burk McGreevy
44. Medical Center of Southeast Texas Hospital Auxiliary
45. Mexican Heritage Society
46. Port Arthur ISD
47. Port Arthur Industrial Group (PAIG)
48. Air Products
49. BASF TOTAL Petrochemicals LLC
50. Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.
51. Flint Hills Resources
52. Motiva Enterprises
53. Oxbow Calcining, LLC
54. Port Arthur Steam Entergy
55. Praxair
56. Shell Pipeline Company
57. TOTAL Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.
58. Valero-Port Arthur Refinery
59. Veolia ES Technical Solutions
60. Port Neches-Groves High School
61. Prime Choice Rentals, LLC
62. Renella Primeaux
63. Lois Reich
64. Rotary Club of Port Arthur
65. Louis Saldana
66. Julian C. Salter
67. SCCW Industrial Services, LLC
68. Mark S. Schlesinger & A.W. Schlesinger Scholarship by LU Foundation, Inc.
69. Scholarship America
70. Signature Industrial Services, LLC
71. Lamar State College-Port Arthur Educators' Memorial Scholarship
72. St. Charles Church

73. Nelda C. & H. J. Luther Stark Foundation
74. Starks Lions Club
75. Starks VFW Post #4759
76. Sweet Double S Ranch, Inc.
77. T. J. Class of 1958
78. TOTAL Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.
79. Vidor High Pirate Booster Club
80. Vidor ISD
81. Vidor Schools Foundation, Inc.
82. Dana R. Wasser
83. Wildwood Men's Golf Association

Loans

Lamar State College-Port Arthur provides emergency short-term loans. Short-term loans are awarded only during registration periods for the exact amount of tuition and fees based on the ability to repay the loan during the semester the loan was issued.

The College does not award the Federal Perkins Loan.

Stafford Student Loans

Most students, regardless of their credit rating, qualify for a Stafford Loan that is subsidized by the U.S. government, or are unsubsidized as determined by a student's need. The program features a fixed interest rate of 4.66 percent for subsidized loans and 4.66 percent for unsubsidized loans for the 2015-2016 school term. Rates are set by Department of Education (DOE) and may vary. Check the DOE website for current rates.

Qualified students can apply for additional money each year up to a total limit over the course of four years.

Undergraduate dependent students can borrow up to \$5,500 for the first year up to a total limit of \$31,000 during their time in school. Independent students can borrow up to \$9,500 the first year with a final total of \$57,500.

To qualify, students must submit a FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) form; have a financial need as determined by the College; be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen; be enrolled or plan to attend at least half-time; and not be in default on any education loan or owe a refund on an education grant.

Employment

Employment opportunities under the Federal College Work-Study Program and other employment programs of the College are available to students as part of the financial assistance program.

The College, local businesses and industries provide a number of part-time jobs which allow students to earn part or all of these expenses while attending the College.

Students with Disabilities

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission offers help with tuition and non-refundable fees to students who have certain disabling conditions, provided their vocational objectives have been approved by a TRC Counselor. Examples of such conditions are orthopedic deformities,

emotional disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, etc.

Other services are available to help students with disabilities become employable. Application for such service should be made at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 5860 Ninth Avenue, Port Arthur, Texas 77642.

Academic Policies

Academic policies and procedures are periodically reviewed and are updated. They may change during the course of an academic year. For further policy information or updates, see the Student Handbook or go to the Lamar State College-Port Arthur website (www.lamarpa.edu).

Academic Performance

Academic performance is a measure of a student's performance. Student performance is assessed by 1) grade point average (GPA); and 2) course completion. Academic performance is calculated beginning with the first semester that a student enrolls and all subsequent semesters.

Students are expected to make acceptable scholastic progress toward their degree objectives. A "C" is the minimum satisfactory grade and a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) constitutes satisfactory performance.

The levels of academic performance include 1) good standing, 2) academic probation, and 3) academic suspension. Students who do not maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 will be placed on academic probation, or academic suspension.

Probation

Students in the following categories at the end of the fall or spring semesters are placed on Academic Probation:

- Freshman students (1-29 semester credit hours (SCH) work attempted) who have less than a 2.0 but greater than a 1.15 GPA;
- Sophomore students (30-59 SCH work attempted) who have less than a 2.0 but greater than a 1.58 GPA;
- Other students who have greater than 60 SCH work attempted and have less than a 2.0 but greater than a 1.72 GPA.

Suspension

Students with a GPA reflecting "academic suspension" at the end of the Fall or Spring semesters shall be

suspended. No first-time college students shall be suspended at the end of their first semester of attendance.

Students in the following categories at the end of the Fall or Spring semesters are considered to be on Academic Suspension.

- Freshman students (1-29 SCH work attempted) who have less than a 1.15 GPA;
- Sophomore students (30-59 SCH work attempted) who have less than a 1.58 GPA;
- Other students who have greater than 60 SCH work attempted and have less than a 1.72 GPA.

Students suspended from Fall and/or Spring semesters may attend the Summer session on probation. Students who do not improve at least to the level of "academic probation" at the close of the Summer session may register for the following Fall semester, but will be charged with a suspension. Students returning from academic suspension must continue to improve their GPA every semester of enrollment until they achieve a minimum 2.0 GPA. If students fail to improve their GPA in any semester, they will be suspended, unless approved for probationary re-enrollment by the appropriate Dean.

Students enrolling for either a Fall or Spring semester, who passed fewer than 60 semester hours, and who ended the previous two long semesters on scholastic probation, are required to enroll in EDUC 1300 OR PSYC 1300 Learning Framework, a course that helps students develop skills and techniques necessary for success in college, including memory development, note-taking, preparing for exams, study skills and time management. Students also learn about the importance of creativity, health, relationships and the effective use of resources for achieving collegiate success.

A grade of "C" or better must be earned in EDUC 1300 OR PSYC 1300 to satisfy the institutional requirement; otherwise, the course must be repeated. EDUC 1300 OR PSYC 1300 may count as elective credit toward a degree or certificate. Students who petition for readmission after being placed on scholastic suspension either at Lamar State College-Port Arthur or at another institution must enroll in and complete EDUC 1300 OR