



OFFICE of FINANCIAL AID

Division of Student Affairs

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Second Degree Student Information

Students enrolled in a program at ETSU which leads to a second Undergraduate, Master's, or Ph.D. degree, can only be eligible for Federal Stafford loans, Federal Parent loans (if the student is dependent), or alternative private loans.

Once the student applies for admission to the Office of Admissions for undergraduates or to the School of Graduate Studies Office, the previous degree transcript will be evaluated and an outline will be generated showing the number of hours required for the second degree. The Office of Financial Aid will need a copy of the outline to determine aid eligibility.

Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All students applying for federal student aid must complete the FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.gov>. Federal Aid consists of grants, loans, and federal work study. Please keep in mind once you receive your first bachelor's degree you are not eligible for Pell Grant, TSAA (State Grant), or SEOG grant funding from the government to fund any further certificates or degrees. Be sure to indicate that you have already completed a bachelor's degree, that you are working on a second bachelor's degree (undergraduate) or graduate/professional degree (graduate) and when asked for your grade level answer that you will be a 5th year/other undergraduate (undergraduate program) or continuing graduate/professional or beyond (graduate program).

Loans

Loan amounts from previous degrees will be considered and students cannot have more than the undergraduate/graduate aggregate amounts as determined by the federal government. Annual loan limits apply depending on your classification of freshman, sophomore, junior or senior. See the Direct Loan Program Loan Limits at <http://www.direct.ed.gov/applying.html>. **NOTE:** For students seeking a second undergraduate bachelor's degree, the classification from admissions in most cases will not be the same for financial aid purposes.

Students should understand that Direct Loans, Perkins Loans, and/or Alternative Loans may not cover all costs or living expenses for second degrees. Please consider your budget when taking alternative loans which require higher interest rates, credit verification, and co-signers. In most cases students should save funds to cover their expenses to assist them while they are earning their second degree.

Credit Hours and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Financial aid will be given only for the exact number of hours needed to complete the second degree. If the student withdraws or fails classes they will have to pay for the deficient hours once they have attempted the number of hours determined by admissions. Should the student need to file an appeal and approval is granted due to the student's extenuating circumstances, the student will still be required to pay for classes once reaching the attempted hours required for the second degree as determined by admissions.

The Award Process

Students will be awarded once eligibility for aid is determined. An email will be sent to the student to view and accept the awards on the GOLDLINK system. Further instructions for accepting your aid, completing unsatisfied requirements, completing entrance loan counseling, completing a master promissory note for Direct loans, student confirmation, and how to set up direct deposit can be found in the Guide to Using GoldLink referenced on the homepage of our website at www.etsu.edu/finaid.