



## **Specific Types of Aid and Determining Eligibility**

How eligibility is determined and how payments are made.....	2
Federal Aid Eligibility .....	2
Determining dependency status .....	2
Gift Aid – Grants, Scholarships, and Benefits .....	3
Federal Pell Grants .....	3
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) .....	3
Georgia State Grants and Scholarships .....	4
The Georgia HOPE Scholarship .....	4
The Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant.....	4
Scholarships.....	4
The Art Institutes Worldwide Scholarship Competition .....	4
President’s Scholarship .....	4
Student Ambassador Scholarship .....	4
The Art Institute of Atlanta Merit Award.....	5
The Art Institute of Atlanta Family Scholarship .....	5
President’s Award for Perfect Attendance .....	5
Vocational Rehabilitation .....	5
Veterans Benefits.....	5
Tax Benefits .....	5
Loans .....	6
Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Student Loans.....	6
Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) .....	7
Federal Perkins Loan.....	8
Creative Education Loan .....	9
Home Equity Loans .....	9
Federal Work-Study .....	9
Part Time Job Assistance .....	9
Other Aid Programs .....	9

## **Details about Financial Aid Programs – How eligibility is determined and how payments are made**

### **For all programs**

It is the policy of The Art Institute of Atlanta to defer payment on your bill for an amount that will be covered by financial aid as long as these requirements are met:

1. All of the required paperwork has been completed.
2. The student's eligibility for the aid type and amount has been confirmed.
3. The student has agreed to a student financial plan for paying any balance due to the college not covered by financial aid.

### **Federal Aid Eligibility**

To receive federal aid, you must meet the following eligibility requirements. If you have any questions about these requirements or if you think you may not meet one of them, please contact the student financial services office at 800-275-4242. You must:

- Not be in default on a prior federal education loan, or owe a repayment on a prior federal grant
- Possess a high school diploma or GED
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program
- Be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid social security number
- Make satisfactory academic progress (continuing students)
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if required
- Not have been convicted of certain drug offenses
- Sign a statement of educational purpose and a certification statement on overpayment and default (both found on the FAFSA)

### **Determining dependency status**

If you can answer "Yes" to ANY of the questions below, you will be considered "independent" for federal financial aid purposes, and your parents will not need to answer the parent questions on the FAFSA. If you answer "No" to ALL of these questions, you are considered to be "dependent" for federal financial aid purposes.

- Were you born before January 1, 1976 (for 2000-01 FAFSA, January 1, 1977)?
- Are you married?
- Are you supporting legal dependents other than a spouse?
- Are you an orphan?
- Are you a ward of the court?
- Were you a ward of the court until age 18?
- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?

## **Gift Aid – Grants, Scholarships, and Benefits**

### **Federal Pell Grants**

These grants can help you pay for a portion of your education. For the year starting July 1, 2000, Pell Grants can be up to \$3,300 per award year.

You can find out if you are eligible for a Pell Grant, and for how much, by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Federal Pell Grant is based on the student's need as determined by a formula provided by the U.S. Department of Education. When you complete the FAFSA, and indicate The Art Institute of Atlanta as one of your school choices, the school will be able to receive an ISIR (Institutional Student Information Report) electronically. The ISIR will tell us whether or not you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. The ISIR also authorizes us to receive the Pell Grant funds on your behalf. Your student financial plan, which you will receive from the student financial services office, will tell you how much you receive from the Federal Pell Grant Program. Those funds are then credited to your account, and that amount is deducted from the amount that you will need to pay. Your account is credited about ten days before the beginning of each quarter in which you receive a Pell Grant, if you are registered for that quarter, and if all of your financial aid paperwork has been completed.

### **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**

These grants can help you pay for a portion of your education. The funds for this grant are limited and financial need is a factor.

There is a limited amount of funds available, so these grants are usually given to the neediest students based on the Department of Education's formula for determining need, as indicated on the ISIR (see Pell Grant section above for information about the ISIR). Since funds are limited, the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to receive an SEOG. Your student financial plan, which you will receive from the student financial services office, will tell you how much you will receive from the federal SEOG Program. If you receive an SEOG, the funds are credited to your account, and that amount is deducted from the amount that you will need to pay. Your account is credited about ten days before each quarter in which you receive an SEOG, if you are registered for the required number of credits for that quarter, and if all of the financial aid paperwork has been completed.

## **Georgia State Grants and Scholarships**

### **The Georgia HOPE Scholarship**

Georgia residents who graduated from a Georgia high school in 1996 or later with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and who are attending college for the first time are eligible for the HOPE scholarship. To remain eligible students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Information is available through your high school guidance office, or through the Art Institutes student financial services office. The amount of the Georgia HOPE Scholarship is deducted from the amount that the student needs to pay.

### **The Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant**

The GTEG provides \$1000 per academic year to Georgia residents who are first-time college students and are attending full-time. A student must complete an application and provide proof of residency. Applications and more information are available from your student financial planner. This state aid program was developed for students attending eligible private colleges in Georgia. Eligibility is not based on income or need. The amount of the Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant is deducted from the amount that the student needs to pay.

## **Scholarships**

### **The Art Institutes Worldwide Scholarship Competition**

Graduating high school students are eligible to compete for scholarships ranging from five thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars. Each year the college awards more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in scholarships through this program.

Students can compete for scholarships in the following categories: computer animation, culinary arts, graphic design, interior design, multimedia, photographic imaging, and video production. The college selects winners based on a review of the applicants' portfolio work, projects, high school achievement, and letters of recommendation. There is also an annual culinary arts cook off scholarship competition.

### **President's Scholarship**

This five hundred-dollar scholarship is awarded to new degree-seeking students with a 3.0 or higher GPA upon entry to the Institute. To be eligible for this award, day students must be registered for at least sixteen credit hours and evening students must be registered for at least twelve credit hours.

### **Student Ambassador Scholarship**

Students who serve as student ambassadors for The Art Institute of Atlanta are awarded a two hundred-dollar quarterly scholarship. Students ambassadors are chosen by a committee of faculty and staff based on letters of recommendation, academic record, and leadership ability. Student ambassadors must be a third quarter or higher-level student, must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA, and must be registered for at least twelve credit hours.

### **The Art Institute of Atlanta Merit Award**

New degree-seeking students who enter the college with a 2.5 or higher GPA are eligible for this two hundred-dollar quarterly award. The award is effective for one academic year (four quarters) as long as the student maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA and is continuously enrolled. Day students must be registered for at least sixteen credit hours and evening students must be registered for at least twelve credit hours.

### **The Art Institute of Atlanta Family Scholarship**

The five hundred-dollar per quarter Art Institute of Atlanta Family Scholarship is awarded to students from the same nuclear family (i.e., siblings, parents) who are enrolled in the college concurrently. Day students must be registered for at least sixteen credit hours and evening students must be registered for at least twelve credit hours.

### **President's Award for Perfect Attendance**

This one hundred-dollar scholarship is awarded on a quarterly basis to students who achieve perfect attendance based on the current attendance policy published in the Student Handbook. Day students must be registered for at least sixteen credit hours and evening students must be registered for at least twelve credit hours.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation**

Some students may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation benefits, based on physical limitations or other needs. Your state or county department of social services should be able to provide you with more information. The Art Institute of Atlanta will accept vocational rehabilitation benefits, and the amount of the benefit will be deducted from the amount that the student needs to pay after all of the paperwork has been completed.

### **Veterans Benefits**

The Art Institute of Atlanta is an eligible institution for veteran's benefits. If you are a veteran and are eligible for VA Education benefits, you should start the application process to receive your benefits as soon as you decide to attend school. Generally, the amount of the veteran's benefits are not deducted from the student's payments; rather, veteran students use these benefits to pay for some of their living expenses. You can call your local VA office for more information about your individual eligibility. There is a link to the VA Web site on the Art Institute's financial aid home page.

### **Tax Benefits**

Students, and parents of dependent students, may be eligible to apply for the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit, which are tax credits on next year's tax return. The tax credits are for a portion of payments for tuition or other eligible education expenses. The payments can include payments made through loan funds. On Art Institute's financial aid page on our Web site, there is a link to the U.S. Department of Education's website where you can read more about this important benefit.

## Loans

### Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Student Loans

These are loans that you must repay. Generally all students are eligible for these types of loans if they meet basic federal eligibility requirements, and have not utilized all of their lifetime loan limits at previous schools. Annual loan limits depend on your grade level and your dependency status. Loan limits for the time you will be in school further depend on your program of study, and how you progress through your program.

The difference between "subsidized" and "unsubsidized" is that the federal government pays the interest on the Subsidized Stafford Loan while the student is enrolled in school at least half time, and during the six month grace period; the student pays the interest on the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Almost all students who meet federal eligibility requirements can receive a Stafford Loan to pay for part of the education costs. The Subsidized Loans are available to students with remaining need after the EFC (expected family contribution), any grants or scholarships, and some other forms of aid, are deducted from the total of direct and indirect cost of education. Students who have no remaining need can receive the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Independent students may receive an additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan can borrow at the Independent student levels.

Here are the academic year (three quarter) loan limits:

Grade Level	Dependent Student	Independent Student
1	\$2,625	\$6,625 (at least \$4000 is unsubsidized)
2	\$3,500	\$7,500 (at least \$4000 is unsubsidized)
3-4	\$5,500	\$10,500 (at least \$5000 is unsubsidized)

\*dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan may apply for the Independent amounts.

There are fees deducted from the loan, which are passed on to the federal government, that reduce the loan amount received; the fees never exceed 4 percent of the amount disbursed and are generally less. The interest rate is variable, with a maximum rate of 8.25 percent. The minimum monthly payment is \$50, and the maximum repayment time is ten years.

Payments on the loan begin six months after the student graduates, withdraws from school, or starts attending less than half time. This six months is called the "grace period." During the student financial planning process we recommend the amount the student should borrow for each academic year and for the entire program. If you would like to see an estimate of what the monthly repayment amount will be after graduation, there is a link to a repayment calculator on the Art Institute's financial aid page on our Web site.

Dependent students may borrow up to \$23,000 in Federal Stafford Loans for their total undergraduate career, and independent students may borrow up to \$46,000. If you have borrowed Stafford Loans to attend previous schools, your limits may be less at the Art Institute.

Federal Stafford Loan payments are usually sent to the school through a process called electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means that the funds are credited directly to your account each quarter to pay part of your educational expenses. You receive a receipt from the school at the time that the account is credited. Some lenders send a check instead of sending the funds via EFT. This requires a borrower signature before the funds are deposited. If you choose one of the Art Institute's preferred lenders, and the EFT method of payment, we will be able to defer your payment until the loan funds are received.

The amounts of the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans will be shown on your student financial plan. The Stafford Loan payments are credited to your account in equal payments for each quarter in the loan period (usually three quarters) if you are registered for the required number of credits for that quarter, and if all of the financial aid paperwork has been completed. The amount credited is the gross amount of the loan minus the origination fee of up to four percent. The Stafford Loan payment for the first quarter that you attend school will be credited to your account after 30 days of the quarter have passed, if you are still in school and taking six or more credits, and if all of the required paperwork has been completed. In subsequent quarters, the loans will be credited about ten days before the beginning of the quarter, as long as you are registered for six or more credits, and if all of the financial aid paperwork has been completed.

Before your first loan payment can be credited to your account, you must participate in an entrance interview. This is a loan counseling session during which you will learn more about your loan, and your rights and responsibilities associated with the loan. When you are ready to graduate, or if you decide to withdraw from school, you will need to participate in an exit interview to review your rights and responsibilities, and to discuss repayment options. The entrance and exit interviews are both available online through the loan counseling link on the Art Institute's financial aid page on our Web site.

### **Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)**

A parent of a dependent student, who passes a simple credit check, can borrow the difference between the student's cost of attendance and the student's other aid. This is a low interest rate loan. The interest rate is variable, with a maximum rate of none percent. There are fees that are deducted from the loan and passed on to the Federal Government; the fees reduce the amount of the loan disbursed; the fees never exceed four percent of the amount disbursed and are generally less. If, for some reason, your parent does not pass the credit check, you (the student) can borrow the Federal Stafford Student Loan limits available to independent students.

These are loans that must be repaid. The minimum monthly payment is \$50, and the maximum repayment time is ten years. Payments on the loan begin about 60 days after the loan has been fully disbursed.

The borrower for this loan can be the natural or adoptive parent of a dependent student. PLUS Loan borrowers are subject to a credit check. The Art Institute's recommended lenders can perform an "instant" credit check over the phone. Your student financial planner can assist you with this process. Students whose parents are not able to borrow a PLUS Loan may borrow the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan at the higher independent student limits.

Federal PLUS Loan payments are usually sent to the school through a process called electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means that the funds are credited directly to the student's account each quarter to pay part of the student's educational expenses. The borrower will receive a receipt from the school at the time that the account is credited. Some lenders will send a check instead of sending the funds via EFT. This requires a borrower signature before the funds are deposited. If you choose one of The Art Institute's preferred lenders, and the EFT method of payment, we will be able to defer the school payment due until the loan funds are received.

The PLUS Loan payments are credited to your account in equal payments for each quarter in the loan period (usually three quarters). The amount credited is the gross amount of the loan minus the origination fee of up to four percent. The loans will usually be credited about ten days before the beginning of the quarter, if the student is registered for six or more credits for that quarter, and if all of the paperwork has been completed.

### **Federal Perkins Loan**

This is a loan that must be repaid. The interest rate is a very low five percent, and payment begins nine months after you graduate or withdraw from school. The minimum monthly payment is \$40, and the maximum time to repay the loan is 10 years. If you receive a Federal Perkins Loan, you will receive a promissory note that you will need to sign; the promissory note will explain, in detail, the terms of the loan. Perkins Loan funds are limited, and are based on need. Since funds are limited, the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to receive a Perkins Loan. Your student financial plan, which you receive from the student financial services office, will tell you how much you may receive from the Federal Perkins Loan Program. If you receive a Perkins Loan, the funds are credited to your account, and that amount is deducted from the amount that you will need to pay. Your account is credited about ten days before each quarter in which you receive a Perkins Loan, if you are registered for the required number of credits for that quarter, and if all of the financial aid paperwork has been completed. In addition to the FAFSA, and the promissory note, you will also be required to sign a rights and responsibilities form. This form will be provided to you at a required Perkins Loan entrance interview

### **Creative Education Loan**

This is an alternative education loan that can supplement a student's other aid. Usually a co-borrower is required. The interest rate is based on the credit of the borrower, or the co-borrower if there is one. In many cases, this private loan program will have a lower interest rate than other private loan programs. In addition the repayment terms are flexible. If a borrower receives a Stafford Loan and a Creative Education Loan from the same lender, the borrower will receive combined billing for both loans. This loan is from a private lending source, and is subject to continued funding availability. More information and an application are available from the Student Financial Services office.

### **Home Equity Loans**

If you or your parents own a home, they/you may apply for a home equity loan to help finance your education. Interest on home equity loans may be tax deductible.

### **Federal Work-Study**

Federal Work-Study is a program that provides jobs to some students who may still have need remaining after all other aid is awarded. Jobs are posted at the school and the student will need to apply. Federal Work-Study jobs are either on-campus providing service to other students, or off-campus through a non-profit agency providing community service. A percent of the student's wages is paid through federal funds. The Work-Study funds are paid directly to the student, and can be used for personal expenses related to education, or for living expenses. You may choose to have your Work-Study wages credited to your account to pay tuition and other fees. This is a limited program and generally the earlier you apply the more likely you are to receive this work.

### **Part Time Job Assistance**

The Art Institute of Atlanta maintains a list of local companies looking for part time workers. Many of these jobs have flexible hours. When you have enrolled in school, you should contact the employment assistance office for more information.

### **Other Aid Programs**

It is the policy of The Art Institute of Atlanta to defer payment on the student's bill for an amount that will be covered by any aid if all of the required paperwork has been completed, and the student's eligibility for the aid type and amount has been confirmed. While the student financial services office will assist the student in applying for any aid for which the student may be eligible, it remains the student's responsibility to make sure that the aid funds are received.