

Financial Aid

General Information

All qualified students will be awarded financial aid, if financial aid funds are available, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability. The Financial Aid Office provides information and assistance in completing applications.

To receive federally funded financial aid and some other financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, enroll as regular students in an approved degree or certificate program, meet citizenship requirements, demonstrate financial need, and maintain satisfactory academic progress. In addition, students must not be in default on any student loan program or Stafford Loan or owe a refund on a Pell Grant, SEOG, or state aid.

The majority of financial aid programs offered at South Arkansas Community College are need-based; however, a number of scholarships are based on academic achievement and merit. Students must reapply for financial aid every year. For all financial aid, enrollment is calculated as of the eleventh class day of the semester for fall and spring semesters and the fifth class day for summer term.

Application Procedure for Financial Aid

To apply for a Pell Grant, SEOG, Workforce Improvement Grant, GO Grant, Federal Work Study, and/or a student loan, students must complete and submit the FAFSA and other SouthArk financial aid forms as required by the Financial Aid Office. Financial aid applicants may be required to provide documentation to verify the information given on their application. Awards will not be finalized until all required documentation and all academic transcripts are on file. Students will be notified of the action taken on their completed application. Students who plan to enroll for the fall semester should apply for financial aid in the early spring. Continuing students must reapply each year since financial aid is not automatically renewed. Students who want to receive financial aid for the summer should fill out the summer application form available in the Financial Aid Office in late spring.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Policy for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students who receive federal financial aid are required to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in order to receive financial aid. Federal guidelines stipulate that the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy apply to all enrollment periods at South Arkansas Community College regardless of whether or not aid was received. SAP is defined as passing the required percentage of hours and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4-point scale.

Students must be enrolled as an associate degree or technical certificate seeking student in an eligible program of study in order to receive financial aid. Students may receive financial aid while enrolled for a full- or part-time course of study. Full-time students must enroll in at least 12 semester hours each semester, including summer. Students on financial aid are advised to consult with the financial aid staff before making any adjustments to their program of study and/or course load.

Students may receive financial aid for no longer than 150% of the published length of the educational program. For example, a student must complete the requirements for a 60-hour degree or certificate by the time they have attempted 90 course hours. Upon completing a program, students may pursue another degree or certificate under the same guidelines. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Students must complete the following minimum percentage of courses to maintain SAP:

Hours Attempted	Completion Percentage
Up to 15 hours	55%
16 - 30 hours	60%
31 or more hours	67%

A student’s official enrollment status will be determined based on the college’s official census records. Students who completely withdraw from the college at any point after they are locked in, per those census records, are subject to the Return to Title IV Calculation and will be held responsible for the minimum percentage of hours for their official enrollment status. Refer to the Return to Title IV Funds Policy for further details. SAP will be reviewed at the end of each payment period/semester. SAP will be checked the first time aid is packaged for each academic year. At such time a student does not meet this policy, they will be notified in writing. This notification will be sent to the current address on file in the Financial Aid Office. Students who fail to make SAP after their first payment period/semester will be placed in a financial aid **Warning Status** and will be allowed one additional payment period/semester in order to meet the requisite GPA and/or completion percentage. If after that additional payment period/semester the student still does not meet SAP, they will be placed on **Financial Aid Suspension** and will be ineligible to receive Title IV aid until the requisite GPA and/or completion percentage are met. Written notification of Warning or Suspension will be mailed to the student. Students on financial aid suspension must notify the Financial Aid Office **in writing** when the GPA and/or completion percentages are met if they want to be re-considered for financial aid.

Special Conditions

- 1. Developmental/Basic Studies Courses.** Enrollment in these courses will be included in the total hour requirement for calculating financial aid awards, the calculating of cumulative semester hours of credit required, and in the calculation of cumulative semester hours attempted. Developmental/Basic Studies courses do not earn a GPA and will not count toward the student’s overall GPA for academic progress purposes. Developmental/Basic Studies courses will be considered “completed” if the student earns a grade of “C” or better.
- 2. Repeating Courses.** The last grade recorded in repeated courses is the grade of record at South Arkansas Community College and will be used in computing the student’s grade point average. Both courses will count towards the number of hours attempted, and the number of hours completed, if applicable. Financial aid will pay for a previously-passed course to be repeated only once.
- 3. “I,” “W,” and “WE.”** Courses where a grade of “I,” “W,” or “WE” are assigned will count toward the student’s hours attempted but will not count toward the hours completed.
- 4. Transfer Students. Students must report to the Financial Aid Office and Admission’s Office,** ALL colleges, universities, and other schools in which they

have enrolled prior to South Arkansas Community College, *including* courses while in high school. No financial aid awards will be made until all transcripts have been received and evaluated by the Financial Aid Office. Transfer students, which includes concurrent credit students, are subject to the same policy regarding length of time and grade point average as native SouthArk students for those hours accepted at SouthArk.

5. **Audits.** Audited courses do not count toward hours attempted or hours earned. Students may not receive aid for auditing a course.
6. **Basic Studies Probation.** Students who are placed on **Basic Studies Probation** are not necessarily placed on Financial Aid Warning or Suspension. Students will be notified in writing if they do not meet the SAP Policy.
7. **Financial Aid Warning Status: SouthArk reviews SAP at the end of each payment period.** This status will be assigned to a student who was making SAP in the prior payment period but now does not meet the standards. These students will receive aid for one additional payment period without having to file an appeal.
8. **Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)** – Students may receive Pell grant funds for no longer than **600% or the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters** over the course of their educational career based upon the information found in the Pell Payment Data of NSLDS.
9. **Academic Forgiveness or Fresh Start:** These programs are not part of the federal aid provisions and, therefore, will not be recognized for aid eligibility purposes. All hours and grades will be reviewed when checking SAP standards.

Route of Appeal

Appeals will be considered by the Financial Aid Faculty Appeals Committee. This committee will determine whether the student is eligible to continue receiving federal financial aid based on the documentation provided and that the student will be able to make SAP standards by the end of the next term enrolled. If the committee determines that a student cannot make SAP by the end of the next term of enrollment, then the committee can place the student on a written and agreeable academic plan in order to regain SAP within a specific and reasonable amount of time. These students are said to be on **Financial Aid Probation**. If at any time the student does not follow this academic plan, he or she automatically will be denied continued aid.

Return of Title IV Funds

If students receiving Title IV funds withdraw or stop attending on or after the first day of class during the period of enrollment for which they were charged, the college must determine the amount of the Title IV funds students have earned. This calculation is done in accordance with Federal Title IV guidelines. If students have not been in attendance long enough to earn all of the awarded aid, they may have to repay some of the unearned aid. Copies of SouthArk's Return of Title IV Funds policy are available in the Financial Aid Office.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Federal Pell Grant. This federally funded program is designed to provide financial assistance to individuals to attend institutions of higher education. Eligibility is determined according to a congressionally mandated formula that computes the expected family contribution. The aid administrator at the school the student attends must calculate the

actual amount of the student's award based upon the expected family contribution, the cost of attendance, and the student's enrollment status.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). This program provides grants to students with exceptional financial need. Funds are provided by the federal government and administered by the college.

Federal Work-Study Program. This program provides part-time employment opportunities for students who have financial need. Most work-study jobs are on campus, but in some instances students are referred to off-campus nonprofit agencies. At South Arkansas Community College, students work an average of six to 20 hours per week. Students are paid once per month.

Students eligible for work-study should access SouthArk's website, www.southark.edu, for information on how to apply and for current job listings. Work-study eligibility does not guarantee students a job. The work allowance awarded represents the maximum amount students can earn under the program during the school year.

Institutional Employment. A small number of students are employed each year in short-term, part-time jobs. Students receive minimum wage. Interested students should apply in the Financial Aid Office.

Federal Direct Loan. This program enables students to receive low-interest subsidized or unsubsidized loans to finance educational expenses. If a student receives a subsidized loan, the federal government pays the interest while the student is in school, during the grace period, and during periods of deferment. If a student receives an unsubsidized loan, he/she is responsible for the interest on the loan from the time of issue. Payments normally begin six months after the student graduates, drops below half-time, or withdraws from college. Students may be allowed up to 10 years to repay the loan. The amount of each monthly payment depends upon the size of the debt. Repayment schedules are provided by the lender.

Aid administrators may refuse to certify a loan application or may reduce the amount of the loan if they document the reason and provide an explanation to the student in writing.

Arkansas Department of Higher Education. ADHE administers financial-aid programs for Arkansas undergraduate students that include Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships, Workforce Improvement Grants, GO Grants, Governor's Scholarships, Law Enforcement Officers Dependents' Scholarships, the Arkansas National Guard Tuition Incentive Program and the Military Dependents' Scholarship. More information about these and other forms of financial aid available from ADHE is available at www.adhe.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Institutional Scholarships

South Arkansas Community College funds a number of scholarships for full- or part-time degree- or certificate-seeking students. Most scholarships are awarded in the spring semester for the following academic year. The priority deadline for most scholarships is March 1; however, scholarships will continue to be awarded to eligible students only as long as funding is available. The value of a full-tuition or a half-tuition scholarship is determined by the recipient's residency status (in-district or out-of-district). The maximum value of any institutional scholarship will be the value of tuition at the out-of-district rate. Eligible scholarship recipients from outside Arkansas must pay the difference between the out-of-district and out-of-state tuition rates. Pending satisfactory completion of course work in the first year, institutional scholarships are renewable for the second academic year as long as the student re-applies for the scholarship and meets all renewal requirements. Students must also maintain continuous enrollment each semester (not including summer) in order to remain eligible for the scholarship. The Scholarship Committee must approve all exceptions to scholarship requirements.

President's Scholarship. This full-tuition scholarship may be awarded to first-time entering students who scored a 24 or above on the ACT or ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. Recipients must enroll in at least fifteen semester hours each semester. A copy of high school transcript and/or ACT Scores must be submitted with the scholarship application.

Valedictorian-Salutatorian Scholarship. This full-tuition scholarship may be awarded to the first-time entering Valedictorian and Salutatorian of any high school in Arkansas. Recipients must enroll in at least 15 semester hours each semester. A copy of high school transcript must be submitted with the scholarship application.

Freshman Recognition Scholarship. This scholarship may be awarded to first-time entering freshmen who ranked in the top 25 percent of their graduating class and have an overall "B" average in high school. Applicants must be graduates of Arkansas high schools. Students must also have the ability to perform college-level work by scoring 19 or higher in two of three basic studies areas (reading, English, and math) as demonstrated by scores from the COMPASS, the ACT, SAT or the Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer Test. This scholarship provides one-half tuition. Recipients must enroll in at least 15 semester hours each semester. A copy of high school transcripts and test scores must be submitted with the scholarship application.

GED Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to any first-time entering college student who has achieved a standard score of 610 or higher on the GED examination, a score that places him or her in the top 10 percent nationwide. This scholarship is valued at full tuition and recipients must enroll in at least 15 semester hours of college course work during the fall and spring terms. A copy of GED scores must be submitted with the completed scholarship application.

Minimum Requirements for renewal of the President's Scholarship, Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship, and Freshman Recognition Scholarship, and GED Scholarship:

Must have completed at least:

End of 1st semester – 9 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 2.50

End of 2nd semester – 24 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00

End of 3rd semester – 36 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00

Part-Time Academic Scholarship. This scholarship is extended to first-time entering students who meet the requirements for the Valedictorian/Salutatorian, President's, or Freshman Recognition Scholarships but do not attend classes full-time. Recipients must enroll in at least six semester hours in courses applicable to a degree. Renewal is based on completion of all hours enrolled in each semester and maintaining the requisite GPA. The Part-time Academic Scholarship is renewable if the student maintains a minimum 2.50 GPA through the completion of the first nine semester hours of course work and a minimum cumulative 3.00 GPA thereafter. Recipients must continue to enroll in at least six semester hours during the fall and spring semesters. A copy of high school transcripts must be submitted with completed scholarship application.

Student Ambassador Scholarship. This scholarship is valued at full tuition and is awarded annually to students who are interested in serving as student ambassadors at South Arkansas Community College. Applicants must be Arkansas residents, have a 2.75 grade point average, show evidence of leadership, and write a one-page essay, "The Importance of Student Leadership in College." Recipients must be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours each semester. Student Ambassadors represent the college at official functions, help with recruiting, and receive a paid work-study assignment on campus. The student's essay along with the academic transcript must be submitted with completed scholarship application.

Minimum requirements for Renewal of the Student Ambassador Scholarship:

Must have completed at least:

End of 1st semester – 9 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 2.75

End of 2nd semester – 18 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 2.75 and
reapply for consideration

End of 3rd semester – 27 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 2.75

Tuition Waiver Scholarships

SouthArk awards tuition waiver scholarships to students based on the following achievements:

SkillsUSA. This scholarship is awarded to any high school graduate who has placed first, second, or third in a secondary school statewide SkillsUSA competition. This scholarship covers tuition for the complete technical course selected by the winner. Winners must enroll within one year of high school graduation and may renew their scholarship for technical programs greater than one year in length provided they meet the college's financial aid policy for satisfactory academic progress.

HOSA. This scholarship is awarded to any high school graduate who has placed first, second, or third in a secondary school statewide HOSA competition. This scholarship covers tuition for the complete technical program selected by the winner. Winners must enroll within one year of high school graduation and may renew their scholarship for technical programs greater than one year in length provided they meet the college's financial aid policy for satisfactory academic progress.

Miss Ouachita River Pageant. This tuition scholarship is awarded each year to the winner of the Miss Ouachita River Pageant. The recipient must meet the college's financial aid policy for satisfactory academic progress in order to renew the scholarship for the next term.

South Arkansas Community College Foundation Scholarships

Alpha Xi Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Non-traditional female student (age 24 or older)
- Completion of one semester (12 or more hours) at SouthArk and have a minimum of 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Dr. Kenneth Bridges Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA on college coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Submit an essay (minimum 500 words) which demonstrates student's commitment to continuing his/her education, a description of educational goals, and future career plans

Robert R. Brown, Jr. Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Resident of Union County
- Must be seeking a degree in a business-related field
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college coursework and completion of one semester (twelve (12) or more hours) at SouthArk
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Copy of SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Choral Scholarship (Full Time)

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Based on an interview and audition with music faculty
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Enrolled in one choir course
- Enrolled in one additional music (Prefix MUS) course (instructor may waive this requirement based on level of music proficiency)

Choral Scholarship (Part Time)

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Based on an interview and audition with music faculty
- Enrolled in one choir course
- Enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours per semester
- Enrolled in one additional music (Prefix MUS) course (instructor may waive this

- requirement based on level of music proficiency)
- Completion of all music courses each semester
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in music courses
- Minimum 2.5 GPA overall

Charles E. Cowger Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Completion of six (6) or more hours at SouthArk and have a minimum of 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- May not be eligible for the El Dorado Promise scholarship
- (if full-time student) and a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on all college coursework.

El Dorado Civitan Golden Door Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must have a disability that is documented by a medical professional or certified educational examiner
- Applicant must apply in the office of the ADA (American Disability Act) Advisor
- Demonstrated financial need; FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient
- Minimum 2.0 GPA in prior coursework
- Enrolled in at least six (6) hours each semester (Fall or Spring) and six (6) hours (Summer)

El Dorado Jaycees Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in college or high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12 hours) each semester for a full-time student
- Enrolled in at least six (6 hours) each semester for a part-time student
- Available to new and current students
- Available to students who are Jaycee members, non-members or immediate family members of a Jaycee; including children, siblings, spouses, and parents. Non-members are encouraged to join, but it is not a requirement.
- Students must demonstrate leadership qualities as evidenced by participation in community service, civic organizations, and/or school-related organizations. Students will submit a short essay of approximately 400 words describing the qualities of a leader and how he or she demonstrates those qualities

General Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Completion of six (6) or more hours at SouthArk and have a minimum of 2.75 GPA in prior coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient.
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- El Dorado Promise scholarship recipients are not eligible.

Health Sciences Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA on college or high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Degree or certificate in the Allied Health field preferred, other degrees/certificates will be considered
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers or members of the community documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

Island Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be seeking a degree in math, computer science, K-12 education, architecture or a technical field such as electrician or plumber
- Minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA on high school coursework
- Enroll in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Submit three letters of recommendation from teachers or high school counselors and members of the community
- Complete the FAFSA and be Pell eligible

James Family Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be seeking a degree in the accounting field
- Completion of one semester (twelve (12) or more hours) at SouthArk with a minimum of 3.0 GPA in prior coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester

Langston Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be seeking a degree in a business-related field
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college coursework and completion of one semester (twelve (12) or more hours) at SouthArk
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Copy of SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Omazel Lawson Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Designated for single African-American females
- Minimum 2.0 GPA on college coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Living the Dream Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Traditional age students, 17-23 inclusive.
- Minimum 2.75 GPA on high school work or a score of 580 on the GED exam.
- Must have attended a United States public/private school for three years.

- Must have been a resident in the United States for the past three years.
- FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient.
- Resident of Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, and Union Arkansas counties or Claiborne, Union, and Webster Louisiana parishes.
- Preference is given to non-El Dorado Promise students.
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student twelve (12) hours, or a part-time student six (6) hours
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers or members of the community, documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education.
- Essay (minimum of 500 words) which demonstrates student's commitment to continuing his/her education, a description of educational goals, and future career plans.

Jodie Mahony Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Working on the first two years of an Associate of Arts degree in a transfer program
- Available to full- or part-time students
- Available to new and current students
- Based on academic achievement: test scores, grade point average
- Submission of test scores (ASSET, COMPASS, SATs, and/or ACT)
- Submission of college or high school transcripts if no college completed
- Testing out of or completion of reading and writing basic studies requirements
- Interview with the Jodie Mahony Scholarship Advisory Committee, which will recommend finalists to the SouthArk Scholarship Committee for final selection

Mable and Emon Mahony Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Priority will be given to single head of household female parent
- Minimum 2.0 GPA on college coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Michael Mahony/BancorpSouth Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of El Dorado High School
- First-time entering college student
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Have earned a 2.5 GPA in prior coursework

Medical Center of South Arkansas/Betty White Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a dependent of a full-time employee or a retiree of the Medical Center of South Arkansas or an employee of the Medical Center of South Arkansas. A dependent is defined as a spouse, child or grandchild as certified by the donor.
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Minimum 2.5 GPA on prior coursework and completion of one semester (twelve (12) or more hours) at SouthArk
- Enrolled in a health-related program of study or be interested in pursuing a health-related career.

James M. Moore, Jr. Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of a Union County high school
- Must be seeking a degree or Certificate of Proficiency in business, education or one of the health science fields
- No minimum GPA required; past academic record will be considered
- Full-time enrollment (minimum of twelve (12) hours each semester)
- Demonstrated financial need; FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient
- Three (3) letters of recommendation from teachers or members of the community documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

Neely Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Seeking a degree in a business-related field
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college coursework and completion of one semester (12 or more hours) at SouthArk
- Enrolled in at least 12 semester hours each semester
- Copy of SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Dr. Kermit Parks Public Service Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Planning a career which includes public service and community involvement; prefer a major in history, political science or health sciences.
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA in coursework major and related studies
- Must be enrolled in at least nine (9) hours fall and spring semesters; and complete Associate Degree within three (3) years
- Submit a copy of previous coursework with completed scholarship application
- Submit an essay describing community involvement and activities, political philosophy and future goals.
- Must be or become involved in community and political and activities.

E.W. Pickering Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA on high school or college coursework
- Enrolled in at least nine (9) hours each semester (Fall or Spring) and six (6) hours (Summer)
- Demonstrated financial need; FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient, but cannot be eligible for Pell Grant
- Copy of high school or SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Three (3) letters of recommendation from or members of the community documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

Mabel Stratton Powell Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be seeking a degree in Education
- Completion of one semester (twelve (12) or more hours) at SouthArk with a minimum of 3.0 GPA in prior coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester

ProMed Ambulance Scholarship Fund

Eligibility Criteria

- Resident of Union County
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college or high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) semester hours each semester
- Copy of high school or SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers
- Scholarship has a maximum duration of two semesters

Dora J. and John G. Ragsdale, Jr. Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Completion of six (6) or more hours at SouthArk and have a minimum of 2.75 GPA in prior coursework
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient.
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- May not be eligible for the El Dorado Promise scholarship

REACH (Receiving Education Achievement Close to Home) Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Non-traditional student (age 24 or older)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA on college or high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester for a full-time student
- Enrolled in at least six (6) hours each semester for a part-time student
- Demonstrated financial need; FAFSA must be completed prior to selection of recipient, but cannot be eligible for Pell Grant
- Copy of high school or SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Three (3) letters of recommendation from teachers or members of the community documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

Lucy Ring Academic Excellence Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college or high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Copy of high school or SouthArk transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Three letters of recommendation from teachers or members of the community documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

Lucy Ring Fine Arts Endowed Scholarship (same criteria as choral scholarships)

Choral Scholarship (Full Time)

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Based on an interview and audition with music faculty
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Enrolled in one choir course
- Enrolled in one additional music (Prefix MUS) course (instructor may waive this requirement based on level of music proficiency)

Choral Scholarship (Part Time)

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Based on an interview and audition with music faculty
- Enrolled for a partial course load (minimum six (6) hours) each semester
- Enrolled in one choir course
- Enrolled in one additional music (Prefix MUS) course (instructor may waive this requirement based on level of music proficiency)

Fine Arts Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Available to students pursuing fine arts majors such as instrumental music, visual arts, literature or music composition
- Based on an interview with Arts and Sciences Division Chair
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester, inclusive of at least three (3) hours fine arts
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in fine arts courses, minimum 2.5 GPA overall

Simmons First Bank Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 2.5 GPA in prior coursework
- Resident of Union County
- Preference will be given to students of Hispanic origin and graduates of high schools in Union County
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Must be seeking a business or computer degree
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester

Jo An and Charles T. Skinner Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Non-traditional student (age 24 or older)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 hours) or as a part-time student (minimum 6 hours)
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application

Melba Tatom Nursing Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 3.0 GPA on college coursework
- Must be seeking a degree or certificate in the nursing program (RN or LPN)
- Must have completed first semester in the nursing program
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student or as a part-time student
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a nursing faculty and one from a member of the community, documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education
- Submit an essay (minimum 250 words) on why student has chosen the field of nursing

William Jammillous (Jay) Terry Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of either Junction City High School or Spearsville High School
- Must be seeking a degree in a computer-related or health sciences field
- Minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA on high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours each semester
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Student must complete the FAFSA and show a previous year's adjusted gross income of \$45,000 or less
- Letter of recommendation from high school counselor

Trade and Industry Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of a Union County high school
- Successfully participated in the dual enrollment program during high school
- Completion of a minimum of eight (8) college hours with a GPA of 2.5 in the dual enrollment program or two successful semesters in the Secondary Technical Center programs that do not have college credit courses.
- Minimum 2.5 GPA on high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least six (6) hours each semester at SouthArk
- Enrolled in health sciences, automotive, cosmetology, industrial technology, welding or business and computer technologies
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Letter of recommendation from high school counselor or SouthArk instructor
- Awarded first semester only

Jonathan M. Warren Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of El Dorado High School
- Successfully participated in the dual enrollment program during high school
- Completion of a minimum of eight (8) college hours with a GPA of 2.0 in the dual enrollment program
- Minimum 2.0 GPA on high school course work
- Enrolled in at least six (6) hours each semester at SouthArk
- Enrolled in allied health, automotive, building trades, welding, cosmetology, graphic arts or information and business technologies
- Copy of high school transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Letter of recommendation from high school counselor or SouthArk instructor

Dr. Ben T. Whitfield Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Graduate of a Union County high school
- First-time entering college student
- Minimum 2.5 GPA on high school coursework
- Enrolled in at least nine (9) hours each semester
- Copy of transcript submitted with completed scholarship application
- Demonstrated financial need
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a high school counselor or high school teacher and one from a member of the community, documenting evidence of a desire to pursue an education

OTHER SOURCES OF AID

Sixty-and-Over Waiver. Any person 60 years of age or older will be granted a tuition and mandatory fees waiver on a space-available basis for enrollment in credit courses. Waiver forms are available in the Bookstore.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Arkansas residents who have disabilities that hinder them from employment may receive retraining assistance from the state to prepare them for return to gainful employment. For more information go to www.arsinfo.org or contact the El Dorado office at 708 W. Faulkner, (870) 862-5451.

Workforce Investment Act. This program is designed to provide a variety of job-seeking and training services to youth, adults, and dislocated workers who qualify. Training services are provided through the voucher system. Information and eligibility requirements are available from the following agencies:

Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc. Counties served: Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union. Call (870) 234-4030 or 234-9097 in Magnolia, (870) 863-0218 in El Dorado, (870) 798-3223 in Hampton, or (870) 863-5024 in Camden.

Southeast Arkansas Economic and Development District, Inc. Counties served: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Call (870)226-3742 in Warren.

Union Community Action Association, Inc. Parishes served: Morehouse, Union and West Carroll. Call (318) 368-9606 in Farmerville, (318) 283-0849 in Bastrop, and (318) 428-8640 in Oak Grove.

Arkansas Single-Parent Scholarship Fund. The Arkansas SPSF works with organizations and individuals at the county level to develop incentive scholarship funds for single parents who wish to complete a college education in preparation for well-paying employment. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Arkansas Human Development Corporation. This program pays for fees, books, supplies, and an hourly allowance for qualified students. To be eligible, students or parents of dependent students must have derived at least 51 percent of their gross income for the past year from farm-related employment. The AHDC representative will determine student eligibility. For further information contact AHDC at (870) 382-2050.

Veterans' Benefits

The college is approved to provide assistance to veterans and veterans' beneficiaries. The Financial Aid office will assist students in completing forms necessary to apply for educational assistance from the Veterans Administration.

The Financial Aid Office is responsible for veterans' services and the maintenance of records required for certification. Students receiving educational benefits from the Veterans Administration are subject to the rules, regulations, and policies set forth in this catalog that are applicable to all students. However, students qualifying for veterans' benefits are also required by the Veterans Administration and the State Approving Agency to meet certain

other standards of approved certification. All veterans should familiarize themselves with the regulations outlined below.

Minimum Standards of Progress for Veterans

The following will apply to all veterans:

1. A freshman student who does not attain a 1.50 grade point average will be placed on academic probation.
2. A freshman student on probation whose grade point average for the probationary semester is less than 1.50 will be suspended from drawing Veterans Administration educational benefits.
3. A sophomore student whose grade point average is less than 2.00 will be placed on academic probation.
4. A sophomore student on probation whose grade point average for the probationary semester is less than 2.00 will be suspended from drawing Veterans Administration educational benefits.
5. Students who fail to qualify for V.A. benefits, as a result of being placed on suspension, may appeal their status to the Financial Aid Committee. All appeals must be in writing and must include the reason(s) the student failed to meet minimum academic standards.

Approved Length of Course for Veterans. Students drawing full-time benefits are expected to complete an associate degree in a maximum of 5 semesters and a baccalaureate degree in a maximum of 10 semesters. The maximum hours of credit which may be awarded on the basis of previous experience as shown in the “Credit for Previous Training or Experience” section of this catalog shall be waived for veterans who can demonstrate that a larger number of credit hours should be awarded. If a veteran is awarded such credit or has previous college credit, the approved length of course at South Arkansas Community College will be decreased proportionately; and the veteran and the Veterans Administration shall be notified of the shortening of the course length.

Class Attendance Policy for Veterans. All persons receiving veterans’ benefits are required by the Veterans Administration regulations to maintain satisfactory class attendance. The Veterans Administration will be notified of unsatisfactory attendance.

Withdrawal Policy for Veterans. If a student receiving VA benefits withdraws from a course with a non-punitive grade, mitigating circumstances must exist or benefits for that course may be terminated retroactively to the first date of enrollment.

Enrollment Certification. Veterans Affairs will pay for courses that apply toward the student’s declared major. Students must submit a copy of their schedule each semester to the VA Certifying Official before enrollment will be submitted to the VA.