

Frequently Asked Questions



I am a student - how do I apply?

Students can apply for the Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP) by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and a PA-TIP application available at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP.

What are the eligibility requirements?

For students:

- Be a domiciliary (resident) of Pennsylvania.
- Received a high school diploma, GED or recognized homeschool certificate.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).
- Complete and return the 2018-19 PA-TIP student application (available at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP) by **May 1, 2019**.
- Must not be in default or have a claim of default pending on a federal Title IV educational loan, or owe a PA State Grant refund.
- Not be receiving a PA State Grant for the program of study.
- Have financial need as determined by the program guidelines and certified by the school.
- Attend an eligible federal Title IV postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled in a Title IV eligible program of study that is at least 10 weeks but less than 2 academic years in length.
- Be enrolled on a full-time basis. Students may be eligible for a partial PA-TIP award if they are enrolled at least half time at a public or private, non-profit institution. Full-time enrollment is defined as at least 12 credits per term or at least 24 clock hours of continuous enrollment per week. At least half-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 6 credit hours per term or a minimum of 12 clock hours of continuous enrollment per week.
- Must supply a copy of the DD214 Form if the applicant is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, and was honorably discharged.

For schools:

- School and program of study must be federal Title IV eligible and located in Pennsylvania.
- School must complete and return to PHEAA the 2018-19 PA-TIP school application/renewal and receive approval from PHEAA.
- Submit a copy of a current Eligibility & Certification Approval Report (ECAR) with the school application/renewal.
- Program of study must correspond to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) identified Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes (available at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP).
- Program of study must be at least 10 weeks but less than 2 academic years in length and cannot be eligible for a PA State Grant.
- Program of study must not be completed through 100 percent distance education (online).
- Complete and return a Remote Access Agreement (RAA), if one is not on file, for use of the Business Partner Access Management System (BPAMS).
- Complete and return the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Authorization Agreement to receive funds via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Where can I find programs of study that are eligible?

Eligible programs of study are available at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP.

Can non-credit courses be approved for PA-TIP?

Non-credit courses are not eligible for PA-TIP, as they are not approved for federal Title IV aid.

How are awards determined?

Awards are based on the student's need. PHEAA will consider a student's educational costs including tuition, fees, books, supplies, required equipment, and an educational expense allowance of \$4,000. PHEAA will then deduct the Federal Pell Grant award and any gift aid or employer reimbursement from the educational cost. The student can receive a PA-TIP award up to the maximum PA State Grant award or 75 percent of the unmet educational cost, whichever is less.

What is the application process/timeline?

PHEAA will accept student applications beginning July, 2018. PHEAA will continue to accept applications until all funding for the program has been expended, but no later than May 1, 2019.

I am a school – what if I have a program of study that I think should qualify, but PHEAA does not list the program as being eligible?

Please complete a CIP Inclusion Request Form and submit it to PHEAA for review. The form is available on the school page at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP.

For schools that have multiple branch campuses, does each branch need to submit a separate PA-TIP School Application?

If the campuses process financial aid centrally under one OE code, then the school only needs to submit one PA-TIP School Application.

How and when are funds disbursed?

Funds for eligible students will be disbursed to the student's school account through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Funds will be disbursed on a rolling basis depending on when the student's program of study begins.

What happens if a student drops to less than full time before completing the term?

Once the student has completed 60 percent of the term, they will not be asked to refund any PA-TIP grant. However, if the student withdraws or drops to less than full-time status prior to completing 60 percent of the term, then a proportional refund of the PA-TIP grant would be due. For example, if they complete 30 percent of the term, they will be asked to repay 70 percent of the PA-TIP grant.

How is the program funded?

The program is funded with PHEAA's business earnings. No state or federal taxpayer dollars are supporting this program.

For how many years will the program be in effect?

The program will continue as long as funding is available.

Is there enough funding for all eligible students?

The program will provide funding to students who apply and are qualified on a first-come, first-served basis.

Is there a guarantee that I'll receive funding throughout my education?

PA-TIP funds have been approved for the 2018-19 award year. Programs of study that extend beyond that time frame are not assured of funding at this time.