

# 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](http://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) for the award year for which PA-TIP funds are being requested.
- Complete and return to PHEAA the PA-TIP student application (available at [PHEAA.org/PA-TIP](http://PHEAA.org/PA-TIP)) by **May 1, 2017**.
- Must not be in default or have a claim of default pending on a federal Title IV educational loan, or owe a State Grant refund.
- Not be receiving a Pennsylvania 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 is defined as at least 12 credits or 450 clock hours per enrollment period. At least half-time is defined as a minimum of 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours per enrollment period.
- 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 PA-TIP institution application and receive approval from PHEAA.
- Submit a copy of a current Eligibility & Certification Approval Report (ECAR) with the school application.
- Program of study must correspond to the Pennsylvania Department of Education identified Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes (available at [PHEAA.org/PA-TIP](http://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 Pennsylvania State Grant.
- Program of study must not be completed through 100% distance education (online).
- Complete and return for approval 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 EFT.

## Where can I find programs of study that are eligible?

Eligible programs of study are available on the [PHEAA.org/PA-TIP](http://PHEAA.org/PA-TIP) website.

## 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 State Grant award or 75% of the unmet educational cost, whichever is less.

## What is the application process/timeline?

PHEAA will accept student applications beginning July, 2016. PHEAA will continue to accept applications until all funding for the program has been expended, but no later than May 1, 2017.

## 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](http://PHEAA.org/PA-TIP).

## For institutions 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 institution 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% 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% of the term, then a proportional refund of the PA-TIP grant would be due. For example, if they complete 30% of the term, they will be asked to repay 70% 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 2016-17 award year. Programs of study that extend beyond that time frame are not assured of funding at this time.