At TCNJ aid eligibility is evaluated by two offices

- The **Office of Admissions** determines eligibility for **institutional merit-based scholarships**
  - If you are eligible for institutional merit aid, the student would have been notified of such during their initial admissions acceptance AND this amount would have been included in the student’s estimated aid package
- The **Office of Student Financial Assistance** (Financial Aid) determines eligibility for **Federal and State grants, scholarships, loans and institutional need-based scholarships** based on the results of the FAFSA
  - If you are eligible for aid based on your FAFSA results, this amount would have been included in the student’s estimated aid package as well
First-year in-state applicants to TCNJ are automatically considered for merit scholarships upon submission of their Common Application.

- Awards are based on a student’s overall academic record (including strength of curriculum, GPA, class rank and strength of high school) and their best standardized test score (SAT or ACT).

- Competitive applicants should have at least a 1300 SAT (Math and Reading) or 28 ACT.

- Due to the strength of our applicant pool, the scholarship process is highly competitive; historically, less than half of admitted students have received a scholarship.
Aid Determination

Federal and State Grants, Loans, Scholarships and institutional need-based aid – Office of Student Financial Assistance

- The FAFSA results are used for this determination based on the calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- It is not too late to apply – you will need FAFSA to apply for student loans
What is “The EFC”?

• The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated by a federal formula using the information you supplied on the FAFSA and is used to calculate need.

• The EFC is an index number the financial aid office uses as a guideline to determine your aid package.
Federal & State Need-based Eligibility

Who qualifies for need-based aid? (family of 4, with 1 in college)

- Federal Pell Grant: A family with a household income over $55K a year traditionally will not qualify.
- NJ State Grant: A family with a household income Over $70K a year traditionally will not qualify.
SS# needs to be reported to Admissions

Student Aid Report (SAR)
A student can add schools on FAFSA.gov or over the phone by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID. TCNJ’s school code is 002642.

What does the SAR tell you:

- Results of the FAFSA – review the information for accuracy
- Application complete or incomplete/rejected
- Grant/Loan eligibility statements
E-mails are sent starting March 21st, to the STUDENT, with information on how to view Estimated Awards in PAWS

- Only COMPLETE records receive an aid package
- No action (accept/decline) is required - official awards are sent in June
- For planning/budgeting purposes

![Financial Aid Award Summary](image)

**Aid Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Description</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Loan Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal PELL Grant</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>3,700.00</td>
<td>3,700.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Sub Loan</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>Loan Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsub Loan</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>Loan Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Tuition Aid Grant</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>5,610.00</td>
<td>5,610.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons why the STUDENT may not have received an estimated award e-mail

- Did not file a FAFSA
- Incomplete/Rejected FAFSA
- Recently offered Admission
- Did not provide SSN to Admissions (or on the Common App.)
- Did not list the TCNJ School Code (002642) on the FAFSA
- Son or daughter didn’t tell you – or forgot to check their email (e-mail used on Common App)
FAFSA Verification (audit) May Be Required!

A random selection picked by the Federal processor

**Dependent**
- 2018-2019 Verification Worksheet – Dependent
- 2018-2019 Asset Information Worksheet – Dependent

**Independent**
- 2018-2019 Verification Worksheet – Independent
- 2018-2019 Asset Information Worksheet – Independent

**Miscellaneous**
- 2016 Non-Filing Request Form (4506-T)
- 2018-2019 Non-Filer Statement: Student
- 2018-2019 Non-Filer Statement: Spouse
- 2018-2019 Verification of Food Stamps Worksheet
- 2018-2019 Identity Confirmation Statement of Educational Purpose: Notary Copy
- 2018-2019 Identity Confirmation Statement of Educational Purpose: In-Person
- 2018-2019 High School Completion Status Form
- 2018-2019 Dislocated Worker Status Form
Hard copy letters sent until May 1.

After May 1, e-mails to TCNJ e-mail address.

Office of Student Financial Assistance
Green Hall, Room 101
P. O. Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628
Phone: 609-771-2211

John Smith
123 Main Street
Anytown, NJ 08252

Dear John:

On behalf of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, congratulations on being admitted to The College of New Jersey.

Until your deposit is paid, all e-mail communications from our office are sent to the e-mail address you provided on the Common Application. Estimated financial aid award notifications are sent on or after March 26. We hope the estimate assists you in your college budgeting process.

The information outlined below only applies to you if you decide to attend TCNJ. If you decide not to attend, no further action is required.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance has received your initial financial aid application for Aid Year 2020 from the United States Department of Education. The application is either incomplete or has been randomly selected for a process called Verification. Both of these processes require additional action on your part.

You may view any outstanding items online at www.tcnj.edu/MyApp. To do so, use your PAWS login information provided by the Office of Admission and click on “View All To Do Items.”

If you are required to submit additional information, you may do so in the following manner:

Fax: (609) 637-5154
E-mail: osfa@tcnj.edu
Regular mail: Student Financial Assistance
Green Hall, Room 101
P. O. Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628

If you are unable to submit the documents listed, please contact our office at 609-771-2211. Our staff will be happy to assist you in any way we can. You may also contact our office via email at osfa@tcnj.edu or Fax at 609-637-5154. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Office of Student Financial Assistance
Once admitted – students may view outstanding documents on their “To Do List” which may include Financial Aid Verification Documents.
If we need to confirm the income listed on the FAFSA, you will need to provide one of the following:

1. Use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) on the FAFSA** that allows students and parents to access IRS tax return information, and transfer the data directly into their FAFSA.
2. Provide a **Tax Return Transcript** from the IRS
3. Provide a **signed “home copy” of the 2017 tax return** you submitted to the IRS (all pages and schedules)
Private Scholarships

- **You are required** to report all private scholarships that you will receive for the 2019-2020 school year.

  Priority Deadline: Report as soon as possible
  
  Online Form Available after May 15, 2018

- TCNJ will give you a *temporary credit* on your TCNJ bill until the scholarship funds arrive.
- Once reported allow 2 weeks for the scholarship to appear on your PAWS account
- Actual scholarship funds must be received one month after classes start!
- Reporting Instructions can be found at the following link: http://financialaid.tcnj.edu/about/scholarships/private-scholarship-awards/
- Private Scholarships must be sent to:

  TCNJ
  Student Accounts
  PO Box 7718
  Ewing, NJ 08628

  *Students name and ID should be listed on the check.*
TCNJ Authorized Users

- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
  - Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records
- Students can create/edit/disable authorized users

The College of New Jersey

TCNJ Authorized Users (Auxiliary Access)

An Authorized User is an individual who has been granted permission to view and discuss a student's billing, financial aid, and/or education records. TCNJ students are eligible to grant this access to up to three individuals with whom they wish to share their account details. Once enrolled as Authorized Users, these individuals are granted auxiliary access to the College's information system (PAWS), where they can log in to complete the following tasks:

- View financial aid
- View the student To-Do list
- View and pay the bill
  - Please be aware that TCNJ has migrated to a new payment platform, CashNet.
- View education records

Authorized Users are also eligible to discuss pertinent account details with TCNJ officials, who would otherwise only be able to discuss this information directly with the student. Students can sign up an Authorized User by following the instructions found here.
The Office of Student Financial Assistance
Green Hall – Room 101

Academic Year Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm

609-771-2211
osfa@tcnj.edu