

NORTHLAND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

2075 FINANCIAL AID

To receive Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds, a student must be qualified to study at the postsecondary level, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and submit any other documentation requested by the college. Financial aid is a resource for funding after the student's and/or parent's ability to pay has been determined.

A student is qualified to study at the postsecondary level if they meet one of the following academic qualifications:

- has a high school diploma (this can be from a foreign school if it is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma);
- has the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma, such as a general educational development (GED) certificate or other state sanctioned test or diploma-equivalency certificate;

The Department recognizes several equivalents to a high school diploma:

- a GED certificate;
 - a certificate or other official completion documentation demonstrating that the student has passed a state-authorized examination (such as the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), or, in California, the California High School Proficiency Exam) that the state recognizes as the equivalent of a high school diploma (certificates of attendance and/or completion are not included in this qualifying category);
 - an associate's degree;
 - successful completion of at least 60 semester or trimester credit hours or 72 quarter credit hours that does not result in the awarding of an associate's degree, but that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree at any institution; or
 - enrollment in a bachelor's degree program where at least 60 semester or trimester credit hours or 72 quarter credit hours have been successfully completed, including credit hours transferred into the bachelor's degree program
- has completed homeschooling at the secondary level as defined by state law;
 - has completed secondary school education in a homeschool setting which qualifies for an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under state law, if state law does not require a homeschooled student to receive a credential for their education; or
 - has completed one of the ability-to-benefit (ATB) alternatives and is either currently enrolled in an eligible career pathway program or first enrolled in an eligible postsecondary program prior to July 1, 2012.

Related Documents: Academic qualifications - HEA Sec. 484(d), 34 CFR 668.32(e), COD Technical Reference

Date of Implementation: 5/27/04
Date of Adoption: 6/2/04
Date & Subject of Revisions: 09/27/2006 – capitalization corrections
01/05/09 Reviewed
3/09/10 Revised
02/22/11 Reviewed
02/29/12 Revised
02/12/13 Reviewed

03/04/14 Revised
02/03/15 Reviewed
02/16/16 Reviewed
02/16/17 Reviewed
02/16/18 Reviewed
04/19/19 Revised
02/14/20 Reviewed