

Frequently Asked Questions for the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Program

How do I apply for the Lottery scholarship?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application for this. It must be completed each year and may be accessed at www.fafsa.gov. The deadline is September 1st each year. Be sure to list JSCC (school code 004937) as your first institution on your FAFSA in order to show up on JSCC's list.

What if I did not list JSCC first on my FAFSA?

There are two ways to change your institution for Lottery.

1. Print a Change of Institution page (found at <http://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html>), complete it and turn it in to our office (or fax it to TSAC)
2. Go directly to the TSAC Student Financial Aid Portal and make the change in real time. This is the fastest way to make the change! Instructions on how to do this may be found at <http://www.jsc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/lottery.html>.

What are the criteria for the Lottery scholarship?

- a. For traditional students who are graduating from an eligible public high school or Category 1, 2, or 3 private school – 3.0 ending high school Grade Point Average (GPA) or a 21 composite score on a National ACT
- b. For traditional students who are graduating from home schools or other Category private schools – enrolled at the school last two calendar years of high school AND 21 composite score on a National ACT **Beginning with 2013 graduates, only one calendar year is required along with the 21 composite score on a National ACT
- c. For GED students prior to 2015 – 525 GED score AND a 21 composite score on a National ACT; for GED students beginning with 2015, 170 GED score AND a 21 composite score on a National ACT
- d. For HiSet students – 15 HiSet score AND a 21 composite score on a National ACT

- e. For Non-traditional students – first time freshman or coming back after two year break in enrollment, income of below \$36,001, AND earn 12 hours with 2.75 GPA in college

Do I have to complete my financial aid file to receive my Lottery scholarship?

If you are selected for verification or have conflicting information, then you will be required to turn in all the requested documents before your scholarship will be certified or applied to your student account.

What GPA do I need to maintain to keep my Lottery scholarship?

The TELS GPA will be checked at the benchmark semesters, which are every 24 attempted hours. At 24 and 48 attempted hours, a 2.75 TELS GPA is required. Beginning with 72 attempted hours, you must either have a 3.0 TELS GPA or meet the provisional criteria. The provisional criteria are as follows: 2.75 – 2.99 TELS GPA AND 3.0 term GPA AND enroll full time the next semester. While on the provisional path, you would need to remain full time and would be evaluated every semester. At Jackson State Community College, your grades are monitored each semester to evaluate whether you are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards. Failure to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress will result in the loss of your scholarship until standards have been met (if all other eligibility criteria are still okay). Note: Your JSCC GPA and your TELS GPA may differ.

Why are my JSCC GPA and my Lottery GPA different?

There are a few reasons why the two GPAs could differ. If you have transfer grades, rising senior work, have repeated courses or are a Non-traditional recipient, then your JSCC GPA and your Lottery GPA will never be the same.

Can I drop a class or withdraw from my current schedule?

For Lottery, your schedule is locked in on the census date (14th calendar day of classes). You should not make any changes to your schedule or major without contacting the Financial Aid office to determine the impact (if you have more than lottery, you may need to know additional information regarding the impact of drops/withdrawals). Dropping below full time or below ½ time

without permission from the Institutional Review Panel (IRP) can cause you to permanently lose your scholarship for the future. The IRP can only approve requests for drops and withdrawals based on medical and extreme personal reasons and documented. You may also owe some money back depending on attendance and refund policies. To request permission to drop or withdraw, please complete the JSCC TN Promise and TN Lottery Appeal/Leave of Absence Request form. This is found online under the Lottery forms on the JSCC Financial Aid website. The appeal process takes time, so be sure to allow for at least 10 days for processing. Be mindful of drop deadlines and take those into consideration when submitting any appeals.

Can I sit out a semester and return later?

Continuous enrollment is required for the Lottery scholarship. This is defined as fall and spring of each year. Therefore, you may sit out the summer semester without permission. However, to sit out a fall or spring semester, you would need prior permission from the IRP. This request would need to be based on medical or extreme personal reasons and documented. The form to request this is the JSCC TN Promise and TN Lottery Appeal/Leave of Absence Request form and may be found online under the Lottery forms on the JSCC Financial Aid website.

I lost my scholarship due to my grades. Can I get it back?

As long as you continue to meet all other criteria, you may be re-evaluated at each subsequent benchmark to see if you qualify to regain your scholarship. To regain your scholarship, you will need to attain the required GPA for that benchmark. This is a one-time option and requires that you fill out the TELS Regain form to utilize it. This form is found under the Lottery forms on the JSCC Financial Aid website. The regain option may only be utilized at a benchmark. Note: If you lost your scholarship while at another school, you will need to request that you be re-evaluated when you have reached your benchmark.

I repeated a class. Does the new grade replace the previous bad grade?

No. For Lottery, all courses taken after high school graduation count towards the Lottery GPA. The exception to this is summer 2011 courses. Those are excluded on all students who began receiving Lottery funds after fall 2009,

unless they received Lottery funds in summer 2011. However, there is a one-time repeat provision that allows students to replace one grade for one class. To utilize this provision, you would complete the TELS Repeat form AFTER the second grade is known. This form is found under the Lottery forms on the JSCC Financial Aid website. It may be utilized at any time after the course has been repeated.

Do I have to enroll full time each semester?

Full time enrollment is not necessary for Lottery, unless you are on the provisional path. However, you must be enrolled at least ½ time to receive payment in a semester. Enrollment of less than full time will result in proration of the scholarship.

I am in a certificate program (or classes). Why am I not receiving Lottery funds this semester?

One of the criteria for the Lottery scholarship is that a student be degree seeking. Any semester in which a student is under a certificate program or enrolled only in certificate classes, the student is not eligible for Lottery funds. However, these hours will still count towards the student's attempted hours and TELS GPA. This does not make a student lose overall eligibility. If the student is then in an eligible program the next semester and meets all other eligibility criteria, they may be able to receive Lottery funds again.

How long can I receive the Lottery scholarship?

The terminating events are 5 years from enrollment, a Bachelor's degree, 8 full time equivalent semester, and 120 attempted hours.

When will my Lottery funds be received?

Most Lottery funds are received 14-18 business days after the census day. The census day is the 14th calendar day of classes. Once funds are received, attendance has to be checked and funds applied to accounts. Once this has been done an email will be sent to the JSCC email of those students who have excess funds. The Business Services Office will process the excess funds and excess funds will be mailed by check to the student within 14 days of disbursement (they will NOT be available to be picked up). However, these funds will show on

your student account to confirm your registration with as long as all documents have been received by financial aid and as long as you are showing on JSCC's roster. You will be responsible for confirming your registration by following the Business Service Office's confirmation policy.

Can I receive Lottery funds to attend in the summer?

Possibly.

Anyone receiving funds in the summer must still meet qualifications after spring grades, and enroll for at least 6 hours for summer.

However, because summer is a trailer semester (paid at the end of the aid year), incoming freshmen beginning in the summer semester may not receive Lottery until the fall.

What is the census day for summer?

For the first and second session classes, it is the 7th day of classes.

For the full session and RODP classes, it is the 14th day of classes.

Because of the multiple census days, students may have different census dates and their funds may be released at different times. If your census is in the second session, you will not receive your excess funds until the funds are received, usually late July or early August.

I am a student at a four year school and want to return to JSCC for just the summer. Can I get Lottery for summer?

JSCC cannot pay you Lottery if you are not a degree seeking student at JSCC. However, you might qualify for a consortium agreement. Contact the Financial Aid Office at your four year school (if it is a TN school) and see if you qualify. If so, you will begin the paperwork there. You will have to be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours for summer to receive any payment from Lottery. Also, since the funds will be paid to the four year school, you will need to be prepared to pay your tuition and fees to JSCC and to buy your books out of pocket. Once the four year school receives the funds, they should pay them to you.