

CONGRATULATIONS

on your decision to attend

Tacoma Community College College!

Remember, deciding to attend TCC is just the start of your college journey – there is a lot you have to do before you show up on the first day of class. Read the list below to make sure you are ready to start, and be sure to check your personal and TCC email (and regular mail) often so you do not miss important information or requests from the school.

Unlike in high school, during college your professors and staff will not typically check-in with you about deadlines and missing work or information. You will be expected to reach out for assistance and information. Do not be afraid to ask questions, check-in with advisors and professors, or seek out additional support if you need it: staff and services are there for you!

FINISH THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Financial Aid Application:

☐ If you haven't already, submit your FAFSA or WASFA as soon as possible as there may still be aid available to you. <http://www.readyssetgrad.org/wasfa> or <https://fafsa.ed.gov> and <https://www.tacomacc.edu/costsandaid/applyforaid/>.

- ▶ **TCC INSTITUTIONAL FORM:** TCC requires students to complete a TCC Financial Aid Institutional Form in addition to the FAFSA/WASFA as part of the financial aid process. Log into your MyTCC portal account (<https://my.tacomacc.edu/>), select 'money/jobs,' 'financial aid,' and then 'financial aid forms.' This form will need to be completed every year. In order to access the form you will need to have already applied for TCC admission.
- ▶ **VERIFICATION:** The TCC Financial Aid Office may contact you requesting more information related to your FAFSA/WASFA. Respond as soon as possible to TCC requests in your student portal account, including Student Aid Report (SAR) information requests (which will be sent within two weeks of submitting your FAFSA/WASFA). Your FAFSA/WASFA will not be considered complete until you submit requested information.
- ▶ **HB 1079:** Eligible undocumented students can receive in-state tuition. <http://realhopewa.org/>

Financial Aid Award Letter:

- ☐ Accept or decline all or part of your award letter and return it to the Financial Aid Office in order to receive accepted aid. You will receive an emailed financial aid award notification (to the TCC email account that was assigned to you when you first applied to TCC) when your award is ready, usually starting in the spring. TCC recommends students register for classes as soon as possible as this may expedite when their award is available.

Scholarships:

- ☐ If you received outside scholarships (not awarded through financial aid and/or TCC), you need to report them to the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible by email or phone or your funding may be impacted.

Contact the Financial Aid Office at [\(253\) 566-5080](tel:2535665080) or sfs@tacomacc.edu with any questions or concerns.

EVERY YEAR:

Resubmit FAFSA or WASFA and the TCC Institutional Form before the returning student deadline and return your award letter.

▶ GOOD TO KNOW

Emergency Funds:

Funds are available to students on a limited basis to pay for emergencies created by an unexpected event for which a student would be unable to remain at TCC. Visit the Financial Aid Office in Building 14 for an Emergency Fund Assistance application.

TCC also has an emergency book loan program that provides students with short-term loans for textbook purchases. Loans are for a maximum of \$100 per quarter, are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and must be repaid in 30 days. To apply, complete a loan application through the MECA (Multi-Ethnic/Cultural Affairs) Office (Bldg 11). For more information, call [253.566.5335](tel:2535665335).

Learn more about emergency aid at:

<https://www.tacomacc.edu/costsandaid/typesofaid/scholarships/>

COMPLETE TESTING OR SEND TRANSCRIPTS

- Find out if you need to take an English and/or Math placement test or if you can instead use AP/IB, SAT/ACT, high school transcripts, or other scores for required course placement. https://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/assessyourskills/recent_high_school_graduates/

If You Don't Need To Take A Placement Exam:

- If you believe you have eligible test scores or transcripts, contact the Assessment office at placement@tacomacc.edu or 253.566.5093. You should have unofficial copies of applicable scores or transcripts when you contact them for placement review. You may be asked to provide official copies (sealed copies sent directly from the school or testing agency) to TCC at some point.

- Ask your high school counselor for help getting test scores or transcripts if needed.

If You Need To Take A Placement Exam:

- Decide if you will take the placement test on campus or online: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/assessyourskills/accuplacer/>
 - Online:** TCC has an option to take the Accuplacer placement test online from anywhere. You will need to have internet access, a computer that meets testing program computer requirements, and a credit card to pay the testing fee of \$44.50. Start the online testing process by visiting: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/assessyourskills/accuplacer/> (ACCUPLACER - Online Testing section).
 - On Campus:** On campus placement testing at the main campus is done on a walk-in basis (no appointments). Call (253)566-5158 to confirm dates/times. Testing at the Gig Harbor campus is by appointment only - call (253) 460-2424
- Pay the \$18.00 placement exam fee online or in-person at the Cashier's Office before you test. If you cannot afford to pay the testing fee, contact the Assessment Office to see if they will waive the fee. <http://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/assessyourskills/accuplacer/> (ACCUPLACER - On Campus Testing Section)
- Bring your photo ID, Student ID number, and proof of payment to the Assessment Office when you go to test.

Contact the Assessment Services Office at placement@tacomacc.edu or 253.566.5093 with any questions or concerns.

REGISTER FOR & COMPLETE ORIENTATION

- Register to attend a required New Student Advising and Orientation (NSAO) session by calling 253.566.6091 or registering online: http://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/new_student_advising_and_orientation/. Session dates and times vary.
- Bring the following materials for your orientation:
 - Placement testing scores or transcripts.
 - Your calendar (you can schedule a follow-up appointment for education planning, if you wish)
 - Ideas about courses you might want to take and any questions you might have

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- New students must attend New Student Advising and Orientation before they can register for classes. At orientation you will learn about how and when to register and will have the opportunity to meet with an advisor to discuss your class options. https://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/new_student_advising_and_orientation/

EVERY QUARTER:

Register for classes during your assigned registration time. After your first quarter, you will register for classes during an assigned registration period, which you can find in your myTCC-ctcLink student account.

GET HOUSING

- If you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, consider applying for the College Housing Assistance Program at: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/housing/>. If that does not apply to you, you will need to find your own housing in the surrounding community, if housing is needed.

FIGURE OUT TRANSPORTATION

- Once you are registered for classes, you may stop by the Campus Public Safety Office in Bldg. 14 to pick up a parking permit if you will be parking on main campus. Parking permits are free. You will need a new one each year. <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/parking/>
 - There is open parking at the TCC-Gig Harbor campus (no permits required).

FIGURE OUT TRANSPORTATION (CONT'D)

- ❑ Purchase a TCC Orca Pass to ride Pierce County Transit bus routes for just \$5. Purchase a pass by bringing \$5 and your student ID to the Cashier's Office (Bldg. 14) and completing an Orca Agreement form. You will need to purchase a new pass each quarter. The TCC pass covers only Pierce County transit routes: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/orcapass/>

EVERY QUARTER:

Determine how you will get to campus and purchase a TCC Orca Pass each quarter if needed.

GET YOUR TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS

- ❑ Look up the textbooks you need for class by visiting: <http://tacomaccbooks.collegestoreonline.com/>. Purchase your books from the TCC bookstore or online. You can buy your books used or rent them, which is usually cheaper than buying new.
- ❑ Most students want their own laptop at school, which means you may need to purchase one. TCC also has free computer labs on campus (<http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/informationcommons/>). Consider your options and study habits and buy a laptop if needed.
- ❑ If you haven't already picked one up, get your free student ID card by visiting Campus Public Safety (Bldg. 14). You can use your ID to access computers labs, fitness centers, and other perks. <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/studentidcards/>

EVERY QUARTER:

Get your textbooks before classes begin.

TUITION

- ❑ Pay your Fall Quarter tuition and fees before the payment deadline, which is usually a couple weeks before the start of the quarter for students who register before September: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/areasofstudy/academiccalendar/>. Your financial aid will be applied to your account before your statement is issued, **which means if you have a "remaining balance", you still owe money.**
 - ▶ You should be able to view your tuition balance in your myTCC-ctcLink student account (Student Center-Finances Tab) online after you register for classes and before the payment deadline. <https://my.tacomacc.edu/>

- ❑ Pay your tuition in person or by mail using cash, money order, cashier's check or personal check, or online through the myTCC ctcLink with a credit card (<https://my.tacomacc.edu/>). Learn more about your payment options at: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/gettingstarted/thenrollmentprocess/paytuition/>

- ❑ If you cannot pay your full tuition balance by the due date, set up an automatic payment plan to pay smaller amounts over the course of the quarter. <https://www.tacomacc.edu/costsandaid/automaticpaymentplan/>

Contact the Cashier's Office (Bldg 14) or at 253.566.5011 with any questions or concerns.

EVERY QUARTER:

Keep track of when payments are due and pay your balance or set up a payment plan before the tuition deadline to avoid being dropped from your classes.

FIND SUPPORTS & COMMUNITY

- ❑ **Find community, access student supports, and get involved on campus!** There are lots of opportunities to connect with different student groups and get involved. Don't be afraid to reach out if you are interested in something or need assistance – groups and resources are there for you! Check out some options below:
 - ▶ Explore different clubs you can join: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/campuslife/organizationsandactivities/>
 - ▶ Learn more about free advising services: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/advising/>
 - ▶ Access free mental health and wellness counseling: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/counseling/>
 - ▶ Consider using academic supports, such as tutoring: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/writingandtutoringcenter/> and <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/mathadvisingresourcecentermarc/>
 - ▶ Apply to be a part of the Center for Multi-Ethnic and Cultural Affairs (MECA) that offers support for underrepresented students: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/casameca/>

FIND SUPPORTS & COMMUNITY (CONT'D)

- ▶ Apply to be a part of the TRIO Student Support Services program to receive advising and support if you are first-generation and/or low-income:
<https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/TRiOeducationaltalentsearch/>
- ▶ Connect with Access Services to request accommodation for a disability:
<https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/TRiOeducationaltalentsearch/>

STAY UPDATED

- ▣ Check your myTCC-ctcLink student account and student email at least once a week. Once you're on campus you will probably check it every day.
<https://my.tacomacc.edu/>
- ▣ Make sure to keep your email and mailing address updated with the college through your student account so you don't miss important notices and information.

▶ ACCESS THIS LIST ONLINE

Lists are available at:

<http://pccn.org/college-transition-checklists/>

All information has been compiled through college/university resources, but lists are not made by the college/university. Information is accurate as of March 2018. Be aware: information might change - check with your college if you have questions.