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Financial Assistance

Students or prospective students who need financial assistance to attend GSCC may be able to receive help through one or more of the numerous programs offered or administered, including student financial aid programs funded by the Federal government and various institutional scholarships. In addition, Gadsden State may have available both restricted and unrestricted funds donated by individuals, businesses, industries, and service organizations. To receive such assistance, students must be selected based on criteria developed by the College Scholarship Committee. The following pages briefly explain the financial aid programs and the scholarships available to qualified Gadsden State students. Since the College cannot meet the financial needs of all applicants, students are also urged to investigate outside sources of aid.

Deferred Tuition Payment Plan

In an effort to increase affordability at GSCC, a deferred payment plan offered through Nelnet Business Solutions is available for all registered students who meet qualifications. Nelnet provides students an opportunity to manage college costs by budgeting tuition payments over time. Students and their authorized parties may make full or partial online payments, set up payment plans and manage their accounts. For additional information, you may go to the GSCC website under Future or Current Students and click on the NELNET logo or [Payment Plans-NELNET](#).

Financial Aid

Most aid programs are based on the individual need of the applicant. To determine if a student is eligible for financial aid, a student needs to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at www.fafsa.gov. The Gadsden State Title IV School Code is 001017.

The FAFSA contains questions pertaining to the student's assets, income, year in college, etc. Students who are dependent on their parents, based on Federal Student Aid guidelines, must also submit information concerning parental income, assets, and other items.

Once the applicant completes and submits the FAFSA via the internet at www.fafsa.gov, the federal processor sends the applicant a Student Aid Report (SAR) and forwards information to the college(s) listed within approximately seven to ten days. The SAR is used by the College to determine eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and other financial aid programs based on the student's expected family contribution (EFC).

Applicants and their parents are cautioned to complete all forms as honestly and accurately as possible. Any person who knowingly makes false statements is subject to a fine or imprisonment or both under provisions of the United States Criminal Code. Applicants are also reminded that they may be asked to substantiate information submitted on the FAFSA if selected for verification. Approximately 30% of all applicants are selected for verification each year. Those selected for verification must provide documentation, such as IRS Tax Return Transcripts, in order to receive financial aid. Notification of documents required to complete the financial aid awarding process will be sent to the student's Gadsden State email and posted on Banner SSB which can be accessed using the myGadsdenState Portal at <https://my.gadsdenstate.edu>. Students are encouraged to check their College email accounts and Banner SSB frequently.

Note that application for financial aid must be made for each academic year; no awards are automatically renewed from year to year. Although the College accepts applications throughout the academic year, April 15 has been established as the preference filing date for applying for certain types of assistance.

The following financial aid programs are currently available:

1. **FEDERAL PELL GRANT** awards are determined by the student's cost of attendance, EFC, and enrollment status.
2. **FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (FSEOG)** are awarded to those eligible Federal Pell Grant recipients with the lowest EFC and highest unmet need. Priority will be given to students in converted credit hour programs.
3. **LEVERAGING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIPS (LEAP) PROGRAM** funds are awarded to eligible Alabama residents who demonstrate need and who are enrolled at least half time.
4. **FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)** funds are awarded to eligible students who complete FWS application and demonstrate financial need. FWS awards provide pay for part-time work to eligible students. Note, positions are limited.
5. **PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LOANS** are also available and are based on creditworthiness. Those interested should contact the Financial Aid Office for restrictions.

Those interested in detailed information on federal financial aid should request *The Student Guide* by writing the Federal Student Aid Information Center, P.O. Box 84, Washington DC 20044. Additional information may also be obtained in one of the Financial Aid Offices. The Gadsden State Financial Aid Office has locations in the One Stop Center, East Broad Campus (telephone: 256.549.8284; the Administration Building, Ayers Campus (telephone: 256.835.5420); Room 1216 of Building 3181, McClellan Center (telephone: 256.238.9341); and the Administration Building, Office 111, Gadsden State Cherokee (telephone: 256.927.1801).

Information provided is of a general nature and is not intended to explain in detail all financial aid programs. Programs described herein are subject to Federal, State, and institutional guidelines and are subject to change without notice.

Students without a high school diploma or GED are eligible for enrollment in the following programs: Auto Collision Repair, Auto Service, Carpentry, Diesel and Welding. In addition, students without a high school diploma or GED may be eligible to receive federal financial aid if they (1) have documented ability to benefit and (2) are concurrently enrolled in career pathway programs, which includes concurrent enrollment in adult education classes. (Note: Students without a high school diploma or GED who enrolled in postsecondary education prior to July 1, 2012, or who have earned at least six college credits are eligible to enroll in certain programs without concurrently enrolling in adult education classes.)

Students who are determined to be eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Grants, Alabama or other grants, and Federal Work Study will receive an instruction letter via Gadsden State email and on Banner SSB accessed using myGadsdenState Portal at <https://my.gadsdenstate.edu>. This email notification will indicate what is required to complete the financial aid process.

Once financial aid has been awarded, an award letter will be sent via Gadsden State email and posted to Banner SSB on myGadsdenState Portal at <https://my.gadsdenstate.edu>. Any assistance awarded is credited to the student's account to cover charges. If any credit balance remains once institutional charges are paid in full, a refund is issued and mailed to the address on file with the Records Office. Credit balance refund checks are mailed approximately two weeks after the full semester registration ends (following drop/add).

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be measured each semester at GSCC. Students are required under federal regulations to maintain certain standards of progress depending on the number of hours they have attempted in college. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand all policies associated with financial aid funding.

Satisfactory Academic Progress includes qualitative, quantitative, and rate of progression criteria. For the current SAP Policy click this link:

https://www.gadsdenstate.edu/financial_aid/satisfactory-academic-progress

Treatment of Financial Aid for Complete Withdrawal

A Return of Title IV Funds calculation is processed for a student who meets the following conditions: receives grant funds (or who meets the conditions that may entitle the student to a late disbursement), begins attending classes, and completely withdraws from the term. The Return of Title IV Funds calculation is a policy of the United States Department of Education that determines the amount of grant funds GSCC and/or the student are to return to a grant program. The term "Title IV Funds" refers to the Federal Financial Aid Programs authorized under the Higher

Education Act of 1965 (as amended) that at GSCC include the following programs: Federal Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants (FSEOG).

The student's recalculated grant award amount is used in the Return of Title IV Funds calculation. The percentage of Title IV aid earned is found by dividing the number of calendar days completed by the time of withdrawal date by the number of calendar days in the term. If the student has completed more than 60% of the term, the student is considered to have earned 100% of the Title IV aid. The amount of Title IV aid earned is found by multiplying the amount of aid disbursed for the term plus what could have been disbursed by the percentage of Title IV aid earned. If the amount earned is less than the amount of aid disbursed, the difference must be returned. If the student earned more than what was disbursed, a late disbursement may be due. If the amount earned equals the amount disbursed, no return and no disbursement are to be made.

GSCC returns the lesser of (a) the total amount of unearned aid or (b) an amount equal to the student's institutional charges multiplied by the percentage of aid unearned. The student is billed for funds returned by GSCC.

The amount of aid GSCC is to return is then subtracted from the amount of Title IV aid to be returned to find the initial amount of unearned Title IV aid for the student to return. The total of Title IV grant that was disbursed and could have been disbursed for the payment period is multiplied by 50% to find the amount of Title IV grant protected. The amount of Title IV grant protected is subtracted from the initial amount of unearned Title IV aid for the student to return in order to find the amount of Title IV grant funds for the student to return. In the event of an overpayment, GSCC notifies the student, and the student may be allowed 45 days to pay the amount in full to the Gadsden State Business Office. If full payment is not made to GSCC within 45 days, payments must be made to the U. S. Department of Education. While the overpayment is due, the student remains eligible for financial aid generally for 45 days from the date of the overpayment.

The amounts returned by either GSCC or the student are then distributed based upon the following priority schedule: (1) Federal Pell Grants and (2) FSEOG.

The Financial Aid Office processes the Return of Title IV Funds calculation. A student who has questions regarding the calculation should contact Kelly D'Eath at 256.549.8266. Forms, worksheets, and examples of calculations are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Treatment of Financial Aid if a Student Stops Attending Classes or Earns No Passing Grades in a Term

A Return of Title IV Funds calculation is processed for a student who meets the following conditions: receives grant funds (or who meets the conditions that may entitle the student to a late disbursement), begins attending classes, and stops attending classes or earns no passing grades in a term. The Return of Title IV Funds calculation is described in the previous section "Treatment of Financial Aid for Complete Withdrawal."

Alabama GI Dependents' Scholarship Program

Although not administered by the Gadsden State Financial Aid Office, the Alabama GI Dependents' Scholarship Program is another possible source of financial assistance for eligible students. This program is administered by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefit of an eligible dependent – a child, a stepchild, a spouse, or an un-remarried widow(er) – of a veteran (living or deceased) with a 20% or greater VA disability who was a permanent civilian resident of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to entry into military service. Special consideration is given to dependents of permanently and totally disabled veterans who are bona fide residents or who were bona fide residents prior to their death. Other categories are dependents of former prisoners of war (POW), dependents of veterans declared missing in action (MIA), and dependents of those who died in service. Maximum education benefits include tuition and fees (minus facility fee) at the in-state tuition rate and required textbooks. **NOTICE: Remedial courses are not funded under the Alabama GI Dependents' Scholarship Program.**

Dependent children must file an application prior to age 26 (to age 30 in certain cases). A spouse or widow(er) does not have a filing deadline or age limitation.

For more information and application procedures, students or prospective students should contact the nearest Veterans Affairs Office, located in each Alabama county courthouse, or write to Alabama GI Dependents' Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36102-1509 or visit the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs website, http://www.va.alabama.gov/gi_dep_scholarship.aspx

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides tax relief for qualified student taxpayers or for the qualified parent or guardian taxpayer of a qualified student dependent. Certain qualified expenses that are incurred

for studying at GSCC **may** result in “a credit against tax liability”.

The American Opportunity Credit is a replacement for the Hope Credit. The amount of the tax credit can be up to \$2,500 for four tax years (including any year(s) Hope Credit was claimed) per eligible student. Qualified students are those who are not receiving Pell grants, who have not completed the first four years of postsecondary education, who are enrolled at least half time for at least one term in an undergraduate degree or certificate program, and who are free of any felony drug conviction. The tax credit is 100% of the first \$2,000 and 25% of the next \$2,000 out-of-pocket costs of tuition and fees, and course-related books, supplies and equipment.

Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provides tax relief for qualified student taxpayers or for the qualified parent or guardian taxpayer of a qualified student dependent. Certain qualified expenses that are incurred for studying at GSCC **may** result in “a credit against tax liability”.

For those not eligible to receive the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit is available. The amount of the tax credit can be up to \$2,000 for an unlimited amount of years per tax return. Lifetime Learning Credit is available for all years of postsecondary education and for courses to acquire or improve job skills. Qualified students are those who are not receiving Pell grants. There is no requirement that the student attend as much as half time, no degree requirement, and felony drug convictions are permitted. The tax credit is 20% of the first \$10,000 out-of-pocket costs of tuition and fees only.

Students should note that Gadsden State Community College does not furnish tax advice. Such financial advice can be obtained from a personal tax advisor. IRS Publication 970 contains information about the qualification requirements of these tax credit plans. Interested persons may obtain a copy of IRS Publication 970 from the IRS website at www.irs.gov. Gadsden State will mail a Tuition Statement (IRS Form 1098-T) by January 31st of the following year to applicable students. The Tuition Statement reports the amounts billed during the year for qualified tuition and related expenses and provides the name and the telephone number of a Gadsden State contact person.

Scholarships

Students may be able to obtain scholarship assistance in addition to the financial aid programs described previously. Scholarships are awarded based on past academic/technical achievement, participation in extracurricular and leadership activities, and exhibited talents.

To be eligible for institutional waivers, students must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens. For more information regarding scholarships to GSCC, students should call 256.549.8203 or consult the **Scholarship Listing (Appendix B** page 220) for information pertaining to individual requirements and/or restrictions of scholarships offered. Scholarship offers are awarded on a competitive basis and are contingent upon applicant meeting admissions requirements and are based on available funding.

For information regarding transfer scholarships, student should call 256.549.8329.

Guidelines for Institutional and Athletic Scholarships

Full scholarships will cover tuition and fees, 12 credit hours or more, for fall and spring terms. Typically, the maximum number of credit hours that shall be provided by an institutional or athletic scholarship to any student shall be limited to the required number of credit hours in the student's originally declared major (as described in this catalog). Courses required as a condition of accepting a scholarship (i.e., basketball players required to take PED 171: Beginning Basketball) shall be granted additional hours of scholarship eligibility.

Appendix B Scholarships

In addition to the financial aid programs described previously, students may be able to obtain scholarship assistance. Scholarships are awarded based on past academic/technical achievement, participation in extracurricular and leadership activities, and exhibited talents. Scholarship offers are contingent upon applicant meeting admission requirements and are based on available funding. To be eligible for institutional waivers, students must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens. For more information regarding scholarships to Gadsden State Community College, students should call 256.549.8203. For information on transfer scholarships, students should call 256.549.8329.

Academic Scholarships are partial to full tuition awards offered each year. Awards are based on academic achievement, rank in class, and academic competitions. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is recommended; and, if submitted, ACT scores are considered.

ACE Institute Scholarship-Students interested in certain career technical programs, identified as high-wage, high-demand, may qualify for the ACE Institute Scholarship. The ACE Institute Scholarship is funded by the Career Technical Dual Enrollment Grant through the Alabama Community College System and pays for the cost of all tuition, fees, books, materials/supplies. See a current list of scholarship-eligible programs at www.gadsdenstate.edu/dualenrollment.

Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association (AAMA) Dr. Bernard J. Schroer Scholarships are facilitated through the Consortium for Alabama Regional Center for Automotive Manufacturing (CARCAM), supporting individuals pursuing a career/technical education certificate or associate degree in the Alabama College System in preparation for a career in the automotive manufacturing industry. Additional criteria and scholarship applications are available at www.carcam.org

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Incorporated Scholarship is awarded to a minority student enrolled in a Valley Street Campus Program. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. The Scholarship can be applied toward tuition, books, or fees. The scholarship is awarded as funds are available.

Ambassador Scholarships provide tuition for selected students who are willing to work as representatives of the College. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for an entering freshman. Selection criteria include academic merit, club/organization participation, and extracurricular activity. A 500-word essay expressing how life experiences have contributed to the applicant's preparation to become a GSCC Ambassador is required. In addition, the selection process may include an interview with the Ambassador Selection Committee.

Athletic Scholarships are offered to students who excel in various sports. Interested students should contact the GSCC Athletic Department by calling 256.549.8310. Scholarships are available for males in the following areas: basketball, tennis, and managers. Scholarships are available for females in the following areas: basketball, volleyball, and managers

Ayers Employee Fund provides assistance to students taking courses on the Ayers Campus. Priority is given to students in declared majors and those within one semester of graduation. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Bingo Scholarships are awarded to Etowah County residents. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Awards are based on available funds and are awarded for one term.

Barry Boatwright Memorial Scholarship provides tuition for a student in a science-related major. Selection is made by the Science Department.

Buffalo Rock Donation Athletic Scholarship is awarded to a full time student. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. The scholarship can be applied for tuition, book, supplies or fees to a female or male basketball player.

Buffalo Rock Donation General Scholarship is awarded to a full time student. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. The scholarship can be applied for tuition, book, supplies or fees.

Buffalo Rock Endowment Scholarship is awarded for fall and spring semesters to a deserving student. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Bush Memorial Endowment Scholarship is awarded for one term to a deserving student. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Larry Joe Chesnut Memorial Scholarship is awarded in memory of Larry Joe Chesnut to a second-year student with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Children of Blind Parents may be eligible for full tuition and fees scholarships. Recipients are selected by the State Department of Education, from which applications are available.

Citizen Baptist Medical Center Volunteer Program Scholarships provide partial tuition assistance to graduating high school seniors who attend high school in Talladega County. Applicants must have an overall high school GPA of 2.75 or higher, demonstrate leadership ability and community involvement, and express a desire to enter a medical field. Financial need is also taken into consideration during the selection process.

BBVA/Compass Bank Endowment Scholarship is awarded to students with at least a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Financial need is considered. Preference is given to bank employees and dependents.

Jerry L. Culberson Nursing Scholarships are awarded to Cherokee County residents who have been accepted into the nursing program and who plan to attend nursing classes at the Cherokee Campus. Applicants must

demonstrate academic success by meeting all progression requirements of the nursing program and must have a demonstrated financial need.

Culp Industries Endowment Scholarship is awarded to an employee or dependent of an individual who has been employed at the company for at least one year. A graduating high school student must have a minimum 2.5 GPA to apply and must maintain a 2.5 GPA to continue to receive this scholarship. Applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to document financial need.

Donation Scholarships are awarded as funds are available. Priority consideration is given to students in their last term of attendance prior to graduation. A minimum 2.0 GPA is required.

John Duncan Memorial Endowment Scholarships are awarded to residents of Etowah County. Applicants must demonstrate academic aptitude.

EMS Endowment Scholarships provide assistance that can be used for tuition and/or required books to students in the Emergency Medical Services program.

EMS Kayla Oglesbey Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an EMS major who has completed the Advanced EMT level at Gadsden State Community College and is entering into the Paramedic Program. The student may be full or part time. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, books, EMS fees, or NREMT testing fees.

Victor Ficker Endowment Scholarship covers tuition only. This scholarship is awarded as funds are available.

Amy Floyd Honorary Scholarship provides books and required supplies for a second-year RN student. Selection is made by the Nursing Department and awarded based on financial need and academic standing.

Joe & Brenda Ford Memorial Endowment Scholarships cover tuition for up to two semesters to full-time students. To be eligible to apply, the applicant must be a resident of Etowah County. Receipt of other forms of financial aid may affect eligibility to receive this scholarship.

Gadsden Rotary Endowment Scholarship is awarded to an Etowah County resident for one term only. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Gadsden State Community College Alumni Association Scholarships provide tuition assistance for qualified students. Criteria for selection include being a U.S. citizen or resident alien, a minimum overall 2.5 GPA, current enrollment at Gadsden State, completion of 24 credit hours prior to the scholarship terms awarded, résumé (education and honors, employment, memberships and leadership positions, extracurricular activities, and volunteerism) and career goals. Preference shall be given to students who are Association members and/or have family who are Association members. Selection is made by the GSCC Alumni Association.

Gadsden State Community College Faculty and Staff Scholarships are awarded based on availability of funds for one term only. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Gadsden State Community College Foundation offers scholarships for tuition, fees, and books to students attending Gadsden State Community College, as approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

GED One Free Class Scholarship provide one free class to students who have passed the GED after July 2002. Eligibility is determined by the Alabama Community College System, which is the State Office for the GED Testing Program.

GED Scholarships are awarded at the fall and spring GED graduations to the graduates with the highest GED test scores. The scholarships cover full tuition for up to two years. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required to maintain scholarship eligibility.

Griffith Memorial Nursing Scholarship was established by the Griffith family in honor of their mother, Sue McMeekin Griffith, who was a former GSCC faculty member. This scholarship is awarded to second-year RN students who demonstrate behaviors that evidence caring, compassionate attitudes toward patients. An adequate GPA to predict completion of the nursing program, as well as to predict licensure as a registered nurse, is required. Selection is made by the Nursing Department.

Greater Gadsden Home Builders Scholarship provides partial tuition scholarships to Technical Division students enrolled in carpentry, HVAC or electrical technology programs at a Gadsden campus, with consideration given for financial need.

Jonathan Harris Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving Special Education graduate of Etowah High School. Recipient is recommended by Etowah High School.

Honors Scholar Program offers scholarships to high-achieving and talented students who are seeking more intellectually challenging and creative college experiences. The classes in the program and the diploma will show designations as "Honors" and "Honors Scholar," respectively. A minimum 3.25 GPA and a composite ACT score of 25 or SAT score of 1200 are preferred. Selection is made by the Honors Scholarship Committee.

Mary F. Lambert Scholarship was established by August Lehi and friends of Mary Lambert to provide scholarships to students majoring in Realtime Reporting. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Selection is made by the Realtime Reporting Department.

Leadership in Childcare Scholarships provide tuition and selected fees to childcare center directors, teachers, and home providers to enroll in a Child Development program. The program is funded by the Alabama Department of Human Resources as a result of an initiative of the Alabama Childcare Consortium. To be eligible to apply for this assistance, a student must be a resident of Alabama, employed in a legally operating child care facility in Alabama caring for children ages birth through 12 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, and be at least 19 years of

age. Applicants must consult with the Child Development Program Instructor and obtain their signature on the scholarship application prior to submitting the application. Eligibility is determined by the Alabama Department of Human Resources

Manufacturing Enrichment Scholarship is available to a high school senior who has completed geometry (or equivalent) and who has an interest in pursuing a career in the manufacturing industry. Selection is made by the Gadsden Alabama Technology Network.

Mary Martin Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a student with a minimum 2.5 GPA. The scholarship can be used for tuition only.

Newell Massey Memorial Scholarship pays tuition only. This scholarship is awarded as funds are available.

E. O. McCord Endowment Scholarship provides tuition assistance to students in selected programs of study. First consideration is given to a second-year paralegal major. Next consideration is given to a second-year education or religion major. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Rena and Edgar McCord Endowment Scholarship provides partial tuition to a deserving student with first preference given to an education major, but could be awarded to another major depending upon student circumstances.

George McSpadden Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a part-time or full time student. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. The scholarship can be applied for tuition and associated fees. The recipient is recommended by the Music Department.

Meadows Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Shirley Meadows and is awarded to a deserving Clinical Laboratory Technology (CLT) student. The recipient is selected by the CLT Department.

Cam Menzies Memorial Scholarship provides a partial tuition scholarship to a deserving sophomore student in the Realtime Reporting Program. The recipient is selected by the Realtime Reporting Department.

Minority (HBCU) Scholarships are awarded to entering freshmen and currently enrolled minority students. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. The recipient is selected by the Minority Scholarship Committee. Preference is given to African-American students attending classes on the Valley Street Campus, which has been designated as a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Lucian Newman Endowment Scholarship is awarded to an EMS Basic graduate who has demonstrated outstanding potential and intends to pursue a career in Emergency Medical Services. The scholarship provides funds that cover partial tuition, fees, and/or textbooks expenses. Recipients must maintain National Registry status and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Lucian Newman, Jr., Award is a partial scholarship awarded to an EMS Basic graduate. Recipient must maintain National Registry status and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

James W. (Jim) Nolen Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a current year graduating high school student with a "B" average who demonstrates financial need, enrolls in a technical program, and is involved in community activities. The recipient must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Rebecca Nunnally Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a nursing student. Selection is made by the Nursing Department.

Operation Family Shield Scholarship Program was established in 2003 for spouses and dependents of the Alabama National Guard or reservists called to active duty. The scholarship has been expanded in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism. The scholarship provides tuition during the term of the activation. Tuition scholarships shall be available only after all other forms of federal financial assistance have been exhausted. Documentation required includes official copies of military orders, marriage licenses, birth certificates, and IRS tax returns. Certification from the appropriate military office should be obtained each semester to verify continued activation.

Opportunity Scholarships (Economically Disadvantaged Student) to students with financial need as set forth in the Alabama Community College System guidelines. Applicants must complete a FAFSA to verify financial eligibility. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required.

Peer Tutor Scholarships are offered to students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and have earned at least 24 semester hours of college credit at the time of the award. The scholarship will cover up to seven (7) credit hours per semester.

Nan Pentecost Scholarship was established by Eric Pentecost in honor of his wife, Nan. This scholarship provides partial tuition assistance for a second-year nursing student. Selection is made by the Nursing Department.

Performing Arts Scholarships provide tuition to students who excel in dance, band, chorus or drama. Awards will be on the basis of audition/portfolio. Recipients will be expected to perform while attending GSCC on scholarship and must register for the appropriate scholarship-related classes each semester.

Joe Robertson Memorial Scholarship is awarded yearly in memory of Joseph T. Robertson, a former GSCC history instructor. The scholarship pays partial tuition for a history or education major. A minimum 2.75 GPA is required. Selection is made by the History Department.

Sanders-Burgard Scholarships were established by Gadsden physician E. Max Sanders, M.D., and Martha Burgard Sanders. These scholarships cover tuition and books for students. Consideration will be given to students with financial need.

Senior Adult Scholarships will be limited based on available funds. In compliance with Alabama Community College System policies, this scholarship applies to tuition only, not including fees. To be eligible, a student must be an Alabama resident, age 60 or older. A student must register as of the first day of class or during the drop/add period. The scholarship will not apply to repeat classes, regardless of initial funding source, and can cover up to six (6) hours per semester, not to exceed a maximum benefit of \$690 per semester for the 15-16 award year. The Senior Adult scholarship will be available only after all other forms of financial assistance have been exhausted.

Skills Training Scholarships and Tuition Assistance Programs may be available for students participating in Skills Training Programs. For information regarding, Empowering Families, WIOA, and other tuition assistance programs, students may contact the Skills Training Department at 256.549.8640.

Student Government Association (SGA) Scholarship provides tuition assistance for the elected officers of the Student Government Association.

Student Nursing Association (SNA) Scholarships are funded by the SNA and awarded by the Nursing Department.

Technical Faculty and Staff Scholarships are presented to deserving Technical Division students, with consideration given for financial need.

Technology Scholarships are awarded to students planning to pursue technical degrees or certificates. GSCC offers partial to full tuition scholarships to students in technical majors. At least 75% of classes must be within the technical major. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Recipients are selected by the Technology Scholarship Committee.

Nell Thomas Memorial Nursing Scholarship is awarded yearly to a second-year RN student with consideration given to a student with financial need. Recipients are selected by the Nursing Department.

Upward Bound Bridge Scholarships pay tuition for one or two classes (depending on available funds) in the summer semester for participating students. This scholarship program assists graduating high school seniors in "bridging" the gap between high school and college.

Jim Vanderford Technical Scholarships are awarded to students pursuing technical degrees or certificates. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. Recipients are recommended by the Technical Scholarship Committee.

Jesse L. Walker, Jr., Business Scholarship is awarded to a full-time rising sophomore who is an Etowah County resident. The recipient must not qualify for any other financial aid and must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. Selection is made by the Business Department.

Riley Whitaker Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving graduating senior of Glencoe High School. Consideration is given based on academic record (minimum 2.5 GPA required), demonstrated financial need, and faculty/leader recommendations. Recipient is recommended by Glencoe High School.

Ruby and R. M. Walker Fund provides both full and partial tuition scholarships to students based on need and/or academic achievement.

Wells Fargo Scholarships are provided through a grant funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation. Through this grant, scholarships are provided to individuals with low to moderate income, including those unemployed or underemployed so that they may receive training to upgrade existing skills or to learn new skills in order to secure employment and economic self-sufficiency. Selection is made based on the grant guidelines. For additional information, please contact the Skills Training Department at 256.549.8640.

West/Pentecost Endowment Scholarship was established by Eric Pentecost in honor of his former Boy Scout leader, W. C. West. This scholarship provides partial tuition assistance to a second-year Electrical Technology or Electronic Engineering Technology student. Selection is made by the Technology Department.

Jerry W. Worthy & Larry T. Memorial Scholarship provides tuition, books, and supplies for a second-year nursing student. Selection is made by the Nursing Department.

Peggy Yurk Memorial Nursing Scholarships provide assistance to students in the final year of the nursing program. Recipients are selected by the Nursing Department.

NOTE: Private Scholarship Funds are applied to student accounts through the College Business Office 256.549.8214 or 256-549-8216).

Transfer Scholarships

Transfer Scholarships are available to most universities. In the twelve month period prior to completing academic work at Gadsden State, the student should inquire at the intended university or on the university's web site regarding scholarship opportunities. Scholarship awards are made by the sponsoring institutions; however, a few institutions permit the Gadsden State Community College Honors Committee to make recommendations regarding the recipients. Students may apply for transfer scholarships at the Student Activities Office in February in anticipation of transferring for the following Fall semester. The following institutions traditionally offer scholarships according to the details listed for each:

- **Jacksonville State University - The Presidential Transfer Scholarship – Apply directly to JSU**
Students who graduate an Alabama two-year college institution with a 3.5 GPA or better may apply prior to the scholarship priority deadline for a tuition scholarship to JSU. The scholarship covers 12 hours of tuition fall and spring semesters and is renewable for the second year with appropriate GPA. The scholarship may not be combined with any other institution-provided scholarships. Interested students may join the FUSION

program while at Gadsden State. The application deadline is strictly enforced and should be available on the JSU scholarship website.

- **The University of Alabama - Huntsville - World of Kathy Chan & Christel L. McCanless**
Students with 3.5 or higher GPA are encouraged to apply directly through UAH Scholarship Office for these and other transfer opportunities, and students are also encouraged to complete a Gadsden State Transfer Scholarship Application. The Chan and McCanless Scholarships are designated for Gadsden State students, so recommendation from the Gadsden State Honors Committee is frequently a deciding factor. The Chan and McCanless Scholarships are typically \$1800 per year and are renewable for a second year. These scholarships are permitted to be combined or "stacked" with other awards since they are privately funded.
- **The University of Alabama - Presidential Scholarship**
Students with a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher **who have earned or will earn an associate degree by August** from Gadsden State are encouraged to apply directly to UA for the Presidential Scholarship and also complete a Gadsden State Transfer Application. This scholarship covers the cost of tuition for up to four semesters, so its value changes depending on tuition. There are two scholarships designated for Gadsden State students.
- **University of Montevallo - President's Scholarship & Dean's Scholarship**
Students with a 3.25 GPA or higher are considered for these transfer scholarships. The Dean's Scholarship requires the recipient to live in on-campus housing. The President's Scholarship does not designate where the student lives. These scholarships offer \$3000 per year and are renewable for a second year. Phi Theta Kappa members receive an additional \$1000. One student for each scholarship is recommended by the Honors Committee.
- **Troy University**
Troy University has three types of scholarships specifically to assist transfer students. Students should apply directly to Troy to be considered for any of these. However, one scholarship is designated specifically for a Gadsden State student. The Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship is \$1,100 per year to the student who is selected by the Gadsden State Chapter. The student **must have completed two years of academic work, have a minimum GPA of 3.5, and be nominated by the Phi Theta Kappa advisor**. The student may not receive any other institutional scholarship from Troy University.