The Abbeville Promise

Frequently Asked Questions

February 19, 2018

1. What is the Abbeville Promise?

The Abbeville Promise is a placed-based last dollar scholarship program to attend Piedmont Technical College (PTC) for residents of Abbeville County who have received their High School diploma within 12 months or less of beginning to attend PTC full time. The scholarship will be for Associate’s Degree programs or its equivalent and cover tuition and required fees. The scholarship will begin with students entering as first year students in the fall of 2018 and will cover up to two years of study beginning in the fall of 2019.

1. Are there limits on the time from graduation to entering Piedmont Technical College?

Yes. For a student with a traditional high school diploma, you have twelve months from the time of receiving your diploma to entrance at Piedmont Tech as a full time student. For General Equivalence Diploma (GED) graduates, you need to have received your GED within twelve months of the completion of your high school studies and then be enrolled in Piedmont Tech. within twelve months of your GED diploma date.

1. Are the scholarships need based?

No. The emphasis is on providing all residents of Abbeville County assistance to ensure they can earn an Associate’s Degree free of any cost related to tuition and required fees.

1. What must a student do to be qualified for the scholarship?

Each student must apply for all Federal and State scholarships and grants using the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Following the determination of the total aid received from these sources, the Abbeville Promise will pay the remaining cost of tuition and required fees. Each student must meet the standard admission qualifications required of any student at PTC.

1. What are required fees?

Fees that are required of all students are covered in the Promise Scholarship. Not covered are fees such as application fees, contact-hour fees and course specific fees.

1. What if you receive a diploma from an Abbeville County school but do not live in Abbeville County?

You are not eligible for the Abbeville Promise scholarship.

1. How do you establish that a student is a resident of Abbeville County?

The location of the residence where the student is claimed as a dependent child for IRS purposes determines the permanent place of residence.

1. How do I start the application process?

Each student must fill out the online application found on the Freshwater Coast Community Foundation website. If you meet the Foundation’s qualifications, your information will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office of PTC. The student then can contact PTC for instructions on continuing the financial aid and application process. For more information and how to submit a FAFSA application online, a student should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov

1. What are eligible institutions?

If your major is offered at PTC, then you must attend PTC. However, if the major is not offered at PTC, then the student may enroll at another SC technical college that does offer the selected program. The degree or course of work must be at least 12 credit hours to be eligible and shall be subject to approval by the Foundation.

1. What degree programs are eligible?

All certificate and Associate Degree programs offered by PTC are covered.

1. Are summer school classes covered?

No

1. What if I am required to take developmental/remedial programs?

Students who enroll in developmental/remedial programs will not be eligible for Abbeville Promise funding unless the student is enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of non- developmental courses.

1. Is study abroad covered?

Only if the program is administered by an educational institution the student is attending. Students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours and no extraordinary tuition or expenses are covered.

1. Can the scholarship be transferred to a private college/university or out-of-state vocational training program?

No.

1. Are there additional requirements that must be met following initial award?

Yes. You must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) using the standard calculation used in other Federal and State Aid programs. If you fall below the level of SAP you are no longer eligible for the Abbeville promise funding. You must remain a full time student.

1. Are there other general requirements?

Yes. If you have been convicted of any felonies nor any second or subsequent alcohol or drug related misdemeanors within the previous 12 months of graduation and up to the entrance in PTC, you are not qualified for the Abbeville Promise.

If you have defaulted in any previous student Federal loans you are disqualified.

All students must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

1. How long will my scholarship last?

Until you receive you’re Associates Degree or 36 months whichever comes first however you must be a full time student in any case.

1. Are there any exceptions?

Yes. Exceptions are handled on a case by case basis for military or National Guard personnel. The exception for the full time requirement would be for programs of study that are less than 12 credit hours and are listed on the approved course of study attachment.

1. Can the funding by the Foundation be discontinued?

Yes, if extraordinary circumstances required the Foundation to discontinue the funding you will be notified as soon as possible.

1. Is there an appeals process?

Yes. Contact PTC Admissions Office or the Foundation for details.

1. What is the deadline for filing the application with the Foundation?

July 15th for the Fall term and October 15th for the Spring term.

This summary does not constitute a contract by or between the Foundation, PTC or the applicants. This summary is subject to modification as requirements are updated.