

G3: Financial Aid FAQ

The G3 initiative provides an opportunity for any Virginian to earn a college credential that meets critical employer demands. Virginia House Bill 2204 established G3 as a last-dollar grant *for eligible students after other grant aid is applied*. Funding is available for either credit or non-credit programs.

G3 is a limited pool of funds for students enrolled at least half-time in one of the eligible G3 credit or non-credit programs and will be awarded on a first-come/first-served basis as eligibility is determined.

G3 awards can cover tuition and mandatory fees and a textbook stipend of \$500 for full-time attendance, \$375 for three-quarter-time and \$250 for half-time enrollment.

Students who are enrolled full-time and receive a full Federal Pell Grant (based on a \$0 Expected Family Contribution), can receive a Student Support Incentive Grant (SSIG) of up to \$2,250 per year.

What does 400% of the poverty level mean?

Your income level will be assessed based on tax data provided on the current award year FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). For the 2021-2022 school year, 2019 tax information is used to complete the FAFSA. The 2019 Federal Poverty Level guidelines are available [here](#).

If your total household income on the FAFSA is less than or equal to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$50,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for a family of four), you may be eligible for G3 funding. Keep in mind, all taxable and untaxable income for student/spouse/parent(s) is included in total household income.

If household income has declined within the last two years, students are encouraged to submit an [income appeal](#) after they apply for financial aid.

How do I apply for financial aid?

To be considered for G3 funding for credit programs (AAS, CERT, CSC), applicants must [apply for financial aid](#) by filing a FAFSA each award year and be eligible for federal and state aid. Though verification rules for 2021-2022 were recently changed, some students will still be selected for verification and/or may be required to provide additional documents (such as copies of tax returns for themselves and/or their parents). Conflicting information must also be resolved.

Revised 7.20.21

Students must monitor their “To-Do List” items in MyNOVA to ensure the financial aid office has all the necessary items to process an award. If household income has declined within the last two years, students are encouraged to submit an income appeal after they apply for financial aid.

Can students enroll in unrelated G3 programs?

The G3 initiative is intended to get students back into the workforce and centers around the concept of *stackable* credentials. Therefore, students cannot enroll in two unrelated programs and receive G3 funding. An example of disparate programs would be Early Childhood Development and Cybersecurity.

How many “stackable programs” are allowed?

Multiple G3 programs must be stackable. The number of stackable G3 programs is limited only by the CSCs and/or Certs that are embedded in the AAS. Stackable means the credits apply to both the CSC or Cert and the AAS.

Two AAS degrees are not considered stackable. A student cannot be enrolled in AAS Information Systems Technology and AAS Cybersecurity, as they are not stacked.

Can students enroll in a G3 program and a transfer program?

The goal of the G3 initiative is to get students back into the workforce as quickly as possible. Therefore, students cannot be enrolled in NOVA’s transfer degree programs and receive G3 funding. Students should work with their academic advisors to choose the programs of study most appropriate for their career goals.

Are students who have defaulted on their student loans eligible?

No, students who have defaulted on Federal/FFEL student loans are ineligible for Federal Financial Aid and cannot receive G3 funding.

If a parent refuses to provide information for the student’s FAFSA, making the student eligible for loans only, would the student be eligible for G3 funding?

Unfortunately, these students would not be eligible for G3 funding because NOVA cannot appropriately determine percent of poverty level. Students in this situation cannot be treated

as independent students unless additional documentable circumstances exist that indicate why this student should be treated differently than all other students.

If a student has failed SAP, is the student G3 eligible?

No, students who have failed Satisfactory Academic Progress standards are ineligible for Federal Financial Aid and cannot receive G3 funding.

I was awarded G3 funding; will amounts change?

Students are initially awarded G3 funds based on full-time enrollment (12 or more credits) until adjustments are made after the 15-week term census date that occurs a few weeks into the term. G3 awards will be adjusted to actual enrollment at that time. Please do not ask for awards to be adjusted prior to the normal adjustment period.

At census date, awards will change if a student is less than full-time or has added or dropped credits. Credits dropped or never attended will also result in changes to awards and could mean that students owe back funds already awarded/received.