



Financial Aid for Student Accessibility Services

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New York State TAP [top](#)

NYS [TAP](#) eligibility typically requires students to be registered for a minimum of 12 new credit hours per semester. An exception may be made for part-time students who are registered with the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#). Part-time students may also qualify for an Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) grant, which is also funded by NYS Higher Education Services Corporation. Note that students cannot receive both TAP and APTS in the same semester.

New York State Excelsior [top](#)

To be eligible for an NYS Excelsior Scholarship, students with qualified disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act who attend less than full time must register with the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#).

The Excelsior Scholarship program requires that students be continuously enrolled and complete the number of credits attempted each semester to fulfil the requirement for on-time degree completion. If a student does not earn credit for all courses attempted, they can catch up on missing credits during a Summer and/or Winter session(s) and get back on track for credits that were not previously completed. If the student is attending full-time, they are required to meet all the requirements as a full-time student.

How you can help:

- Encourage students who may be eligible for either of these grants to meet with an advisor in the Student Accessibility Services Office or Financial Aid Office.
- The APTS Application is available on the Financial Aid Office [Forms](#) website. Applications are typically accepted through mid-September and are used for fall and spring. Students beginning in the spring semester should submit the application by mid-February.

No Federal Aid Accommodations [top](#)

Federal student aid regulations do not provide any accommodations for students with disabilities. Therefore, students with disabilities must be able to maintain the same academic progress standards and are limited by the same annual and lifetime limits of the various aid programs (e.g., Pell Grant, TAP Grant, loans) as typical students.

How you can help:

- Encourage students to work closely with their advisor to enroll in required courses and to build a course schedule they can manage. Students that cannot maintain a full-time course load may receive aid by attending part-time.

- Avoiding withdrawals and failing grades is critical for students to complete their degree within the limits of their aid eligibility.
- Students should complete the [FAFSA](#) as soon as possible so that they will have ample time to meet with counselors to work out any problems or make changes. Aid applications must be filed annually and are available beginning October 1st for the upcoming academic year.

Medical Leaves of Absence [top](#)

Students sometimes need to take a partial or full withdrawal for medical reasons after the start of a semester. [Withdrawing](#) after the start of a semester can have an impact on the student's financial aid for the semester that they are withdrawing from and in future semesters. If their aid has already disbursed, a recalculation of their aid may be required and some of their aid may need to be returned to the federal government which could leave them with an amount owed to Buffalo State that was previously paid.

The course withdrawals also may result in deficiencies in federal and/or state [satisfactory academic progress](#) (SAP) standards. Students deficient on Federal SAP standards receive one warning semester to come back into compliance. Students deficient on NYS SAP standards lose their eligibility immediately and do not receive a warning semester. However, both standards may be appealed if extenuating circumstances existed and can be documented.

How you can help: Before withdrawing or taking a leave of absence, students should be encouraged to contact the Financial Aid and Student Account Offices to discuss how their decision may impact their current and future aid eligibility.

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation [top](#)

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) is part of the New York State Education Department. ACCES-VR, formerly known as the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID), assists individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment. Students may be eligible to receive funding through New York State to assist them with their tuition costs.

How you can help: Inform the student of these services if they are not already aware. Students can learn more online at the [ACCESS-VR](#) website.