NY State Financial Aid Program Limits

How much NY State TAP can I receive?

While attending Brooklyn College you may receive up to a total of eight (8) full-time (or ten (10) for students in SEEK) TAP payments. The amount of TAP payments you have received at all prior colleges that you attended are kept on record with NY State. Brooklyn College is required to review the number of TAP payments you previously received to ensure that you do not receive more TAP payments than are allowable. The number of TAP payments you received at your prior college will be deducted from the eight (8) (or ten (10) for SEEK) total allowable payments.

What If I used TAP at another college?

If you used TAP at another college Brooklyn College must first determine how many TAP payments you have remaining. For example if you used four (4) payments at your prior college you would have four (4) payments remaining (or six (6) if you are a SEEK student). Brooklyn College must then determine that you meet the academic criteria for the payment number you are up to.

How do my academics at my other college affect my TAP eligibility?

The NYS TAP grant has very specific academic requirements for eligibility, among them are:

- You must be taking at least 12 credits that are applicable toward your program of study (which includes general education, major, and allowable elective coursework)
- You are not allowed to repeat a course for which you received a passing grade unless a minimum grade is required by your academic bulletin and you did achieve that grade.
- If you are taking a course at Brooklyn College that you already took at your prior college and that course fulfills the degree requirement as an equivalent to a Brooklyn College course then the course would not be considered as credit for full-time enrollment towards your TAP eligibility.
- Your transfer evaluation must be completed no later than the last day to add a class. An incorrect transfer evaluation may cause you to register for courses that you do not need for your program of study and thus make you ineligible for TAP.
- If you are transferring in with 60 or more credits you must declare your major by that semester’s major declaration deadline posted on the academic calendar. Failure to declare a major by the deadline will result in being ineligible for TAP.

Common Financial Aid Problems When Transferring and How to Avoid Them!

1) No Financial Aid application on file because the student:
- Did not complete their Transfer Credit Evaluation before the semester began and therefore enrolled in non-applicable courses or did not declare major by the semester’s deadline. Completing transfer evaluation on time lets you know which of your courses were accepted by Brooklyn College so that you do not enroll in coursework that you have already met the equivalency for. NYS Aid eligibility is contingent on taking correct coursework and can only be properly assessed after transfer evaluation has been completed. Visit the Transfer Student Services Center located in 1600 James Hall (Phone 718-951-5263) for help with transfer evaluation process.
- Did not meet with a general and/or department academic advisor before registering and enrolled in non-applicable courses. It is imperative that every transfer student meet with an academic advisor before registering to ensure that the courses they enroll for are applicable to their program of study. Eligibility for NYS TAP is contingent on enrolling in appropriate coursework.
- Did not check DegreeWorks online through the link in the CUNYfirst Student Center to see if the courses they are enrolled in are needed or not needed for their program of study. Make sure to also check the BC website to review the college bulletin you are following to ensure applicability.

2) Lost TAPNY State Aid eligibility because the student:
- Did not check their CUNYfirst to determine the status of their financial aid. Checking CUNYfirst is the best way to know if something is still incomplete.
- Did not acknowledge and complete the items on their CUNYfirst To Do list in a timely manner. Make sure to address all items on your To do list well before the semester begins.
- Waited until the last minute to begin completing financial aid processes. Waiting until the last minute when office traffic is high leads to long wait times and delays in receipt of aid.
- Did not check their Brooklyn College email for notifications from their advisor or other offices about outstanding requirements. Your BC email is one of the primary modes of communication. Not checking your email will mean missing out on important notifications that might make the difference in getting aid to you as soon as possible.
Welcome to Brooklyn College!
The transfer process to Brooklyn College involves transferring both your academic records as well as your financial aid record. This guide provides you with the information you need as a transfer student to ensure that you understand and address all necessary processes to allow your financial aid to transfer smoothly before your first semester at Brooklyn college begins.

Understanding the Financial Aid Transfer Process
Will my financial aid automatically transfer with me to Brooklyn College? No. Your financial aid application is different than your transfer admission application to the college. If you have filed a FAFSA and TAP application you must update these applications to make sure that your financial aid record transfers to Brooklyn College.

How do I check the status of my financial aid application(s)? Financial aid information is available on your CUNYfirst Student Center. CUNYfirst is the online integrated system that you will use to register for classes, check financial aid status, enroll in direct deposit, review tuition and fees balances and view what other processes are needed to complete your admission and financial aid processes at Brooklyn College.

When should I update my Financial Aid applications? The FAFSA allows you to add up to ten (10) schools at one time so you can add Brooklyn College at any time you are considering applying to the college. The TAP application only allows you to indicate one school at a time per term so you should update your TAP application for the term you expect to start at Brooklyn College.

How does Brooklyn College receive my FAFSA and TAP application after I add the school codes? As long as you have been admitted to Brooklyn College your FAFSA will be received within 5-7 business days from when you added the Brooklyn College School Code. The TAP application is received on the next roster from the state. Rosters are sent once per month during the first week of the month. Check with your prior college’s TAP coordinator to make sure you are not certified for a TAP award at that college for the semester you are planning to transfer to Brooklyn College.

How do I check the status of my financial aid application(s)? Financial aid information is available on your CUNYfirst Student Center. CUNYfirst is the online integrated system that you will use to register for classes, check financial aid status, enroll in direct deposit, review tuition and fees balances and view what other processes are needed to complete your admission and financial aid processes at Brooklyn College.

Once you have claimed your CUNYfirst account it is imperative that you review your financial aid record and "To Do List" in your CUNYfirst student center to make sure your aid has transferred and that you have addressed all outstanding items on your CUNYfirst To Do list.

Who can help me with Financial Aid questions? You can visit the Office of Financial Aid at the Enrollment Services Center (ESC) in the West Quad Building. Also, every FAFSA applicant that is admitted to Brooklyn College is assigned a financial aid advisor who acts as their guide. Your advisor is available to you, by appointment, in person or by phone. You can also contact the office by email at finaid@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

When should I complete this by? All transfer processes (academic and financial aid) should be completed at least four weeks before your bill due date to ensure that your classes are not cancelled and that you have adequate aid and a plan to finance your education. Waiting until the last minute will cause significant delay in your ability to receive aid which may affect your ability to attend and do well in your courses. Also, waiting until the last minute means longer wait times and limited advisor appointment availability.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN LIMITS CHART

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What else should I know about Federal Aid?

What if I am pursuing a Second Bachelor’s degree? If you have a prior Bachelor’s degree earned at any college (foreign or U.S.) then you are not eligible for a Federal Pell grant. Any Federal direct loan amounts that you borrowed in the past for undergraduate study will be applied towards the aggregate limit that you can borrow. For TAP, if you have remaining TAP payments, you are considered to transfer in with 90 credits and must therefore declare your major in your first semester. Also, all coursework that you take must be applicable to the major.

What If I had a Financial aid special circumstance at another college? If you had a special circumstance situation such as consideration for FAFSA Dependency, or adjustments to your income then you must initiate that process at Brooklyn College as well. Schedule an appointment with your financial aid advisor for more information.

What other types of financial aid are available at Brooklyn College? Aside from TAP, Pell and Direct loans students may be considered for Federal Work-Study, Scholarships, or special Education Opportunity Programs (called SEEK) which may provide additional financial assistance.