

Frequently Asked Questions

Taking Courses Outside of Your Academic Requirements

Can I receive federal financial aid for courses that fall outside of the requirements for my Southeast Community College degree or diploma?

- No. Federal regulations prohibit SCC from awarding financial aid for classes that do not count toward a student's SCC degree or diploma. Most SCC programs require elective credits; courses that apply to your remaining electives or other academic requirements can be used to determine your financial aid eligibility.
- For students using federal financial aid, this means that while you can certainly take courses outside of your academic requirements, financial aid eligibility determinations cannot include the courses that do not apply. This may result in your financial aid award being reduced.
- Your financial aid award is applied directly to your tuition bill. If your award amount is reduced, your tuition charges may still be fully covered. Every student's situation is unique, so pay attention to the emails you receive in your SCC student email account and work with both Academic Advising, your Program Advisor and Financial Aid to make the best decisions for you.

I received an email saying that I am registered for a course that does not apply to my degree or diploma. What should I do now?

- First, speak with an academic advisor or your program advisor. An advisor will ensure that your academic program plan (the degree or diploma you are pursuing) is entered in our system correctly and that it matches your goals. An advisor will identify the classes that are required for your SCC degree or diploma and can help you decide which classes are best to meet both SCC requirements and the transfer requirements of four-year universities you may be considering.
- If you use financial aid, you should speak with your Financial Aid Office to see how taking a class outside of your requirements will affect your financial aid package. Some students will not have any impact to their awards, while others will see their aid packages reduced.
- Regardless of your method of payment, be aware that taking courses that don't apply to your degree or diploma can result in longer time to graduation and a higher cost. Speak with an advisor to see if there is a similar course you can take that will apply to your academic requirements.

How do I know which classes are required for my degree or diploma?

- All students have access to their degree audit in the student portal. Your degree audit shows the classes that are required to earn your degree or diploma, including how your previous coursework applies to requirements and the classes you still need to complete. Taking classes that do not apply to these requirements may result in your financial aid award being reduced.
 - You can find your degree audit by logging in at thehub.southeast.edu, clicking *WebAdvisor For Students > Academic Planning > Program Evaluation*, select your program and click SUBMIT.
- You will get a weekly message sent to your SCC student email if you register for a course that falls outside of your academic requirements.

What if I want to take classes to prepare to transfer or because they sound interesting?

- You can always register for any classes that you want! However, federal regulations prohibit SCC from using courses that fall outside of your academic requirements to determine your aid eligibility. This means that you may have to pay out of pocket for some or all of your tuition if your classes do not apply to your SCC requirements.
- To determine if your financial aid package will be adjusted based on your registration, speak with the Financial Aid Office immediately.

I use financial aid and am planning to take a course (or more) that does not apply to my degree or diploma. How can I tell if I will owe a bill for my tuition?

- Your financial aid package is dependent on many factors, one of which is how many credits you are taking that apply to your academic requirements.
- For the most complete information about your financial aid package, speak with the Financial Aid Office at your college.

Will federal financial aid cover courses that are required for my transfer college/university?

- It depends. Once you complete the requirements for your SCC degree or diploma, federal financial aid will not cover additional courses that you might need for your transfer destination. You may still want to complete additional courses at SCC, but you will be responsible to pay for them.
- Careful planning with an advisor early in your time at SCC can maximize your financial aid eligibility and ensure that you take classes that apply to both your SCC requirements and the requirements of your intended transfer destination.

I am taking remedial/developmental classes that are not part of my academic requirements. Will I receive financial aid for these classes?

- Yes. The federal government considers these preparatory classes for successful completion of college level courses. However, financial aid will pay for a maximum of 30 semester credit hours of these courses.
- Speak with your Financial Aid Office for details on how remedial coursework can affect your financial aid award.

How will I know if the classes I'm registered for will be covered by financial aid?

- The best way to maximize your financial aid eligibility is by taking classes that are required for your academic program at SCC. You can check how the classes you registered for are applying to your requirements by reviewing your degree audit.
 - You can find your degree audit by logging in at thehub.southeast.edu, clicking WebAdvisor For Students > Academic Planning > Program Evaluation, select your program and click SUBMIT.
- If you have any questions about which classes are required for your degree or diploma, speak with a college advisor.
- Check with your college's Financial Aid Office if you have questions about how your financial aid award may be adjusted based on your enrollment.