



Graduate Column

Special Feature Follow Up!

\$\$ TCNJ MAKES CENTS \$\$

The cost of graduate school is always an essential consideration when pursuing continuing studies, especially at this particular time of economic strife. Affordability, loan information and payment options are important factors that matter to students seeking ways to cover the costs of their degree. Whether you are a full-time student, part-time student while working, or simply continuing your education and furthering your knowledge, The College of New Jersey provides information and possibilities for alternative payment options to help relieve the angst students experience with their expenses.

Graduate students who are matriculated or working toward a certificate in an eligible program are eligible for Federal Loans. Students must be enrolled for half time status (5 credits) at The College of New Jersey and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA 2009-10). Please remember the following:

Complete the FAFSA on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov

Use the TCNJ college code 002642

Federal Personal Identification Number (www.pin.ed.gov) is required to allow students to electronically complete and sign the FAFSA

Summer financial aid is available. Please complete the TCNJ Summer School Financial Aid Application at www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/summer.html. You must have a 2008-09 FAFSA on file to be considered for aid. Limited financial resources are available during the summer session. Generally, aid is awarded from a student's remaining eligibility from 2008-09 Academic year under the Federal Stafford Loan Program; Subsidized and Unsubsidized options. Grad students can also consider the Grad Plus Loan and apply at www.hesaa.org/federalPLUSapply.html.



We are proud to announce a payment plan for the 2009 Summer Sessions. During these challenging economic times, The College wants to provide students with an easy, user-friendly plan for summer school payments.

The payment plan will work through TuitionPay and allow for four equal payments of Summer school tuition and fees starting in April and ending in July. Any currently enrolled or entering TCNJ student may take advantage of this plan. There is a \$45.00 enrollment fee to participate. This fee is applied to the outstanding account balance. The deadline to enroll is April 15, 2009. A newly accepted student entering TCNJ after this deadline may speak with the Office of Student Accounts prior to May 8th regarding any possible summer plan.

Please visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~summer/summerpaymentplan-tcnj.html> for complete instructions on how to take advantage of this incredible offer!

Another option for financial assistance is applying for a Graduate Assistantship position through the Office of Graduate Studies. Matriculated students who are enrolled full-time can apply for placement in various departments throughout the campus, depending on availability. Graduate Assistants work 15 hours per week during the Fall and Spring semesters and are credited a \$5,000* tuition waiver in each of the two semesters. Assistantship applications must be filed by April 15th for consideration for the next academic year. The process is a competitive one as more students apply than there are positions available. The assistantships are also a great way for graduate students to gain more learning experiences outside of the classroom and to integrate themselves into campus life. For more information, see

www.tcnj.edu/~graduate/assistantships.html.

(*subject to change)

The College of New Jersey offers several resources for graduate students to obtain information to assist with financial concerns. All TCNJ billing and financial responsibilities are managed online and students are reminded to frequently access their billing statements and check their TCNJ email to ensure all deadlines and applications are met. For more information, students can visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/index.html>.

