



WILTON SIMPSON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

All visitors must check in at the Administration Office

Main Campus

**17050 Spring Hill Drive,
Brooksville, Florida 34604
352-797-7018**

Extension Campus

**14075 Ken Austin Pkwy
Brooksville, Florida, 34613**

Sophia Watson,

Director of Adult & Technical Education

BRIGHT. TECHNICAL. CAREERS.

Mission Statement

The mission of Wilton Simpson Technical College is to empower our community to grow and be successful by providing quality education through our innovative programs.

Vision Statement

To be leaders in adult and technical education.

Governance/Accreditation

Wilton Simpson Technical College (STC) is governed by five (5) elected officials who constitute the Hernando County School Board. The district superintendent is the chief administrative officer of all the schools in the district. STC's Director has the primary responsibility for the operation of the school.

STC, as part of Hernando County Public School System, is subject to certification standards for its faculty that are equivalent to those required in other public supported schools. Instructors are experienced in their respective fields and maintain high standards of instruction. STC's faculty members are certified by the Florida Department of Education and/or the Hernando County School Board on the basis of their technical qualification, actual work experience in the occupation they teach, and professional training as teachers. Thus, they must have technical competence as well as professional teacher training.

STC is served by an Institutional Advisory Committee whose function is to advise and make recommendations to the Director concerning the curriculum, equipment, operation and goals of STC. Committee members are selected for their interest, experience, and other qualities which enable them to make worthwhile contributions to the community. In addition, each program is served by an occupational advisory committee which is composed of men and women who are employed in the field or trade represented by the program. These people are of invaluable service in evaluating programs, keeping instructors abreast of current industrial needs and technological needs as they pertain to job skills and job placement.

STC is a public institution of the Hernando County School Board, certified by the Florida Department of Education and accredited by the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education.

Contact Information:

Council on Occupational Education

7840 Roswell Road, Building 300

Suite 325

Atlanta, GA 30346





Dear Students,

Welcome to Wilton Simpson Technical College! I am honored to spend this year with you as you embark on your educational journey. I hope you find that the staff and faculty will do their best to help you be successful during your time with us.

Please take time to review this Program Handbook. There is information in the handbook that will be useful to you throughout this academic year.

Wilton Simpson Technical College offers many opportunities for you to gain valuable adult & technical training. Those who enroll in a technical training program will learn excellent training and employability skills each year. Whether you choose to go directly into the workforce or to go on to another postsecondary program, you will leave our school being empowered to compete with your peers.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Wilton Simpson Technical College, we once again welcome you and look forward to working with you during this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sophia Watson

Director of Adult & Technical Education

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ACCREDITATION

Wilton Simpson Technical College is fully accredited with the Council on Occupational Education. Initial accreditation was granted on February 19, 2017 and is approved until 2022. The agency contact details are:

Council on Occupational Education
7840 Roswell Road
Building 300, Suite 325
Atlanta, GA
30350
(770)-396-3898
www.council.org

Program accreditation is also held for our Automotive and Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology programs. Automotive is approved through NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation) The agency contact details are:

NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc.)
101 Blue Seal Drive
S.E. Suite 101
Leesburg, VA
20175
Tel: 703-669-6650
Fax: 703- 669-6125
www.natef.org

Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology is approved through HVAC Excellence. The agency contact details are:

HVAC Excellence
PO Box 491
Mount Prospect, IL
60056
Tel: 800-394-5268
Fax: 800-546-3726
www.hvacexcellence.org

Licensing information for our Cosmetology program is held through:

Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines St
Tallahassee, FL
32399
Tel: 850-245-9020
www.fldoe.org

Accreditation documentation pertaining to the school and its accredited programs is available on request, and will be provided in paper format, through our administrative office.

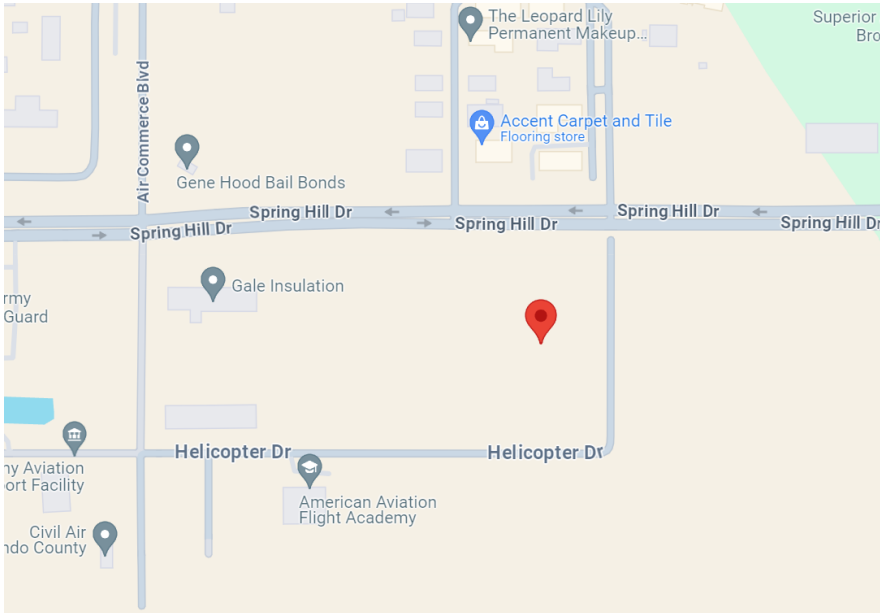
General Information

Campus and Facilities

Main Campus

17050 Spring Hill Drive

Brooksville, FL 34604



Extension Campus

Central High School

14075 Ken Austin Pkwy.

Brooksville, FL 34613



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Adult students and those over the age of 16 who have left formal secondary education may enroll in STC's adult and technical programs. Students entering 9th grade prior to the 2003-2004 school year or from an out of state school must take the CASAS test and meet the minimum standards for their selected program, unless they qualify for a basic skills exemption.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

STC does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin. Students' age 16 years old and older with the goal of learning an adult and/or technical skill offered by STC are encouraged to apply. (Minor students should refer to the Administrative office for admission criteria). All programs are subject to space available.

1. Students interested in a technical program are encouraged to make an appointment for a tour of their program of interest with STC staff.
2. Students will need to submit all requested paperwork, including transcripts and/or diplomas, proof of Florida residency for in-state tuition rates (Two forms of identification are required) at orientation.
3. Submit the applicable tuition and fees and/or FASFA information.
4. Students needing financial assistance can contact the Administrative office who will direct students to agency funding sources.
5. Students must take the CASAS exam unless a basic skills exit requirement exemption exists. The exam is administered by STC Staff, and an appointment will be made for you within six weeks of class start date.

BASIC SKILLS EXIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

Section 1004.91, Florida Statute (F.S.) and State Board of Education Rule 6A – 10.040 mandate that students who enroll in a program of 450 hours or more “may not receive a career and technical certificate of completion without first demonstrating the basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for the career education program.” STC provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate basic skill requirement through the CASAS exam. The Florida Department of education has placed basic skill levels on all programs in the curriculum frameworks. CASAS scores are valid for a period of one (1) year.

Based on Rule 6A – 10.040 and Rule 6A – 10.0315, students are exempt from the basic skills requirement if they meet any of the following conditions

- The student presents a transcript indicating an award of a college degree at the associate of applied science level or higher.
- The student entered 9th grade in Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school year or thereafter, and earned a Florida standard High School Diploma.
- The student who is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services
- The student passes a state or national industry certification or licensure examination aligned to the career program in which the student is enrolled.
- A student is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education in accordance with chapter 446.

The purpose of assessment is to determine whether or not the student has the basic skills necessary to be successful in the chosen career program.

TRANSCRIPTS

At the completion of a program a certificate of completion along with a transcript will be issued to the student provided there are no outstanding fees. A \$2 charge will be required for each additional transcript request.

FINANCIAL AID COUNSELING

Financial aid counseling is available to provide information and assistance to students who wish to apply for financial assistance. Prior to course start date all tuition and fees must be paid or accounted for.

Note: Financial Aid approval does not automatically result in admittance into Wilton Simpson Technical College.

PLACEMENT

Wilton Simpson Technical College and CareerSource Pasco Hernando has resources, both traditional and on-line, to provide placement assistance to students seeking employment upon completion of their occupational training. STC program instructors, administration and staff provide valuable information and resources to support job placement.

The CareerSource on-line link is <https://www.careersourcepascohernando.com/> and provides much placement opportunities under the “Job Seekers” tab. The career center hosts local job vacancies under “Hot Jobs” that is updated frequently. CareerSource also utilizes the “Employ Florida Marketplace” to assist student to secure employment in their field of training.

TUITION AND FEES FOR ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION

Adult Education students are assessed \$30.00 per term for instruction in GED®, ESOL, Adult High School or Adult Basic Education classes. For short-term, fee-based classes, the full cost of instruction determines the cost of the class. Tuition and fees are set by the Florida Legislature and are subject to change without notice.

Community Education course fees will vary. Please consult the website for the most up to date information.

Fees must be paid prior to the first day of classes. Payment can be made by cash, or check.

No fees shall be charged for co-enrolled classes.



EMPLOY FLORIDA

The Employ Florida Marketplace is your one-stop online resource for job listings, education and training opportunities, career building assistance and much more. By registering with Employ Florida and posting your resume you will be able to access many features and services to help you in your career search. A User Guide, accessed from the Employ Florida website, was developed to help students get started.

Listed below are a few of the services that are provided through Employ Florida:

- Help Finding Job Openings - You can review available jobs and apply online.
- Job Market Trends - Access current market trends based on available job orders. You can research regional labor market information, such as salaries.
- Resume Builder - This tool will provide you with a professional format to help you create, store, update and post your resume online.
- Letter Builder - This tool will help you create, store and update letters you will need during a job search.
- Employer Information - You can find detailed information on employers that may be of interest to you. These employers may or may not have any current job openings.
- Employers Posting Jobs - You will be able to view employers who have jobs available in the system.
- Virtual Recruiter - Let Employ Florida's Virtual Recruiter schedule a recurring search for job openings that meet your qualifications.

STC encourages student to register with Employ Florida during the last few weeks of the student's chosen Program. This will give students an opportunity to look for a job while completing the program. STC staff are available to assist students with placement needs.

Employ Florida Link: <https://www.careersourcepascohernando.com/>



HOUSING

Wilton Simpson Technical College does not provide dormitory space or any type of housing facility.

TRANSFER POLICY

Official transcripts from other colleges, technical centers and accredited institutions will be evaluated by an academic advisor and the instructor and credit may be given for the appropriate units of instruction.

Students with previous technical training from other institutions may receive credit for that training. An official transcript from a Florida public institute documenting Student Performance Standards and/or Occupational Completion Points achieved for a specific technical program will be accepted in transfer at the receiving institute for the same technical program. An official transcript from a non-public institution that is fully accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and that participates in the common course numbering system will be accepted in transfer for the same course/ program. Official transcripts from non-accredited institutions will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education and the program instructor to determine if advanced placement in a given program is applicable. All documentation, including transcripts, must be received by Wilton Simpson Technical College prior to the student starting their program.

Students wishing to transfer programs within STC must submit a letter to the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education requesting a transfer. Students must be in good standing in their current program to be considered for transfer. Students transferring between programs may not change programs in the middle of the term but must wait until the start of the next term to enroll in a different program. Students granted permission to transfer to a new program will not be issued transfer hours.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Students wishing to withdraw from a program prior to program completion need to meet with the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education . The Coordinator will review with the student the options that are available should the student want to return at a future date. The student will be given a short exit survey, the result of which will be used for data reporting purposes. The student must settle any financial obligations prior to leaving.

Students wishing to withdraw from a program prior to program completion must meet with a Financial Aid Specialist to determine if the student has to pay back any of his/her Pell award. Students are asked to confirm with the Administrative Office their current mailing and email addresses to facilitate quick processing of any refunds.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM LENGTH

Program lengths vary from 600 to 1200 clock hours. Please see individual program listings for additional information on the required program hours – hernandoschools.org/schools/stc

RE-ADMISSION POLICY

Students who withdraw or are administratively withdrawn due to a violation of the code of conduct or due to unsatisfactory academic progress, including, but not limited to unsatisfactory attendance, will not be re-admitted without approval by the Director of Adult and Technical Education. Students who are administratively withdrawn and wish to be considered for re-admission into the same program of study, must write an appeal letter to the Director requesting re-admission within seven (7) days of the notification of withdraw. If approved for readmission, the Director will be responsible for making the decision for the re-entry date. Any outstanding debt must be paid in full prior to re-admission.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STUDENT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE POLICY

In accordance with federal and state laws, Hernando County School District and STC will obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records. However, Hernando County School District may disclose appropriately designated directory information without written consent UNLESS you advise Hernando County School District to the contrary.

STUDENT RECORDS

All matters concerning student records are processed, developed, and maintained by the Staff/Financial Aid department. Certificates are processed and issued; transcripts are prepared and provided at the student's request within a reasonable period of time. Fees may be associated with transcripts and some services.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (FERPA)

Annually, Wilton Simpson Technical College, informs students of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, (FERPA) as amended. The administrative office will disclose FERPA information by publishing a notice in the student catalog and on the appropriate web locations. This annual notice shall prescribe the procedures whereby a student may make a formal request for non-disclosure of directory information, exercise the right to inspect and review education records, request an amendment of education records, and file a complaint with the school.

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Students should submit to the administrative office, a written request that identifies the education record(s) they wish to inspect. If the records are not maintained by the administrative office, the school shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed. The appropriate school official will arrange for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the school will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without prior consent of the student is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as a member of the faculty or staff, members of the HCSB School Board, or a person under contract to the school to perform a task such as a consultant, attorney or auditor. Student or community members of school committees are also included in the definition of school officials as are student employees assisting a school official in performing his or her tasks.

Inter-institutional disclosure may be made between the school and entities that administer or participate in joint programs or activities and that further a legitimate educational interest because such disclosures are considered made to "school officials". Directory Information at Wilton Simpson Technical College, is defined as information contained in an education record of a student that generally would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory Information will be made available to the general public unless the student notifies the administrative office in writing of the wish for privacy. A copy of the Non-Disclosure of Directory Information form is provided to each student at enrollment. Additional copies can be obtained at the administrative office.

The right to file a complaint concerning alleged failures by the Wilton Simpson Technical College, to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Director of Adult and Technical Education
17050 Spring Hill Drive

Brooksville, FL 34604
(352)797-7018
Watson_s@hcsb.k12.fl.us

As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education's FERPA regulations expanded the circumstances under which your education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records -- including your Social Security Number, grades, or other private information -- may be accessed without your consent. Covered under this provision are:

The U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities (Federal and State Authorities) who may allow access to your records and PII without your consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is "principally engaged in the provision of education", such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administrated by an education agency or institution.

Federal and State Authorities may allow access to your education records and PII without your consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when the school objects to or does not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive your PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities.

In connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without your consent PII from your education records, and they may track your participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about you that they obtain from other Federal and State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL AID FOR TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Financial aid is available to eligible students. Information regarding sources and the eligibility to receive funding may be obtained in the Financial Aid Office. The amount of financial aid is dependent upon financial need; therefore, the amount awarded may vary from student to student. The attendance policy and satisfactory academic progress must be maintained throughout the length of the program to remain eligible for Federal Financial Aid. Students losing their benefits may re-enroll as self-pay until such time benefits can be reinstated.

Postsecondary students are assessed tuition, books/kits and lab fees. These fees are discussed during the enrollment period and are payable upon registration. Certain programs require the purchase of supplies, insurance, tools and uniforms. Generally, items purchased are used in employment after graduation. Fees are subject to change without notice. Florida residents are assessed tuition by the clock hour at the current rate set by the Florida legislature. A Florida resident is defined as a person whose official residence has been in the state of Florida for one full year prior to enrollment. The current in state tuition rate is \$2.44 per clock hour. The out of state rate is \$9.32. There is also a \$5 student ID fee. Information on the cost of individual programs may be obtained on the Wilton Simpson Technical College website at hernandoschools.org/schools/stc

Payment for program tuition is made at the time of registration at the Administrative Office based at 17050 Spring Hill Drive, Brooksville, Florida, 34604. Payment of approved installment plans can also be made at the Administrative Office. Cash, money order, debit card, Visa, Discover and Master Card are accepted forms of payment for most programs.

Potential payment issues should be discussed with the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education to rectify any issues. Students will be given a verbal reminder if installment plan is one day late. After two weeks a written reminder of payment due will be mailed to the student. After thirty days of non-payment a letter confirming withdrawal from the program will occur if payment is not received within fifteen days. After forty-five days a certified letter will be mailed to the student withdrawing them from the program. Re-entry into a Wilton Simpson Technical College program may be allowed as long as any outstanding amounts are paid.

If third party funding fails to provide payment within 30 days, the student is responsible for the balance of the tuition and fees. Failure to provide payment within 7 days will result in withdrawal from the program.

In order for a program to be eligible for Title IV aid it must:

- 1) Admit as a regular student a person who meets one of the following:
 - a) Have a valid high school diploma
 - b) Have a GED diploma
 - c) Have a valid state authorized high school equivalency examination (HiSet, TASC etc...)
- 2) Offer a course that has supervised training of at least 600 clock hours in duration and leads to a certificate that prepares students for gainful employment in recognized occupations.

To be Eligible to receive Federal Student Aid, you will need to:

- 1) Qualify to obtain a college or career school education, either by having a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED 2014®) certificate, or by completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law.
- 2) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a **regular student** in an eligible certificate program. A regular student is someone who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate offered by the school.
- 3) Have a valid Social Security number unless you are from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.
- 4) Completed a FAFSA and the school must have a current SAR to start the initial eligibility process.

- Sign certifying statements on the *FAFSA* stating that:
 - you are not in **default** on a **federal student loan**
 - do not owe a refund on a **federal grant**
 - Sign the required statement that you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes
- 5) Maintain **satisfactory academic progress (SAP)** while you are attending college or a career school.
- 6) The Pell Grant program does not require half time enrollment, but the student enrollment status does affect the amount of Pell a student may receive. A student may receive Pell for a total of 12 payment periods or 600%. Once the student has reached this limit, no further Pell may be received.

In addition, you must meet one of the following:

- 1) Be a U.S. CITIZEN or U.S. NATIONAL
 - a) You are a U.S. citizen if you were born in the United States or certain U.S. territories, if you were born abroad to parents who are U.S. citizens, or if you have obtained citizenship status through naturalization. If you were born in American Samoa or Swains Island, then you are a U.S. national.
- 2) Have a GREEN CARD
 - a) You are eligible if you have a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C, also known as a green card, showing you are a U.S. permanent resident.
- 3) Have an ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE RECORD
 - a) Your Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must show one of the following:
 - b) Refugee
 - c) Asylum Granted
 - d) Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)
 - e) Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
 - f) Parolee
- 4) Have BATTERED IMMIGRANT STATUS
 - a) You are designated as a **“battered immigrant-qualified alien”** if you are a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the **Violence Against Women Act**.
- 5) Have a T-VISA
 - a) You are eligible if you have a T-visa or a parent with a T-1 visa.
- 6) **U-Visa” holders** are not designated as qualified aliens under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), and are therefore not eligible for Title IV, HEA program funds. However, U-Visa holders may convert to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after they have physically been present in the United States for a continuous period of at least three years after the date of admission given on their U-Visa.
 - a) Once LPR status has been granted, the holder of LPR status becomes a qualified alien under the PRWORA (see above), and thus potentially eligible for Title IV, HEA funds (assuming they meet all other eligibility requirements, for example, being enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program, having a high-school diploma or its recognized equivalent, having a Social Security number.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL AID

As a student consumer, you have the RIGHT to:

- Be informed of the correct procedures for applying for aid, cost of attendance, types of aid available, how financial need is determined, criteria for awarding aid, how academic progress is determined and what you have to do to continue receiving aid.

- Be informed of the type and amount of assistance you will receive, how much of your need has been met and how and when you will receive your benefits.
- Appeal any decision of the Financial Aid office with regard to your application.
- View the content in your financial aid file, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- Know the job description and rate of pay for any student job you accept.

It is your responsibility to:

- Complete all application materials correctly and submit them on time.
- Read all materials sent to you from the Financial Aid office.
- Know and comply with rules governing the aid you receive.
- Provide additional documentation, verification, corrections, and/or new information requested by the Financial Aid office.
- Use financial aid only for expenses related to attending post-secondary education.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Notify the Financial Aid office of any resources not considered during your original need analysis and aid not listed on your award letter. Failure to notify us can jeopardize your future financial aid.
- Keep your local and permanent addresses current at the Registrar's office.

FEDERAL TITLE IV GRANT PROGRAMS

The purpose of the Title IV Program is to provide a foundation for financial assistance to students in higher education. Other programs are secondary or supplementary to Pell Grant. The Title IV Program makes funds available to eligible students attending approved colleges, community/ junior colleges, technical colleges, and other educational facilities through PELL or the Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary Program. To apply for Title IV funds, you must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [at studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) in accordance with the instructions of the application and return that completed form to the Financial Aid office. Read instructions carefully; do not estimate. Take your financial information directly from your tax forms. The information will be transmitted electronically; the results which will be returned to the school in an Student Aid Report (SAR) within 3 – 4 days. Determination of the grant amount will be based on the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) contained in the Institutional Student Information Record, the cost of attendance at the eligible school of your choice, and the payment schedule issued to all eligible educational institutions by the US Department of Education. To be eligible to receive the Pell Grant, the student must be enrolled in a program that:

- Is at least 600 clock hours in length.
- Is postsecondary in nature. The student must also meet one of the following requirements:
 - ❖ A standard high school diploma or
 - ❖ A high school equivalent through a GED® certificate or
 - ❖ Qualifying assessments (TABE) within 6 weeks of start date

One of the criteria for financial aid eligibility is meeting and maintaining the financial aid academic progress requirement at STC defined by the school policy. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand these requirements

PELL GRANT PROCESS

After receiving the Student Aid Report (SAR), the applicant must return to the Financial Aid office for a review of the SAR and completion of the Financial Aid folder.

The following information is required for each folder:

1. Application for Vendor Status / Pell Grant Stipend.
2. W-9.

3. Certification of Financial Aid Information.
4. Student Data Form.
5. Non-filer Statement, if applicable.
6. Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress.
7. Verification Worksheet, if selected for verification. Verification - is a required federal process of checking the accuracy of information that applicants supply on their financial aid applications. Applicants who apply for financial aid should be aware that they may be selected for verification. Selection is based on Federal Department of Education guidelines. If the applicant is selected, he/she will be notified. Applicants selected for verification are not eligible to receive financial aid funds until they have submitted all required verification information.
8. A copy of all Income Tax Return transcripts, if applicable.
9. Verification of all untaxed income reported on the FAFSA.

Obtaining information is the responsibility of the student. No federal funds can be disbursed until the student's financial aid folder is complete. If a student changes enrollment status or programs, it is important to notify the Financial Aid Office to ensure Financial Aid benefits are calculated accurately.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

This is a service to conserve the working usefulness of persons with impairment who have reasonable expectations of becoming employed. Students who may qualify for vocational rehabilitation aid to attend post-secondary education should contact the office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

VETERANS' & DEPENDENTS' BENEFITS

Educational benefits are available to qualified veterans and children of deceased and disabled veterans. As a veteran or dependent, you may be entitled to certain benefits, and be eligible to participate in certain programs. For information, please contact the Financial Aid office.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

As a veteran, you are entitled to certain benefits and are eligible to participate in certain programs. The following information should serve as a brief overview of these programs and your benefits. For additional information please contact the Financial Aid office. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

APPROVED PROGRAMS

An excellent way for veterans to use their education benefits is pursuing an approved program of study at an institute of higher learning. All programs of study must be approved by the State Approving Agency in order to be certified by Department of Veteran Affairs for payment of benefits. All regular programs at STC are currently approved by the State Approving Agency.

HOW TO APPLY

Students may contact the Financial Aid office for assistance in applying for veteran benefits. The chapter under which you are filing will determine the documentation required by the Department of Veteran Affairs to certify your benefits. The website address www.benefits.va.gov/gibill has information to assist students.

ENROLLMENT CHANGES

If a veteran changes enrollment status or changes course or program, it is important to notify the Financial Aid office for certification purpose. If a VA student fails to notify the financial aid officer of changes, recertification will be delayed. A Change of Program or Status form is required by the Department of Veteran Affairs and may be obtained at the Financial Aid office.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a student receiving Veterans' Educational Assistance, you are responsible for immediately notifying the Financial Aid office of any changes in your certificate program or reduction in your clock hours. STC requires that all tuition and any applicable fees be paid prior to the final program course start date.

OTHER FINANCIAL AID

Receiving veteran's benefits does not necessarily prevent a student from receiving other forms of financial aid. Applications and assistance are available in the Financial Aid office. Phone numbers for more information about applying for educational benefits are:

- STC Financial Aid office 352-797-7018 ext. 477
- Department of Veterans' Affairs; Atlanta office 1-888-442-4551

VETERAN'S ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students exceeding 20% total absent hours out of their total scheduled hours in a calendar month will be terminated from their VA benefits for unsatisfactory attendance. In order to show that the cause of unsatisfactory attendance has been removed, students must show good attendance (equal or greater than 85% attendance) for one calendar month after being terminated for unsatisfactory attendance. After such time, the student may be recertified for VA education benefits. Attendance for VA students is tabulated during the first week of each month, for the previous month's attendance. If a student has violated the attendance policy stated above, they will be notified immediately in writing. The student's attendance record will be retained in the veteran's file for USDVA and SAA audit purposes.

VETERAN'S CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS EDUCATION OR TRAINING

Students must report all education and training. The school must evaluate and grant credit, if appropriate, with the training time shortened, the tuition reduced proportionately, and the VA and student notified.

ATTENDANCE VIOLATION APPEALS

Students who feel that they have grounds for appeal to an action taken as a result of the requirement may appeal to the director. Upon written notification of violation, a student has five calendar days to fill out the VA Attendance Policy Appeal Form (found in the back of this handbook) and set up an appointment with STC Administration. An immediate date will be scheduled for the appeal. The STC Financial Aid office will be notified of the final appeal decision within 15 calendar days of the student's initial receipt of violation notification and will communicate with VA accordingly.

VA ATTENDANCE APPEAL PROCESS

Attendance for VA students is tabulated during the first week of each month, for the previous month's attendance.

- VA student attendance will be monitored on a monthly basis.
- Within five (5) calendar days of a detection of a less than 85% attendance percentage the VA student will be notified in writing of a termination of services.
- VA student has five calendar days to appeal the termination through the attendance appeal process.
 - Fill out the VA Attendance Policy Appeal Form (found in the back of the student handbook or with VA officer)
 - Attach documentation
 - Return to administration and schedule an immediate hearing date
- VA student will be notified in writing of the administrative appeal decision within 15 calendar days of initial notification.
- A copy of the decision will be sent to the STC Financial Aid Office. A VA Certifying Official will immediately notify VA Education of the decision.

Veterans Policy Requirement When Payment is Delayed

This policy permits any covered individual to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to Financial Aid Officer for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which the payment from the VA is made to the institution; OR;
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the COE

This policy ensures that the educational institution does not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or to require that a covered individual borrow additional funds due to the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement of funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33.

CHECK WRITING POLICY

If your check is returned or rejected for any reason, you expressly authorize your bank account to be electronically debited for the amount of the check, PLUS a minimum processing fee of \$25.00 or the maximum amount allowed by law. Wilton Simpson Technical College uses Check Care for collection action on all returned checks. A copy of their graduated charges is available on request.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

Three-Day Cancellation: An applicant who provides written notice of cancellation within three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and federal and state holidays) of signing an enrollment agreement is entitled to a refund of all monies paid. No later than 45 days of receiving the notice of cancellation, the school shall initiate the process for the 100% refund.

Other Cancellations: An applicant requesting cancellation more than three days after signing an enrollment agreement and making an initial payment, but prior to entering the school, is entitled to a refund of all monies paid, minus the registration fee of \$30.

Refund after the commencement of classes:

- 1) Procedure for withdrawal/withdrawal date:
- 2) A student choosing to withdraw from the school after the commencement of classes is to provide written notice to the Administration Office. The notice is to indicate the expected last date of attendance and be signed and dated by the student.
 - a.) For a student who is on authorized Leave of Absence, the withdraw date is the date the student was scheduled to return from the Leave and failed to do so.
 - b.) A student will be determined to be withdrawn from the institution if the student has not attended any class for 30 days.
 - c.) All refunds will be initiated within 45 days of the determination of the withdrawal date.
 - d.) After the commencement of classes, the tuition refund, minus the registration fee of \$30 will be determined.
- 3) Tuition charges/refunds:
 - a.) Before the beginning of classes, the student is entitled to a refund of 100% of the tuition, minus the registration fee of \$30.

RETURN OF TITLE IV, HEA POLICY

Introduction

When you apply for financial aid, you sign a statement that you will use the funds for educational purposes only. Therefore, if you withdraw before completing your program, a portion of the funds you received may have to be returned. STC will calculate the amount of tuition to be returned to the Title IV, HEA Federal fund programs according to the policies listed below.

This policy applies to students' who withdraw official, unofficially or fail to return from a leave of absence or dismissed from enrollment at STC and are enrolled in Title IV aid. It is separate and distinct from the STC refund policy. (Refer to institutional refund policy found in the Program Catalog)

The calculated amount of the Return of Title IV, HEA (R2T4) funds that are required for the students affected by this policy, are determined according to the following definitions and procedures as prescribed by regulations.

The amount of Title IV, HEA aid earned is based on the amount of time a student spent in academic attendance, and the total aid received; it has no relationship to student's incurred institutional charges. Because these requirements deal only with Title IV, HEA funds, the order of return of unearned funds do not include funds from sources other than the Title IV, HEA programs.

Title IV, HEA funds are awarded to the student under the assumption that he/she will attend school for the entire period for which the aid is awarded. When a student withdraws, he/she may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV, HEA funds that were originally scheduled to be received. Therefore, the amount of Federal funds earned must be determined. If the amount disbursed is greater than the amount earned, unearned funds must be returned.

The institution has 45 days from the date that the institution determines that the student withdrew to return all unearned funds for which it is responsible. The school is required to notify the student if they owe a repayment via written notice.

The school must advise the student or parent that they have 14 calendar days from the date that the school sent the notification to accept a post withdraw disbursement. If a response is not received from the student or parent within the allowed time frame or the student declines the funds, the school will return any earned funds that the school is holding to the Title IV, HEA programs.

TREATMENT OF TITLE IV, HEA AID WHEN A STUDENT WITHDRAWS

The law specifies how your school must determine the amount of Title IV, HEA program assistance that you earn if you withdraw from school. The Title IV, HEA programs that are covered by this law are: Federal Pell Grants, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants, TEACH Grants, Direct Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOGs), and Federal Perkins Loans.

Though your aid is posted to your account at the start of each period, you earn the funds as you complete the period. If you withdraw during your payment period or period of enrollment (your school can define these for you and tell you which one applies), the amount of Title IV, HEA program assistance that you have earned up to that point is determined by a specific formula. If you received (or your school or parent received on your behalf) less assistance than the amount that you earned, you may be able to receive those additional funds. If you received more assistance than you earned, the excess funds must be returned by the school and/or you.

The amount of assistance that you have earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if you completed 30% of your payment period or period of enrollment, you earn 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed more than 60% of the payment period or period of enrollment, you earn all the assistance that you were scheduled to receive for that period.

"OFFICIAL" WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SCHOOL

A student is considered to be "Officially" withdrawn on the date the student notifies the Financial Aid office or Administration Office in writing of their intent to withdraw. The date of the termination for return and refund purposes will be the earliest of the following for official withdrawal:

- 1) Date student provided official notification of intent to withdraw, in writing or orally.

- 2) The date the student began the withdrawal from STC records. A student is allowed to rescind his notification in writing and continue the program. If the student subsequently drops, the student's withdrawal date is the original date of notification of intent to withdraw.

Upon receipt of the official withdrawal information, STC will complete the following:

- 1) Determine the student's last date of attendance as of the last recorded date of academic attendance on the school's attendance record;
- 1) Two calculations are performed:
 - a) The student's ledger card and attendance record are reviewed to determine the Calculation of Return of Title IV, HEA funds the student has earned, and if any, the amount of Title IV funds for which the school is responsible. Returns made to the Federal Funds Account are calculated using the Department's Return of Title IV, HEA Funds Worksheets, scheduled attendance and are based upon the payment period.
 - b) Calculate the school's refund requirement (see school refund calculation)
- 2) The student's grade record will be updated to reflect his/her final grade.
- 3) STC will return the amount for any unearned portion of the Title IV funds for which the school is responsible within 45 days of the date the official notice was provided.
- 4) They will provide the student with a letter explaining the Title IV, HEA requirements:
 - a) The amount of Title IV assistance the student has earned. This amount is based upon the length of the time the student was enrolled in the program and based on scheduled attendance and the amount of funds the student received.
 - b) Any returns that will be made to the Title IV, HEA Federal program on the student's behalf as a result of exiting the program. If a student's scheduled attendance is more than 60% of the payment period, he/she is considered to have earned 100% of the Federal funds received for the payment period. In this case, no funds need to be returned to the Federal funds.
 - c) Advise the student of the amount of unearned Federal funds and tuition and fees that the student must return, if applicable.
- 5) Supply the student with ledger card record noting outstanding balance to the school and the available methods of payment. A copy of the completed worksheet, check, letter and final ledger card will be kept in the student's file.

In the event a student decides to rescind his or her official notification to withdraw, the student must provide a signed and dated written statement that he/she is continuing his or her program of study, and intends to complete the payment period. Title IV, HEA assistance will continue as originally planned. If the student subsequently fails to attend or ceases attendance without completing the payment period, the student's withdrawal date is the original date of notification of intent to withdraw.

UNOFFICIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

In the event that the school unofficially withdraws a student from school, the Administrative Office and/or Financial Aid Specialist must complete the Withdrawal Form using the last date of attendance as the drop date.

Any student that does not provide official notification of his or her intent to withdraw and is absent for more than 10 consecutive calendar days will be subject to termination and considered to have unofficially withdrawn.

Within one week of the student's last date of academic attendance, the following procedures will take place:

- 1) The education office will make three attempts to notify the student regarding his/her enrollment status;
- 2) Determine and record the student's last date of attendance as the last recorded date of academic attendance on the attendance record;
- 3) The student's withdrawal date is determined as the date the day after 10 consecutive calendar days of absence;
- 4) Notify the student in writing of their failure to contact the school and attendance status resulting in the current termination of enrollment;
- 5) STC calculates the amount of Federal funds the student has earned, and, if any, the amount of Federal funds for which the school is responsible.
- 6) Calculate the school's refund requirement. (see school refund calculation)
- 7) STC's Financial office will return to the Federal fund programs any unearned portion of Title IV funds for which the school is responsible within 45 days of the date the withdrawal determination was made and note the return on the student's ledger card.

- 8) If applicable, STC will provide the student with a refund letter explaining Title IV requirements:
- a) The amount of Title IV aid the student has earned based upon the length of time the student was enrolled and scheduled to attend in the program and the amount of aid the student received.
 - b) Advise the student in writing of the amount of unearned Title IV aid and tuition and fees that he/she must return, if applicable.
 - c) Supply the student with a final student ledger card showing outstanding balance due to the student and the school and the available methods of payment.

A copy of the completed worksheet, check, letter, and final ledger card will be kept in the student's file.

STUDENT AND INSTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES

If you receive (or your school or parent receive on your behalf) excess Title IV, HEA program funds that must be returned, your school must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of:

- 1) Your institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of your funds.
- 2) The entire amount of excess funds.

The school must return this amount even if it didn't keep this amount of your Title IV, HEA program funds.

INSTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES IN REGARDS TO RETURN OF TITLE IV, HEA FUNDS

STC's responsibilities in regards to Title IV, HEA funds follow:

- Providing students information with information in this policy;
 - Identifying students who are affected by this policy and completing the return of Title IV, HEA funds calculation for those students;
 - Returning any Title IV, HEA funds due to the correct Title IV, HEA programs.
- The institution is not always required to return all of the excess funds; there are situations once the R2T4 calculations have been completed in which the student must return the unearned aid.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- If your school is not required to return all of the excess funds, you must return the remaining amount.
- Any amount of unearned grant funds that you must return is called an overpayment. The maximum amount of a grant overpayment that you must repay is half of the grant funds you received or were scheduled to receive. You do not have to repay a grant overpayment if the original amount of the overpayment is \$50 or less. You must make arrangements with your school or the Department of Education to return the unearned grant funds
- Student Responsibilities in regards to return of Title IV, HEA funds
- Returning to the Title IV, HEA programs any funds that were dispersed to the student in which the student was determined to be ineligible for via the R2T4 calculation.
- Any notification of withdrawal should be in writing and addressed to the appropriate institutional official.
- A student may rescind his or her notification of intent to withdraw. Submissions of intent to rescind a withdraw notice must be filed in writing.
- Either these notifications, to withdraw or rescind to withdraw must be made to the official records/registration person at your school.

REFUND VS. RETURN TO TITLE IV, HEA PROGRAM FUNDS

The requirements for Title IV, HEA program funds when you withdraw are separate from any refund policy that your school may have. Therefore, you may still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges. Your school may also charge you for any Title IV, HEA program funds that the school was required to return. If you don't already know your school's refund policy, you should ask your school for a copy. Your school can also provide you with the requirements and procedures for officially withdrawing from school.

WITHDRAWAL BEFORE 60%

The institution must perform a R2T4 to determine the amount of earned aid through the 60% point in each payment period or period of enrollment. The institution will use the Department of Education's prorate schedule to determine the amount of the R2T4 funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal.

WITHDRAWAL AFTER 60%

After the 60% point in the payment period or period of enrollment, a student has earned 100% of the Title IV, HEA funds he or she was scheduled to receive during this period. The institution must still perform a R2T4 to determine the amount of aid that the student has earned. STC measures progress in Clock Hours, and uses the payment period for the period of calculation.

THE CALCULATION FORMULA

Determine the amount of Title IV, HEA aid that was disbursed plus Title IV, HEA aid that could have been disbursed.

Calculate the percentage of Title IV, HEA aid earned:

- a) Divide the number of clock hours scheduled to be completed in the payment period as of the last date of attendance in the payment period by the total clock hours in the payment period.

HOURS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE

TOTAL HOURS IN PERIOD = % EARNED

- b) If this percentage is greater than 60%, the student earns 100%.
- c) If this percent is less than or equal to 60%, proceeds with calculation.

Percentage earned from (multiplied by) Total aid disbursed, or could have been disbursed = AMOUNT STUDENT EARNED.

Subtract the Title IV aid earned from the total disbursed = AMOUNT TO BE RETURNED.

100% minus percent earned = UNEARNED PERCENT

Unearned percent (multiplied by) total institutional charges for the period = AMOUNT DUE FROM THE SCHOOL.

If the percent of Title IV aid disbursed is greater than the percent unearned (multiplied by) institutional charges for the period, the amount disbursed will be used in place of the percent unearned.

If the percent unearned (multiplied by) institutional charges for the period are less than the amount due from the school, the student must return or repay one-half of the remaining unearned Federal Pell Grant.

Student is not required to return the overpayment if this amount is equal to or less than 50% of the total grant assistance that was disbursed /or could have been disbursed. The student is also not required to return an overpayment if the amount is \$50 or less.

STC will issue a grant overpayment notice to student within 30 days from the date the school's determination that student withdrew, giving student 45 days to either:

- 1) Repay the overpayment in full to STC
- 2) Sign a repayment agreement with the U.S. Department of Education.

ORDER OF RETURN

STC is authorized to return any excess funds after applying them to current outstanding Cost of Attendance (COA) charges. A copy of the Institutional R2T4 work sheet performed on your behalf is available through the office upon student request.

In accordance with Federal regulations, when Title IV, HEA financial aid is involved, the calculated amount of the "R2T4 Funds" is allocated in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Direct Stafford loans (other than PLUS loans)
- Subsidized Direct Stafford loans
- Parent Plus loans
- Direct PLUS loans

- Federal Pell Grants for which a Return is required
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant for which a Return is required
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Other Title IV assistance
- State Tuition Assistance Grants (if applicable)
- Private and institutional aid
- The Student

EARNED AID:

Title IV, HEA aid is earned in a prorated manner on a per diem basis (calendar days or clock hours) up to the 60% point in the semester. Title IV, HEA aid is viewed as 100% earned after that point in time. A copy of the worksheet used for this calculation can be requested from the financial aid office.

Time Frame for Returning an Unclaimed Title IV, HEA Credit Balance

- If a school attempts to disburse the credit balance by check and the check is not cashed, the school must return the funds no later than 240 days after the date the school issued the check.
- If a check is returned to a school or an EFT is rejected, the school may make additional attempts to disburse the funds, provided that those attempts are made not later than 45 days after the funds were returned or rejected. When a check is returned or EFT is rejected and the school does not make another attempt to disburse the funds, the funds must be returned before the end of the initial 45-day period.
- The school must cease all attempts to disburse the funds and return them no later than 240 days after the date it issued the first check.

OVERPAYMENT OF TITLE IV, HEA FUNDS

Any amount of unearned grant funds that you must return is called overpayment. The amount of grant overpayment that you must repay is half of the grant funds you received or were scheduled to receive. You must make arrangement with STC or Department of Education to return the amount of unearned grant funds.

RETURN TO TITLE IV, HEA QUESTIONS

If you have questions about your Title IV program funds, you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243). TTY users may call 1-800-730-8913. Information is also available on Student Aid on the Web at www.studentaid.gov.

* This policy is subject to change at any time, and without prior notice.

CREDIT BALANCE

A Credit balance is remaining Title IV funds after tuition, books and supplies and fees have been paid. Every Credit balance will be given to receiving student within three (3) days of receiving Title IV funds via the student receiving a check for remaining credit balance.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY

A student must make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their academic program to be eligible for federal, state and institutional aid, and the institution must have a reasonable policy for monitoring that progress.

Wilton Simpson Technical College Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships reviews each student's satisfactory academic progress at the end of each payment period after grades have been posted.

All students, including those who have transfer credits, are required to meet three measures of academic progress in order to maintain eligibility for federal financial aid which includes grants, loans and work-study. The three requirements are:

1. Maintain a cumulative academic grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0; and
2. Successfully complete at least 67% of credits attempted; and

3. Complete a certificate or degree within 150% of the published length of the program.

Students must meet all of the SAP requirements listed above to be eligible to receive federal financial aid. If the requirements are not met, students will be notified via certified mail.

COMPONENTS OF STC'S SAP POLICY FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

The quantitative and qualitative standards listed below are used to evaluate the cumulative results of all periods of enrollment for clock-hour students at STC, including those payment periods during which the student did not receive federal financial aid funds or other types of financial assistance. Thus, a student who has not previously received federal financial aid may still be ineligible even though it is their initial financial aid application.

FREQUENCY OF EVALUATION FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

Federal regulations require an institution to evaluate SAP at least annually for programs that are longer than one year and every payment period for programs of one year or less. STC evaluates all components of SAP at the point when the student's scheduled clock hours for the payment period have elapsed regardless of whether the student attended those hours.

QUALITATIVE COMPONENT FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

STC uses the student's cumulative academic grade point average (GPA) to measure qualitative progress. To meet this standard federal financial aid recipients are required to achieve and maintain a minimum cumulative academic GPA of 2.0 which is consistent with STC's graduation requirements. The cumulative GPA that STC uses to evaluate the student's SAP status is calculated based on all courses that have been attempted and apply toward the current certificate.

QUANTITATIVE COMPONENT FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

Federal regulations require a quantitative component that evaluates the maximum timeframe in which students must complete their educational program and a pace of completion that ensures they will complete the program within the timeframe. STC requires that all financial aid recipients successfully complete at least 67% of the clock-hours and weeks scheduled for each payment period. Successful completion for this standard is defined as earning a grade of 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' in most programs.

Financial aid recipients are also required to complete their program within 150% of the published length of the program as measured by the number of clock-hours and weeks in the program. (Note that a student in a clock-hour program cannot receive aid for hours beyond those required for the program. The maximum timeframe applies to the amount of time the student takes to complete the required hours.)

CHANGES IN PROGRAMS OF STUDY FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

Students are permitted to make one change to their program of study in accordance with their academic goals. So long as students are meeting all other SAP standards, changes of program alone will not disqualify them for financial aid eligibility. Students who change programs while failing SAP maintain their previous SAP status until the completion of the first payment period of their new program.

COURSE INCOMPLETES, WITHDRAWALS, AND NR GRADES FOR CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

Successful completion of coursework is defined as earning a grade of 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' at STC. All other grades including 'I' (Incomplete), 'F' (Failure), 'FN' (Failure for non-attendance), 'NR' (Not Reported) and W (Withdrawn) are defined as unsuccessful completion. Accordingly, all courses having grades of 'I', 'F', 'FN', 'NR' and 'W' count as hours attempted and count as zero hours earned in the SAP calculation. The grade of 'F' additionally counts as zero quality points when the qualitative SAP standard is assessed. Grades of 'I' and 'W' are not counted when the qualitative SAP standard is assessed. Grades of 'I' and 'W' do not carry any quality points.

Students who have grades of 'I' or 'NR' that result in an unsatisfactory standing may have their SAP status recalculated if those grades are later reported as an 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D'. Students who achieve satisfactory standing as the result of a grade recalculation will be evaluated for reinstatement of financial aid so long as the end of the same academic year has not occurred and all other eligibility criteria are met.

WARNING STATUS

Students who are not meeting the qualitative (GPA) or quantitative (67%) components of SAP will be given a status of 'Warning' for one term or payment period. Students in a warning status may continue to receive federal aid.

NOT MEETING SAP

Students who fail to meet the SAP standards after the end of their 'Warning' term or payment period are considered to be 'Not Meeting' SAP. As a result, they are ineligible to receive federal aid for any future coursework attempted. Students in a 'Not Meets' SAP status may appeal this status provided there are extenuating circumstances which interfered with their academic progress.

APPEALING A SAP STATUS

Students who experienced extenuating circumstances which interfered with their academic progress may submit an appeal to have their 'Not Meets' SAP status reviewed by a financial aid representative under the guidance of the Director of STC. Extenuating circumstances include but are not limited to accidents, medical situations, death in the immediate family or difficult personal situations.

Students who do not meet SAP due to exceeding 150% of the required hours for their program and have a valid reason for exceeding the maximum timeframe may submit an appeal to have their SAP status reviewed by a financial aid representative under the guidance of the Director of STC.

APPEAL PROCESS

GPA and Completion Rate

Students who fail SAP due to GPA or completion rate may submit an appeal within 30 days of the start of the term (Fall or Spring) by providing the following documentation. Please note: Students whose appeals are received after 30 days will have their appeal evaluated for future terms only.

- A written and signed explanation from the student describing the extenuating circumstance(s) which interfered with their ability to be academically successful.
- Documentation which supports the extenuating circumstance(s).
- An academic plan signed by both the student and the Academic Advisor listing the coursework the student is required to attempt in order to be academically successful in the continuation of their program.

Exceeding 150% of credits or hours

Students who fail SAP due to exceeding 150% of the attempted credits or hours for their program may submit an appeal within 30 days of the start of the term (Fall or Spring) by providing the following documentation:

- A written and signed statement from the student describing why they have exceeded 150% of attempted credits or hours in their program along with an explanation of their intended career goals.
- Documentation which supports the extenuating circumstance.
- An academic plan signed by both the student and the Academic Advisor listing the coursework the student is required to attempt in order to be academically successful in the continuation of their program.

Appeals submitted with incomplete or unsigned documentation or submitted beyond the 30-day deadline will not have their aid eligibility evaluated for the current term.

Students will be notified of the decision regarding their SAP appeal via certified mail within 30 days of receipt of their appeal. If an appeal is denied, then a student will have the ability to enroll as a self-paying student.

PROBATIONARY STATUS

If a student's SAP appeal is approved they will be assigned a status of 'probation'. Depending on their situation, they may be granted one to two additional terms or payment periods of federal financial aid eligibility. Failure to meet SAP standards after the probationary period will result in the termination of federal aid eligibility.

RE-ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID

A student's eligibility for federal student aid is re-established when they meet the minimum 2.0 GPA, have completed at least 67% of their attempted coursework and have attempted less than 150% of the credits or hours in their program of study.

UNDERSTANDING SAP STATUS

Meeting SAP – Student has a cumulative academic GPA of 2.0 or higher, has completed at least 67% of all attempted credits and has attempted less than 150% of the maximum timeframe for their program of study.

Warning – Student has not met the GPA or completion rate requirements for one term or payment period.

Not Meets – Student has not met the GPA or completion rate requirements for two terms or payment periods.

Probation – Student has successfully appealed their 'Not Meets' SAP status and has been granted one or two terms or payment periods of federal aid eligibility.

Termination – Student has failed to meet SAP during their probationary status and cannot appeal their status.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

STC strives to provide the best educational opportunities possible to prepare students for their chosen occupation. **Students are to be on time and attend all classes**, consistent with attendance expectations in the workplace. However, Wilton Simpson Technical College recognizes there may be times when students cannot attend school due to extreme circumstances. In that case the student must notify the instructor to inform of his/her absence. In Florida, public technical centers are on a clock hour system and are required to have and adhere to an attendance policy. Time missed due to arriving late or leaving early count toward absences. Students whose attendance falls below 90% (rounded up) of the scheduled clock hours, per term, will have their situation reviewed with the possibility of a warning and/or academic plan. Students who are absent 10 consecutive days will be removed from the program. Students who are withdrawn due to excessive absences will not be entitled to reimbursements. Make up time has been built into each program calendar. Please note students receiving financial aid must adhere to minimum attendance progress to continue to receive aid.

EXCUSED ABSENCES IN CLOCK-HOUR PROGRAMS

In a clock-hour program, a limited number (10%) of excused absences, per term, are permitted. An excused absence may only be counted if the student is excused from hours that were actually scheduled, were missed, and do not have to be made up for the student to receive the degree or certificate for the program. Students must bring in documentation to the Director for approval. The school will prioritize make up days over excused absences, which will be reserved for extreme circumstances outside of the student's control.

MAKE-UP HOURS

Due to extenuating circumstances, we understand that there may be times that are unavoidable to miss school. Therefore, make-up days have been made available for each program.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Under certain circumstances such as a death in the family or major illness, a student may put in writing their request for a Leave of Absence. A Leave of Absence can be for no more than 8 days and must be approved by the Director of Adult Education. The leave of absence will alter the graduation date for the student and will only be granted once.

GRADING SYSTEM

Students must maintain an overall grade of 70 percent or higher in all attendance, theory, clinical and/or shop performance during each evaluation period and complete the minimum number of competencies within the pacing guide for each program for the evaluation period. Some programs have higher standards and students must adhere to these standards to make satisfactory academic progress.

Student grades include the following:

- Participation
- End of Course exam
- Workbook/Assignment
- Quiz/Chapter work

Grading Scale:

- A = 100 – 90
- B = 89 – 80
- C = 79 – 70
- D = 69 – 60
- F = Below 60

Failure to make Satisfactory Academic Process may result in the student being withdrawn from the program.

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INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

Each program at Wilton Simpson Technical College is subject to review through a variety of mechanisms. Each year we ask our students to complete a questionnaire on the program and the school. We review the feedback and make appropriate adjustments as necessary. We also meet with industry partners twice a year to review the program curriculum, lab areas and equipment. Notes are kept, and any suggestions for program improvements are noted and actioned per administration. We also ensure our instructors participate in relevant professional development training to ensure academic standards are maintained.

ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

In the event of an accident or injury on campus, you should immediately notify the instructor or other Wilton Simpson Technical College personnel. Faculty/staff will handle injuries such as superficial lacerations or abrasions. All programs have First-aid kits, and additional kits are also located in the business office. Emergency medical services will be contacted for a serious injury or medical condition. You must have an emergency contact card on file with the administrative office.

BOOKS

It is the student's right to have a real and reasonable opportunity to purchase books elsewhere other than through Wilton Simpson Technical College. If students choose to purchase books from STC, then they will need to sign a form that we have given them every opportunity to purchase books on their own from other vendors. If students choose to use Financial Aid to purchase books, then students will have to sign a form authorizing STC to take the full book amount from student's first Pell check.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

STC may utilize Deputies from the Hernando County Sheriff's office to provide security. In the event of an emergency if no Deputy is on campus, students and staff need to contact 911 for immediate assistance.

CLERY ACT

The federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires colleges and universities, both public and private, participating in federal student aid programs to disclose campus safety information, and imposes certain basic requirements for handling incidents of sexual violence and emergency situations. Disclosures about crime statistics and summaries of security policies are made once a year in an Annual Security Report (ASR), and information about specific crimes and emergencies is made publicly available on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

The Clery Act is named in memory of Jeanne Clery who was raped and murdered in her residence hall room by a fellow student she did not know on April 5, 1986. Her parents championed laws requiring the disclosure of campus crime information, and the federal law that now bears their daughter's name was first enacted in 1990. More information on the Clery Act can be found at www.cleryact.info.

Sexual Misconduct—Wilton Simpson Technical College prohibits any form of sexual misconduct. When sexual misconduct is brought to the attention of administration, Wilton Simpson Technical College will take prompt and appropriate action to end the misconduct and prevent its recurrence. All students should be aware the technical center is prepared to take action to prevent and correct such behavior. Individuals who engage in sexual misconduct are subject to disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from the college.

Any sexual activity without consent given will be considered sexual misconduct. Consent must be free of force, threat, intimidation or coercion. Consent is given by an affirmative verbal response or acts that are unmistakable in their meaning. Consent cannot be given by a person who is asleep, intoxicated, incapacitated or unable to communicate without impaired judgment. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not mean consent is given to another type of activity or subsequent

activities. Consent is revocable at any time. Sexual misconduct includes sexual and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

Sexual Harassment – Attempting to coerce an unwilling person into a sexual relationship; to subject a person to unwanted sexual attention; to punish a refusal to comply; or to create a sexually intimidating, hostile or offensive work, social or educational environment. Sexual harassment is understood to include a wide range of behaviors from the actual coercing of sexual relations to the intimidating or embarrassing emphasis of sexual identity. This definition will be interpreted and applied consistent with generally accepted standards of mature behavior, academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. It occurs in a variety of situations that share a common element: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments into the work or learning situation. Often sexual harassment involves relationships of unequal power and contains elements of coercion, as when compliance with requests for sexual favors becomes a criterion for granting work, study or grading benefits.

Sexual harassment can occur in any type of relationship, involving faculty, staff, students, friends or strangers. Sexual harassment also involves relationships among equals. Power relationships and social dependencies exist between students as well and may be exploited in ways that are damaging to either party. Students would therefore be aware of the offense that may be taken by any unwelcome sexual advance. Persistent requests for social encounters and favors, physical contact of a lewd type, indecent exposure, persistent requests for or realized sexual encounters, sexual crimes and rape constitute sexual harassment when they are accompanied by one or more of the following terms or conditions: explicit or implicit promises or rewards for cooperation, explicit or implicit threats of punishment for non-cooperation and/or intimidation that creates a hostile or offensive academic/work environment, interference with an individual's scholastic/work performance, preventing an individual's full enjoyment of educational/professional opportunities, or an action that induces conformance stress, anxiety, fear or sickness on the part of the harassed person. Implicit in the legal definition of sexual harassment is the assumption that sexual harassment prevents the realization of the victim's full potential as a student. A person sexually harassing another, who reports to him or her, is thus prohibiting the victim of the freedom to do his/her job, whether as a student or employee. Sexual harassment is considered an unethical and unprofessional as well as illegal behavior and will not be tolerated.

Sexual Assault – Any attempt to engage in any sexual or intimate act with another person without the consent of the other person or in circumstances in which the person is unable, due to age, alcohol/chemical or other impairment, mental deficiency or incapacity to give consent. It is the responsibility of the person initiating sexual or intimate activity to make sure the other person is capable of consenting to that activity.

Dating Violence - Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of the interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic Violence – includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the complainant, by a person with whom the complainant shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the complainant as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Florida, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Florida. Students requiring immediate assistance are encouraged to contact the Dawn Center 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (352)686-8430.

Rape – The penetration, not matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Stalking – Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for one's safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

More information on available resources can be found on the technical center's website at hernandoschools.org/schools/stc.

Reporting Sexual Misconduct: Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking

The technical center encourages all sexual misconduct to be reported. Wilton Simpson Technical College will take prompt and appropriate action to end the misconduct and prevent its recurrence. All students have a right to report sexual misconduct by contacting one of the following:

- School Administration on (352) 797-7018
- Hernando County Sheriff's Office on (352) 754-6830

In the event of a crime including dating violence, sexual assault

Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Warning Signs

Within a relationship, there can be indicators of either partner's propensity to become abusive. Partner violence is any sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse of one partner by the other in a romantic relationship. While arguing or fighting occurs in all relationships, partner violence is about power and control of one partner by the other. Due to the nature of being in a relationship with the abuser, partner violence can be hard to identify and understand. If you are in an abusive relationship, you may find it difficult to acknowledge because the abuser is someone for whom you have feelings. Abusive behavior can take many forms. Be concerned if your partner:

- Is jealous and possessive
- Tries to control everything you do
- Tries to isolate you from family and friends
- Has a quick temper or unpredictable reactions to ordinary things
- Often exhibits violent behavior toward animals, children, or other people
- Pressures you for sex
- Has a history of bad relationships
- Has a strong belief in extreme gender roles

In all relationships, it is important to trust your instincts. If your intuition tells you something is wrong, you shouldn't ignore it.

Bystander Intervention

Bystander intervention is a strategy for prevention of various types of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. It encourages people to get involved when they see something wrong or dangerous – to tell some, intervene, get help, or speak up. So how do you do it?

Use the 3 D's: Direct, Delegate, and Distract

Direct: Do something yourself (like ask someone to stop what they're doing or check on someone you might be worried about).

Delegate: If you can't do something yourself because of your barriers, ask a friend, a faculty or staff member, or a trusted peer to help.

Distract: If you don't want to address the situation directly or even acknowledge that you can see it, try to think of a distraction that will diffuse the situation or calm things down in the moment. Distractions could be "accidentally" spilling a drink, asking to borrow the phone of someone who is in a risky situation, asking for a ride or starting an unrelated conversation.

If you see something, do something:

- Talk to your friends honestly and openly about sexual assault.

- Don't just be a bystander. If you see something, intervene in any way that you can without endangering yourself.
- Trust your gut. If something looks like it might be a bad situation, it probably is.
- Be direct! Ask someone who looks like they need help if they're okay.
- Get someone to help you if you see something. Delegate by enlisting a friend or bystander to step in.
- Keep an eye on someone who has had too much to drink.
- If you see someone who is too intoxicated to consent, enlist their friends to help them leave safely.
- Recognize the potential danger of someone who talks about planning to target another person at the party.
- Be aware if someone is deliberately trying to intoxicate, isolate or corner someone else.
- Get in the way by creating a distraction, drawing attention to the situation, or separating them.
- Understand that if someone does not or cannot consent to sex, it's rape.
- Never blame the victim.

Safety on Campus

1. Though this institution does not offer regularly scheduled crime awareness or prevention programs, students are encouraged to exercise proper care in seeing to their own personal safety and the safety of others. The following is a description of policies, rules and programs designed to inform students and employees about the prevention of crimes on campus.
 - a) Do not leave personal property in classrooms
 - b) Report to your institutional official, any suspicious persons.
 - c) Always try to walk in groups outside the school premises. Let the administrative team know of any concerns you have with safety on campus.
 - d) If you are waiting for a ride, wait within sight of other people
 - e) Employees (staff and faculty) will close and lock all doors, windows and blinds and turn off lights when leaving a room.
 - f) The "*Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act*" is available upon request to students, employees (staff and faculty) and prospective students.
 - g) The School has no formal program, other than orientation, that disseminates this information. All faculty undergo an annual training on campus security and all students receive written confirmation of campus security procedures during enrollment and at their orientation. All information is available on request.
 - h) Information regarding any crimes committed on the campus will be available and posted in a conspicuous place within two (2) business days after the reporting of the crime and be available for sixty (60) business days during normal business hours, unless the disclosure is prohibited by law, would jeopardize the confidentiality of the victim, or an ongoing criminal investigation, the safety of an individual, cause a suspect to flee evade detection: or result in the destruction of evidence. Once the reason for the lack of disclosure is no longer in force, the institution must disclose the information. If there is a request for information that is older than sixty 60 days, that information must be made available within two (2) business days of the request.

Procedures for campus disciplinary action in cases of alleged domestic violence, dating violence or stalking

The procedures for campus disciplinary action in cases of alleged domestic violence, dating violence or stalking are dealt with the utmost urgency. Under these procedures, both the accuser and accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during disciplinary proceedings. Additionally, both the accuser and accused will be informed of the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding. A student found to have violated Wilton Simpson Technical College

behavior standards related to domestic violence, dating violence or stalking may be suspended or expelled from STC for the first offense.

CANCELLED CLASSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event weather conditions are such that travel to and from Wilton Simpson Technical College would be hazardous or extreme temperature presents a problem of safety or comfort, the education center may be closed for the day or delayed in opening.

CELL/DIGITAL PHONES AND PAGERS

In order to maintain an environment conducive to learning, cell/digital phones and pagers must be turned off or in silent mode during classroom hours. You will not be permitted to use cell phones while class is in session. An office phone is available in the Administration office for emergencies.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

A student must meet all of the following conditions to earn a Certificate of Program Completion from Wilton Simpson Technical College:

- Have attained a grade of “C” or better (2.0 GPA) for the program
- Complete the required curriculum
- Settled all school debt
- Meet Florida Basic Skills Levels in communications and mathematics
- Receive the instructor’s recommendation

COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE

Students may check College Navigator Website for our updated information at <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

In the event that there is a complaint or issue at the classroom level, the student should first speak to the instructor in private about their concern. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the classroom level, the student should submit the complaint to the Administrator on duty. If the complaint cannot be resolved at that level, the student may present the complaint formally, in writing, to the Director of Adult and Technical Education within three (3) days. If the grievance is not resolved satisfactorily, the grievant may appeal within five (5) days to the Hernando County School District, 901 N Broad Street, Brooksville, FL, 34601. In the event a student cannot resolve a conflict concerning his/her technical training at the local level, he/she may contact the Florida Department of Education - Career and Adult Education at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 734, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0400, 850-245-0446, <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/file-a-complaint.shtml>. Grievances may also be registered with COE, (Council on Occupational Education) at 7840 Roswell Rd., Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA, 30350, 800-917-2081, www.council.org.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Students who infringe copyright law infringement via unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject the student to civil and criminal liabilities. The act of plagiarism is a severe form of cheating which constitutes intellectual theft. Plagiarism occurs when a person presents someone else’s work as their own. Whether a student copies an assignment, downloads a paper from an Internet site, or uses a cut and paste system for creating text, that student has committed plagiarism. All parties to plagiarism are equally guilty, regardless of whether the student gives or receives work. All students shall abide by the provisions of United States Copyright Law (Title 17, United States Code, Sect. 101, et seq). Student who cheat, plagiarize, or infringe copyright law will face any or all of the following consequences:

- First Offense – If the student is a minor, the student’s parent will be contacted. The student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. The student may be suspended from school for one to five days.
- Second Offense – will result in dismissal from the program.

Students who cheat on industry certification or licensing exams will be removed from the testing area. An incident report will be filed with the testing agency to determine if the student will be allowed to test again.

CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

In the event of an extreme, dangerous, or emergency a comprehensive plan of action is in place to deal with such matters. Should a crisis develop, notify your instructor or administration immediately. Policies are in place, are provided to students at orientation and are clearly displayed in the program area. In extreme circumstances, call 911.

DISABILITY DISCLOSURE

Wilton Simpson Technical College assures students with disabilities equal access as described in Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA). Disclosure of a disability is voluntary.

A student must satisfy the definition of a disability as established by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 defines a disability as a condition which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, caring for oneself, and working. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must provide appropriate documentation of each disability that demonstrates an accompanying substantial limitation to one or more major life activities.

To obtain services and accommodations, current documentation is required (within 5 years) and must be presented to Student Services.

The following are acceptable forms of documentation and must include a diagnosis, impact of the diagnosed disability and recommended accommodations.

A 504 Plan

A Psychological Report

A letter from a physician

Please contact Sophia Watson, Director of Adult and Technical Education @ 352-797-7018 or Watson_s@hcsb.k12.fl.us to schedule an Intake Meeting.

DRESS CODE/UNIFORMS

The technical programs may require uniforms. If applicable, you will be expected to comply with uniform requirements. The instructor will provide specific information. You will be expected to comply with safety apparel requirements.

Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed to remain on campus, regardless of program, if their manner of dress in any way disrupts the educational process as determined by the onsite administrator.

Wilton Simpson Technical College prepares students to enter the job market. Therefore, students should dress in accordance with the accepted standards of business and industry. The dress code in each program varies with the needs of the occupational area. However, the following minimum requirements apply for all programs:

- Hard-soled and closed toed shoes must be worn in all occupational areas. Sandals, flip-flops, open toe shoes and bare feet are not permitted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- For safety and/or health reasons, students will follow established safety procedures and practices acceptable to their occupation. For example: Contain his/her hair in a net or similar device or have his/her hair cut to an acceptable length, remove jewelry, wear safe clothing.

DRIVING/PARKING

Parking is provided in designated areas for Wilton Simpson Technical College students. Parking in areas other than designated student parking lots is prohibited. The speed limit of 15 miles an hour is strictly enforced. Parking privileges may be revoked for parking and speeding violations. Loitering is not allowed in and around cars.

All Florida State Statutes are applicable while driving on school grounds. Failure to follow these rules will result in the revocation of parking privileges.

Each student who parks a vehicle on a school campus is presumed to know what is contained in the vehicle and will be held accountable for any weapons, drugs, or contraband which may be found in the vehicle. Furthermore, locating or operating automobiles, trucks, vans, or other transportation means on School Board property is a privilege granted by the School Board and students whose vehicles are so located shall not have any expectation of privacy in or around said vehicles.

DRUG FREE CAMPUS POLICY

No person shall be in possession of or be under the influence of an intoxicating beverage or an illegal mood or behavior modifying or controlled substance or use or be in possession of tobacco or tobacco products, as defined by Florida Statutes, while on STC campus, both the Main Campus or at our extension Site at Central High School or while on STC sponsored trips involving students. Students not in compliance with STC campus policy will be immediately dismissed.

When administrative officials have reasonable suspicion that any student at the Wilton Simpson Technical College is under the influence of intoxicating beverages or controlled substances the student will be asked to immediately submit to a urinalysis at their own expense prior to returning to campus. In the event that a student refuses to be tested, the student will be dismissed from the instructional program and forfeit all paid fees. The student may return to campus with a negative test result. Any student dismissed for drug related issues, may be required to complete a substance abuse program prior to re-entry. In all cases, the student will be tested prior to return to class and will be responsible for the expense of the return to class testing as well as for follow-up testing that may be required by the administration.

The referral or dismissal of any student for positive drug testing results will be handled in a confidential manner to avoid any potential embarrassment to the student. All administrators are hereby directed to advise an individual who has an alcoholic beverage in his/her possession to leave the campus immediately. Any person who has been given notice by an administrator and either fails to leave the premises or leaves but returns to the premises in possession of an alcoholic beverage shall be deemed a trespasser. The police or other proper law enforcement agency may be notified to arrest the trespasser. While on STC sponsored trips, the following action may become necessary:

- Alcoholic beverages in possession of minors will be seized.
- Students and/or adults in possession of alcoholic beverages may be sent back at their own expense and/or other appropriate actions taken.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41; 1001.42, F.S. LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1001.43; 1012.22; 1012.27, F.S.
HISTORY: ADOPTED: REVISION DATE(S): 11/11/02; 06/08/09 (EDITORIAL) FORMERLY: 2.116, 3.107, 3.108, 3.160, 6.170, And 8.212

EMERGENCIES

In case of fire, inclement weather, bomb threats, lock downs or other emergencies, you must follow the directions provided by the instructor. In case of emergency situations requiring evacuation, you should follow evacuation routes that are posted by every designated exit. In other emergency situations, you should go to the designated safety areas inside the buildings as directed. An emergency contact will be requested upon application to Wilton Simpson Technical College.

EQUITY STATEMENT

The Hernando County School District prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, GINA, or disability in any of its programs, services or activities. In accordance with Florida Administrative Code, national origin minority or Limited English Proficient (LEP) students shall not be subjected to any disciplinary action because of their appropriate use of a language other than English. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission into the Career & Technical Education programs.

Contact information for 504 Coordinator/Equity:

Jill Kolasa, Director of Student Services

1036 Varsity Dr.

Brooksville, Florida 34601

352-797-7008

kolasa_j@hcsb.k12.fl.us

Anna Jensen, Director of Exceptional Student Support Services

1036 Varsity Dr.

Brooksville, Florida 34601

352-797-7022

Jensen_a@hcsb.k12.fl.us

Contact information for Equity Coordinator:

Alexis Brown, Supervisor of Professional Standards

Phone: 352-797-7019

919 N. Broad Street

Brooksville, Florida 34601

brown_a@hcsb.k12.fl.us

IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Picture identification badges are issued to all STC students each school year. A \$5.00 fee is assessed for the identification badges. A replacement fee of \$10 will be charged for any lost badges. Identification badges are to be worn at all times while students are on campus.

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Wilton Simpson Technical College adheres to the Hernando County School Board Policy regarding internet usage which is displayed upon sign on. District provided computers shall not be used for personal or financial gain or for the benefit of private, "for profit" or "not-for-profit" organizations, or for any commercial or illegal activity. The student will not place any software on the district-provided computer without permission from the designated district technology specialist at the school. Students will honor all licenses, copyrights, patents, restrictions and terms and conditions associated with computer software (e.g.: no illegally duplicated software). The student will be responsible for lost or damaged computers and/or software.

LAB AND SHOP SAFETY

Safety and safe practices are of utmost importance at Wilton Simpson Technical College. You are expected to complete shop safety curriculum and pass a safety examination. Students are expected to wear safety glasses, to dress appropriately, to comply with safety regulations, and to exercise prudent judgment with self and for the care of others. If you do not follow shop and lab safety rules you may be dismissed from the program.

NAME, PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS CHANGE

Phone numbers are required as they are used to notify students in the event of an emergency or school closure. Please keep the office notified in case of a change of name, phone number or address so that accurate records may be maintained.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

The Net price Calculator is located on our website at hernandoschools.org/schools/stc/financial-aid.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ALLEGED SCHOOL RELATED CRIMES

- Any individual member of the technical center community may initiate disciplinary proceedings for an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct. The complaint must be submitted in writing to the Administrative Office.
- After a preliminary investigation, the Director of Adult & Technical Education will determine if there is sufficient information to warrant disciplinary proceedings. At that time the Director may notify the Sheriff's Office if it has been determined that a crime has been committed.
- Disciplinary proceedings are initiated by the Director in a face-to-face disciplinary conference.
- The disciplinary conference shall take place no earlier than 48 hours from the date of notification, unless waived by the student.
- Cameras, camera phones and audio/video recording devices other than those belonging to the technical center are not permitted at a disciplinary conference.
- The Director may choose to adjourn the disciplinary conference at any time to obtain further information from other sources.
- At the conclusion of the disciplinary conference, the Director may dismiss all disciplinary charges or make a judgement to assign sanctions.
- A letter confirming the decision will be sent to the student and a copy placed in the student's permanent record.
- If at any time during the investigation the student is arrested for the offense that occurred at school, the student will be withdrawn immediately.

SEARCH OF PERSON

You may be subject to be searched at any given time upon reasonable suspicion for any reason by administration. This includes search of person, possessions, lockers, and vehicles on the Wilton Simpson Technical College campus.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Hernando County School District not to illegally discriminate or allow its employees to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, disability or GINA in its educational programs or employment practices. In accordance with Florida Administrative Code, national origin minority or Limited English Proficient (LEP) students shall not be subjected to any disciplinary action because of their appropriate use of a language other than English. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission into the CTE programs.

- Students enrolled in apprenticeship programs registered with the Florida Department of Education.
- Post-secondary students with a documented disability who are completing a post-secondary adult vocational program, but have been unsuccessful in obtaining the designated basic skills exit criteria, may have this requirement waived based on District procedures and statutory authority. Assessment of student mastery of basic skills will conform to State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.040. Our policy states:
 - Student will complete the TABE.
 - Student will provide documentation of their disability that would impact their test performance.
 - Wilton Simpson Technical College will make remediation available to the student through program instruction and/or AAAE (face to face instruction).
 - Student will retake the TABE.

If student with a documented testing disability does not meet minimum scores on the retest TABE, student will be exempt from meeting this completion requirement.

STUDENT BODY DIVERSITY

Students may find updated information on our STC Website (hernandoschools.org/schools/stc) and also the College Navigator website (<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

STC students are expected to adhere with the legal and ethical standards of the institution. STC reserves the right to administratively withdraw students at any time for misconduct. Students admitted to the school will receive a student handbook that outlines specific information regarding student conduct.

We believe that a safe, secure, nurturing and civil environment is essential in accomplishing its mission to create a community which works together so all at Wilton Simpson Technical College will reach their goals.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all district employees, students, parents and the general public. The policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression. Rather, it is intended to maintain, to the extent that is possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free workplace for students, families and staff, that is free of disruptive, demeaning, intimidating, threatening or aggressive behaviors.

Therefore:

Wilton Simpson Technical College staff will treat all students enrolled, fellow staff members and members of the public with respect and will expect the same in return.

- Wilton Simpson Technical College staff will not conduct business with those who use obscenities or otherwise speak in a demanding, loud, insulting, or threatening manner.
- Volatile, hostile or aggressive actions and words will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in these activities may face penalties up to, and including, criminal prosecution.

STUDENT TIME RECORDS

It is imperative that students be in class on a daily basis. It is the students' responsibility to accurately record their attendance and clock hours for each class. It is the student's responsibility to fingerprint themselves in when they get to class and fingerprint themselves out when they leave so that accurate records can be kept. Accurate records of attendance are important as student attendance determines the pace of completion for the course as well as impacting final grades.

TARDY POLICY

Punctuality is crucial to student success in the classroom. If a student is late this will be reflected in their grade. If there are excessive tardiness, it will affect his or her program clock hours and will ultimately affect their final grade.

TOBACCO/SMOKE FREE CAMPUS POLICY

In accordance with Hernando County School Board Policy, STC is a tobacco and smoke free campus at both our Main Campus, and our extension campus, Central High School. Tobacco products or Smoking is not permitted on the campus. This policy is to prevent the use of tobacco on School Board property in compliance with Florida Statute and to provide a healthy learning environment free from exposure to carcinogens. For the purpose of this policy, tobacco is defined as any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc., and any other smoking product, smokeless product or spit less tobacco and/or electronic cigarettes. Individuals may not smoke, chew, dip, or use any type of tobacco or smoking product on or around campus. Individuals may not stand or hang out along the streets or property around the exterior of the campus. Violation of the policy may result in dismissal. Resources are available to assist you with compliance.

TUITION AND FEES FOR TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

All STC courses are \$2.44 per program clock hour for in state tuition. The out of state tuition rate is \$9.78. There are additional fees for each program – please refer to the program supply lists found at hernandoschools.org/schools/stc for a breakdown of costs associated with each program. The registration fee is non-refundable. Tuition shall be waived for career certificate programs for each recipient of a Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedent who meets the requirements of State law. Any career center operated by the Board shall, within the nonresident student enrollment system-wide, prioritize the enrollment of a veteran who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver pursuant hereinabove over any other student who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this policy.

Payments for program tuition are made at the time of registration at the Administrative office. Cash, money order, debit card, Visa, Discover and Master Card are accepted forms of payment for most programs.

Non-payment of agreed upon payment plan installments will result in automatic withdrawal from the career-technical program and all tuition paid to-date and fees will be forfeited. Re-entry into a Wilton Simpson Technical College program may be allowed as long as any outstanding amounts are paid.

VACCINATION POLICY

Required vaccinations are program specific. Currently there are no programs at Wilton Simpson Technical College that require vaccinations. This policy is subject to change if our accreditation/licensing agencies require proof of vaccinations as a condition of enrollment.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Every applicant who goes through Orientation will be given a voter registration application to fill out if they are interested and it is posted on our website (hernandoschools.org/schools/stc).

WEAPONS

Anyone who has, carries, or conceals any gun, pistol, sword, knife, razor or other weapon on campus or in a vehicle parked on Wilton Simpson Technical College's campus will be withdrawn from Wilton Simpson Technical College and is subject to having criminal penalties imposed.

SERVICES TO STUDENTS

ASSISTANCE WITH ENROLLMENT

Staff are available to meet the needs of our students as required. Services cover school information, enrollment procedures, financial aid, security policies, completion rates and crime statistics. Contact can be made through the business office (Monday to Thursday 8.00am to 8.30pm and Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm) on 352-797-7018. Queries should be directed as follows:

Director of Adult & Technical Education – services for students with disabilities.

Coordinator of Career and Technical Education – completion rates, security policies and crime statistics.

Financial Aid Specialist – Title IV financial aid procedures and veteran's benefits.

Coordinator of Pathways to Student Success Academy and Adult Education – enrollment information, academy coordinator.

ACCESS TO YOUR RECORDS

You may request your class information by completing the HCSD Transcript Request Form S0-SS-05, which can be picked up in the Administrative office.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Wilton Simpson Technical College conducts an awards and graduation ceremony each spring. Anyone who is completing a program will be invited to participate. Friends and family are invited to attend, but the number of available tickets may be limited.

COUNSELOR

Wilton Simpson Technical College has a Counselor available if you need to discuss class and/or personal issues and concerns. Appointments can be made with the administrative office.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Wilton Simpson Technical College has in place articulation agreements with Pasco-Hernando State College effective for the 2024-25 year.

To ensure students of each agreement are awarded appropriate career and technical education credit, and to ensure that career certificate education articulates to college credit toward associate degree programs, Pasco Hernando State College agrees to grant, at no cost to eligible students, credit as outlined in the specific program agreements. In accordance with Section 1007.233, Florida Statutes (F.S.), articulated college credit must be awarded upon initial enrollment in the associate degree program. Furthermore, the award of credits described is contingent upon the conditions being met by Wilton Simpson Technical College, Pasco Hernando State College and the student.

Award of credit process:

- Students must meet with the designated college staff member to verify completion of the articulated program, initiate the credit award process, and discuss course requirements for intended program of study at the college.
- To be awarded the college credit guaranteed for a specific program agreement, students must present an original career certificate of completion or an official transcript that delineates program completion.
- Students entering the associate degree program specified within the specific program agreement must meet the admissions requirements of the college and the program to which they are applying, as well as the common placement testing requirements outlined in section 1008.30, F.S., and Rule 6A-10.0315(2), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C).
- Students must enroll at the Florida College System institution in the program specified within three years of completion of the Career Certificate program in order to redeem the college credit. Students who enroll after three years may be eligible for the awarding of credits on a course-by-course basis at the discretion of the postsecondary institution. (This may be done through demonstration of current industry knowledge, i.e. employer letter, proof of industry certification passage, approved student assessments, portfolio of work, etc.)

Statewide Articulation agreements may be awarded for individual industry certification earned to be used at the college level. Wilton Simpson Technical College is part of the Tampa Bay Consortium which provides career pathway agreements: <http://www.careerpathways.me>

CAREER DUAL ENROLLMENT

Career Dual Enrollment is an option for high school students to enroll in post-secondary courses to earn elective or vocational credit toward high school graduation requirements and to receive hours toward a career and technical program. Any interested high school students should be prepared to visit the program and instructor prior to beginning the registration process for the career certificate program.

The statutory eligibility requirements for career dual enrollment include a 2.0 unweighted GPA per s.1007.271, be at least 16 years of age, and be on target for graduation. Attendance and discipline records must be satisfactory. Recommendation for the application process to Wilton Simpson Technical College will be through school guidance counselors. Career dual enrollment courses offered that will lead to an approved Industry Certification from the Funding List of s.1008.44, F.S. are as follows: Applied Cybersecurity, Automotive Service Technology 1, Diesel Service Technician 1, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration 1 and Welding Technology.

Continued eligibility for career dual enrollment requires successful completion of each course within the career certificate, prior to graduation of the career certificate program. Students must enroll at a time whereby they can successfully complete the career certificate program prior to graduation from high school. Students may lose the opportunity to participate in the dual enrollment program if they are disruptive to the learning process. Per s. 1007.271, F.S., and based on Dual Enrollment budget and seat constraints, Hernando County School District and Wilton Simpson Technical College will not deny dual enrollment participation to students who meet both the statutory requirements and any additional eligibility requirements established in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement.

A delineation of the high school credit earned for the completion of each career dual enrollment course and program will provide a clock hour to credit hour equivalency. The high school credit will only be awarded upon successful completion of the entire postsecondary course. The weighting for the dual enrollment courses will be weighted in line with Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses in calculating the GPA.

Statewide Articulation agreements may be awarded for individual industry certification earned to be used at the college level. Wilton Simpson Technical College is part of the Tampa Bay Consortium which provides career pathway agreements (<http://www.careerpathways.me/>).

Per s. 1007.271(3), F.S. will allow an exception to entrance based on grade point average to the agreement on the recommendation of all parties. Consideration is on a case-by-case basis.

The initial screening of potential applicants shall be the responsibility of high school guidance counselors to determine career readiness, appropriate GPA, attendance and behavior records. Reports will be provided throughout the sessions to high school counselors regarding the progress of all students. The Wilton Simpson Technical College administrative team will review progress throughout each session and take steps to ensure students stay on track. A sufficient GPA must be maintained throughout.

Wilton Simpson Technical College will enter grades and transmit to the school data entry at the school of record. Grades for dual enrollment will be entered on both the student's high school transcript and the postsecondary transcript. Credit hours upon completion of the courses transmission of the grades will be sent to the school of record in Hernando County School District.

Sections 1007.271 and 1009.25, F.S. provides that dual enrollment students are exempt from payment of tuition, fees including laboratory fees and registration fees. Due to space constrictions within the programs, places will be allocated to dual enrollment students based on budget and available seats. A wait list will be developed – students will be allocated a place based on the following criteria:

1. They meet the eligibility requirements.
2. If enrolled they would be able to complete the dual enrollment semester prior to graduating high school.

3. Allocation for placement will be given on a first come first served basis.

Exceptions may be made based on seat availability and/or Dual Enrollment budget constraints.

Dual enrollment students are responsible for arranging and paying for transportation to and from Wilton Simpson Technical College as well as all other dual enrollment related transportation. Parents/guardians assume all financial responsibility and liability for dual enrollment related transportation.

Wilton Simpson Technical College assures students with disabilities equal access as described in Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA). Disclosure of a disability is voluntary.

A student must satisfy the definition of a disability as established by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 defines a disability as a condition which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, caring for oneself, and working. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must provide appropriate documentation of each disability that demonstrates an accompanying substantial limitation to one or more major life activities. To obtain services and accommodations, current documentation is required (within 5 years) and must be presented to Student Services.

DROP/ADD PERIOD FOR TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

1. A 100 percent refund shall be made if the student drops the class prior to the first class meeting.
2. A 100 percent refund shall be made if the student drops the class within the first 5 business days of the semester. Individuals withdrawing from a program within the first five days of the term must notify the Administrative Office in writing that they are withdrawing. Students are encouraged to state the reason for withdrawal.

Refunds due to course cancellation will be at one hundred percent (100%).

Refunds, when due, are made within thirty (30) days of the last day of attendance and will be initiated by bookkeeping office. The refund will be mailed to the person who made the payment. No refunds are available for General Education programs.

No refunds will be given on registration fees, books, supplies, insurance, testing or other fees.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports are issued at the middle point and the end of each term to everyone enrolled in a technical program. Reports will be issued according to the Wilton Simpson Technical College school calendar.

TRANSCRIPTS & ACCESS TO YOUR RECORDS

You may request your class information by completing the HCSD Transcript Request Form S0-SS-05.

If you have completed a program you may contact the administrative office for a copy of your transcripts. All requests are to be made by completing the Transcript Request form. Request forms are available in the administrative office or can be downloaded from www.hcsb.k12.fl.us/studentrecordsrequest. Same day service is not available.

Veteran's Attendance Policy

(This is the minimum standard required by the SAA under the authority of 38 CFR 21.4254. If school policy is more restrictive, it may be used)

Early departures, class cuts, tardies, etc., for any portion of a class period will be counted as quarter hour, half hour and hour absence.

Students exceeding 20% (percentage) **total** absences of scheduled hours in a calendar month **will be** terminated from their VA benefits for unsatisfactory attendance.

In order to show that the cause of unsatisfactory attendance has been removed, students must show good attendance (as defined) for one calendar month after being terminated for unsatisfactory attendance. After such time, the student may be recertified for VA education benefits.

The student's attendance record will be retained in the veteran's file for VA and SAA audit purposes.

Standards of Academic Progress for VA Students

(All standards must logically relate to graduation requirements)

Students receiving VA educational benefits must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) or percentage of 70% each phase (term, quarter, semester, evaluation period, etc.).

A VA student whose CGPA or percentage falls below 70% at the end of any phase (term, quarter, semester, evaluation period, etc.) will be placed on academic probation for a maximum of two consecutive terms of enrollment. If the VA student's CGPA or percentage is still below 70% at the end of the second consecutive term of probation, the student's VA educational benefits will be terminated.

A VA student terminated from VA educational benefits due to unsatisfactory progress may petition the school to be recertified after attaining a CGPA or percentage of 70%.

Veteran's Credit for Previous Education or Training

The school must maintain a written record of the previous education and training of the veteran or eligible person and clearly indicate that appropriate credit has been given for previous education and training, with the training period shortened proportionately, and the veteran or eligible person so notified. This means that records of all prior education and training must be obtained, evaluated, and credit granted toward the student's program as appropriate, regardless as to whether or not the student wants that credit transferred.

This Addendum becomes a part of the Catalog for all intents and purposes.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT IN CONTENT AND POLICY.

School Official Signature:



Title: Supervisor of Adult & Technical Education

Date: 10/6/2017

School Name: SunCoast Technical Education Center

Address: 801 N. Broad Street

City, State, Zip Code: Brooksville, FL 34601

BSA Form 1005 (November 2016)

