

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE  
30 WEST GOVERNMENT STREET  
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32401  
850-769-8069

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF BAY, CALHOUN, GULF, HOLMES, JACKSON, WALTON,  
AND WASHINGTON

### **EDUCATION**

In an effort to promote public safety and reduce recidivism, the United States District Court in the Northern District of Florida is dedicated to providing employment and education assistance to those on pre-trial and post-conviction supervision.

### **POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

If you have either a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED), your next educational level would be to enter either a Vocational Technical School or College. Please see below for answers to frequently asked questions and a list of post-secondary schools in your area.

If you decide to enter a post-secondary program, you may be thinking:

1. **I am a felon and have spent time in prison. Am I even eligible to enroll in post-secondary education?**

The majority of individuals leaving prison will qualify for enrollment. You are encouraged to talk with your probation officer about your charges and any road blocks they may cause regarding enrollment. Keep in mind that the types of charge(s) that resulted in your conviction may limit your area of study. A counselor at the school you are interested in enrolling will be able to answer your questions.

2. **I have no means to pay for school!**

Everyone who enrolls in post-secondary education should have the opportunity to attend school regardless of their financial status. Financial assistance in the form of grants (grants do not have to be repaid if the student successfully completes the program) may be available to eligible students. If you have never received financial aid and/or you are not in default on a previous grant, you may be eligible for financial aid.

**NOTE: Before you may apply for a student loan you must have the approval of your Probation Officer.**

### **3. How do I apply for financial aid?**

To determine eligibility for financial aid, complete the following steps:

- A. You can apply for federal and state aid by completing the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov);
- B. Documentation from Selective Service and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will need to be secured. If you need to obtain verification of exemption or enrollment in Selective Service, go to <https://www.sss.gov/Home/Verification>. If you did not file income taxes for the previous year, you will need to contact your local IRS office and obtain a letter indicating that a return was not filed by the applicant for the previous tax year;
- C. After you have submitted your online application, please allow at least **four** (4) business days before contacting the Financial Aid Office at the school for which you are applying.

### **4. What if I defaulted on a previous PELL grant?**

If you have had a PELL grant in the past and have defaulted on it by not completing school, you will need to pay-off the amount due or establish a payment plan. Your first step is to contact the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-621-3115 to determine which vendor has your PELL grant for repayment. You will need the following information:

- Full name as it appeared on the loan application;
- Date of birth; and
- Social Security Number

When you reach the vendor that has your loan, you will do the following:

- A. Complete a number of documents for the vendor on-line;
- B. Provide two pay stubs;
- C. The vendor will use this information to determine the amount of your payment and schedule a day of the month payment is due. All payments must be made using a credit or debit card and it must be the same card each month;
- D. You will be provided an Education Account Number and Debt Identification Number;
- E. After six, consecutive monthly payments you will receive a letter stating you are in good standing and eligible to apply for a PELL grant.

### **5. Even if I qualify for financial assistance, I may still need to work. How will I fit school into my schedule?**

Programs are available for full-time or part-time students. You can either schedule classes to accommodate your work schedule or vice versa.

**Florida College System Campuses in Northwest Florida**

**Chipola College**

**Main Campus**

3094 Indian Circle

Marianna, FL 32446

Phone: (850) 526-2761

[View website](#)

**Gulf Coast State College**

**North Bay Campus**

637 Highway 2300

Southport, FL 32409

Phone: (850) 769-1551

[View website](#)

**Gulf Coast State College**

**Panama City Campus**

5230 US 98

Panama City, FL 32401

Phone: (850) 769-1551

[View website](#)

**Gulf Coast State College**

**Tyndall AFB**

921 Beacon Beach Rd

Bldg 123

Panama City, FL 32403

Phone: (850) 283-4332

[View website](#)

**Northwest Florida State College**

**Niceville Campus**

100 E. College Boulevard

Niceville, FL 32578

Phone: (850) 678-5111

[View website](#)

**Northwest Florida State College**

**Fort Walton Beach Campus**

1170 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

Phone: (850) 863-6500

[View website](#)

**Northwest Florida State College**

**Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center**

805 E. Highway 90

Crestview, FL 32539

Phone: (850) 689-7911

[View website](#)

## Vocational Career and Technical Centers/Directors in Northwest Florida

### Bay County

**Ricardo A. Collado Jr.**, Director  
Career and Technical Education  
Gulf Coast State College  
5230 US-98  
Panama City, FL 32401  
Phone: (407) 579-2411

### Bay County

Tom P. Haney Technical Center  
3016 Hwy 77 N  
Panama City, FL 32405  
Phone: (859) 767-5500  
[View website](#)

### Calhoun County

**Vicki Davis**, Assistant Superintendent  
Career and Technical Education  
20859 Central Avenue E  
Room G20  
Blountstown, FL 32424  
Phone: (850) 674-5927, ext. 22

### Gulf County

**Debbie Baxley**, Coordinator  
Career and Technical Education  
150 Middle School Road  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456-6940  
Phone: (850) 229-6940  
Fax: (850) 227-1999

### Holmes County

**Martha Compton**, Director  
Florida Panhandle Technical College  
CTE Programs & Adult General Ed.  
757 Hoyt Street  
Chipley, FL 32428  
Phone: (850) 638-1180, ext. 301  
Fax: (850) 638-6177  
[View website](#)

### Jackson County

**Phyllis Daniels**, Principal  
Vocational Programs  
2903 Jefferson Street  
P.O. Box 5958  
Marianna, FL 32447  
Phone: (850) 482-1200, ext. 209

### Okaloosa County

**Patti Bonezzi**, Director  
Career and Technical Education  
120 Lowery Place SE  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548  
Phone: (850) 833-5876  
Fax: (850) 833-7628

### Okaloosa County

Northwest Florida State College  
100 College Blvd  
Niceville, FL 32578  
Phone: (850) 678-5111  
[View website](#)

### Walton County

**Mike Davis**, Principal  
Emerald Coast Technical College  
CTE/Postsecondary  
761 N 20th Street  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433  
Phone: (850) 892-1240, ext. 5110  
Fax: (850) 892-1249  
[View website](#)