

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE  
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GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601  
352-380-2425

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF ALACHUA, DIXIE, GILCHRIST, LAFAYETTE AND LEVY

### **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**

MANY OF THE COLLEGES SERVE SEVERAL COUNTIES

### **Florida Gateway College**

#### **Dixie Center**

64 NE 121st Street  
Cross City, FL 32628  
Phone: (352) 498-0190

[View website](#)

### **Florida Gateway College**

#### **Gilchrist Center**

2821 E. Bell Avenue  
Bell, FL 32619  
Phone: (352) 463-0073,  
Ext. 4254 or 4265 (Gilchrist local)  
(386) 754-4254 or  
(386) 754-4265 (Columbia local)

[View website](#)

### **Santa Fe College**

#### **Charles L. Blount Downtown Center**

401 N.W. 6th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
Phone: (352) 395-5645

[View website](#)

### **Santa Fe College**

#### **Northwest Campus**

3000 N.W. 83rd Street  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
Phone: (352) 395-5000

[View website](#)

### **Santa Fe College**

#### **Perry Center**

Center for Emerging Technologies  
14180 NW 119th Terrace  
Alachua, FL 32615  
Phone: (352) 381-3750

[View website](#)

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

### Alachua County

Santa Fe College  
3000 NW 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
352-395-5000

[View website](#)

### Dixie County

**Denee Hurst**, Director  
Adult, Career and Technical Education  
16077 Highway 19 N  
Cross City, FL 32680  
Phone: (352) 498-6140

[View website](#)

### Gilchrist County

**Patricia Powers**, Director  
Career and Technical Education (CTE) and  
Grants  
310 N.W. 11th Avenue  
Trenton, FL 32693  
Phone: (352) 463-4408  
Fax: (352) 463-3276

[View website](#)

### Lafayette County

**Stephen Clark**, Assistant Principal  
Lafayette High School  
160 NE Hornet Drive  
Mayo, FL 32066  
Phone: (386) 294-1649  
Fax: (386) 294-1564

[View website](#)

### Levy County

College of Central Florida  
Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus  
15390 N. W. Hwy 19  
Chiefland, Florida 32626  
Phone: (252) 493-9533

[View website](#)