

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
100 NORTH PALAFOX STREET
SUITE 305
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32502
850-435-8430

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF ESCAMBIA, SANTA ROSA AND PART OF OKALOOSA

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.

NOTE: Please review the materials regarding the [STEP program](#) and how it may assist you in enrolling full or part-time in school.

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;
- 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

Northwest Florida State College

Niceville Campus

100 E. College Boulevard
Niceville, FL 32578-1294
Phone: (850) 678-5111

[View website](#)

Pensacola State College

Pensacola Campus

1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504
Phone: (850) 484-1000

[View website](#)

Pensacola State College

Milton Campus

5988 Highway 90
Milton, FL 32583
Phone: (850) 484-4400

[View website](#)

Vocational Career and Technical Centers/Directors in Northwest Florida

Escambia County

George Stone Vocational School

2400 Longleaf Drive
Pensacola, FL 32326
Phone: (850) 941-6200

[View website](#)

Santa Rosa County

Radford M. Locklin Technical Center

5330 Berryhill Road
Milton, FL 32370
Phone: (850) 983-5700

[View website](#)

Pensacola State College

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1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504
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