

For more information on Tennessee Reconnect, visit:



[www.TNReconnect.gov](http://www.TNReconnect.gov)

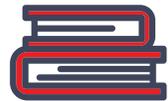
What you can do on [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov)



**Find someone to talk to:** It is important to talk to people with the knowledge to help you navigate the application and enrollment process. All public and some private, not-for-profit Tennessee colleges and universities have an office or individual dedicated to helping adult learners navigate their way back to and through college. Find the contact information for these institutional advisors and a Tennessee Reconnect Community Advisor on [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov).



**Create a plan to pay for College:** You need to have a plan to pay for college. Your college costs will depend on many factors, including what school you select, how many classes you want to take, and for how much aid you qualify. Visit [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov) to calculate the cost of earning a degree and read about other ways to pay.



**Compare your options for school:** Visit [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov) to learn more about the different types of schools in Tennessee, who to contact, available flexible options, and to find a campus near you.



**Find out how to finish faster:** If you attended college in the past, you have prior courses that your chosen college can evaluate and potentially apply to your current degree path. Create a student passport on [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov) to see what programs your credits may count towards.

## Be a Hero. Be a Graduate. Reconnect.

Whether you're returning to school to finish your degree,  
or starting for the first time, we're here to help.



TENNESSEE  
**Reconnect**  
*What is Reconnect?*



[www.TNReconnect.gov](http://www.TNReconnect.gov)

## What is Tennessee Reconnect?

Tennessee Reconnect is our state's mission to increase the number of adults with college degrees in Tennessee by engaging, connecting and supporting the 900,000+ Tennesseans who have been to college but not finished a degree. It includes financial assistance, but also advising and programmatic support for adult learners in Tennessee.

### Reconnect is about making it easier to go back to college.

Tennessee Reconnect is not just free tuition at select institutions. Reconnect includes all the efforts aimed at making going back to college easier for adult learners.

Because of Tennessee Reconnect, Tennessee colleges and universities are working to make going back to college flexible for adult learners. This includes efforts that engage adults and connect them with their peers, efforts to increase adults' access to technology for academic purposes and creating connections between academic pursuits and career ambitions.

Many adults are afraid they are going to be the only adult in their college classes. They are also afraid that school will not fit into their schedule. Because our institutions are focused on getting adults back to college, you are likely to be surrounded by adults like yourself, who are studying while working.

**Start Now: When exploring institutions, ask advisors what support they offer to adult learners to make the transition back to college easier and more flexible.**



**Reconnect is about connecting you with the right people to guide you through going back to college.**

If you don't know where to start, or you need some additional help in navigating your options, assistance filling out forms and getting access to tools to help you manage your time as you attend college, you can talk to a Tennessee Reconnect Advisor in your community.

Tennessee Reconnect Community Advisors are your single point of contact that can help you navigate the path to college. They provide free advising, career exploration tools, assistance in understanding financial aid and college costs, and can help you select a college and a program that fits your interests and career goals.

Remember, college doesn't always mean a four-year bachelor's degree from a college or university. These advisors also help adults get 2-year, associate degrees and certificates from technical schools and vocational programs. Once you've enrolled, they will continue to support, guide and encourage you until you graduate.

**Start Now: Find a Tennessee Reconnect Community Advisor in your community by following these steps today!**

1. Go to [www.TNReconnect.gov](http://www.TNReconnect.gov)
2. Click on [Talk to an Advisor](#)
3. Choose [Talk to TNReconnect Community Advisor and find your county to locate your advisor.](#)
4. If your county is not currently listed, please contact [THEC.TNReconnect@tn.gov](mailto:THEC.TNReconnect@tn.gov) for advising services.

All public and some private, not-for-profit Tennessee colleges and universities have an office or individual dedicated to helping adult learners navigate their way back to and through college. You can also find a listing of these advisors by visiting [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov).

**Reconnect is about earning a credential, tuition-free, at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs)**

The TCAT Reconnect Grant is a "last-dollar" scholarship that pays the remaining balance after other state and Pell Grants have been applied. This Grant is available for adults who want to attend one of Tennessee's 27 Colleges of Applied Technology in Tennessee.

TCAT programs have a high percentage of graduates finding viable jobs. TCATs offer certificate and diploma programs in distinct occupational fields as well as customized training for business and industry. These include programs such as automotive technology, pharmacy technology and machine tool technology. TCATs offer more than 70 occupational programs to help job seekers train for a career.

The following eligibility requirements must be met for the TCAT Reconnect Grant:

- Tennessee resident, U.S. Citizen
- Have a FAFSA dependency status of independent
- Enroll full time at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology
- Be in pursuit of a certificate or diploma
- Maintain continuous enrollment and satisfactory academic progress



**Start Now: See [tbr.edu/institutions/college-applied-technology](http://tbr.edu/institutions/college-applied-technology) for locations and program listings. Apply to attend a TCAT, tuition free, by filling out the form on [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov). Click on the banner labeled Tennessee Reconnect Grant Interest Form. You can also apply for the Grant directly at the TCAT you choose to attend.**

**Reconnect is about helping you finish faster.**

You may be able to transfer some credits you earned previously from any of your prior colleges attended. There is a tool available for you to estimate just how many credits may count towards a degree. Visit the [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov), and create a profile. The site's Transfer Check feature allows you to estimate which of your past courses Tennessee colleges might accept and the degree programs that they could be applied to. Once you are admitted to a college, a representative will conduct a formal degree audit and make the final determination on which of those past credits they will accept.

Your past experiences and knowledge (from work, hobbies, volunteering, the military and other sources) may be shown to be equal to what you could learn in a college classroom. If you can demonstrate this knowledge at the college level, through prior learning assessment (PLA), then many institutions in Tennessee will award you college credit for what you already know. Find out more by asking an admissions counselor about [TimewiseTN](http://TimewiseTN) or visiting [TNReconnect.gov](http://TNReconnect.gov).

Some colleges offer special programs geared toward adult learners. Accelerated degree programs are also an option to shorten the time to completion. The common theme of these accelerated degree programs is that students can earn a degree in a shorter period of time

than if they enroll in a traditional program. There are also Adult Degree Completion Programs (ADCP) which are designed for busy working adults who are seeking flexible and affordable offerings and evening and weekend classes.

***"We've challenged our universities, community and technical colleges to work even harder at finding new ways to assist busy adults, particularly those who left before graduating, to come back to school and achieve their dreams of getting a college degree or certificate."***

**– Governor Bill Haslam**

**Reconnect is about funding adult students to attend Tennessee Community Colleges.**

The Community College Reconnect Grant is a first-come, first-served pilot grant program that provides a last-dollar scholarship to adults who want to return to community college and complete their associate degree. Adults who meet all of the qualifications will be expected to enroll in a Tennessee public community college in the 2016-17 academic year. We have 13 public community colleges across the state and a number of branch campuses. It is likely there is a community college offering programs near you.

There is not a separate application for the Community College Reconnect Grant, but there are specific eligibility requirements to receive and maintain the grant. Inquire and apply directly to the community college you want to attend.



**Start Now: Funding is limited! Check with your local community college regarding the Community College Reconnect Grant for eligibility and application requirements.**

