

## **TEACHER ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2006-07 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q1. What is the TASF?

A. The TASF (Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund) is a program designed to assist full-time teacher assistants pursuing initial teacher licensure at North Carolina community colleges and colleges and universities with teacher education programs. It is administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. Details about this program are available below and at [www.cfnc.org/tasf](http://www.cfnc.org/tasf)

Q2. What are the eligibility requirements for the Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund (TASF) for 2006-07?

A. To be eligible for TASF consideration in 2006-07, an individual must:

- be a full-time teacher assistant at a public or federal school in North Carolina
- be employed at least one year as a teacher assistant
- be a North Carolina legal resident for tuition purposes
- not be in default on a student loan
- have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average for consideration (students with higher grade point averages will generally be more competitive and stand a better chance of receiving funding)
- enroll at a North Carolina college that offers a teacher education program or a community college (transfer program). Credit earned through Internet or distance education programs is acceptable.
- be in a program leading toward initial teacher licensure
- enroll in at least six semester hours of coursework at the qualifying campus for each semester in which funds are received
- complete at least 12 semester hours of qualifying coursework during the 2006-07 academic year with a 3.0 or better grade point average. At least 6 hours must be taken each semester to qualify for funding.
- Complete the FAFSA which may be done electronically at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Q3. What if I take some of my classes through a consortium (partnership) arrangement between a four-year campus and a community college?

A. The required 6 hours may be taken on a two-year or four-year campus.

Q4. Is other funding available for teacher assistants?

A. The Model Teacher Education Consortium offers tuition assistance, PRAXIS preparation courses and other services to teacher assistants who work in one of their partner school systems. To learn more about the agency visit <http://www.ncmtec.com/default.htm>. To view a list of the qualifying systems visit <http://www.ncmtec.com/partners.htm>.

Teacher Assistants enrolled **full time** may be eligible for other programs administered by the NCSEAA, such as PTSL, FTNC, or PEC. Details are available at [http://www.ncseaa.edu/Program\\_Recipient\\_Info.htm](http://www.ncseaa.edu/Program_Recipient_Info.htm).

Teacher assistants considering careers as teachers in the fields of health, science or mathematics may consider the North Carolina Student Loan Program for Health, Science and Mathematics, administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. Details are available by calling (800) 700-1775 ext. 313 or (919) 549-8614 ext. 313, by writing to NC Student Loan Program for Health, Science and Mathematics, PO Box 13663, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3663 or by e-mailing [information@ncseaa.edu](mailto:information@ncseaa.edu)

Contact your advisor and/or the financial aid office of the campus you plan to attend to determine the availability of institutional funds as well as financial aid deadlines and required forms.

We also recommend that you visit the Web site for College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) at [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org) or call the toll-free number, 866-866-CFNC for information to help you plan, apply and pay for college. There is no charge for this service.

Finally, you must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for consideration for need-based and other funding that might be available for you. If you need assistance completing this form, you can register for one of the 51 free FAFSA Day programs that will be held throughout North Carolina on February 17, 2007. You can register online at

<http://www.cfnc.org/fafsaday>. If you cannot attend FAFSA Day, CFNC and your campus financial aid office can answer your questions about the FAFSA.

Q5. Will all eligible candidates who apply by the application deadline receive Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund awards?

A. No. The number of applications received far exceeds the scholarship funding. You are encouraged to apply for other financial aid as well.

All scholarship offers for 2006-07 will be contingent upon the receipt of sufficient money to fund those awards.

Q6. Who will receive priority when determining scholarship recipients?

A. Priority consideration will be given to previous TASF and TASL recipients who continue to meet all program requirements and submit their applications by the April 15, 2007 deadline. If insufficient money is available to fund all applicants in this group, priority will go to students with the highest grade point averages.

For funds that remain after renewal candidates are awarded, priority will go to students who are not previous TASF or TASL recipients who meet all program requirements and submit their applications by the April 15, 2007 deadline. Within this group, priority will go to those with the highest grade point averages.

Q7. I am a full-time teacher assistant, but I have taken a leave of absence this semester so that I can complete my student teaching requirements. Am I eligible to receive this scholarship?

A. You can qualify if you take a leave of absence from your teacher assistant position to complete your methods semester and / or your student teaching semester. You should submit documentation of your leave of absence and of your coursework showing that you will be working on either your student teaching semester or your methods semester; this information should be forwarded to the TASF Program Coordinator at SEAA prior to the start of the semester during which you will take the leave of absence.

Q8. I work as a counselor assistant in the guidance office of a public school, and I am not classified as a teacher assistant. I am enrolled in a four-year degree program leading to initial teacher licensure and I meet all other program requirements. Am I eligible for this scholarship?

A. No. You must be classified as a full-time teacher assistant in a North Carolina public or federal school to qualify for this scholarship.

Q9. If I apply for 2006-07, when will I be notified of the award decision? Is there a deadline for submission of an application?

A. Applications received by April 15, 2007 will be reviewed in April and May. We anticipate a large volume of applications; regrettably, we probably will not be able to fund every eligible student who applies.

Award letters will be mailed beginning April 15, 2007. Keep in mind that all awards will be subject to funding received from the legislature, and they can be reduced or cancelled if the appropriation for this program is reduced below last year's level.

Q10. Is there a maximum dollar amount I can receive through the TASF?

A. Beginning with the 2006-07 academic year, program participants will receive a maximum of \$3,600 (\$1,200 each term) if attending a four-year institution or \$1,800 (\$600 each term) if attending a two-year institution in TASF funding. Fall, spring and the combined summer sessions constitute the three terms.

The maximum amount a student can receive through this program is \$25,200.

Q11. Must I earn a minimum grade point average to renew my scholarship?

A. Yes. TASF recipients will need to maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to be eligible for renewal in 2007-08 and in future years.

Q12. I receive funding through the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Program (NCMTEC), and I have also been awarded the TASF. Can I accept both awards?

A. If you work in certain counties that are partners with the NC Model Teacher Education Consortium (NCMTEC) you may be eligible for reduced tuition and other services offered by that program. You cannot receive full awards from both programs. You may, however, be eligible for a supplemental stipend from NCMTEC if you are awarded the TASF and the cost of tuition exceeds the funds provided through TASF.

If you receive the TASF, you may also be eligible to take advantage of classes and some of the services provided by NCMTEC, such as PRAXIS test preparation workshops. You should check with NCMTEC regarding these and other services. To determine if you are eligible for services provided by NCMTEC or if you teach in a participating school system, or to determine if you teach in one of the participating counties, contact NCMTEC at (800) 280-6985 or by e-mail at [staff@ncmtec.org](mailto:staff@ncmtec.org) or visit their Web site, [www.ncmtec.com/partners.htm](http://www.ncmtec.com/partners.htm) to view the list of participating school systems.

Q13. If I am offered full funding through both the NCMTEC and the TASF, which funds should I accept?

A. If you work in certain counties that are partners with the NC Model Teacher Education Consortium (NCMTEC), you may be eligible for reduced tuition and other services offered by that program. You cannot receive full awards from both programs. You may, however, be eligible for a supplemental stipend from NCMTEC if you are awarded the TASF and the cost of tuition exceeds the funds provided through TASF.

If you receive the TASF, you may also be eligible to take advantage of classes and some of the services provided by NCMTEC, such as PRAXIS test preparation workshops. You should check with NCMTEC regarding these and other services. To determine if you are eligible for services provided by NCMTEC or if you teach in a participating school system, or to determine if you teach in one of the participating counties, contact NCMTEC at (800) 280-6985 or by e-mail at [staff@ncmtec.org](mailto:staff@ncmtec.org) or visit their Web site, [www.ncmtec.com/partners.htm](http://www.ncmtec.com/partners.htm) to view the list of participating school systems.

Q14. I have defaulted on a student loan. Am I eligible for this scholarship?

A. No. You must first re-establish a satisfactory payment history with the loan agency to qualify for the TASF.

Q15. I am a teacher assistant in a private school. Am I eligible?

A. No. Only teacher assistants in public and federal schools in North Carolina are eligible for this scholarship.

Q16. Are PRAXIS PPST scores required to be considered for this scholarship?

A. PRAXIS PPST scores are required from applicants who are classified as juniors or seniors and have not yet been admitted to a teacher licensure program. For 2006-07 these scores will be used only for research purposes; in future years the scores may be used as one measure to determine eligibility. These scores must be forwarded along with the TASF application and the required transcripts.

Q17. I already have a four-year degree. Am I eligible for this program?

A. Students who have already earned four-year degrees can be considered if they are working toward initial teacher licensure in a second-degree program or a licensure-only program. Students enrolled in a graduate-level program, such as a master's degree program, are not eligible.

Note:

Previous TASF and TASL recipients must adhere to the aforementioned Guidelines, with the following exceptions for the 2006-07 academic year:

- Not required to complete the FAFSA (though recommended)
- Maintain a 2.8 GPA—for 2007-08; a 3.0 GPA must be achieved to remain eligible for future funding