

Paris Junior College
Connect Program
Application Guidelines

An applicant for Perkins grant funds through the Connect Program must submit the application for assistance by the priority deadline. Applicants who submit their applications after the priority deadline will only be considered if funds are available. Incomplete applications will not be considered, nor will the student be notified of missing documentation.

The applicant must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) either at the PJC Financial Aid Office, with a designated Financial Aid Advisor at the Paris campus, Greenville center, or Sulphur Springs center, or on line at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. Awards are based on unmet financial need. An applicant is ranked for services first by unmet need categories and then by the date the application was received. Designated PJC personnel will document the date and time the application was received.

Eligibility Requirements for the Connect Program:

- Must have submitted an application for admission to PJC.
- Must have completed a FASFA and been determined to have an unmet need by the PJC Financial Aid office.
- Must be declared a technical/vocational major on the official college records at the PJC Records Office (applicant must check to determine if their major listed is a technical/vocational major before applying for services. If not, applicants must officially change their majors at the Records Office).
- Must have signed and submitted the Connect Program application with all documentation submitted by the appropriate deadline.
- Must sign all Connect Program contracts prior to funds being dispersed.
- Must demonstrate satisfactory progress by maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Must attend mandatory meetings and special workshops as assigned.
- Must be one of the following special population categories:
 - Single parent
 - Student with disabilities
 - Economically disadvantaged student
 - Student preparing for non-traditional major for their gender (example: men in nursing or women in welding)
 - Homeless student
 - Pregnant or parenting student
 - Student who aged out of foster care
 - Out of the workforce
 - Student with limited English proficiency

Tool Kit and Certification Vouchers

Tool Kit - Students that meet the requirements above and are designated as a Special Population are eligible to apply for and receive up to \$200 per term for tool kits that are required as part of the students' Workforce course. If the kit is less than \$200 only the actual cost will be eligible. Some students may receive this assistance for more than one course if additional courses with tool kit fees are part of the curriculum. Funding is limited and may run out so not all students may be served.

Certification - Students that meet the requirements above and are designated as a Special Population are eligible to apply for and receive up to \$100 per term for industry certification or licensing exams. Industry certification exams are only eligible when they are part of the Workforce Education course and the exam is directly tied to the student outcomes, such as welding AWS certification. Licensure exams must be a requirement for State or National Licensing to work in the discipline upon graduating from an eligible Health Occupations program. Funding is limited and may run out so not all students may be served.