

## Frequently Asked Questions for 1098-T Form

### 1. What is the Purpose of a 1098-T form?

The 1098-T form is used by eligible educational institutions to report information about their students to the IRS, as required by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Eligible educational institutions are required to submit the student's name, address, and taxpayer's identification number (TIN), enrollment, and academic status. Beginning with 2003, educational institutions were also required to report amounts to the IRS pertaining to qualified tuition and related expenses, as well as scholarships and/or grants, taxable or not.

1098-T forms are **provided to each applicable student**. These forms are **informational only** and serve to alert students that they may be eligible for federal income tax education credits. A 1098-T form **should not be considered as a tax opinion or advice**. While it is a good starting point, the 1098-T, as designed and regulated by the IRS, does not contain all of the information needed to claim a tax credit. There is no IRS requirement that you must claim the tuition and fees deduction or an education credit. Claiming education tax benefits is a voluntary decision for those who may qualify.

### 2. Why did I receive a 1098-T and what am I supposed to do with it?

In January of each year, an IRS Form 1098-T is made available electronically, or mailed to students who selected the option for paper distribution, to all students who had qualified tuition and other related educational expenses billed to them during the previous calendar year. **This form is informational only and should not be considered as a tax opinion or advice.** It serves to alert students that they may be eligible for federal income tax education credits. Receipt of Form 1098-T does not indicate eligibility for the tax credit. To determine the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid, and the amount of scholarships and grants received, a **taxpayer should use their own financial records.**

**\*NOTE: It is up to each taxpayer to determine eligibility for the credits and how to calculate them.**

### **3. Why did I not receive a 1098-T form this year?**

#### **I. First, check to see if your form was electronically produced and is available on TCC Passport.**

You can access the 1098-T forms through the student portal, by logging into your TCC Passport with your TCC email account and password. Select the “My Account” tab, then select the term and year for which you need the 1098-T, then select the radio button beside “1098-T Information” to obtain the 1098-T in question.

#### **II. If a 1098-T form is not available for the selected year, you did not meet the requirements for receiving a 1098-T for that calendar year, due to:**

- a. **Qualified tuition and related expenses** - 1098-T forms are only issued for students whose qualified tuition and related expenses are greater than the students’ scholarships, grants and waivers. (Please refer to IRS instructions for Forms 1098E and 1098-T, page 2, under exceptions at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-prior/i1098et--2016.pdf>). Please see the following examples:
  - i. Student A has qualified tuition and fees of \$7,550 (Box 1) and scholarship, waivers and grants of \$11,250 (Box 5) for calendar year 2016. **Student A will not receive a 1098-T form from TCC.**
  - ii. Student B has qualified tuition and fees of \$8,275 (Box 1) and scholarship, waivers and grants of \$2,250 (Box 5) for calendar year 2016. **Student B will receive a 1098-T form from TCC.**
- b. **No social security number (SSN)** - If you do not have a valid social security number and **are not** a non-resident alien student, a notification was sent to you through

email and postal mail notifying you that you needed to update your social security number. To update the social security number, please provide the necessary documentation to the Registrar's Office to update your SSN in the system. If the College has already submitted the 1098-T data to the IRS, a 1098-T may still be issued; however, a fine may be assessed to the student as a result of not updating their information on file in a timely manner.

- c. **Non-resident alien student** - If you are a non-resident alien student, a 1098-T will not be issued unless it is specifically requested by the student. You will be required to provide a valid SSN or international tax identification number (ITIN) to receive the requested 1098-T form.

#### **4. Why is box 1 of my 1098-T Blank?**

Box 1 shows payments received or amount covered by financial aid for qualified tuition and related expenses. The IRS provides the option for institutions to report either "Payments received" in Box 1 OR "Amounts billed" in Box 2, but not both (refer to Page 14 of IRS Publication 970 for details). TCC has elected to report "Payments Received". **Tax credits are based on the amount of qualified tuition and related expenses actually paid. Please refer to your student account, by term, in your Passport Portal and determine the amount of qualified tuition and related expenses that you actually paid during the calendar year when computing your credit.**

#### **5. What information was reported in Boxes 1 and 5 of my Form 1098-T?**

- Box 1- This box will contain the sum of all qualified tuition and related expenses paid or covered by financial aid for a student during a calendar year. Tuition waivers and exemptions will reduce the sum of the student's qualified tuition and related expenses for the year.
- Box 5- This box contains the sum of all scholarships and grants TCC administered and processed for the student during the calendar year. Scholarships that pay for tuition (qualified scholarships) and other expenses (non-qualified scholarships) will be included

in this amount. Payments received from third party sponsors that are applied to student accounts for educational expenses are included in this box.

## **6. What educational expenses are considered as qualified tuition and related expenses?**

Qualified tuition and related expenses for calculating tax credits/deductions:

- Tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution (any accredited public, nonprofit, or proprietary postsecondary institution – including TCC)

Ineligible expenses for calculating tax credits/deductions:

- Room and Board
- Athletics (unless part of the degree program)
- Insurance
- Transportation
- Other similar personal, living or family expenses
- Late fees and/or fines
- Orientation fees
- Loan Processing Fees

## **7. How is my Financial Aid Reported?**

Financial aid, including scholarships and/or grants, is only reported when it is **not** expected to be paid back by the student. Similar to tuition and other applicable charges, financial aid is reported on your 1098-T according to the calendar year that it was posted to your account, not necessarily the year it was applied or refunded.

## **8. I attended last spring so why did I not get a 1098-T form this year?**

If you attended in the spring semester last year, you may need to refer to your printed receipts when determining your tax credit. Students are billed for the spring semester as early as December in the preceding year. Depending on the date of enrollment, the charges may have been incurred in the previous year.

**9. Whom do I contact if I need a prior year's 1098-T form?**

Prior year's 1098-T forms are available to you online. Log into [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu), select Search, then TCC Passport, sign in by entering your TCC email account and password, select the "My Financials" tab, then select the term and year for which you need the 1098-T, then select the radio button beside "1098-T Information" to obtain the form in question. If the form cannot be located, please contact the Business Office at (850) 201-8525 or [business@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:business@tcc.fl.edu) for further assistance.

**10. I lost my 1098-T form. How do I get another?**

Log into [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu), select Search, then select TCC Passport, sign in by entering your TCC email account and password, select the "My Financials" tab, then select the term and year for which you need the 1098-T, then select the radio button beside "1098-T Information" to obtain the 1098-T in question. If you need to retrieve your pin and login, please contact the Help Desk at (850) 201-8545.

**11. Whom do I contact if the Social Security Number on my Form 1098-T is missing or incorrect?**

To update your SSN, you may access the [Personal Information Change Form](#) and follow the instructions included on the form. Please contact the Admissions and Records Office at [admissions-records@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:admissions-records@tcc.fl.edu) for further instructions.

**12. I disagree with the data reported on my Form 1098-T. Whom should I contact to correct this condition?**

Please call the Business Office at (850) 201-8525 or send an email to [business@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:business@tcc.fl.edu).

**13. Was my financial information reported to the IRS?**

Yes, the information shown on your 1098T form will be submitted to the IRS by the College. If you were able to download your Form 1098-T electronically, your financial information was reported to the IRS. Section 6050S of the Internal Revenue Code, as enacted by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, requires institutions to file information returns to assist taxpayers and the

Internal Revenue Service in determining eligibility for the Hope and Lifetime Learning education tax credits. Forms are mailed at the end of January of each year for the previous tax year.

**14. How do I know if I qualify for an education tax credit or deduction, and how do I claim it if I qualify?**

The college cannot advise students on the preparation of their tax return. Information for calculating a credit or deduction can be found in IRS Publication 970 "Tax Benefits for Education".

***As a reminder, 1098-T forms will NOT be generated for students whose scholarships/grants totals (Box 5) is greater or equal to the total amount included in Box 1.***

***Note: Please be advised that TCC is prohibited from providing legal, tax, or accounting advice to students and we are not responsible for any use you make of this information.***