



NEWS

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El Camino College Students May Be Eligible for the American Opportunity Tax Credit

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, students at El Camino College may qualify for a tax credit to help pay for college fees and expenses. The American Opportunity Credit is worth up to \$2,500 of the cost of fees and related expenses, such as books, supplies and equipment needed for a course of study. Students or their parents can make a claim on 2009 and 2010 tax returns.

Full credit is available to individuals whose gross annual income is \$80,000 or less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples. Even students who don't make enough money to file a return should do it anyway because they may receive up to \$1,000 back. Reminder: the last day to file a 2009 tax return is April 15, 2010.

To take advantage of this tax credit, contact the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at 1-800-829-1040. The VITA program offers **free** tax help to people with a gross annual income at or below \$49,000 who need assistance preparing their tax returns.

Students and their parents are encouraged to learn more about this important tax credit by visiting www.irs.gov/recovery and clicking on the "American Opportunity Credit" link.

For more information about financial aid at El Camino College and to receive assistance with the application process, contact the Financial Aid Office at 310-660-3493 or go to elcamino.edu/student-services/fao.

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