

A Giles County and New River Community College Partnership



Access to Community College Education New River Community College

Giles County was the first locality in the New River Valley to participate in the “Access to Community College Education” initiative. ACCE is a public/private partnership that makes college available, tuition-free, to current, resident, high school graduates from Giles County for up to two years (60 credit hours) at New River Community College. ACCE supports as many students as possible based on student need and funds available. Students will graduate from NRCC prepared to join the workforce or transfer to a four-year university with no or little college debt.

The Facts:

- High School/Private /School/Home School students who graduate in 2018 with a minimum 2.5 GPA qualify.
- Students must be residents of Giles County for one year prior to applying to ACCE.
- Students must first apply through FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in order to participate. Note: If a student qualifies for full financial aid in the first year and does NOT need ACCE funding, the student may elect to retain their ACCE funding eligibility into the second year by completing their 100 community service hours/annum.
- Students must complete the NRCC Placement Tests (or SAT/ACT) with no more than nine credits of development coursework needed.
- Students must take the College Success Skills course during their first semester of enrollment
- Funds will allow no more than 15 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters. A maximum of 60 hours will be funded over the two years. Students must enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA at NRCC to remain eligible for ACCE funding.
- Fees for any classes failed or withdrawn after the deadline must be reimbursed to ACCE.
- Students must pay for their own textbooks and supplies. NOTE: ACCE pays for up to 60 credit hours maximum. (NOTE: Some degrees require more than 60 credit hours.)
- Students must enroll in a degree or certificate program that meets federal financial aid requirements.
- If students are in a certificate program, they may not take multiple certificates that are not complimentary to each other, or, do not result in an AAS or AA&S Certificate.
- It is strongly suggested that students do not work the first semester in order to ensure greater academic success.
- Students and a guardian are strongly encouraged to attend a Financial Aid Workshop held at each high school.
- Students must complete 100 hours in a Giles County assigned community service project each year. (A waiver for 20 hours is available for student’s documented civic/volunteerism activity.) All hours are solely at the discretion of the Community Service Coordinator, including 20 hours related to the Muddy ACCE Race.
- Additionally, each student is required to promote the Muddy ACCE Race by either, 1. Securing a race sponsor, 2. Sponsoring a team or 3. Securing a vendor.
- ACCE students will be required to enter the Friday test Race and pay an entry fee.
- Each ACCE student will agree to submit to random drug screens as described in the ACCE Drug Testing Policy.
- ACCE student attendance at the Donor Appreciation Dinner each fall and graduation ceremonies is mandatory.

For more information, contact: Tonya Vaden-Giles Technology Center-540-921-1166 Charlie Mullins or Jeff Dinger-Giles County Administration-540-921-2525 or Erika Tolbert-New River Community College-540-674-3600 x 4516