The year of 2020 has been nothing but full of surprises, tragedy, and change. The deadly Coronavirus has affected our entire world and changed our everyday lives, and it will probably be forever changed due to the circumstances. Although it has been a difficult adjustment to our lives, school boards worldwide have been doing everything in their power to make sure all students are getting the education they deserve. By schools making adjustments to the guidelines, sanitizing regularly, and continuing on with school, whether it be virtually or in person, we will slowly begin to move forward with life while accepting the hardships that we have been faced with. Sanitary precautions around campus

According to Community College Review, Grayson College is home to about 4,636 students with a student:teacher ratio of 28:1, a reasonable amount of students to be in class together. Math Professor Dr. Billy Cheek explains that a fire at a Level One was a suggested evacuation, whereas a Level 3 is a mandatory evacuation. Rapid exit

Hald had the bare minimum of things to pack in place to prepare for a wildfire. Realizing the sudden risk to her and her grandmother’s lives, Hald decided it was best to “quickly get out of [the] one-road town—ahead of everyone else.” In the chance that authorities might shut down the only road that goes through the town, she quickly grabbed the children, her dog, and her medicine and loaded them in the car. (Continued on pg 7)

Wildfires devastate Oregon

- Karey Medart, Student

When Oregon residents closed their eyes the night of Monday, September 7, they did not know what the world had in store for them. The morning of September 8, residents of Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and numerous other surrounding cities awoke to fires threatening the safety of them and their loved ones. By 11 that morning the evacuation order was at a Level One in Ashland, Oregon, according to 63-year-old Carolyn Hald, a lifelong resident of Ashland. Hald explains that a fire at a Level One was a further precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 precautions also went into effect for grading. Gracie McDoan, Cosmetology major and resident of Jones Hall at Grayson College, relates that every single Cosmetology student, including herself, was anticipating to arrive on time Thursday through Monday-Thursday at 7:30 in the morning to get their temperature checked before they are allowed to enter into the salon/classroom. (Continued on pg 5)

A new normal? The mental health impact of COVID-19 - 2 Students

- Francisco Lobato, Student

Early spring of 2020, a new virus afloat around the world. Millions have died, and many experience persisting symptoms even after recovery, not only physical but also mental. Due to social distancing guidelines set by the Center of Disease Control, colleges throughout the United States have been forced to shut down. New norm/Changing plans

Like many students, Francisco, a graphic design major at Grayson College, struggled adjusting to this new normal. Not only was she not able to see her friends while quarantining, but this pandemic greatly impacted her mental health. Francisco states, “I wasn’t in the best place before, and I lost many social skills because they weren’t put into practice.” The lack of social interactions and educational strategies has left many students confined to their homes. Although necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19, social distancing can take a toll on the mental health of students.

Francisco, like many students at Grayson College, has struggled monetarily during the pandemic, greatly affecting her mental health. Early spring, as Covid-19 spread throughout the world, many restaurants, shopping centers, and entertainment centers were forced to close in order to “flatten the curve” of the spread. Francisco, who works at Cotton Patch in Denison, Texas, was worried. She states, “I lacked the resources I had to adjust.” (Continued on pg 2)

How about some COVID fun?

- Micolero Chumley, Student

Imagine living in a bubble, but when your bubble gets too close to another bubble, they both pop. Since you know that you could pop your own bubble or someone else’s bubble, you are careful not to get too close to them. How is many students feel living on campus. Many days it feels as though there is nothing to do other than homework. With the restrictions due to the pandemic, they feel as though they are not allowed to have a social life or friends outside of their dorm building. The biggest question is how do we have fun on campus and make others feel less isolated while still being Coronavirus safe?

A new Academic Year Adjusts to Pandemic Reality

- Sydney Reddie, Student

Cheek explains that while attending their once-a-week in-person classes, students are required to sit at least one chair apart from each other to practice social distancing. At the end of class, Dr. Cheek expects her in-person classes to wipe down their entire desk and class computer (if used) and chair the student sat in with disinfectant wipes and spray to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. With the new normal, spending is not as common in class with the students is and will take any

How to master financial aid

- Sydney Reddie, Student

Cheek explains that while attending their once-a-week in-person classes, students are required to sit at least one chair apart from each other to practice social distancing. At the end of class, Dr. Cheek expects her in-person classes to wipe down their entire desk and class computer (if used) and chair the student sat in with disinfectant wipes and spray to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

A new normal? The mental health impact of COVID-19 - 2 Students

- Francisco Lobato, Student

Early spring of 2020, a new virus afloat around the world. Millions have died, and many experience persisting symptoms even after recovery, not only physical but also mental. Due to social distancing guidelines set by the Center of Disease Control, colleges throughout the United States have been forced to shut down. New norm/Changing plans

Like many students, Francisco, a graphic design major at Grayson College, struggled adjusting to this new normal. Not only was she not able to see her friends while quarantining, but this pandemic greatly impacted her mental health. Francisco states, “I wasn’t in the best place before, and I lost many social skills because they weren’t put into practice.” The lack of social interactions and educational strategies has left many students confined to their homes. Although necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19, social distancing can take a toll on the mental health of students.

Francisco, like many students at Grayson College, has struggled monetarily during the pandemic, greatly affecting her mental health. Early spring, as Covid-19 spread throughout the world, many restaurants, shopping centers, and entertainment centers were forced to close in order to “flatten the curve” of the spread. Francisco, who works at Cotton Patch in Denison, Texas, was worried. She states, “I lacked the resources I had to adjust.” (Continued on pg 2)

How about some COVID fun?

- Micolero Chumley, Student

Imagine living in a bubble, but when your bubble gets too close to another bubble, they both pop. Since you know that you could pop your own bubble or someone else’s bubble, you are careful not to get too close to them. How is many students feel living on campus. Many days it feels as though there is nothing to do other than homework. With the restrictions due to the pandemic, they feel as though they are not allowed to have a social life or friends outside of their dorm building. The biggest question is how do we have fun on campus and make others feel less isolated while still being Coronavirus safe?

A new Academic Year Adjusts to Pandemic Reality

- Sydney Reddie, Student

Cheek explains that while attending their once-a-week in-person classes, students are required to sit at least one chair apart from each other to practice social distancing. At the end of class, Dr. Cheek expects her in-person classes to wipe down their entire desk and class computer (if used) and chair the student sat in with disinfectant wipes and spray to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. With the new normal, spending is not as common in class with the students is and will take any

How to master financial aid

- Sydney Reddie, Student

Cheek explains that while attending their once-a-week in-person classes, students are required to sit at least one chair apart from each other to practice social distancing. At the end of class, Dr. Cheek expects her in-person classes to wipe down their entire desk and class computer (if used) and chair the student sat in with disinfectant wipes and spray to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. With the new normal, spending is not as common in class with the students is and will take any

In this issue:

- Students/Personality adapt to online learning pg 3
- Inside look at NWCC Career Field pg 6
- How to master financial aid pg 7

Above: Student Cheek explains how students have adjusted to the new norm. (Photo provided by Cheek.)

Below: Talent, Oregon left unrecognizable by fire. (Photo by Carrie Brown)
This year has brought a great deal of tests, all of us. We have been quarantined and masked. We have lost loved ones, missed school, lost jobs, and have been unable to travel to see loved ones. The list continues endlessly. How do we accomplish what seems like such a herculean task? A good start might be: “Find the silver lining in all situations.” But how do we get from the proverbial here to there?

My testimony involves the devastating experience of being the first person to find a family member after he had lost his battle with PTSD and had taken his own life. The horror of that day revisited me on a hourly basis and continued to haunt me for what seemed like forever. Planning the funeral and memorial services filled my waking hours, and nightmares took away any peaceful slumber I could hope for.

My grades and attendance suffered, and I was in danger of losing scholarships. I felt like a zombie, walking through life on auto pilot, I was doing things, but nothing was getting done, and depression seeped in like a psychological poison.

I reached out to the Veterans Service Office for local resources to seek counseling and they assisted me by directing me to Barbara Malone for the counseling I needed. Our local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa adopted me into their organization, taking me with them to the Phi Theta Kappa Texas Regional Conference in Ablenine. I found rare and loving camaraderie amongst both organizations. I have also had found support with our Student Support Services, who have fantastic tutors and helped me to maintain my GPA and be named to the 2020 All-Texas Academic Team. Decide what your goal is for the next day, week, month, etc., and block out the non-possible. Remember this when taking tests you encounter in achieving your goals are simply a path to your testimony, your well-deserved reward. Most importantly, to keep focus, you must keep your eyes on your path. Your eyes are the most important tool on this journey. Take into consideration that a horse will always walk in the direction that its eyes are looking. A distracted horse will turn his head and look away when stopping along his path to graze and see what scrumptious treats he may find and then travel further. And eventually his path is out of sight. In the same way, we must focus by keeping our eyes on our chosen prizises. Allow ourselves to be distracted while we are on our chosen path, we might miss a different decision that changes the course from what we have been doing. Let us know where we are so far from our path it seems as though there is way back and we have just complicated our lives that much more. Amidst the Pandemic of this time, we have the tools we need, right here at Grayson College, to allow us to be the guides to our own rock in the stormy seas.

Contrary to popular belief, asking for help does not show weakness. Rather, it shows that we are a stronger person to ask for help when it is needed. We access some of the best resources here at Grayson College, and have never encountered Grayson and Grayson is not my first college. The staff and resource programs here are directly responsible for helping me to survive the 2020 Spring semester, but to continue to be strong enough to stay in school and continue my education.

I am so very grateful for everything Grayson College has done for me, but the hardest step was that first one. The decision to reach out and ask for help was the most difficult, and after that, my grade became amazing how the cogs began to turn in this wonderful organization.

Previously, I have maintained my status as a student at Grayson and I am due to graduate summa cum laude in the spring with my Associates Degree in Business Administration. I am also a work study in the Veteran’s Service Office, and currently I am the president of the Veterans of America club. Thanks to the wonderful people at Grayson College, I didn’t just survive, I thrived. This is my testimony; now...
COVID Challenges

Virtual face-to-face education

All schools and colleges across the world have had to take specific precautions due to COVID-19, including Grayson College. Though the college offers many opportunitites for students to learn,span their way and achieve their goals, unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, students at Grayson College have not been able to fulfill those wishes. Learning challenges Haylee Hill, a new student at Grayson College, comments “I hate not being able to see my professors face to face or not having the opportunity to ask questions to my classmates.” She learned more easily in high school with a physical presence of her teachers and the ability to ask questions face to face. As an online student, “it is easier for her to procrastinate” with the longer deadlines. “I feel as though I am due until tomorrow, so I will just do it tomorrow.”

Learning challenges

Kendall Sluder, Student

COVID struggles in the community

Not only has COVID-19 affected college professors, but it affects K-12 teachers as well. Just as busy, Kacy Garner, a regular teacher and dyslexia therapist, teaches in a program that is “multitasking by definition.”

Parent’s perspective

Crystal Bahle, a parent of a Grayson College student, struggles with her child being faced with the ongoing pandemic, a lot of people have lost their jobs and have also been homeschooling. She fears that her child is concerned that the income loss will affect her ability to continue attending college. “This also puts a strain on the students who are learning without the income they have.”

What is the solution? The solution is to create a set routine. There are benefits to both of the choices, but it’s ultimately the students’ decision.
- Crystal Hayes, Student
Could online training hurt career chances?

Sami Thompson, a sophomore nursing student, is still adjusting to the recent changes Grayson College is undergoing. In the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, nursing students like Thompson were meeting on campus for their lectures, but are now strictly online. “I feel like you end up learning about their career and how to care for their patients in the future. [Having class online] means that I have to go to college classes, in particular Microbiology, harder to learn,” says Thompson.

Although class structures may be making it harder for students to learn, Bridge Hill finds the benefits of online learning outweigh the negatives. “There are a significant portion of remote or virtual class meetings conducted over Skype,” explains Hill. “Even before the pandemic, was prepared for the switch online over. Bridges states, “Bridge Hill was to be online and having the willingness to allow our courses to be primarily online in order to provide the same safety.”

Pros and Cons

Feelings toward in-person vs. online education vary widely. Some students seem to be clear for some disciplines. Thompson feels nursing students need in-class courses to experience labs, so they can efficiently learn the information in their future. Online courses also have a disadvantage as students do not have the same potential to develop relationships with other students or professors. Bridge says, “It is more difficult to get to know the person needs of both students and faculty. These are unprecedented times, and students need to be flexible and ready to face the situations.”

Hill conducts interviews at Grayson College’s Virtual Program they could expect a much higher starting wage. Someone with an Apprenticeship Certification would receive an offer of about $25 per hour. If one were to work full time, that would be $50,000 per year. Hill believes whether students get a chance to experience labs, so they can understand the specifics rather than the larger context. For example, some may understand joint better than the digestive system.

The course A&P 2 covers terminology, structures, and functions of the human body, and is one of the core classes for the nursing program at Nacogdoches College Hospital. A previously-trained Nurse at Nacogdoches Hospital, Hill was a registered nurse at the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Nacogdoches Hospital in her time of taking Anatomy and Physiology in the Emergency Department for two years prior. He contends that, “It is definitely more difficult.”” For example, she recalls. “Firstly, I do was learn from her past mistakes and try not to repeat them.”

Continued from “Anatomy” pg 1

The course A&P 2 covers terminology, structures, and functions of the human body. Of course, but some are able to understand the specifics rather than the larger context. For example, some may understand joint better than the digestive system.

The course A&P 2 covers terminology, structures, and functions of the human body. Of course, but some are able to understand the specifics rather than the larger context. For example, some may understand joint better than the digestive system.

The course A&P 2 covers terminology, structures, and functions of the human body. Of course, but some are able to understand the specifics rather than the larger context. For example, some may understand joint better than the digestive system.
One of the best ways to relax is to enter a mountain bike trail that has been carefully planned and carved into the earth, avoiding or maneuvering tree roots, covered rocks, and avoiding the tree trunks in a relaxing activity.

However, in our area, that’s not so easy. Jason Griffin, a former Pro Mountain biker living in Sherman, Texas, believes Grayson County could use more bike trails.

One question many have when they are looking at a mountain bike trail is if the trail will be safe or challenging. Many people feel like they are not comfortable with the trail they are riding. But, with a little bit of training and study, you can learn how to enjoy the trail and get the most out of it.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.

In-person activities
As far as activities in person go, many of our staff are trying their hardest to ensure that we are not only in a safe learning and living environment, but also a safe environment for the people who attend our events. The Viking Facebook page holds many events that the Viking Facebook page holds.

Previous events included virtual bingo as well as SLICE, a weekly workshop focused on personal development. SLICE is hosted every Monday night at 7 pm and topics change every week. Lott says that it is most fun when one is playing with the people one knows from school.
Phi Theta Kappa activities remain uninterrupted

Late spring and summer are the busiest times for Grayson College’s Omicron Psi chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Although the 2020-2021 academic year has been a challenge, this year has been no exception. This April, the chapter virtually attended its first Phi Theta Kappa conference, where they successfully ran a candidate for International President. Following this, the chapter hosted a spring induction in early May, laid the groundwork for two major projects to take place during the fall term. The first of these was a TEDx event hosted with a sister chapter from Collin College. This digital event contained three student and two professional speakers discussing topics related to sociology and human conditioning.

Their second event partnered the chapter with the United Way to connect students with nonprofits addressing housing and food insecurity, child advocacy, and more. Students can learn more about these programs at the Virtual Resource Fair to be held October 6th from 3-5pm. The event is accessible through the College and chapter’s social media feeds.

The chapter also has plans for events throughout the rest of the fall term including a fall orientation for new and returning students, an international conference, and an induction ceremony at the end of the Fall term.

You can join the chapter in their future activities by visiting their Facebook and Instagram feeds at ptkomicronpsi. They host meetings every Wednesday at 12:30.

8 Great tips for Mastering your financial aid

1. Have your tax information ready.
   The Department of Education will frequently select students who submitted a FAFSA for verification to prevent fraud. If this happens, you will have to submit documentation to submit for verification. The taxes in question must be from two years before the current school year you are applying for. For the 2022-2023 school year you must be over the age of 24, married, have children or other dependents you support by more than 50%, or be a veteran or active-duty in the military. If none of these qualifications are met, you are considered dependent.
   Please note: there are special circumstances where the dependents reasons above do not apply. If you are placed in a dependent position where you do not have access to parents or guardians please let the financial aid office know and we will look into your particular case.

2. Understand the difference between a dependent student and an independent student.
   Many think that because they do not live with their parents that they can be considered independent. However, this is not how the Department of Education defines independent status. In order for you to be considered independent you must be over the age of 24, married, have children or other dependents you support by more than 50%, or be a veteran or active-duty in the military. If none of these qualifications are met, you are considered dependent.

3. Look up the deadlines for any documents you need to submit and schedule those deadlines in your calendar for 1-2 weeks in advance.
   Typically, most schools have a priority deadline many months prior to school starting. You would want to make sure you have enough time to submit your FAFSA, and if you are an independent student, you should also consider submitting your tax returns to the Department of Education. The FAFSA application opens almost a full year in advance for students to complete. For example, for the 2021-2022 academic year, the FAFSA will be available on October 1, 2020, and will have a final deadline of June 30, 2022.

4. Make sure you are registered for classes.
   Not registering for classes can impact classes so your financial aid can be applied to your account.
   You will also need to meet with your Success Coach to make an advising appointment, and ensure your account is Free Tuition Approved.
   Financial Aid will only pay for classes that are part of your degree plan and required for degree completion/graduation.

5. Be aware of your GPA and Pace.
   GPA is your grade point average. It has to be a 2.0 or higher in order for you to qualify for financial aid.
   This means you must maintain a 2.0 or pass vs. the number of hours you attempted. So, if you signed up for 12 hours, but drop, withdraw, or fail six of them, your pace will be 50%. The Department of Education requires that you maintain at least a 67% pace for your entire college career to maintain Financial Aid.

6. If you are needing to drop a class for any reason always check with your financial aid first to make sure it does not risk you losing your aid.
   Normally there is not an issue so long as you pass one of the other classes. However, if you drop all your classes, Financial Aid will not pay for the classes you drop, but drop, withdraw, or fail six of them, your pace will be 50%. The Department of Education requires that you maintain at least a 67% pace for your entire college career to maintain Financial Aid.

7. Attend Your Classes.
   Related to our previous point, if you do not meet attendance requirements for a class, you will be required to drop the class or fail it.

8. Take advantage of our Contact Us Page for making appointments...
   Lines are exhausting, and in our COVID-19 world they can even be dangerous. Dodge the line by requesting an appointment through the “Contact Us” section on the Financial Aid page.

Here are the links:

- Financial Aid Home Page: https://grayson.edu/FinancialAid/index.html
- Financial Aid Contact Us page: https://grayson.edu/FinancialAid/ContactUs
- Financial Aid Appointment scheduling page: https://advisingconsulting.as.na/FAA/virtualAppointments

Student Support Services now accepting applications for Fall 2020!

- Student Support Services (SSS) is now accepting applications for Fall 2020! SSS, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is a TRIO program dedicated to increasing the retention and graduation rates for low-income, first-generation, and/or current students with documented disabilities at Grayson College. Resources we provide include: advising students on which classes to take to complete their degree plan, assisting with exploring 4-year universities and the transfer process as well as applying for financial aid, helpful life-workshops, scholarship opportunities, one-on-one tutoring, and providing a supportive environment.

If you’re interested in joining our program, email us at sss@grayson.edu.

Use this QR code to go straight to the application!