How Do I Know I Have A Book Advance?

A check will automatically be issued and mailed to you. If you signed up for direct deposit, the advance payment will be sent electronically to your account accordingly for the appropriate amount.

How Do I Know When the Book Advance will be mailed to me or directly deposited into my account?

You can find the dates listed in our Financial Aid Payment Calendar which is issued each semester. You can pick up this calendar at the financial aid office, room NG-13.

What is the difference between a disbursement and a refund?

When your awards are disbursed to your CUNYfirst account, they will be applied to any unpaid tuition and fee charges. If you have a financial aid credit balance after the payment of your tuition and fees, you will receive a refund that will be electronically deposited to your personal bank account or sent to your home address in the form of a paper check.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- You can only receive one book advance during a semester.
- The maximum book advance amount you can receive is $682.
- The book advance is issued either by check or direct deposit.
- The book advance is part of Federal Financial Aid, not an additional grant.
- The book advance cannot be created from “estimated” awards.
- The book advance is not available during winter or summer sessions.
How Do I Pay For My Books?

A Book Advance payment is made to students at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters, usually during the first 3 weeks of classes. The book advance should only be used for educational related supplies, such as, books, computer devices, uniforms, or equipment. The book advance is an early disbursement of federal financial aid grants (Federal Pell and SEOG) for eligible students and is issued automatically. Students do not need to apply for the book advance.

How Do I Qualify To Receive A Pell Book Advance?

The advance will only be available to Federal Pell or SEOG Grant recipients who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have a valid Federal Pell or SEOG Grant at City Tech by the appropriate date for payment
- Must be enrolled at City Tech for the semester for which the book advance is being issued
- Must have sufficient financial aid awards (TAP, APTS, SEOG and Federal Pell Grant) to cover the tuition and fees for the semester and have a remaining credit

To be eligible for your Pell book advance, you must attend your classes for the semester for which you are receiving the book advance. If you receive a Pell book advance payment, and you do not attend any of your classes, you will have to repay the amount you received. A stop (negative service indicator) will be placed on your record until you repay the money. If you do not plan to attend your classes, you should officially drop your classes.

PLEASE NOTE:

Students expecting a refund from their Federal Direct Loans can find the projected dates for their first loan refund in our Financial Aid Payment Calendar. The first Federal Direct Loan payment is projected for the middle of the semester.

All students who have not yet applied for financial aid and/or have not yet submitted requested documentation must allow 3-4 weeks for processing, so please do so immediately to reduce the delay in receiving your book advance.

Please note, all students who withdraw from some or all classes and/or do not attend classes will be responsible to repay some or all of the book advance funds. Please contact the Office of Financial Services for instructions or questions regarding how to return the funds, if you think this applies to you.