

FSC Points FAQs

1. What are points?

Points are the Club's way of recognizing all of the work our members put in during the past year and helping members develop professionally. You earn points by coming to meetings, helping out at Dairy Bar, serving on committees, hosting activities, etc. Points are converted to money at the end of the year.

2. What can I use points money for?

You can use points money for academic or professional development expenses. Academic expenses include tuition/fees, textbooks, parking passes, computers/equipment used primarily for academia. Professional development expenses include conference registration fees, airfare, hotel expenses, food while traveling, and travel to and from the conference center and airport. This is not an all-inclusive list. When in doubt, ask!

3. So I just get money and that's it, no strings attached?

No, sorry! First, you have to meet the eligibility requirements for points. You also need to turn in receipts for the amount of money on your points check. Receipts must be for things you can use points money for (textbooks, tuition/fees, parking pass, professional conference, etc.)

4. Is everyone eligible for points?

No. Only active members who have turned in their points form on time are eligible to receive points.

5. How do I find out if I'm eligible for points?

At the end of the year, the FSC secretary will send out a list of the FSC members. The list will include whether or not you are an active member.

6. I should be eligible for points but I'm not considered an active FSC member. What do I do?

Check your meeting attendance. Did you attend at least half of all meetings during the year? If you know you did but are marked down as attending fewer meetings than you actually did, talk to the FSC secretary (Chellani Hathorn). If your attendance is okay, check how many Dairy Bar shifts you worked. You need to work at least 3 shifts to be active. If you are marked down as working fewer shifts than you did, talk to the Dairy Bar co-chairs (Leann Barden, Mel Ivey, and Blake Layfield). If your Dairy Bar hours are okay, then maybe you weren't considered active on a committee that you thought you were active on. Talk to your committee chair to see if you were counted as being active on the

committee. Committee chairs are listed on the FSC website.

7. How much is each point worth?

It varies from year to year, but they're about \$7 per point on average.

8. How do I find out how many points I have?

The FSC treasurer will send out point totals the week point forms are due. You can estimate your points by dividing the number of meetings you attended by two and adding the number of Dairy Bar shifts you worked multiplied by 3. So, if you attended 8 meetings and worked 4 Dairy Bar shifts, you'll have $8/2 + 4*3=16$ points. Your actual point total will be higher because you'll have points from serving on a committee, but that's a good starting point.

9. How do I get my points money?

Points money is given out as checks at the end of the year. You can get your check by filling out a points form (available on the FSC webpage under the Forms tab) and turning it in by the deadline set by the FSC treasurer (Helen Melito).

10. I don't understand how to fill out the points form. Help!

The points form is like an expense report. You'll be estimating expenses you will have next academic year. You don't have to fill out each section if you aren't going to have that particular expense. If you have a scholarship, assistanceship, or the Bank of Mom and Dad to cover your tuition, you don't need to fill out that part of the form. If you're not going to be attending an IFT or other professional conference in the next year, you can leave that part blank. Otherwise, put down your best guess for the expenses you will have.

11. How should I estimate the amount of money I'm going to spend on things I haven't bought yet?

That depends on what you're trying to estimate. You can estimate tuition/fees from last year's expenses. Textbooks usually run from \$50-\$100 per book. Parking pass costs are available on the NCSU website. Other school supplies aren't usually more than \$20 unless you're buying a graphing calculator or computer. Conference registration fees are usually around \$60-\$80 for students. Airline fees vary depending on where you're going but \$200 is a good place to start. Hotel rooms are \$50-\$150 per night depending on how many people are sharing a room with you. You get a \$50 per day meal allowance when you are traveling for professional development. Travel to and from the airport is usually \$10-\$20. Subscriptions and membership fees can be based on last year's expenses.

When in doubt, overestimate. You'll be held accountable for the amount on your points check, but not more than that.

12. Can I put expenses from this past year on my points form?

Sure. Just make sure you still have the receipts (or a way to show you paid) for whatever expense you're putting down.

13. Do I need to put my IFT membership fee under my membership expenses?

No. The FSC will take care of your membership fees for IFT. That's \$55 you can spend on other academic/professional development expenses!

14. How are my estimated expenses on my points form related to my points check?

You will receive the amount of money you request up to the amount on your points check. Say your total points money for the year is \$100. If your expenses on your points form total \$75, you'll get a \$75 check. If your expenses on your points form total \$100, you'll receive a \$100 check. If your expenses on your points form total \$150, you'll receive a \$100 check.

15. How do I submit my points form?

Print out your completed form, sign it, and bring it to the FSC treasurer (Helen Melito) in Schaub 039 (across from the Fruit and Vegetable Lab in the basement) by the submission deadline. There's a drop folder to the right when you walk in the door if there's no one there.

16. When can I pick up my check?

The FSC treasurer (Helen Melito) will send an e-mail letting everyone know when the points checks are ready.

17. Do I need to bring anything with me when I pick up my check?

Bring all the receipts you have for the expenses you reported. The receipts must have the total amount you paid circled and be taped to an 8.5x11" piece of paper with your name written on it. If you don't bring in your receipts in this form, you will be asked to do so before you receive your check. If you don't have the receipts yet, don't worry, you can turn them in as you get them.

18. I lost/threw away some of my receipts. What can I do?

Do you have a bank statement, an order confirmation printout, or some other "official" payment record? You need to show proof that you bought the item with your own money and that what you paid for was either an academic or a professional development expense. So if you bought a textbook using your credit card and lost the store receipt, you can use your credit card statement as a receipt as long as it's obvious the expense was for a textbook. Don't worry, your account/card number will be blacked out so no one can use it!

If you're not sure what you have will work as a receipt, bring it anyway and discuss the issue with the FSC Treasurer (Helen Melito).

19. I don't have enough receipts to cover my points check. What do I do?

Bring in all the receipts you have. The difference between your points check and the receipts you bring in will be noted. When you have academic or professional development expenses in the upcoming academic year, bring the receipts to the FSC treasurer (Helen Melito). You will be notified when you have enough receipts to cover the amount on your check.

20. I don't have enough receipts to cover my points check and I'm graduating this spring. Can I still get my points check anyway?

Bring in all the receipts you have and let the FSC treasurer (Helen Melito) know about your situation. You may either receive a smaller points check for the amount of money you can cover or you will be required to mail receipts in when you get them. This issue will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

21. I won't be here when the checks are ready to pick up. How can I get my check?

E-mail the FSC treasurer (Helen Melito) and explain your situation. If you'll be back in the fall, your check will be held for you until you come back (don't worry, they don't expire that quickly!). If you're not coming back to campus, we'll work out a way to get your check to you and your receipts to us.

22. What happens if I don't turn my points form in on time?

You won't receive a points check. Points forms must be turned in by the deadline set by the FSC Treasurer (Helen Melito) for you to receive a points check.

23. Do points roll over from one year to another?

No. If you don't claim your points for this year, they won't be available for you next year. Points start over at the beginning of each school year.

24. I have a question you didn't answer. Who can I talk to for help?

The FSC treasurer (Helen Melito) can help you out. E-mail: hsmelito@gmail.com