

2021-22 SFA Workshops

Residency & WASFA

Private Institutions

May 24, 2021



**WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL**
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS





Presenters

Gabriele ‘Gabi’ Matull Worst

Assistant Director - Need Based Programs

Student Financial Assistance

gabrielew@wsac.wa.gov

cell: 360-522-2645

Gail Wootan

Associate Director

Consumer Protection

gailw@wsac.wa.gov

ph: 360-485-1210

<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>



Spring Training Session Technology

- Due to the number of registered participants, the chat function will be disabled as a group tool.
- Please post all questions in the Q & A during the session.
- Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.





Washington residency and state financial aid

Making residency decisions

Residency and state aid

Residency for WASFA filers



Who makes residency decisions for state aid?

You do – using admission and financial aid applications



Your school has the final say on residency decisions



WSAC is here to help!



Residency and WA state financial aid

25+ ways to qualify for resident tuition at public colleges and universities

WA College Grant (WCG)

College Bound Scholarship (CBS)

State Work Study

Passport to Careers

American Indian Endowed Scholarship

National Guard Education Grant

All 25+ ways meet residency requirements for these 4 programs

Only 5 of the 25+ meet residency requirements for WCG/CBS






The WCG/CBS five

Residency statute: RCW 28B.15.012(2)

(a) Financially independent students

(b) Financially dependent students

(c) 

(d) Students who move out of state at the end of high school

(e) Students who live in WA for one year prior to first term (residency affidavit)

NEW!





Residency for WASFA filers

Students who aren't eligible for federal aid

Undocumented students with or without DACA

Temporary Protected Status

Pending asylum

Nonimmigrant visas



Can meet residency requirements for state aid through:

Residency affidavit (e)

OR

Qualifying immigration status



Residency affidavit requirements (e)

By the time they begin college, students must:

Through 7/24

Earn a HS diploma, GED, or equivalent in WA

Live in WA for 3 years immediately before earning diploma/equivalent and then continuously after

Sign an affidavit saying they meet above requirements and will apply for US permanent residency when eligible

7/25 and after

Earn a HS diploma, GED or equivalent from anywhere in the US

Live in WA for 1 year immediately before first term



Implementing new law (SB 5194)

Does this apply to summer term?

- Residency decisions must be made 30 calendar days into the term, so if 7/25 lands within the 30th day of your summer term, it would apply.

Can continuing students qualify?

- Continuing students who did not meet residency requirements in 20/21 may qualify if they lived in WA for one year prior to their first term.



Residency affidavit

Students should only submit once

- WASFA-filers use WASFA
- FAFSA-filers use paper affidavit

Use the WASFA “residency report” to know which WASFA-filers meet residency affidavit requirements

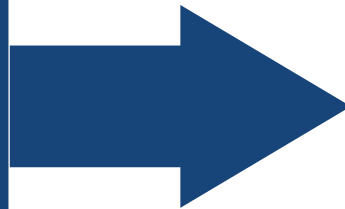
No additional documentation required unless conflicting info



WASFA filers who don't meet residency affidavit

Must have qualifying immigration status:

- DACA (current or expired)
- Employment Authorization Document (work permit)
- U visa
- Permanently Residing Under the Color of Law



- Same residency process as US citizens
- All 25+ ways are available (only (a)-(e) meet residency requirements for WCG/CBS)



Process for students with qualifying immigration status

(a) Independent students must maintain a domicile in Washington for one year for purposes other than education.

(b) Dependent students must have at least one parent or guardian who has maintained a domicile in Washington for one year.

Almost anyone can establish WA domicile

- This includes undocumented and most other non-citizen parents
- Does not include people with visas that require domicile elsewhere (like student or tourist visas)



Financial independence - residency style

Financial independence for residency is different than financial aid

BUT

They usually align

Financially independent students:

- Not claimed on taxes
- Don't receive significant financial assistance

Unusual cases:

- 20-year-old who is not claimed on taxes
- Married student whose parent is paying expenses



Takeaways

Many undocumented and other non-citizen students can meet residency requirements for tuition and state aid

Most WASFA filers will meet residency requirements through the residency affidavit

It will be easier to meet residency affidavit requirements starting 7/25/21

Only students who file the FAFSA should use the paper affidavit – everyone else should use WASFA

WSAC is
here to help!



Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

What is the WASFA?

Awarding Guidance

Accessing the WASFA & Residency Affidavit



Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

What is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)?

- The WASFA is for students who don't qualify for Federal financial aid because of:
 - Immigration status/undocumented
 - Defaulted federal loans
 - Repayments owed on federal grants
 - Unable to provide selective service confirmation
 - U.S. citizen with undocumented parents/family members who do not wish to file a FAFSA
- Colleges may use the WASFA to determine eligibility for state and institutional need-based aid.



Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

- Like the FAFSA, students complete a new application each year.
- Available beginning October 1 of each year.
- Students access the WASFA at:
<http://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families.



WASFA Data and Privacy

- Data collected on the WASFA can only be used for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for state financial aid programs.
- The privacy statement for applicants can be found on the WASFA registration page.

WASFA Privacy Statement

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) administers state financial aid including the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant), the College Bound Scholarship, and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, or WASFA, for undocumented individuals. The Council is committed to providing opportunities and support to ensure every Washington student is able to pursue education beyond high school.

Regarding concerns that students, parents, and other partners may have about the confidentiality of information submitted on the WASFA, the purpose of the application is to provide eligibility information to colleges and universities in Washington that offer the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant) and the College Bound Scholarship. WSAC shares application information with campuses listed by the student so those schools may determine eligibility for resident tuition and financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families. Washington is a state committed to providing opportunities to students and protecting the rights of families.



WASFA Application Statistics

- Application counts are up since 2017-18.
- Number of WASFA students served in WCG (SNG) and CBS increasing each year.

Year	App Count 6 months*	App Count Full Cycle	WCG Awards**	CBS Awards**
2021-22	3,177	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020-21	3,085	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019-20	3,059	5,406	2,421	988
2018-19	2,438	4,951	2,194	919
2017-18	2,126	4,615	1,972	694

* As of 3/31 of each application year. **Awards based on Final Interim Reports

AWARDING GUIDANCE





Funding for students who complete a WASFA

- All students who meet eligibility and have need must be awarded Washington College Grant (WCG).
- College Bound Scholarship (CBS) scholars, who complete a WASFA and meet eligibility, must be awarded CBS.



WASFA runs parallel to the FAFSA

- To ensure “Equitable Opportunity,” students who apply using the WASFA must be given the same consideration as students filing the FAFSA.
 - Award utilizing the same process.



WASFA Guidance

- Students applying using a WASFA are to be verified in a similar manner to students applying with the FAFSA.
 - If you find conflicting information, you will need to verify with the student.
 - Unlike the FAFSA, there is no automatic verification process.
- Also (unlike the FAFSA) students filing the WASFA are not required to file tax returns.
 - Evaluate the same as you would non-tax filers.



WASFA Guidance

- Financial aid staff determine if students meet the eligibility requirements for WCG, CBS, and PTC
 - High school graduation/GPA, Median Family Income (MFI), Quarters of Eligibility (QER), etc.
 - Student residency status.
 - Use the “residency report” to get the WASFA residency affidavit information.
 - Work directly with the student if conflicting information is found.



WASFA Guidance

- Residency information is available in the WSAC portal with the option to download CSV. file
- Will review how to identify students who may be affected by the 2021-22 residency changes in the next section

WASFA INTERFACE





Accessing Student WASFA

- Financial aid staff use the WASFA interface in the [WSAC Portal](#) to access your institution's WASFA applicants.
 - Contact your institutional administrator if you need WASFA permissions.
 - **NEW** permissions group specifically for WASFA corrections.
 - Applicant information is available in the WSAC portal the day after student submits WASFA.
 - You will only be able to see a student's WASFA if they added your school.



Residency Changes - WASFA

- Residency changes effective July.
 - High school diploma/equivalent and 1 year in Washington (12 consecutive months) prior to enrolling in college.
- The 2021-22 WASFA is currently open and those students may need to be manually reviewed for eligibility.
- The 2022-23 WASFA will have the residency language updated.



WASFA Interface

- View results onscreen or download results in .CSV.
- Option to select all applicants for a particular year and/or only new transactions.
 - Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format by the financial aid office.
- Many ways to search for individual students:
 - SSN/DACA/ITIN, WASFA ID, Name, DOB, etc.
 - Can download Residency information for students



WASFA Interface Search Options



Home | Programs | WASFA

Search WASFA Applications

Academic Year

2020-2021

School

Last Name

First Name

Email

SSN/DACA

Applicant ID

Date Of Birth

MM/dd/yyyy

Only show new transactions*

*Transactions are considered **NEW** until downloaded in ISIR format

Transaction Date - from

MM/dd/yyyy

to

MM/dd/yyyy

search

CSV

ISIR

page size:

All Data

Residency Data Only

Must Select Academic Year

Show New transactions only

ISIR or .csv download option

Search Tips:

- Leave fields blank to search for all applicants
- When searching, ensure you have correct Academic Year selected



WASFA Residency Report

On the WASFA Interface, select the Residency Data Only radio button, click search:

The screenshot shows the WASFA Residency Report interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home", "Programs", and "WASFA". Below this is the "Search WASFA Applications" section. It includes several search filters: "Academic Year" (2020-2021), "School" (Bates Technical College), "Last Name", "First Name", "Email", "SSN/DACA", "Applicant ID", and "Date Of Birth" (MM/dd/yyyy). There is a checkbox for "Only show new transactions*" and a note: "*Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format". Below the filters, there is a search button, a "page size" dropdown, and two radio buttons: "All Data" and "Residency Data Only" (which is selected). A red warning message states: "The data in this report reflects student application responses. All residency determinations should be completed, and verified if necessary, at the institution." Below the warning, it says "Showing 1-3 of 3 results" and has navigation buttons: "First", "Previous", "1", "Next", "Last". A table displays the results with columns: "Year", "HS Diploma", "Will Apply US Residency", "Residency Responses Certified", "House Bill 1079", and "WA Residency/Daca Status". The table contains three rows of data.

Year	HS Diploma	Will Apply US Residency	Residency Responses Certified	House Bill 1079	WA Residency/Daca Status
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	yes	N/A
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	yes	N/A
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	no	yes

Results display on screen, or can be downloaded into .csv file.



WASFA Residency Report

- The fields you will use for residency determination are highlighted in yellow on the screenshot below.
- Disregard the fields that are crossed off and greyed out.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	StateOfLegalResiden	LegalResidentFor5Years	LegalResidenceDate	DacaAuthorization	HSDiplomaOrEquivalent	HouseBill1079	WaResidencyDacaStatus	WaResidencyCertification	WillFileForPermanentUsResidency	WaResidencyCertified
2	WA	no	3/1/2017 0:00	N/A	yes		2	1 N/A	yes	yes
3	WA	yes		N/A	yes		2	1 N/A	yes	yes
4	WA	yes		N/A	yes		1	2 N/A	yes	yes
5	WA	no	8/1/2016 0:00	N/A	yes		2	1 N/A	no	yes
6	WA	yes		N/A	yes		2	2 N/A	yes	yes
7	WA	yes		N/A	yes		2	1 N/A	yes	yes
8	WA	yes		N/A	yes		1	1 N/A	yes	yes



Contact Information

Questions/Subject	Email us at
Financial Aid Administrators – WCG/CBS/Award Questions	wcg@wsac.wa.gov
Repayments	repayment@wsac.wa.gov
Students – State Financial Aid Questions	finaid@wsac.wa.gov
Unit Record Report	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov
WASFA Help	wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

Online
www.wsac.wa.gov
www.theWashBoard.org



QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: WCG@WSAC.WA.GOV