



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

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# *Q & A Sheet for Returning/Continuing Washington Scholar Scholarship Recipients*

(Pre-2011 Awardees of the monetary scholarship only)

## ***What is the award benefit?***

A monetary benefit is available to eligible, pre-2011 Washington Scholar recipients who accepted the scholarship and have not yet received twelve academic quarters, or eight semesters, of award. The scholarship is a state grant to help pay for undergraduate educational expenses at in-state public and private colleges or universities, subject to annual appropriations. Scholars attending private colleges qualify for the scholarship if the school matches the award on a dollar-for-dollar basis with institutional gift aid. Most private schools do match the state scholarship during the regular academic year (fall through spring).

Because the scholarship may be used to pay any legitimate educational expense (tuition, books and supplies, room and board, etc.), it is the Scholar's responsibility to pay tuition or make arrangement with the school for payment of tuition.

Beginning fall 2012, most Washington Scholars payments will be made by electronic fund transfer (EFT) through the school. Public colleges may deposit the grant directly into the student account. Private colleges must disburse the grant in accordance with the Scholar's signed student directive on file at the school.

**Note:** Scholars pursuing theology degrees are not eligible to receive the monetary scholarship benefit.

## ***What are my responsibilities at this time?***

- ☛ Complete the 2013-14 fall attendance survey for "Returning Washington Scholars" located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/733YBJF>. Use the ID shown on your reminder letter. Surveys will be collected on-line until July 15, 2013. For reporting updates after July 15, directly contact staff at the Washington Student Achievement Council by phone or email.
- ☛ Remember to provide the Council with early notice of any education plan changes if: (1) you will transfer between schools; (2) your award will be reactivated after a suspension of benefits or leave of absence; or, (3) you decide to pursue a theology degree. This allows the Council to anticipate and project program costs.
- ☛ Ensure that the on-campus scholarship coordinator also is aware of your educational plans so that you are included on the institutional list of Scholars provided to the Council each academic term. The school must verify your enrollment and cumulative GPA each term before scholarship payments are issued.
- ☛ Maintain Washington state residency and a 3.30 minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA). You may petition the Council for probationary status if your cumulative GPA falls below 3.30 during the first year of grant receipt. The probationary period allows you to receive the grant for a limited time while working to increase your grade point average to meet the minimum standard.

- ☛ Notify the Council of name, permanent address, e-mail address, or status changes (e.g., "stopping out" for any term). Failure to do so may impact your eligibility to receive grant payments. You will be asked to return annual surveys to assist the Council in anticipating current and future funding needs.

### ***What is the dollar value of the award?***

While the intent of the award is to mirror the cost of resident, undergraduate tuition and services & activities fees at Washington public colleges and universities, the scholarship value is subject to annual appropriations by the Legislature and may be prorated in some circumstances. Scholarship values are re-evaluated annually. On occasion, adjustments to the value may be made during an academic year as funding dictates. ***The maximum scholarship payable will not exceed the Scholar's actual tuition charges. "Overload" credits are not included.***

The maximum scholarship for full-time enrollment during 2012-13 was payable at 90% of tuition, not to exceed:

- ☛ \$10,161 - \$10,248 at the public research institutions (UW and WSU);
- ☛ \$10,248 at private colleges and universities (i.e., Gonzaga, PLU, UPS, etc.);
- ☛ \$6,636 - \$7,220 at the public comprehensive colleges (CWU, EWU, TESC, and WWU); and
- ☛ \$3,600 at the public community and technical colleges (i.e., Pierce College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, etc).

***The actual scholarships paid for the 2013-14 academic year may be greater or lesser than these amounts.***

### ***When do I receive the scholarship payment?***

Fall term payments are issued after the school has verified the Scholar's enrollment and GPA status (usually reported to the Council about ten days into the academic term). Winter and spring term payments are available about 30 days into the term. First priority for payment is to Scholars confirmed by the school in the fall as enrolled during the regular academic year. Scholarships for summer term are permitted if program funds are available.

### ***How long may I receive the scholarship?***

You may receive an accumulative benefit of up to eight semesters or 12 academic quarters of scholarship for undergraduate study, subject to authorization by the Legislature. Use is measured solely by how many academic terms you receive the scholarship, regardless of the amount paid or whether you attend full- or part-time. Except for the first year, scholarships may be issued for non-consecutive terms of study. Full-time enrollment is not required at public colleges but provides a higher award value. Private colleges may require full-time enrollment to meet institutional gift aid criteria (i.e., the dollar-for-dollar match to the state award).

### ***For further information, contact:***

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