

From: [Washington College Grant \(WSAC\)](#)
Subject: 2021 COVID-19 Guidance
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Greetings Financial Aid Colleagues,

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and in recognition of the impacts for students and colleges, we are providing additional guidance that is applicable through June 30, 2021.

Request SAP Waiver:

Institutions may invoke a waiver to not monitor quarterly satisfactory academic progress, when warranted, due to COVID19 related disruptions at their campus. If invoking this waiver, Institutions must provide our office with a brief written statement (sent to wcg@wsac.wa.gov) explaining what the COVID-19 related issues are on their campus thru June, 2021. WSAC will notify each college if their request to invoke the waiver has been approved. Institutions will be allowed to exclude any attempted but not completed credits as a result of this emergency thru June 2021. This means colleges do not have to refer any state aid repayments that would have been typically referred during a SAP review. The quarters of eligibility remaining (QERs) will however be impacted, decreasing the remaining terms available and should be considered when making this decision.

Exclusion of CARES Act emergency aid

Any CARES Act emergency aid awarded to a student does NOT need to be included in any financial need calculation when awarding state financial aid. This would mean that any distribution of federal emergency aid would not result in a state financial aid over-award. This guidance also applies to institutional emergency aid awarded as a result of COVID-19 expenses.

Existing Receivables collections postponed thru June 2021.

Existing receivables payments will be postponed through June, 2021 and interest will not accrue on accounts where applicable. There will also be a moratorium on collections for accounts placed with our collection agency through June, 2021. Account holders may pay or continue to pay the appropriate agency. Any payment will reduce the principal owed.

State Work Study Guidance

The guidance Issued in October, 2020 for State Work Study remains in effect through the 2020-21 award year.

COVID Relief Resources

Please visit our website for guidance related to the administration of state aid and administrative relief during this pandemic. It is located at: <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>

As always, we are grateful for your continued partnership in this work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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