



**WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT,  
WASHINGTON BRIDGE GRANT, AND  
COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP**

**PROGRAM MANUAL**

**For Financial Aid Administrators**

**2024-25**

JUNE 2024

**WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STAFF**

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# WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT AND COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

## 2024-25 PROGRAM MANUAL

### Table of Contents

#### 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

Manual Updates.....	i
New For 2024-25.....	i
Reminders.....	iv
WCG & CBS History and Operation.....	x
WCG & CBS Report and Funding Request Timeline.....	xiv

#### CHAPTER 1 – WCG and CBS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND MONITORING

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.....	1
Financial Need and Income Cutoff.....	4
Undergraduate Student.....	4
Enrolled for at Least Three Credits per Term.....	4
Eligible Program.....	5
<i>Eligible Apprenticeship Program; Remedial Coursework</i> .....	5
<i>Correspondence and Distance Education; Study Abroad Programs</i> .....	5
Maximum Terms of Eligibility.....	5
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).....	6
Denied Status.....	6
Refund/Repayment.....	6
Previous Bachelor’s Degree.....	6
Theology Degree.....	7
Resident for WCG and CBS Purposes.....	7
Other Washington Residents.....	10
Conflicting Information.....	10
Approved Applications – FAFSA and WASFA.....	11
Former Foster Youth and CBS High School Requirement.....	11
Ability to Benefit – Applies only to WCG Students.....	12
Incarcerated Student Eligibility.....	12
Fraudulent Information.....	13
Consistent Policies.....	13
ELIGIBILITY MONITORING FOR WCG AND CBS.....	13
Washington Student Achievement Council Archive Report.....	14
Repayment Checker (replaces the Archive).....	15
Washington Bridge Grant.....	15
The Washington College Grant Connect (WCG-C) Eligibility Checker.....	16
The CBS Eligibility Checker (formerly named ‘Cruncher’) for College Bound Scholars and Recipients.....	17
Matching CBS Valid Applicants to FAFSA and WASFA Filers.....	18
College Bound Scholarship Processing Timeline.....	19
CBS Eligibility Checker (formerly ‘Cruncher’) Layout and Code Descriptions.....	20
HS Grad Year.....	21
HS 2.0 GPA.....	22
High School Requirements.....	22
Enrolled By Deadline ( <i>Adult Basic Education and Running Start</i> ).....	23

**CHAPTER 1 – WCG and CBS ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)**

Students Who Do Not Appear in the CBS Eligibility Checker ..... 23  
Campus Systems Preparation Instructions..... 24  
CBS Eligibility Checker (formerly Cruncher) Instructions ..... 25  
Searching in the Eligibility Checker (formerly Cruncher) ..... 26  
Interpreting the Search Results..... 28  
Verify Status in the CBS Eligibility Checker ..... 29  
CBS Status in Eligibility Checker is: OK to Award=Yes, and OK to Pay=No..... 29  
CBS Status in CBS Eligibility Checker is: HS Grad Year or HS 2.0 GPA = Verify ..... 29

**CHAPTER 2 – CALCULATING WCG AND CBS AWARDS**

The Commitment to Eligible College Bound Scholars..... 31  
All Eligible CBS Scholars Must Receive Maximum WCG Funding..... 31  
MAXIMUM MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME LEVELS..... 32  
Determining Income for MFI Levels ..... 32  
MFI CHART..... 34  
STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)..... 35  
COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)..... 35  
Cost of Attendance and Tuition Waivers ..... 35  
NEED AMOUNT..... 36  
Professional Judgment ..... 36  
Family Income Change of 3 Percent or Less ..... 36  
CBS and WCG Coordination ..... 36  
AWARD AMOUNTS..... 37  
Washington Bridge Grant..... 39  
CHART: 2024-25 Maximum WCG, Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts  
for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters for Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms ..... 41  
CBS Maximum Award Amounts to Disburse ..... 42  
Subtraction of State Gift Aid for Determining Eligibility of CBS Award Amounts. 42  
Gift Packaging Policy Update for Four Year Institutions ..... 43  
Uneven WCG Disbursements Permitted to Students Not Receiving CBS ..... 43  
Minimum Awards ..... 43  
Declining CBS or WCG Awards..... 43  
CHART: Maximum WCG and WA Bridge Grant for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters for  
Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms ..... 44  
ADJUSTING MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNTS..... 45  
Part-Time Students Using Enrollment Intensity ..... 45  
Attendance Less Than 3 Quarters or the Equivalent..... 46  
Clock Hour Schools..... 46  
Institutional Gift Equity Policies..... 46  
OTHER AWARDING CONSIDERATIONS  
Use of State Funds for Prior Year Charges..... 47  
Fourth Quarter/Third Semester Awards ..... 47  
Summer Awarding of CBS and WCG..... 47  
Awarding WCG to non-CBS students during Summer 2, 2023-24..... 47

## **CHAPTER 2 – CALCULATING WCG AND CBS AWARDS (CONTINUED)**

Applied Baccalaureate Students Taking Mixed Course Levels .....	48
Financial Aid Over-Award .....	48
Changes in Need, MFI, or Other Aid Rec'd that May Cause Award Revisions.....	48
Payments Cannot be Made to Students for Current Term after Withdrawal .....	48
Retroactive Awards and/or Payments for Previous Terms for Eligible CBS, WCG, WA Bridge Grant, and PTC students .....	49
Late Awards.....	50
Award Rounding .....	51
Concurrent Award at Two Institutions .....	51
Fractional Last Term.....	52
EMERGENCY AID .....	54
AWARDING PRACTICES NOT PERMITTED–Single Parents/Part-Time Students .....	54

## **CHAPTER 3 – SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP).....	55
Maximum Usage Timeframe.....	56
State SAP Policy .....	56
Quantitative Standard for Students in Quarter & Semester Credit Programs .....	56
Successful Completion of Credits.....	57
Warning Status.....	57
Denied Status .....	58
Quantitative Standard for Students in Clock Hour Program .....	58
Qualitative Standard.....	58
Other Conditions of SAP Policy .....	58
Professional Judgment/Appeals.....	58
Reinstatement .....	58
Notifying Students of SAP Policies.....	58

## **CHAPTER 4 – PORTAL ACCESS & REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

SECURE PORTAL ACCESS .....	60
Security of Information / Secure Data Transmission.....	61
Portal Training.....	61
REQUIRED REPORTS .....	61
Interim Report Definition, Due Dates .....	61
Records Layouts.....	62
ELIGIBLE AWARDED WCG, WA BRIDGE GRANT, & CBS STUDENTS .....	62
INSTRUCTIONS .....	63
Edits / Reporting Enrollment Intensity Status.....	63
Secure Data Transmission / Security of Information.....	63
CSAW RECONCILIATION AND FINAL INTERIM REPORT .....	64
CHART: Interim Report Complete List of Edits.....	65
CHART: Non-overridable Bridge Edits to be Addressed with Data Correction.....	67
CHART: Common Edits Addressed w/Data Correction Instead of Overriding.....	67
CSAW FILE UPLOAD LAYOUT FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS.....	68
CHART: 2023-24 CSAW File Upload Layout.....	68
TWO-FACTOR LOGIN INFORMATION .....	74

## **CHAPTER 5 – WCG AND CBS PAYMENTS, REPAYMENTS, AND REPORTING**

PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER PAYMENT REQUESTS, STUDENT REPAYMENTS, AND REPORTING .....	75
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Request Procedure.....	75
Payment Requests .....	75
Disbursement Procedures.....	76
Payments Cannot be Made to Students Current Term After They Withdraw.....	76
Retroactive Awards and Payments for Previous Terms.....	76
Required Student Directive for Private Institution.....	77
Conditions of Award Statements.....	77
Power of Attorney Disbursements.....	77
Institutional Repayments.....	77
Student Repayments .....	78
Persian Gulf Veterans.....	78
Unclaimed Property.....	78
STATE AID GRANT REPAYMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS.....	78
REPAYMENT AND AWARD ADJUSTMENT EXAMPLES .....	81
Alternative Repayment Policy Option .....	82
Repayments for Deceased Students.....	83
Timely Management of Repayment Referrals for Institutions .....	83
CHART: Timeframe for Completion/Repayment Actions Chart.....	84
Institution to Bill Accounts.....	85
In Repayment.....	85
Authority (WAC) .....	86
No-Show Repayments .....	86
Institutional Errors .....	86
Canceling In Repayment Accounts .....	86
INFORMATION FOR CLOCK HOUR PROGRAMS .....	87
Program Lengths, Remainder Hours – Award Percentages.....	87
Academic Year Cross-Over Programs.....	88
Clock Hour Payment Request Calendar .....	88
PASSPORT STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS PAYMENT REFUND POLICY SUMMARY .....	88
Student Support Fund Payment Process (Postsecondary only) .....	89
Student Support Fund Repayment process (WSAC only) .....	89
Student Support Fund Repayment process (Institutions only) .....	89

## **CHAPTER 6 – CONDITIONS OF AWARD AND DIRECTIVES**

Forms Used to Provide Required Notification to Students .....	90
Conditions of Award Statement – Students at All Institutions Each Year.....	91
Required Directive Form for Students at Private Institutions.....	92
STUDENT DIRECTIVE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF STATE STUDENT AID .....	93

## **CHAPTER 7 – INFORMATION FOR INSTITUTIONS**

INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY .....	94
AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE.....	94
STUDENT MAINTENANCE BUDGETS.....	95
STATE OF WASHINGTON CONDITIONS OF AWARD .....	95
FINANCIAL LITERACY .....	95

**CHAPTER 7 – INFORMATION FOR INSTITUTIONS (CONTINUED)**

REPAYMENT POLICY..... 95  
SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY ..... 96  
PACKAGING POLICIES ..... 96  
NOTIFICATIONS..... 96  
PROGRAM AUDITS AND RECORD RETENTION ..... 97  
    Records Retention..... 97  
    Reporting Fraudulent Information ..... 97

**CHAPTER 8 – LAWS AND AGENCY RULES**

RCW 28B.92 - STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS..... 98  
WAC 250-21 - STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS-WCG.....99  
RCW 28b.15.012 - CLASSIFICATION AS RESIDENT OR NONRESIDENT STUDENT ..... 99  
WAC 250-18 - RESIDENCY STATUS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ..... 99  
RCW 28B.118 - COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ..... 100  
WAC 250-84 - COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP RULES..... 100

**APPENDIX MFI AND AWARD CHARTS**

Median Family Income (MFI) Levels for 2024-25 Washington College Grant,  
Washington Bridge Grant\* and College Bound Scholarship Program Eligibility..... 101  
WCG, WA Bridge Grant, for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters for Students Enrolled  
Full-Time for All Terms..... 102  
Maximum WCG and WA Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts for  
3 Quarters/2 Semesters for Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms..... 103  
WASHINGTON STATE AID PROGRAMS PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION CODES..... 104

# 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

**WELCOME to the Washington College Grant, WA Bridge Grant, and College Bound Scholarship Program Manual for Financial Aid Administrators.**

The guidance in this manual reflects program rules for the Washington Administrative Code, [WAC 250-21](#) – Washington College Grant and [WAC 250-84](#) – College Bound Scholarship.

To search for a specific topic or key word, press “Ctrl-F” on your keyboard, then type in the word or topic you are looking for. This will direct you to all occurrences located within the manual.

## MANUAL UPDATES

*Program Manual Revisions (Information will be added each time there is an update)*

Date	Chapter/Page	Topic/Reason



### NEW FOR 2024-25:

#### ◆ The FAFSA And WASFA Simplification (Chapter 2)

The 2024-25 WASFA reflects FAFSA simplification changes. The following changes have been implemented to align with the 2024-25 FAFSA and WASFA updates. FAQs can be found online at <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> under “Program Guidance”.

#### Enrollment Intensity

- State aid will align with federal aid related to enrollment intensity for calculating awards and quarters of eligibility used calculations. See Chapter 2.
- Enrollment bands will still be used for calculating Satisfactory Academic Progress. See Chapter 3.

#### Calculating Median Family Income (MFI)

Under the FAFSA Simplification Act, effective with the 2024-25 award year, only the following forms of untaxed income that are included on the federal tax return will be included on the FAFSA and WASFA:



- Untaxed portions of Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA, or Individual Retirement Account) distributions (withdrawals);
  - **NOTE:** Do not include any rollover amounts from untaxed IRA distributions.
- Untaxed portions of pension and annuity distributions (withdrawals);
  - **NOTE:** Do not include any rollover amounts from untaxed pension and annuity distributions.
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans;
- Tax-exempt interest; and
- Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

See Chapter 2 for more on determining income for MFI levels.

### **Number in College (Chapter 2)**

The number in college will not be factored into MFI beginning with the 2024-25 Academic Year. Institutions are allowed to perform professional judgment on a case-by-case basis to take into consideration a student's specific circumstances.

See “2024-25 Family Size Guidance” at <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> and Chapter 2 for detailed information.

### ◆ **Updated Language for College Bound**

Through feedback from students, WSAC has discovered that the word “scholarship” as associated with the College Bound program caused confusion around awarding and the application process.

The College Bound team has transitioned to a framing for students that shares that the *commitment* of the College Bound program is that certain costs will be covered by state financial aid (usually mostly WA Grant) for eligible students enrolled in the program. The goal is to reaffirm that the commitment of funding is the important part. Therefore, you will see a transition of language for students from College Bound Scholarship to College Bound program.

Schools can continue to use College Bound Scholarship or CBS for awarding purposes.

### ◆ **WCG-C Awarding**

Need determinations for WCG-C recipients differ from the typical definition of financial need (COA – SAI = financial need). See Chapter 2 for more information.

### ◆ **Update To Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy**

After collaborating and receiving feedback with the State Financial Aid Advisory Workgroup, WSAC will now align the State SAP policy with the Federal SAP policy—beginning with the 2024-25 Academic Year.

While institutions can implement this policy as early as the 2024-25 Academic Year, there is flexibility for institutions to adjust their policy to fit the needs of their student population: the minimum standard for the State SAP policy being the same as the Federal SAP policy.

See Chapter 3 for more on SAP policy.

◆ **SB 5904: Extending The Terms Of Eligibility For Financial Aid Programs.**

[SB 5904](#) extends and aligns the maximum time frame allowed to receive Washington College Grant (WCG), College Bound Scholarship (CBS), and Passport to Careers (Passport to College Promise Program and Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunity Program – PTC) to 150 percent of a baccalaureate degree, or 18 full-time quarters/12 full-time semester, or the equivalent clock hours of full-time eligibility of the published length of the program in which the student is enrolled, or the credit or clock hour equivalent.

- Extending the maximum period aligns the maximum time frame usage across WCG, CBS, and PTC programs. The five-year eligibility window for CBS is eliminated, but students are still required to enroll within one year after high school graduation.
- The 26-year age restriction for PTC is eliminated but students must still enroll by age 22.

**Note:** This means that students who have previously exhausted their QERs could regain eligibility beginning in the 2024-25 Academic Year.

◆ **2SHB 2214: Expansion Of Public Assistance Programs Deemed Income-Eligible - Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C) – (2025-26 AY)**

[2SHB 2214](#) is an expansion of [HB 1835](#) that was passed during the 2022 Legislative Session. It expands demonstration of financial need for Washington College Grant eligibility to include students who participate in Washington's Basic Food Program (SNAP) or the Food Assistance Program (FAP) in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, beginning the **2025-26** Academic Year.

See Chapter 2 for details on policies and awarding WCG-C eligible students.

◆ **ESHB 2019: Establishing A Native American Apprentice Assistance Program (2025-26 AY).**

[ESHB 2019](#) establishes the Native American apprentice assistance program for members of federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington beginning in **2025-26 AY**. This program is separate from the Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship program but is a Need-Based Program administered by WSAC. There will be a separate program manual for this new program.

◆ **SSB 6053: Improving equitable access to postsecondary education**

[SSB 6053](#) requires the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to enter into data-sharing agreements with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to facilitate the transfer of high school student directory information for informing high school students of postsecondary financial aid and educational opportunities available in the state.

Allows a nonpublic university, college, school, or institute in the state of Washington that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized by rule of the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to enter into student data-sharing agreements with OSPI.

## REMINDERS

### ◆ Official Guidance

The WSAC Student Financial Assistance team will periodically send out official guidance via email. All guidance documents are posted on <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>.

### ◆ CSAW Reconciliation

Institutions are expected to regularly reconcile their system records (**including finance/business office records, student accounts records and financial aid management system records**) with CSAW records. This is critical during all interim reports and especially for the final interim reporting period. Students who were disbursed state financial aid during the year at an institution, but not reported in CSAW cannot be reported after the final interim period.

After the close of fiscal year-end, payments cannot be issued for any students whether they are reported in CSAW or not. This can result in institutions owing thousands of dollars that they will be required to return to WSAC which could have negative fiscal impacts for institutions if these students are identified after the close of the Final Interim Report or during the Unit Record reporting period.

### ◆ Crossover Awarding Not Permitted

It is not permitted to use multiple academic year's financial aid applications to award state financial aid during a given academic year, nor use one year's financial aid application to award across multiple years, otherwise defined as a crossover period.

Disbursement of Washington State financial aid should be within a given academic year, using that corresponding academic year's financial aid application (WASFA or FAFSA). The cost of attendance, Student Aid Index (SAI), and financial aid should align with that same academic year as well. Financial aid administrators (FAA) may use professional judgment to adjust data elements (which must be reprocessed for both FAFSA or WASFA) such as income or cost of attendance but may not use a prior academic year FAFSA or WASFA to award aid in the current academic year.

**For example:** A student is attending summer 1, fall, winter, and spring terms at a header school (or fall, winter, spring, and summer 2 terms at a trailer school) of the 2024-25 Academic Year. The 2024-25 WASFA or FAFSA will be used to determine financial aid for all terms in that academic year, as well the 2024-25 cost of attendance and SAI. FAAs may not use a 2023-24 FAFSA/WASFA to award 2024-25 financial aid.

### ◆ WSAC Approved Washington College Grant-Connect (WCG-C) Eligible Program

WSAC has approved the Employment Security Department's [Economic Security for All \(EcSA\)](#) program as WCG-C eligible. Students receiving this type of public assistance are considered income-eligible for WCG through WCG-C beginning with the 2023-24 Academic Year. The WCG-C Eligibility Checker has been updated to include EcSA.

**NOTE:** Approval for these programs are not part of 2SHB 1835/2SHB 2214. Dependents are not included as they would be for PWA, HEN, and ABD programs, which are outlined in statute.

**See Chapter 2 for details on policies and awarding WCG-C eligible students.**

### ◆ **WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker (Chapter 1)**

The “WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker” is a tool for Institutions to quickly identify students who are eligible for WCG under WCG-Connect. Students who are in one of the DSHS-qualified programs (ABD, HEN, PWA, or any other WSAC-approved program) meet income eligibility for WCG without having to complete a FAFSA or WASFA. See Chapter 1.

The WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker is available in the WSAC Portal under Programs > WCG-Connect > Eligibility Checker.

### ◆ **HB 1232: Enhancing the College Bound Scholarship Program**

[HB 1232](#) requires- only College Bound Scholarship (CBS) eligible students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education to graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average.

**Important:** To accommodate the update to the 2.0 GPA requirement for students who are direct admits to a public or private four-year institution, WSAC has updated the CBS Eligibility Checker functionality.

### ◆ **Washington Bridge Grant (Chapter 2)**

Through Budget Language, [ESSB 5187](#), Section 613(6), p. 606), the WA Bridge Grant will continue for the 2024-25 Academic Year, WCG recipients who are receiving a maximum WCG award (0-65 percent MFI), but are **not** CBS eligible, and who have enrolled in at least 3 credits, are also entitled to receive a \$500 Washington Bridge Grant. Students who meet eligibility under WCG-C also qualify for the WA Bridge Grant.

The Washington Bridge Grant is an annual stipend awarded in addition to WCG to provide supplementary financial support to low-income students to cover higher education expenses beyond tuition and fees, such as books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and childcare.

**The award amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. The award is limited to need and is not prorated by enrollment level. While schools can choose which method to award funds, WSAC suggests that institutions consider awarding proportionally, as there is less impact to students who transfer during the year or attend summer term.**

Student directive requirements for private institutions apply to Washington Bridge Grant awards. See Chapter 6.

Eligible students are students who:

- Are enrolled in at least three credits at an eligible institution;
- Receive a maximum Washington College Grant award and still have need remaining;
- Meet satisfactory academic progress;
- Are **NOT** College Bound Scholarship eligible.
  - To be CBS eligible does not mean a student is receiving CBS funding. Please refer to the CBS Eligibility Checker to determine eligibility.

- Some examples of CBS students who might be eligible for a WA Bridge Grant include students who signed up for CBS but did not meet the high school graduation requirement, did not meet the enrollment deadline, and those who are past the 5-year eligibility.
- Also keep in mind Passport students who are also CBS eligible but who do not receive specific CBS funding. In this case, the student would not be eligible for a WA Bridge Grant award.

#### ◆ **Retroactive vs. Late Awarding (Chapter 2)**

To ensure students are receiving all financial aid they are eligible for and entitled to, WSAC has updated guidance on the difference between retroactively awarding students due to late applications versus late awarding due to institutional processing delays/errors. Please refer to Chapter 2.

#### ◆ **CSAW Incremental File Upload (Chapter 4)**

The CSAW file for incremental uploads is available at: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> in the Program Manuals, MFI & Award Charts tab and on the upload page in the Portal and on the CSAW upload page in the portal. Colleges should be using this format as **the full file load option will be phased out early 2024-25.**

One new field (IsDelete) was added to the existing CSAW file layout to create the new incremental upload file. After loading a master file (all students reported on the incremental file layout), schools are able to upload change only files into CSAW. Uploading incremental student data will not affect any of the awards that are not included on the change file – it will not delete students like the full file load does.

**Note:** Incremental uploads will increase CSAW performance because edits are only run against data that was uploaded. Any edits that were addressed previously for students not on the change file will need no attention unless the award or enrollment has been adjusted. See Chapter 4 for more details.

#### ◆ **Residency Requirement Change – Residency Affidavit**

In 2022 ESSB 5874 modified/clarified that students must have lived in Washington for a period of one year prior to **enrollment in higher education primarily for reasons other than educational.**

- The Washington residence must be primarily for purposes other than postsecondary education. This means that students who take more than six college credits (not including dual credit) in any one term after moving to Washington cannot count those terms as part of their 12 consecutive months of maintaining a primary residence. That is, unless they prove that postsecondary education was not their main reason for establishing a primary residence in Washington.

To qualify, the individual needs to have a high school diploma or equivalent and have lived in Washington for a period of one year prior to enrollment in higher education primarily for reasons other than educational. To qualify for CBS, students still need to have graduated from a Washington high school.

Students will need to complete the residency affidavit (previously referred to as the “1079” requirement) which is included as part of the WASFA. Students completing a WASFA should not be required to complete the paper affidavit.

This Bill also modifies residency for active-duty military members, National Guard, reservists, and their dependents. Please refer to <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency> for more detailed information or consult the Residency Officer at your institution.

Subscribe to WSAC’s Residency Listserv administered by SBCTC:  
[https://lists.ctc.edu/mailman/options/ro\\_lists.ctc.edu](https://lists.ctc.edu/mailman/options/ro_lists.ctc.edu)

#### ◆ **WCG Financial Need and Income Cutoff**

The student must demonstrate *financial need*, as calculated by the institution, using the Federal Methodology (FM) formula (COA – SAI = financial need) based on the FAFSA or WASFA for the appropriate aid year. The student's state aid award, in combination with other forms of aid, may not exceed the calculated need even if they have a qualifying MFI.

In addition to having financial need, the student must also have a family income below a specified *income cutoff*. The cutoff equals a percentage of the state's Median Family Income (MFI) and adjusts with the student’s family size.

#### ◆ **WCG Award Amounts**

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) has completed an additional review of the existing RCW 28B.92 and WAC 250-21, related to the Washington College Grant in setting award amounts. As defined in statute, for students attending two- or four-year public institutions, the award amount is tuition and estimated fees for fifteen credit hours, or the equivalent as determined by the office. Fees include operating fees, building fees, and services and activities fees.

WSAC has defined award amounts based on actual tuition and estimated fees using a 15 credit tuition and fee amount. Adjustments are only required for less than full time enrollment, as a result of need limitations, or quarters of eligibility restrictions.

However, note that students enrolled in Applied Baccalaureate programs at a community or technical college, who take a mixture of upper and lower division courses must have their award amount calculated using the tuition calculator on the State Board for Community & Technical College website because students are charged different rates for upper and lower divisions course in those programs.

The Baccalaureate Tuition Calculator provided by the SBCTC is located at:  
<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/collegeaccess/baccalaureate-tuition-calculator.aspx>

#### ◆ **WG-Apprenticeship (WG-A) Award Amount Increase (Chapter 2)**

[E2SSB 5764](#) aligns the WG-A maximum award for those in approved registered apprenticeships with the maximum award for full-time students attending two-year public institutions. (See updated award charts in Chapter 2 and Appendix)

In the Academic Year 2020-21, the Washington College Grant (WCG) expanded to include approved apprenticeship programs under [Chapter 49.04 RCW](#). This expanded apprenticeships outside of traditional academic programs. For additional information please visit

- **Section 2** – Indicates intent for apprentices who receive related supplemental instruction through a CTC to be awarded WCG-A by the CTC. Requires SBCTC to implement fully by **2025-26 AY**. SBCTC to collaborate with WSAC to create a student IT interface.
- **Section 3** – Requires WSAC to contract with the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to conduct research. Some of the research includes (but this is not a complete list), evaluate paths to credential for apprentices, examine national best practices to award education credentials to apprentices, research apprentices’ demand for degrees, review the current funding model within the CTC system, identify and remove barriers for apprentices to receive WCG-A.
- **Section 4** – Four-year public colleges must establish a policy for granting as many credits as possible for related supplemental instruction by the **2028-29 AY**.

#### ◆ **Gift Equity Packaging Policy Update for Four Year Institutions (Chapter 2)**

Approved in the 2022 Legislative session, [HB 1907](#) requires that postsecondary institutions that participate in state student financial aid programs have a gift equity packaging policy allowing for a student who receives a private scholarship to receive up to 100 percent of the student's unmet need before any of the student's federal, state, or institutional financial aid is reduced. This provision does not apply to public community and technical colleges. (See Chapter 2 for more information on gift equity packaging).

#### ◆ **Requesting Funds**

Per [WAC 250-21-051-3](#), institutions should submit anticipated awards and payment requests for eligible students once identified. Institutional payment requests may be made any time of the academic year and are encouraged to be **at least** monthly.

#### ◆ **Accurate Reporting**

Ensure that all data on your Interim Reports are accurate. Correct or update changes to student enrollment as they occur. This data is critical to forecast program funding costs. Do not report students who were not eligible for aid (didn't meet SAP, didn't complete financial aid paperwork, pending residency, etc.)

#### ◆ **College Bound Scholarships and/or Washington College Grant for All Terms of Enrollment, Including Summer(s)**

Ensure that 100 percent of eligible CBS Scholars and/or WCG eligible students are awarded full Washington College Grant and/or College Bound Scholarship for all periods of enrollment, including summer(s), subject to need limits.

See *Calculating Awards* (Chapter 2) to review the information on how to award and report Summer 1 (“header” institutions) awards versus Summer 2 (“trailer” institutions) awards.

No Summer 2 CBS and/or WCG awards should be made to students whose files are complete after August 1. Contact WSAC if you later need to adjust your final Interim Report.



#### ◆ **Expanded Use of Applied Baccalaureate Designation in CSAW**

In recent years, the Applied Baccalaureate designation could be used by any two-year college that primarily offered associate degrees, but also was approved to and offered any type of bachelor's degrees, including applied bachelor's degrees. The increased award amounts at the Applied Baccalaureate level only apply to students at the public community and technical colleges. Students enrolled in a mixture of upper- and lower-division courses at two-year colleges may not receive an award in excess of assessed tuition, service, and activity fees.

Colleges are encouraged to use the calculator provided by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to calculate correct tuition and award amounts. You may experience an edit when requesting payments or completing interim reports that you will need to override, explaining that it is a BAS student enrolled in upper and lower division coursework.

The Baccalaureate Tuition Calculator provided by the SBCTC is located at:

<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/collegeaccess/baccalaureate-tuition-calculator.aspx>

#### ◆ **Students Needing Repayment Status Information (Chapter 5)**

WSAC is using a billing service for repayments. Students with repayments wanting information about the status of their repayments should be instructed to call our contracted billing service, [University Accounting Services](#) (UAS), at 1-844-870-8701.

#### ◆ **Washington Opportunity Scholarship & College Bound Scholarship (Chapter 2)**

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) **is not** to be considered state aid when determining the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) state aid award commitment. It is however to be taken into account when calculating need for awarding purposes.

For a full list of state programs that must be subtracted from the total maximum CBS amount see Chapter 2.

#### ◆ **Cost of Attendance (COA) and Tuition Waivers (Chapter 2)**

A student receiving WCG or CBS must have the full assessed tuition amount included in the COA and the value of the waiver reported for each student in the Unit Record Report. More information is available in Chapter 2.

#### ◆ **Information for Students:**

- This is the page students will land on if they click on the link in the *Washington State Aid Conditions of Award* (Chapter 6): <https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>
- For specific information on the **Washington College Grant**: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg>
- For specific information on the **Washington College Grant – Connect**: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg-connect>
- For specific information on the **College Bound Scholarship**: [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov)



## WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT AND COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY AND OPERATION

**1969:** State Need Grant (SNG) program was established.

**1976:** Legislative intent noted to offset tuition/fees for low-income students.

- For every dollar increase in tuition, 24 cents in aid provided, above previous levels.
- Reflected the portion of undergraduates on aid at that time.
- Policy inferred that the state needs to “give back” to needy students when increasing tuition.
- Students were nominated, then ranked together according to need.
- Grants were one-third of the difference between budget costs and family contribution.

**1980:** For-profit institution participation was authorized.

**1988:** Grant amounts changed from flat grant to variable in order to reflect Cost of Attendance differences supporting student choice.

**1989:** Part-time students authorized.

**1991:** A “fair share” fund distribution model was adopted creating campus “reserve funds” based on percentage of campus-eligible students divided by all eligible students.

**1993:** Revised the eligibility and cost model to use MFI as a result of change in federal needs analysis – 50 percent MFI used initially.

**1995:** MFI increased to 65 percent via budget process.

**1996:** MFI decreased to 40 percent via budget process.

**1998:** Award amounts based on public tuition rates.

**2001:** MFI increased to 55 percent via budget process.

**2005:** MFI increased to 65 percent via budget process.

**2005:** Less-than-half-time eligibility pilot with 10 campuses.

**2006:** Less-than-half-time eligibility pilot expanded to all.

**2007:** Legislature established the College Bound Scholarship Program, allowing eligible 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to sign up to receive scholarship support in college.

- Maximum MFI for SNG increased to 70 percent.
- Maximum MFI level for CBS established at 65 percent.

**2009:** SNG MFI ranges expanded from three to five categories for pro-rated awards via budget process.

**2011:** SNG Awards for new students attending for-profit institutions reduced by half.

**2011:** SNG Less-than-half-time eligibility pilot extended two years through the budget with the addition of a required outcomes study.

**2012:** The first College Bound Scholarship students receive funding. Financial aid counseling curriculum for institutions with SNG recipients per SSB6121

- 2014:** The Legislature enacted the REAL Hope Act, granting SNG eligibility determination for students who meet RCW 28B.15.012(2)(e) residency requirements, often referred to as “1079” requirements. This includes non-U.S. citizens, including undocumented students.
- 2014:** SNG Awards for students attending for-profit institutions restored to 100% level.
- 2015:** The Legislature required that all eligible CBS Scholars be awarded maximum SNG awards.
- The State Attorney General’s Office indicated that students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status may qualify for in-state tuition under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(r), may meet the residency requirements for State Need Grant under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(e), and may meet the residency requirements for College Bound Scholarship under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(d).
  - SNG eligibility for less-than-half-time enrollment became permanent.
  - The Legislature reduced tuition for the 2015-16 year at public colleges through the biennium, while holding students attending private institutions harmless from reduced awards, keeping state aid award amounts the same at private institutions.
- 2017:** Legislature enacted separate award categories for 4-year for-profit and 4-year non-profit institutions.
- 2018:** Residency requirements were aligned for SNG and CBS. Students may meet residency requirements under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(e) for both programs. This permits CBS scholars to meet residency requirements using the “1079” standard that has been in place for WCG since 2014. Also permits residency to be determined using the DACA standard (see 2015) even if DACA is expired.
- 2019:** Washington College Grant (WCG) program established, replacing the State Need Grant (SNG)
- Award amounts defined in statute for all sectors
  - CBS students that meet WCG eligibility given WCG priority in statute.
  - CBS sign-up is extended to 9th grade students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch who were previously ineligible during the 7th & 8th Grade.
  - Self-help requirement removed.
  - Second associate degree restriction removed. Dependent care allowance eliminated.
- 2020:** WCG guaranteed funding for all eligible students in statute.
- Award amounts defined in statute
  - Increased eligibility threshold from 70 percent MFI to 100 percent MFI.
  - Increased maximum awards up to 55 percent MFI
  - Expands to include apprenticeship programs
  - WCG WAC 250-21 created/repeal of SNG WAC 250-20
- 2021:** Residency requirement changed RCW 28B.15.012 (e) to living in WA for 1 year prior to being admitted in college. Previously referred to as the “1079” Requirement.
- 2022: ESSB 5693:** Washington Bridge Grant established for 2022-23 AY - \$500 WA Bridge Grant for students who are receiving maximum WCG and are not CBS eligible students. Students must be enrolled in at least three credits and the grant is not prorated.

The grant is paid in either one lump sum in the first term of enrollment or awarded proportionally across terms, limited to need.

Increased maximum awards up to 60 percent MFI

**E2SSB 5764:** Aligns the WCG-A maximum award for those in approved registered apprenticeships with the maximum award for full-time students attending two-year public institutions.

**HB 1907:** Requires that postsecondary institutions that participate in state student financial aid programs have a gift equity packaging policy allowing for a student who receives a private scholarship to receive up to 100 percent of the student's unmet need before any of the student's federal, state, or institutional financial aid is reduced. This provision does not apply to public community and technical colleges.

**ESSB 5874:** Modifies/clarifies that students must have lived in Washington for a period of one year prior to enrollment in higher education primarily for reasons other than educational for residency purposes.

**SSHB1835:** Washington College Grant - Connect beginning in AY2023-24. Allows students (or a dependent of the student who is in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade) who are in one of the following types of public assistance to receive WCG without filing a WASFA or a FAFSA:

- Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits
- Essential needs and housing support program benefit
- Pregnant women assistance program financial grants

**2023: ESSB 5187** Extends Washington Bridge Grant through 2024-2025 AY. Expands the Washington College Grant maximum award MFI range to 0-65% through 2024-2025 AY

**HB 1232:** Requires only College Bound Scholarship (CBS) eligible students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education to graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average.

- Requires the Education research and Data Center to annually send CBS data that is submitted by institutions of higher education to the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).
- Requires WSAC to submit an annual legislative report beginning November 1, 2023, on CBS data.

**SB 5079:** OFM must calculate and transmit tuition operating fees to institutions by October 1st of each year for the following Academic Year

**2024: ESHB 2019:** Establishes the Native American apprentice assistance program for members of federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington beginning in 2025.

**2SHB 2214:** Expands income eligibility for the Washington College Grant (WCG) to students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade whose families are recipients of Washington Basic Food (SNAP) or Washington Food Assistance programs beginning the 2025-26 AY.

**SB 5904:** Extends and aligns the maximum time frame allowed to receive Washington College Grant (WCG), Washington College Bound Scholarship (CBS), and Passport to Careers (Passport to College Promise Program and Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunity Program – PTC) from five years or 125 percent to six years or 150 percent of a baccalaureate degree, or 18 full-time quarters/12 full-time semester,

or the equivalent clock hours of full-time eligibility the published length of the program for which the student is enrolled or the credit or clock hour equivalent.

- Removes the 5-year eligibility window for CBS, after enrollment but keeps the one-year enrollment requirement from high school graduation.
- Removes the age restriction for PTC on the back end but still requires enrollment by age 22.

**SSB 6053:** requires WSAC to enter into data-sharing agreements with OSPI to facilitate the transfer of high school student directory information for informing high school students of postsecondary financial aid and educational opportunities available in the state. Allows a nonpublic university, college, school, or institute in the state of Washington that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized by rule of WSAC to enter into student data-sharing agreements with OSPI.

## WCG & CBS REPORT AND FUNDING REQUEST TIMELINE

<b>June 1, 2024</b>	Renewal materials due for institutions to apply for recertification of their “Institutional Agreement to Participate.”
<b>July 17, 2024</b>	Final Year End Interim Reports (Reconciliation) due for the 2023-24 Academic Year.
<b>July and August 2024</b>	2023-24 Unit Record Report training webinars.
<b>August 12, 2024</b>	2023-24 Unit Record Report opens
<b>October 1, 2024</b>	Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) available for the 2025-26 Academic Year.
<b>October 14, 2024</b>	2023-24 Unit Record Report due.
<b>October 14, 2024</b>	Fall Interim Report opens.
<b>November 12, 2024</b>	Fall Interim Reports are due.
<b>January 20, 2025</b>	Winter Interim Report opens.
<b>February 18, 2025</b>	Winter Interim Reports are due.
<b>April 7, 2025</b>	Spring Interim Report opens.
<b>May 5, 2025</b>	Spring Interim Reports are due.
<b>May/June 2025</b>	Annual Workshops – state financial aid training and updates.
<b>June 30, 2025</b>	Final date that 2024-25 WASFA form may be processed.
<b>June 16, 2025</b>	Final Interim Report opens.
<b>July 14, 2025</b>	Final Year End Interim Reports (Reconciliation) due; final date to request program funds.



# CHAPTER 1

## Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship Eligibility Determination and Monitoring

### ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

◆ **First: Check to see if students appear in the WCG-Connect (WCG-C) Eligibility Checker**

Students who appear in the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker have been confirmed to be enrolled in one of three DSHS programs or other programs approved by WSAC, that allow students to meet the WCG income eligibility without needing to file a FAFSA or WASFA. See Chapter 2 for information on how a program is approved by WSAC.

- Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) program
- Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) referral program
- Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)
- Economic Security for All (ECSA)

It is important to load all students who have been admitted to your college through the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker to identify students who could be eligible for WCG but didn't complete a FAFSA or a WASFA. These students will not appear on any financial aid lists.

WCG-C recipients should receive maximum WCG regardless of whether or not they completed a FAFSA or WASFA as long as all other eligibility requirements have been met such as residency, eligible program of study, high school diploma or equivalent, etc. This also means you may need to update a student's award if they did not meet the 65 percent MFI based on the information submitted on their financial aid application.

◆ **Second: Determine if the student is an eligible College Bound Scholar**

College Bound students are identified through the CBS Eligibility Checker located in the WSAC portal. CBS students, who meet all high school eligibility requirements, are considered College Bound Scholars

College Bound students, who meet all income and program requirements for that year, must be considered for CBS funding, and are identified throughout this manual as eligible College Bound Scholars or CBS eligible.

◆ **Third: If the student is an eligible College Bound Scholar, determine the amounts of funding the student is eligible to receive from both the WCG and CBS programs.**

*Note: In some cases, eligible College Bound students may not receive CBS assistance. An example is an CBS eligible student who receives sufficient WCG and other state aid funding to meet the amount required for CBS eligible students to receive. Gift equity policies do not apply to CBS/WCG awards. College Bound students are not eligible to receive the Washington Bridge Grant.*

- ◆ **Fourth: If the student is not an eligible College Bound Scholar determine the student’s eligibility only for the WCG program.**

CBS eligible students, who exceed the 65 percent MFI and up to 100 percent MFI, are to be awarded WCG based on their MFI level.

- ◆ **Fifth: If the student is not an eligible College Bound Scholar, but is eligible for the maximum WCG, award the student the WA Bridge Grant.**

WCG recipients who are receiving a maximum WCG award but are not CBS eligible are also eligible to receive a \$500 WA Bridge Grant if they are enrolled in at least three credits and have remaining need.

Students who meet the maximum WCG eligibility under Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C) are not CBS eligible unless the student has filed a FAFSA or WASFA showing that they meet CBS eligibility.

Students meeting eligibility under WCG-C who are not CBS eligible are also eligible for the WA Bridge Grant.

**INITIAL CRITERIA FOR WCG AND CBS FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

STUDENTS MUST:	WCG	WCG-C	CBS
<b>Meet High School (HS) Graduation Requirements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High School graduation or GED/equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> High School graduation or GED/equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate from a Washington High School (GED OK for certain former foster youth), through a Washington state CTC program (like Running Start), or an approved homeschool program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution are required to graduate with at least a C grade point average.</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> No felony convictions before HS graduation
<b>Meet College Enrollment Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Within one year of HS grad. (Typically, the fall term a year after June HS graduation)
<b>Submit an Approved Application</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA or WASFA each year	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed to be in one of three DSHS programs: ABD, HEN, or PWA or other WSAC-approved programs	<input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA or WASFA each year



**INITIAL CRITERIA FOR WCG AND CBS FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION (CONTINUED)**

STUDENTS MUST:	WCG	WCG-C	CBS
<b>Be a Washington Resident*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Meet residency requirements according to RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(e). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes non-U.S. Citizens and students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status who meet 28B.15.012(2)(e), by completing the Residency Affidavit. DACA can be expired at the time of residency determination.</li> <li>▪ Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens may be eligible to meet residency requirements.</li> <li>▪ At public institutions, residency officers determine if and how a student meets residency requirements. Financial aid officers at public institutions should ask their residency officer if student meets this requirement.</li> <li>▪ Financial aid administrators at private institutions should use this handbook to make residency decisions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For additional residency information see:  <a href="https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency">https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Meet residency requirements according to RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(e). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes non-U.S. Citizens and students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status who meet 28B.15.012(2)(e), by completing the Residency Affidavit. DACA can be expired at the time of residency determination.</li> <li>▪ Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens may be eligible to meet residency requirements.</li> <li>▪ At public institutions, residency officers determine if and how a student meets residency requirements. Financial aid officers at public institutions should ask their residency officer if student meets this requirement.</li> <li>▪ Financial aid administrators at private institutions should use this handbook to make residency decisions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For additional residency information see:  <a href="https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency">https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Meet residency requirements according to RCW 28B.15.012(2)(a)-(e). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes non-U.S. Citizens and students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status who meet 28B.15.012(2)(e), by completing the Residency Affidavit. DACA can be expired at the time of residency determination.</li> <li>▪ Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens may be eligible to meet residency requirements.</li> <li>▪ At public institutions, residency officers determine if and how a student meets residency requirements. Financial aid officers at public institutions should ask their residency officer if student meets this requirement.</li> <li>▪ Financial aid administrators at private institutions should use this handbook to make residency decisions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For additional residency information see:  <a href="https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency">https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency</a></p>
<b>Meet family income eligibility based on MFI level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ 100% Median Family Income (MFI) or less</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Automatically considered to meet 65% Median Family Income (MFI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ 65% MFI or less</li> </ul>
<b>Maximum Full-Time Term Usage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ 18 quarters/12 semesters/or Equivalent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ 18 quarters/12 semesters/or Equivalent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ 18 quarters/12 semesters/or Equivalent</li> </ul>

\*See expanded information in this chapter for more details regarding residency

## Shared WCG / CBS Eligibility Areas

### ALL WCG and ALL CBS STUDENTS MUST:

- Meet Washington resident tuition requirements according to [RCW 28B.15.012\(2\)\(a\)-\(e\)](#).
- Demonstrate financial need as defined under [RCW 28B.92.030](#).
- Be undergraduate students.
- Enroll in at least 3 credits per quarter or the equivalent.
- Enroll in eligible programs at eligible institutions; or
- Be enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program (WCG Only).

### ALL WCG and ALL CBS STUDENTS CANNOT:

- Exceed maximum term usage.
- Be in unsatisfactory progress or denied status.
- Owe a repayment to any state program.
- Be in default on a state student loan.
- Have received a bachelor's degree or higher or its foreign equivalent.
- Be pursuing a degree in Theology.

### Financial Need and Income Cutoff

The student must demonstrate **financial need**, as calculated by the institution, using the Federal Methodology (FM) formula based on the FAFSA or WASFA for the appropriate aid year. The student's state aid award, in combination with other forms of aid, may not exceed the calculated need.

The student must have a family income below a specified **income cutoff**. The cutoff equals a percentage of the state's Median Family Income (MFI) and adjusts with the student's family size.

The income cutoff is 100 percent of the state's MFI for Washington College Grant, 65 percent for WA Bridge Grant, and 65 percent for College Bound award recipients. CBS eligible recipients with family incomes between 66-100 percent should only receive WCG. State aid must fit within the student's calculated need after counting all other need-based resources. Chapter 2, *Calculating WCG and CBS Awards*, describes the income cutoff thresholds.

### Undergraduate Student

An **undergraduate student** is a student who has not received a baccalaureate or professional degree. Students that have earned enough credits towards a degree, but have not yet been conferred the degree, may continue to be awarded State financial aid as long as they continue to meet eligibility requirements and have unused Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER).

### Enrolled for at Least Three Credits per Quarter or the Equivalent

A student must be enrolled in a course load of at least three credits per quarter or the equivalent at a participating postsecondary institution to receive state aid. Apprenticeship requirements will be defined in the Washington Grant for Apprenticeship Program Manual.

## Eligible Program

An eligible program is a program at a location approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Title IV financial aid programs. The student must be enrolled in an educational program that does one of the following:

1. Leads to an associate, baccalaureate, or undergraduate professional degree.
2. Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semester, or 24 quarter credit hours. Program completion must prepare the student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. The programs must be listed on the institution's approved Title IV Program Participation Agreement for short-term programs.

**Note:** *It is permissible to count needed remedial coursework toward the state aid enrollment requirement (but they do not count in the program length requirement mentioned above). They are also counted in the quarters of eligibility.*

**Eligible Apprenticeship Program** – Apprenticeships qualifying as eligible programs must be a registered apprenticeship program approved under Chapter [49.04 RCW](#). See separate Apprenticeship Program Manual.

**Remedial Coursework** – Up to one academic year's worth of remedial coursework may count in the student's enrollment status. For the purpose of this limit, that is 30 semester or trimester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 900 clock hours. Please note students are still subject to the maximum full-time term usage limits.

**Correspondence and Distance Education** – A student may not take more than half of their course load through correspondence courses. There are no restrictions on the number of electronically delivered (online) credits that a state aid recipient may enroll in from an eligible institution.

**Study Abroad Programs** – Study abroad students are eligible to be considered for state aid if one of the following is true:

- They are enrolled at an eligible institution for a Study Abroad program.
- The institution has agreed to administer the financial aid in conjunction with another institution running the Study Abroad program.

## Maximum Terms of Eligibility

WCG and CBS recipients have a lifetime maximum number of terms they can receive for each program. Remaining eligibility is described as Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER).

- A WCG recipient may receive the grant for a maximum of 18 quarters, 12 semesters, or the equivalent combination of the 2 at a full-time rate of enrollment. This includes combined usage under the apprenticeship program option and academic programs.
- CBS recipients may receive CBS funds for a maximum of 18 quarters, 12 semesters, or the equivalent combination of the two at a full-time rate of enrollment.

CBS may be received provided the student met their initial enrollment deadline (within one year of high school graduation).

In order to meet the enrollment deadline, students must be enrolled and attending college. Registering for a future term does not meet the enrollment deadline. Transcribed courses verify the enrollment deadline was met.

**For example,** students with a high school graduation year of 2024, must begin their college enrollment by fall 2025.

If CBS students exhaust their CBS funding, they may continue to receive WCG funding as long as they meet all other WCG requirements. Likewise, if CBS students exhaust their WCG funding, they may continue to receive CBS only. Please see Chapter 2 for more information on coordinated awarding.

The CBS Eligibility Checker and the College Bound Scholarship/Washington College Grant Award Warehouse (CSAW) system will track individual student's eligibility.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

Institutions are responsible for monitoring and responding to changes in student eligibility. WSAC will now align the State SAP policy with the Federal SAP policy beginning with the 2024-25 academic year.

While institutions can implement this policy as early as the 2024-25 academic year, there is flexibility for institutions to adjust their policy to fit the needs of their student population: the minimum standard for the State SAP policy being the same as Federal SAP policy.

Chapter 3 discusses SAP changes in student status that occur after receipt of an award and more about SAP policy.

### **Denied Status**

**Denied status** refers to a student's status when the student has not met the institution's quantitative standard, qualitative standard, and/or maximum timeframe policy. See Chapter 3 for more information.

### **Refund/Repayment**

All students must certify that they do not owe a refund or repayment for any state student financial aid programs. The student may not be in default on a loan made through a state loan program.

### **Previous Bachelor's or Professional Degree**

WCG recipients and CBS students who have already earned a bachelor's or professional degree, including foreign bachelor's degrees, are not eligible to receive WCG or CBS awards. If a student provides documentation that the foreign degree is not equivalent to a bachelor's degree in the U.S., the institution may determine that the student does not have a bachelor's degree.

**Note:** *This is the same exception allowed for Federal Pell Grant administration.*

## Theology Degree

State law prevents students pursuing a degree in theology from receiving state financial aid. Students pursuing a degree in theology are ineligible to receive state financial aid. Each institution must determine whether the student is pursuing this type of degree.

## Resident for Washington College Grant and College Bound Purposes

Residency requirements are the same for both programs. Students must meet one of five resident tuition requirements as outlined in [RCW 28B.15.012\(2\)\(a\)-\(e\)](#)

- **For public institutions:** Residency officers determine if a student meets residency requirements for tuition. Residency officers should indicate which part of the residency RCW a student meets so that financial aid officers know which financial aid programs may be available to the student.  
  
Financial aid officers at public institutions should coordinate with their residency officers to ensure consistent residency determinations for tuition and financial aid.
- **For private institutions:** Private institutions do not have residency officers so financial aid officers may use the WSAC website listed below as a guide to help determine if a student has met financial aid residency requirements. If there are any questions, please email [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov).
- Additional residency information is available at <https://www.wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>.
- Residency Officer listserv: [https://lists.ctc.edu/mailman/options/ro\\_lists.ctc.edu](https://lists.ctc.edu/mailman/options/ro_lists.ctc.edu)

**There are two student groups that have different residency requirements. A student's group depends on their citizenship or immigration status.**

### Student Group #1

- US citizens and nationals
- Permanent residents
- Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau
- [FAFSA-eligible](#) non-citizens
- Students with current or expired Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status
- Students with a current Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Students with one of the following immigration statuses:
  - Asylee
  - Canadians who qualify for permanent residence under the Jay Treaty
  - Cuban-Haitian Entrants, Conditional Entrants, and Parolees
  - One of the following visa statuses: A-1, A-2, A-3, DV-1, DV-2, DV-3, DV-6, DV-7, DV-8, E-1, E-2, E-3, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, G-5, H-1B, H4, I, K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, L-1, L-2, N-8, N-9, NATO-1, NATO-2, NATO-3, NATO-4, NATO-5, NATO-6, NATO-7, O-1, O-2, O-3, Q-1, Q-2, Q-3, R-1, R-2, S, U-1, U-2, U-3, U-4, U-5, V-1, V-2, or V-3 visa status
  - Pending adjustment of status without a concurrent immigration status
  - Refugee
  - Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status or Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status
  - Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
  - Withholding of Removal status or Withholding of Deportation status
- To find out what documentation is needed to prove a certain immigration status, please see [www.wsac.wa.gov/student-residency](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/student-residency).

## Student Group #2

- Undocumented students without expired or current DACA status.
- Students who are not listed in Student Group #1 (for example, students with an international student F visa who do not have a current EAD).

## Residency requirements for Student Group #1

Students in Student Group #1 meet residency requirements for WCG and CBS if they meet **ONE** of the following five subsections of RCW 28B.15.012(2). The first two subsections of the RCW, **(a) and (b), are the most common**. Each RCW subsection is outlined below.

### **(a) Financially independent students** (definition differs from [federal aid definition](#))

To be considered financially independent for residency purposes, a student must meet all of the following for the current and previous calendar years (calendar year means January – December):

- Cannot be claimed as a dependent exemption on a tax return, regardless of age.
- Cannot receive significant financial assistance from parents, relatives, legal guardians, or others (except for a spouse), regardless of age and marital status.
- Must have used their own income—or financial aid awarded in their name—to pay their living and tuition expenses.

To meet residency requirements for tuition and state aid through (a), financially independent students must have a domicile in the state for at least one year immediately before the term they apply for residency.

- The domicile must be primarily for purposes other than educational (meaning the student cannot take more than six quarter or semester credits in any one term). If the student takes more than six credits in a term, they must prove that education is not their primary reason for having a Washington domicile.
- Students with an EAD must have a domicile-eligible EAD category or a combination of domicile-eligible statuses for the entire year.
- Students with B, C, D, F, H-1B1, H-2, H-3, J, M, P, TD, TN, WB, or WT visa status cannot establish a domicile in Washington.
- Students with another immigration status can typically establish a domicile in Washington.

### **(b) Financially dependent students** (definition differs from [federal aid definition](#))

Financially dependent students are students who are not considered financially independent for residency purposes.

To meet residency requirements for tuition and state aid through (b), financially dependent students must have at least one parent or legal guardian who has had a domicile in the state for at least one year immediately before the term the student applies for residency.

Parents or legal guardians:

- Who are undocumented can establish a domicile in Washington.
- With B, C, D, F, H-1B1, H-2, H-3, J, M, P, TD, TN, WB, or WT visa status cannot establish a domicile in Washington.
- With another immigration status can typically establish a domicile in Washington.

See <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency> for more information about financial independence for residency purposes.

(c) Subsection (c) is very unlikely. **Please see [RCW 28B.15.012](#) for more information.**

**(d) Recent high school graduates whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) move out-of-state.** *(This option is not very common)*

To meet residency requirements for tuition and state aid through (d), students must meet the following:

- Student must have spent at least 75 percent of their last two years of high school in Washington high schools.
- Student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must have had a domicile for at least one year within the five-year period before student graduated high school.
- Student must start college within six months of graduating high school.

Student qualifies for residency for as long as the student remains continuously enrolled for at least three quarters or two semesters per calendar year

**(e) Students who have lived in Washington for at least one year and have earned a high school diploma or equivalent.**

The requirements for (e) changed in 2021. They are now easier for students to meet. To meet residency requirements for tuition and state aid through (e), students must meet the following:

- Earn a high school diploma, GED, or diploma equivalent prior to the term they are applying for residency. The diploma or equivalent can be earned anywhere.
- Live in Washington for at least a year before being admitted to college (12 consecutive months)
  - REQUIREMENT: The Washington residence must be primarily for purposes other than college. This means that students who immediately start college after moving to Washington as out-of-state students cannot be a resident student at a new college after 12 months of living in Washington.
- Sign an [affidavit](#) saying they meet the above requirements. The affidavit is included in the WASFA. There is a paper affidavit for students who are eligible to file a FAFSA. Students should only fill out the paper affidavit or the WASFA affidavit, not both.
  - Non-U.S. Citizens/nationals/permanent residents must also promise that they will apply to become a U.S. permanent resident as soon as they are eligible.

## **Residency requirements for Student Group #2**

Undocumented students without expired or current DACA status and students who are not in Group #1 may meet residency requirements for WCG and CBS if they meet the requirements for (e):

- Earn a high school diploma, GED, or diploma equivalent prior to the term they are applying for residency. The diploma or equivalent can be earned anywhere.
- Live in Washington for at least a year before being admitted to college (12 consecutive months)
  - REQUIREMENT: The Washington residence must be primarily for purposes other than college. This means that students who immediately start college after moving to Washington as out-of-state students cannot be a resident student at a new college after 12 months of living in Washington.



- Sign an affidavit saying they meet the above requirements. The affidavit is included in the WASFA. There is a paper affidavit for students who are eligible to file a FAFSA. Students should only fill out the paper affidavit or the WASFA affidavit, not both.
  - Non-U.S. Citizens/nationals/permanent residents must also promise that they will apply to become a U.S. permanent resident as soon as they are eligible.

If you do not have a residency officer or your residency officer is unable to answer your questions related to an individual student's residency, please email [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov). Please be aware that the final decision lies with the school.

### **Other Washington Residents**

The Legislature has classified the individuals from the groups below as Washington residents for **tuition and fee purposes** at public institutions. This legislation **DID NOT** make these individuals eligible for WCG and CBS, unless they meet the residency requirements outlined above; however, they do meet residency requirements for other state aid programs - Passport to College, State Work Study, the American Indian Endowed Scholarship, and the National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant

These groups are:

1. **Members of certain federally recognized tribes** who were domiciled for one year in one or a combination of the following states: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, or Washington. More information, including the list of tribes, is found at <https://www.wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>.
2. **Certain military personnel or Washington National Guard members, as well as their spouse(s) and dependent(s)**. More information is found at <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>.
3. **Oregon residents who reside (or recently resided) in counties that border Washington and attend an institution in a Washington county that borders Oregon.**

See <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency> for more information.

### **Conflicting Information**

All applicants for state aid, regardless of the application filed, must resolve conflicting information. Institutions should follow their standard review policy regarding the resolution of conflicting information for any applicant. WASFA applicants are not automatically selected like FAFSA applicants are through the US Department of Education's processing systems. This may mean that you need to collect different documentation to reconcile conflicting information; however, institutions may not require an applicant to file a federal tax return if they are electing to apply only for state aid - regardless of whether they file the FAFSA or WASFA.

Financial Aid Administrators are strongly encouraged to advise students accordingly, who may be otherwise eligible for federal aid to proceed with and complete their taxes to be considered for federal aid but may not require this for state aid only applicants. In lieu of a federal tax return, applicants may submit other forms of documentation to resolve conflicting information.

**WSAC requires institutions to resolve any conflicting residency information between their financial aid, admissions/residency office, and registration offices.**



WSAC will periodically compare residency-related data reported on the FAFSA or WASFA (such as mailing address, state of legal residence, driver's license state) and request that institutions either confirm eligibility or resolve conflicting information.

### **Approved Applications – FAFSA and WASFA**

**No Application Fee** – No student shall be required to pay a fee to apply for state aid.

Students applying for state aid must file either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, as approved by the U.S. Department of Education, or for those not eligible for or wanting to apply for Federal student aid, the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

**Students who are eligible to complete the FAFSA, but chose not to apply for Federal student aid, can complete the WASFA instead.**

**If a student chooses to file the WASFA, it is important they understand that they will be considered only for State financial aid.**

Institutions may also require that students complete an institutional aid application to collect additional information that is not available on the FAFSA or WASFA. If so, institutions must provide such applications to students on a timely basis if they receive FAFSA or WASFA information from students but have not received the required institutional application. Instructions for students to complete the WASFA can be found at: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>.

Access to information for WASFA students that have applied to your institution can be found in the WSAC Portal under Programs >WASFA and should be checked for new applications on a consistent basis parallel with processing FAFSA applications. Aid administrators must be granted WASFA permissions by their institutional portal administrator in the WSAC Portal to access WASFA applicant data.

Features on the site include:

- Applicant search with optional .csv download option
- WASFA applicant data views
- File extracts of applicant data in ISIR format
- Federal SAI calculations
- WASFA Residency report

Contact your institution's Portal administrator (usually your Financial Aid Director) to request WASFA access in the WSAC Portal.

### **Former Foster Youth and CBS High School Requirement**

Students who experienced foster care at any point between 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the age of 21, may be able to receive College Bound Scholarship after earning a high school equivalency certificate.

Students should contact program staff at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) or 888-535-0747, Opt. 1, to discuss their specific situation and next steps, but generally:

- Students need to have been auto enrolled through the partnership with DCYF into the College Bound Scholarship
- They will need to provide a copy of their high school equivalency certificate (currently in WA, this is the GED exam) to program staff
- Students will need to have earned the GED prior to their 21st birthday
- Students will need to enroll in college within one year of receiving their GED
- Students must not have been convicted of a felony
- Students also must be income-eligible, as determined by completing the FAFSA or WASFA

### **Ability to Benefit – Applies only to WCG Students**

Ability to Benefit and GEDs do not qualify as meeting the high school requirements for CBS students. CBS students must graduate from a Washington high school (except for some former foster youth who earn a GED – see Former Foster Youth and CBS High School Requirement section above).

*Note: Students with direct admissions to a public or private four year institution are required to graduate with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.*

WCG recipients must have a high school diploma or its equivalent or for those without a high school credential, meet the ability to benefit option. Equivalent standards include a general education development certificate or a certificate of completion of a home-based instruction under chapter [28A.200 RCW](#).

For a student without a high school diploma or its equivalent, a school may accept:

- a) A recognized ability to benefit test as defined by federal financial aid regulations;
- b) Completion of at least six college level credits towards an eligible program of study;
- c) Alternate state equivalent approved by the U.S. Department of Education; or
- d) Co-enrollment in Washington state's Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program (I-BEST) and High school+ (HS+) programs that include an eligible program of study as defined in [WAC 250-21-010\(18\)](#).

### **Incarcerated Student Eligibility**

Incarcerated students enrolled in an eligible program of study at an eligible institution as defined for financial aid purposes AND who meet all eligibility criteria for the WCG, are eligible for WCG.

Students enrolled in Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites and/or Prison Education Programs (PEP) are eligible. PEP sites must be approved by the WA State Department of Corrections, the authorized accreditor, the US Department of Education and WSAC.

These factors include:

- Completes the FAFSA or WASFA
- Has demonstrated financial need and unmet need
- Meets Median Family Income requirements
- Maintains academic progress
- Enrolled in an eligible program at an eligible institution as defined for financial aid purposes
- Enrolled in a minimum of 3 credits per term
- Funds are paid to the institution on behalf of the student for costs incurred by the student. The institution requests the funds through the standard awarding/disbursement process for all WCG.

**Note:** The cost of attendance elements for incarcerated students are essentially tuition, fees, books, and supplies. Other funds received must be considered such as Pell. This may mean that an individual's eligibility limits the amount of the WCG award.

### **Fraudulent Information**

Any student who obtains state aid by means of a willfully false statement or failure to reveal any material fact, condition, or circumstance affecting eligibility will be subject to applicable civil and criminal penalties and repayment of all state aid funds received.

### **Consistent Policies**

Institutional policies shall apply consistently to state aid recipients and federal aid recipients, except when in conflict with state aid regulations academic progress requirements or if there are specific references to state aid processing (such as the frequency of term payments for clock hour schools).

## **ELIGIBILITY MONITORING FOR WCG AND CBS**

Once a student receives a state aid award, the institution must monitor continued eligibility. The institution must issue the student a revised award offer when the student's state aid award changes.

The institution is required to verify student eligibility for all students by:

- Checking the WSAC WCG Archive report for Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER)
- Checking the WSAC Repayment Checker to ensure student does not owe a repayment on a previously disbursed state aid award
- Checking the WCG-C Eligibility Checker to ensure any WCG-C eligible students are awarded maximum WCG and Bridge (if not CBS eligible)
- Monitoring SAP status (Refer to Chapter 3)
- Confirming OK to Pay status in the CBS Eligibility Checker (for CBS students only)

## Washington Student Achievement Council Archive Report

Use the archive to determine whether or not a WCG student:

- Has exhausted or is approaching the 18 quarter/12 semester limitation for WCG eligibility. The archive lists students who are within six quarters of meeting the 18 quarter/12 semester maximum and displays the number of quarters of eligibility remaining (QER).
  - If a CBS student has exhausted WCG eligibility, but still has CBS eligibility remaining, the institution shall award the student an award using CBS funds only.
    - For example: if a student is PTC eligible, the funds would be awarded in PTC first and then the remainder in CBS, up to the CBS state aid commitment (see Chapter 2 for more information).

**It is the institution's responsibility to ensure that all students who receive WCG have been checked against the archive at both the time of awarding and time of disbursement.**

SSN	Name (last, first, MI)	In Repayment	Quarters Used	Quarters Remaining	Initial Archive Date
		No	11.000	4.000	4/9/2019
		No	12.000	3.000	8/18/2005
		No	14.000	1.000	5/4/2019
		No	12.750	2.250	8/18/2005
		No	13.000	2.000	8/18/2005
		No	13.000	2.000	8/30/2017
		\$ Yes	2.000	13.000	5/4/2019

*\*This screenshot has not yet been updated to reflect the change in QER*

**Please note:** Archive report currently contains Repayment data in the CSV that may not be correct, please use the Repayment Checker for the most accurate information. QERs in the archive may be used as a guide for award planning but they are only updated intermittently. CSAW provides real time information.

The report sample images will be updated in the manual as technology is modified.

- **Archive results example** – The final archive is available each year in mid-August. It contains updated information on the prior year's WCG recipient exceptions. Institutions can upload data on their ready-to-award students to WSAC's Portal: <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/>, Results are downloadable into Excel.
- **Downloadable file format example** – In the period of time before WSAC finalizes the archive data, institutions shall use the most recent data available in the archive as a basis for offering awards to students to minimize the need for late repackaging.

The archive is updated at the end of the fiscal year to reflect updated repayment information. CSAW is real time and contains the most up to date information for repayments and QERs.

**Note:** Check the archive before submitting any payment requests. Access can be requested by contacting your institutional administrator (usually the Financial Aid Director at each institution).

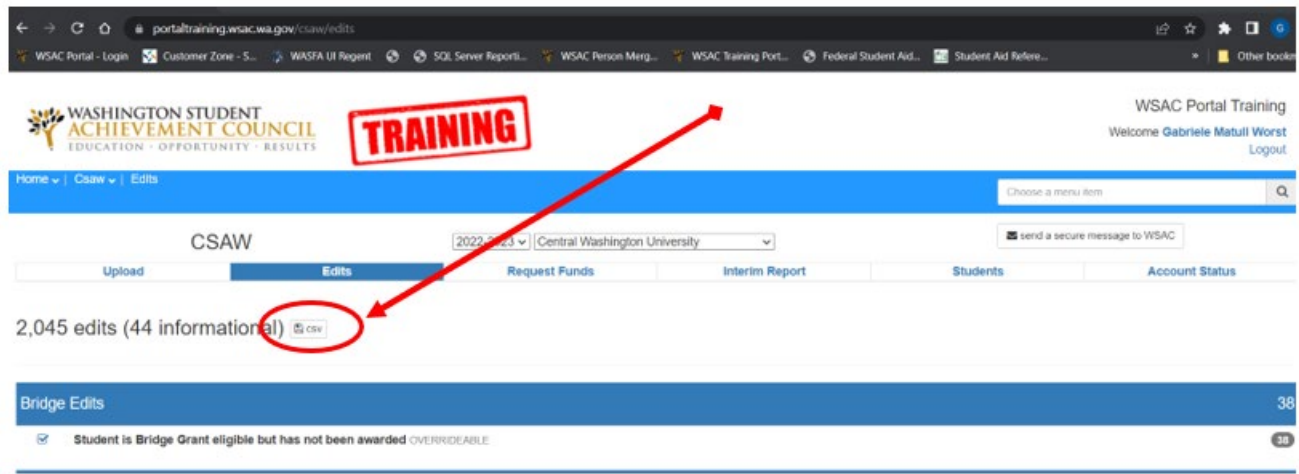
## Repayment Checker

Use the Repayment Checker to determine if a student owes a repayment on a previously disbursed state aid award. Continue to use the Archive for Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER). Real time information is also available in CSAW.

SSN	First Name	Last Name	Program	Status	Date	Debt	Balance	Year	Institution	Term
			WCG	Uncollectable	1/9/2014	\$308.00	\$308.00	2013-2014	Seattle Central	Fall
			WCG	Sent to Collection Agency	12/27/2018	\$525.43	\$525.43	2018-2019	Edmonds	Fall
			WCG	Uncollectable	2/7/2003	\$95.55	\$95.55	2001-2002	Clover Park	Fall

## Washington Bridge Grant

Although there is not an eligibility checker specifically for WA Bridge Grant, you can check which of your students are eligible for the WA Bridge Grant by uploading your WSAC file in Portal training at <https://portaltraining.wsac.wa.gov/> and reviewing the WA Bridge edits you receive. The edit file can be downloaded and sorted to review only students who need to be awarded WA Bridge Grant.



Student	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Program	Edit Type	Edit Level	Edit Description	Term
			Brianne		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Spring
			CHLOE		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Summer 1
			JENNIFER		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Summer 1
			JOY		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			KEIGHLI		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Fall
			KEIGHLI		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			KELLY		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Summer 1
			GABRIEL		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			JORDAN		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			Edward		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Spring
			Brianne		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			JENNIFER		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Spring
			Madison		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Summer 1
			Syeda		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Winter
			GABRIEL		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Fall
			KEIGHLI		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Spring
			CRYSTAL		Bridge	Overrideable	Term	Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Fall

## The Washington College Grant Connect (WCG-C) Eligibility Checker

The Eligibility Checker is available in the [WSAC Portal](#) under Programs > WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker.

Use the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker to determine which of your students are eligible for WCG without needing to complete a FAFSA or WASFA. Students who qualify under WCG-C are eligible to receive the maximum WCG award and the WA Bridge Grant, provided they meet all other program eligibility such as residency, high school diploma or equivalent, eligible program of study, etc.

The institution will need to check residency, QER, and repayment status prior to awarding. If the student shows as CBS eligible, they will be required to complete a FAFSA or WASFA to meet the CBS eligibility.

If a student shows that they are eligible under WCG-C and has already completed or subsequently completes a FAFSA or a WASFA, ensure that the student is being awarded WCG at the maximum award amount and the WA Bridge Grant, regardless of what their income shows on the FAFSA or WASFA. This may require an update to the students' awards.

Students are income eligible for WCG under WCG-C regardless of calculated need, as long as it is awarded within the cost of attendance. The exception to this is if there is \$1 or more of federal or state need-based aid awarded.

If any amount of federal or state need-based financial aid is awarded (\$1 or more), need should be factored into the awarding of WCG for WCG-C eligible students. Need is defined as COA – SAI - OFA. See Volume 3, Chapter 7 of the FSA Handbook for more information.

**Note:** It is important to note that the WCG-C Eligibility Checker is updated monthly, so there may be students who meet eligibility under WCG-Connect but aren't currently in the checker. If a student self-identifies, WSAC can verify their enrollment in one of the approved programs through the DSHS Benefit Verification System (BVS) or through EcSA program staff. Please send a secure message to WSAC through the portal with a copy of the client benefit letter or the following information:

- SSN
- DSHS Client ID
- First and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Program (HEN, PWA, ABD, and EcSA currently)
- Start Date in Program

Once WSAC is able to verify the student through BVS or EcSA, they will be added to the WCG-C Eligibility Checker.

The WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker looks at:

- WCG-C eligibility
- Available QERs
- CBS eligibility – check to ensure student has FAFSA/WASFA on file before awarding CBS
- Outstanding Repayment
- When student was reported to WSAC

**The campus determines all other program eligibility criteria, such as residency, need, enrollment, eligible program, academic progress, etc.**

Search for students by:

- Name – requires first name, last name, **and** date of birth
- Social Security Number List Search
- Social Security Number file upload

### WCG-Connect - Eligibility Checker

Selected year: 2024-2025 ▼

Enter a list of SSN's separated by commas on each line:

comma separated SSNs

Agency search  
 Name search  
 **SSN LIST SEARCH**  
 SSN file upload search

Search
Reset
Download Selections

<
1
...
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
...
4280
>

Last Name ^	First Name ⇅	MI	SSN ⇅	Birth Date ⇅	WCG-C Eligible Year ⇅	WCG QER ⇅	CBS ⇅	In Repayment ⇅	Last Report Month ⇅	Agency ⇅
			👁️ .....		2024-2025	15			Jan 2024	DSHS
			👁️ .....		2024-2025	15			Jan 2024	DSHS
			👁️ .....		2024-2025	14.25 <a href="#">↗</a>		Yes \$	Jan 2024	DSHS
			👁️ .....		2024-2025	11.75 <a href="#">↗</a>	Eligible		Mar 2024	ESD

### The CBS Eligibility Checker for College Bound Scholars and Recipients

Campuses will need to verify eligibility using the CBS Eligibility Checker at the time of awarding and again prior to each disbursement. The Cruncher has been disabled and is no longer available for use. Campuses should use the CBS Eligibility Checker.

The CBS Eligibility Checker is located in the Portal. From the main menu, select Programs, then College Bound, then CBS Eligibility Checker. Step-by-step instructions for using the CBS Eligibility Checker are found in this chapter.

**Important:** WSAC will update the program manual if any other changes occur during the year.

Name	SSN	Birth Date	SID	OK to Award	OK to Pay	HS Grad Year	HS 2.0 GPA	Enrolled By Deadline	5-yr Elig. Open	CBS Qtrs Used	CBS Qtrs Remaining	In Repayment	Last Updated
<a href="#">Details</a>				No updated 08/15/2023	No updated 08/15/2023	2017 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	No	6.50	5.50	No	08/22/2023
<a href="#">Details</a>				Yes updated 08/22/2023	Yes updated 08/22/2023	2020 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	Yes	4.50	7.50	No	08/22/2023

*Example of CBS Eligibility Checker*

*\*This screenshot has not yet been updated to reflect the change in QER and 5-year eligibility.*

**Please note:** Institutions must check for repayments and QERs. QERs in the CBS Eligibility Checker should be used only as a guide.

The CBS Eligibility Checker and CSAW are both located in the WSAC portal. However, CSAW provides the most timely and accurate QER data, as QERs are updated upon any change to a student’s term in CSAW. Please rely on the CSAW data for the most accurate QERs.

### Matching CBS Valid Applicants to FAFSA and WASFA Filers

Washington Student Achievement Council’s CBS valid applicant database is matched to incoming FAFSA and WASFA applications. FAFSA and WASFA data is matched daily.

Institutions shall compare their student data against the CBS Eligibility Checker database. After entering information for potentially eligible students, campuses are presented with a list of CBS students whose CBS application matched to an incoming FAFSA or WASFA.

**Note:** *The CBS Eligibility Checker does not determine all CBS eligibility criteria.*

### The CBS Eligibility Checker checks:

- That there is a complete and valid CBS application on file with WSAC
- High school graduation status
  - High school graduation with a 2.0 or higher GPA for students seeking **direct** admission to a public or private four-year institution.
- That the student enrolled and attended college within one year of high school graduation
  - Note: if yours is the first institution the student is attending, their enrollment will not update until their award is entered into CSAW.
- That the student is within the 18 quarter or 12 semester (or equivalent) usage limit
- That the student has no outstanding repayments
- That the student has no felony conviction before high school graduation

**The campus determines all other eligibility criteria, such as residency, income, need, enrollment, etc.**



## College Bound Processing Timeline

Month	Institution Action	Explanation
October and beyond	N/A	Students notified by the Washington Student Achievement Council that their CBS application is matched to FAFSA or WASFA.
November and beyond	Use CBS Eligibility Checker to identify eligible students for awarding	Campuses upload ready-to-award student SSN/WASFA IDs into the CBS Eligibility Checker to identify valid CBS applicants. Students eligible for awarding will show a <u>YES</u> in the "OKtoAward" column.
	<b>Continue identifying and awarding students</b>	Campuses continue to upload lists of students to the CBS Eligibility Checker frequently in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify new students added to the CBS Eligibility Checker.</li> <li>Determine students whose status may have changed. Can also use Watchlist located in the CBS Eligibility Checker to monitor changes.</li> </ul>
July and beyond	Confirm eligibility for awarded students prior to disbursement by viewing "OKtoPay"	WSAC updates the CBS Eligibility Checker to reflect HS graduation data received from OSPI. Students who attended private schools or were home schooled must be validated individually by either WSAC or the institution.
August/September	Include CBS awards in CSAW	CSAW includes a field for the CBS award amount.
Fall and as needed	Request payment from WSAC	Campuses should request payment for CBS via CSAW on at least a monthly basis .
November, February, May, July	Submit Interim Reports on or before published deadline	Campuses will upload WCG, WA Bridge, PTC, and CBS data simultaneously via the file format and address edits for all programs.

### ***CBS Eligibility Checker Layout and Code Descriptions***

***NOTE:*** WSAC will update this section if any changes are made to the CBS Eligibility Checker layout or Code Descriptions. WSAC will update the Program Manual and send out additional guidance if any technical details change after the initial release of this Program Manual.

Data that is entered only in the first year an eligible CBS student files a FAFSA/WASFA	
SSN	9-digit number
LastName	Up to 75 characters
FirstName	Up to 50 characters
DOB	<b>Date of Birth</b> Date format –mm/dd/yyyy
HSGradYear*	<b>4-digit number</b> – OSPI data <b>GED, ineligible HS, or not graduated</b> – The HS Grad Year is unknown or has been overridden to "GED, ineligible HS, or not graduated" <b>Verify</b> – WSAC doesn't have information, the student has graduated from a non-Washington State high school, was home-schooled, WSAC has information that the student exited school prior to graduation, the graduation date is estimated, the student graduated from a non-GPA based school, or the student obtained a GED.
Data that will continue to be updated for all CBS students	
OKtoAward	<b>Yes</b> – Student is likely to meet or has met CBS eligibility requirements <b>No</b> – Student has not met other CBS requirements <b>2-Year/Transfer</b> – Student meets requirements at a two-year institution or as a transfer student only <b>Verify</b> – Student has been awarded the last of their QERs, but not all have paid
OKtoPay	<b>Yes</b> – Student confirmed to have met all program requirements <b>No</b> – Student did not meet program requirements <b>2-Year/Transfer</b> – Student meets requirements at a two-year institution or as a transfer student only <b>Verify</b> – Student has been awarded the last of their QERs, but not all have paid
2.0 GPA*	<b>Yes</b> – Student achieved a 2.0 GPA <b>No</b> – Student did not achieve a 2.0 GPA <b>Verify</b> – WSAC doesn't have GPA information
EnrollmentDeadlineMet*	<b>Yes</b> – Student enrolled in college within one year of HS graduation <b>No</b> – Student does not appear to have enrolled in college within one year of HS. <b>Verify</b> – One year has not passed since graduation.
FiveYearEligibilityWindowOpen	No longer applicable – field will be blank
CBTermsUsed	Two Decimal places (e.g., 4.25, 6.00)
CBTermsRemaining	Two Decimal places (e.g., 4.25, 6.00)
InRepayment	<b>No</b> – Student is not in repayment <b>Yes</b> – Student is in repayment
LastUpdated	The most recent date that <i>any</i> of the columns have been changed Date format: d/m/yyyy h:m:s [AM PM]
*In some instances, college financial aid staff may override, please see the following sections on HS Grad Year, HS 2.0 GPA, and Enrollment Deadline Met. Information in these fields may be overridden by college financial aid staff or by WSAC staff. Documentation must be kept on file by the institution that overrides to substantiate the override, and a history of the timing and source of updates is available in the CBS Eligibility Checker field.	

## HS Grad Year

The anticipated year of high school graduation is noted for reference. Campuses do not need to review the “HS Grad Year” field for continuing CBS students previously determined eligible. However, the CBS Eligibility Checker will still need to be reviewed for the purpose of, quarters of eligibility remaining, and outstanding repayments.

CBS students who are verified to have graduated early may be awarded the College Bound Scholarship, but must still enroll in college within the one-year timeframe.

CBS students who did not graduate from a Washington State public high school, were home-schooled, graduated from a non-GPA-based school, or obtained a GED will have “Verify” listed in the “HS Grad Year” field. Students with “Verify” in this column will not be eligible to receive CBS until their high school information is verified. Students may submit a copy of their final high school transcript (official or unofficial) to WSAC or campus financial aid staff, to have the “HS Grad Year” field overridden.

**Important Note:** Please do not update HS Grad Year for home-schooled students, students who are foster youth with a GED, students graduating from a non-GPA based school, or students graduating from a non-Washington state high school. Contact [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance.

Campuses should override the response to the “HS Grad Year” for students who graduated from a public or private Washington high school by entering the student’s graduation date if they have an official or unofficial high school transcript. In the reason field, indicate how that information is known. The system will note which individual and which institution changed the response and all campuses will be able to view and accept the data as valid. Campuses must retain this documentation for the standard record retention period.

Overrides

Select a field to override

HS Grad Year

Value

2023-2024

Reason

Per high school transcript.

Submit Override

Students who obtained a GED do not qualify for College Bound, with the exception of students who were foster youth (please work with [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) for students in this situation). If the student is not formerly a foster youth, override the HS Grad Year to “GED, ineligible HS, or not graduated”.

**Overrides**

Select a field to override

HS Grad Year
▼

Value

GED, ineligible HS, or not graduated
▼

Reason

Student received GED per documentation.

Submit Override

## HS 2.0 GPA

CBS students must graduate from a Washington high school (public or approved private institutions) with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA (for students entering directly into a four-year school only) or receive home-based instruction under [RCW 28A.200](#) are to be considered as **College Bound Scholars**. The GED is not an allowable substitute for high school graduation, except for some former foster youth.

CBS students below a 2.0 as of their junior year in high school were previously (prior to the 2023-24 AY) flagged as “unlikely” in the “HS Requirements Met” field. This field has been modified with the updated CBS Eligibility Checker to two separate categories of “HS Grad Year” and “HS 2.0 GPA”. Students will now have “Yes”, “No”, or “verify” in the HS 2.0 GPA field.

**Important Note:** Please do not update GPA for home-schooled students, students graduating from a non-Washington state high school, or graduating from a non-GPA based school. Contact [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance.

## High School Requirements (HS Grad Year and HS 2.0 GPA)

To expedite the process: Four-year campuses are encouraged to review their admissions information to determine if students met the high school graduation and GPA requirements and then updating the CBS Eligibility Checker. This may be a more expedient way to verify graduation and GPA information than the WSAC data match with OSPI. This also may expedite the process in the case of students who attended private schools.

**Note:** *Both GPA and graduation date must be confirmed for students who have direct admissions to a public or private four-year institution. Please document both the GPA and HS Grad Year in the override screen when updating the CBS Eligibility Checker.*

Campuses should verify high school requirements (HS Grad Year and HS 2.0 GPA) under these circumstances:

- ❑ Students are OK to award CBS, but not OK to pay in CSAW/on the CBS Eligibility Checker file
- ❑ The CBS student inquires and can provide a final transcript (official or unofficial) verifying they met the requirements, including for students who attended a private high school.
- ❑ If the CBS Student was home-schooled: Campuses and/or students are asked to verify that the high school graduation requirement has been met for the home-schooled student by contacting College Bound program staff at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) or 888-535-0747, opt. 1.

- If the CBS Student graduated from a non-Washington high school: Campuses and/or students are asked to verify that the high school graduation requirement has been met for any non-Washington high school students by contacting College Bound program staff at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) or 888-535-0747, opt. 1.

**Campuses that verify high school graduation must change the “HS Grad Year” and “GPA” field or an edit will be triggered when requesting reimbursement or processing interim reports.**

### **Enrolled By Deadline**

College Bound students must enroll and attend college no later than the fall term (as defined by the institution), one academic year following the high school graduation year to be eligible for CBS consideration. For example, a College Bound student, who graduated high school in the spring of 2024, would need to enroll and attend college by the fall term of 2025. Please note that if yours is the first institution the student is attending, their enrollment will update once their award is entered into CSAW.

***Note:** Financial Aid Administrators may review students who don’t meet the enrollment deadline on a case-by-case basis and may grant a professional judgment exception for students who have unexpected circumstances that prevented their enrollment such as extenuating medical conditions, etc. All use of professional judgment shall be applied judiciously and shall be documented in the student’s file.*

**Adult Basic Education and Running Start** courses count towards meeting the college enrollment deadline - even if taken while in high school. College in the High School and CTE dual credits also may count towards meeting the college enrollment deadline if a college transcript is generated.

College Bound Scholars who do not enroll and attend college or have funds disbursed within a year of high school graduation are not eligible to receive CBS. However, if the college has knowledge that the student attended college within the one-year window, but the CBS Eligibility Checker does not show “Yes” in the “Enrollment Deadline Met” column, the college should update this column to “Yes”. Documentation (i.e., college transcript) needs to be kept on file at the college.

An example of this is if a student attended an out-of-state college within the one-year window of time. In that case, the institution could later verify this attendance based on a review of the student’s academic transcript from the previous college. In this case, and in the case of Running Start courses, there would need to be proof that the student had successfully completed at least one course that is transcribed in order for it to be counted as having met the one-year enrollment deadline.

### **Students Who Do Not Appear in the CBS Eligibility Checker**

Students who inform the institution that they submitted the College Bound Scholarship application and received a College Bound certificate in middle school who cannot be located in the CBS Eligibility Checker should be referred to WSAC at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov). College Bound outreach staff will determine whether the student has a valid application on file.

WASFA applicants can be more difficult to identify through the Checker process due to potential SSN/WASFA ID mismatches and different naming conventions on the CBS application and the WASFA. Some tips for searching manually for potential CBS students:

- On the “Search by Name” tab, enter the student’s date of birth only and look for their name.
- Search on one part of a hyphenated last name or search partial first or last names.

If a valid application is found, WSAC staff will match the application so the student will appear in the CBS Eligibility Checker.

## **Campus Systems Preparation Instructions**

Campuses can take the following steps to identify and award eligible College Bound students:

1. Prepare a file to upload SSNs into the CBS Eligibility Checker in the WSAC Portal. This is necessary to identify the potential CBS applicants prior to awarding.

Campuses can select one of three ways to communicate with WSAC Portal. *For questions regarding the REST web service or SFTP approach, please contact WSAC.*

- **Manually upload a file** via WSAC’s Portal website: Any user with access may log into the CBS Eligibility Checker and upload a text file containing SSNs (1 per row) to get the output on the page or via a CSV download file.
  - **HTTP REST Interface:** Systems capable of consuming web services may issue a HTTP POST request with a list of SSNs as the post data. This is expected to be authenticated using Basic Authentication through an SSL tunnel. WSAC staff would create an API user account with permissions and a hard password without an expiration date for this purpose.
  - **SFTP:** WSAC also can set-up an automated file transfer system. The campus would upload a file of SSNs and WSAC would return a CSV data file.
2. Determine how to identify/flag potential CBS Awards in your system prior to awarding. The output can be viewed in the portal or downloaded as an Excel file.
  3. Review previously awarded students for a change in eligibility status (either by a separate SSN file upload or evaluating the output accordingly).

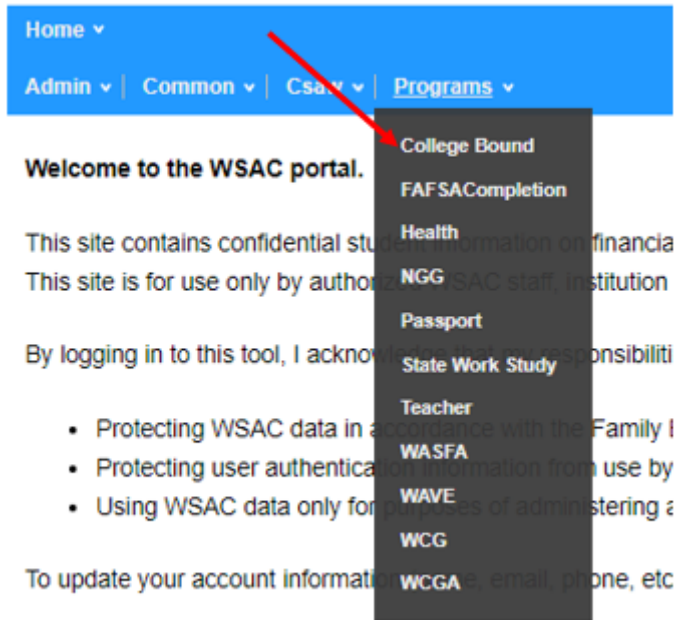
**Review the eligibility criteria in Chapter 2 to automate eligibility criteria where possible (such as 65 percent MFI and “gap fill” after other state aid).**

## CBS Eligibility Checker Instructions

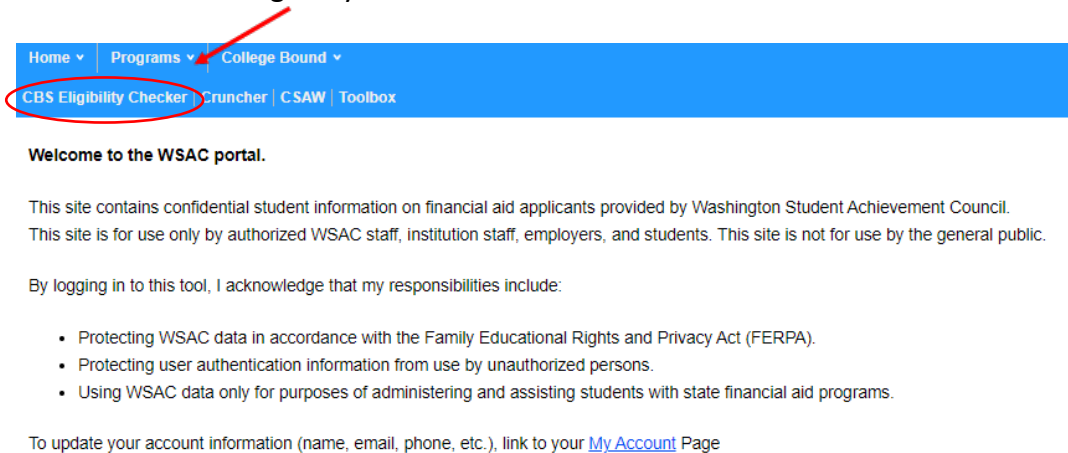
To accommodate the update to the 2.0 GPA requirement for students who are direct admits to a public or private four-year institution, WSAC has updated the current CBS Eligibility Checker functionality.

Log on to the Portal at <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/>

Select 'College Bound' from the Programs drop-down menu



Click on the 'CBS Eligibility Checker' menu item.



A copy of the file download option will be at the top of the CBS Eligibility Checker page, for integrating the results into institution's systems.

## CBS Eligibility Checker

The excel download option will give you a csv file useful for integrating into your own systems. You can download an example of the csv headers [here](#)

The CBS Eligibility Checker does NOT determine income and some other eligibility criteria. [i](#)

Click on the tab to choose a search method. Search by Name, SSNs or SIDs, or File Upload

### CBS Eligibility Checker

The excel download option will give you a csv file useful for integrating into your own systems. You can download an example of the csv headers [here](#)

The CBS Eligibility Checker does NOT determine income and some other eligibility criteria. [i](#)

Show SIDs for this institution

[Search by Name](#)

[Search by SSNs or SIDs](#)

[Search by File Upload](#)

[Watch List](#)

Enter at least one SSN or SID. Separate a list by commas or white space (tabs, spaces, or new lines)

Include SSNs/SIDs in my watch list

[Search](#)

### Searching the CBS Eligibility Checker

#### ▪ Searching by Name

Enter the full or partial first, last, and middle initial. Click 'Search'. Note that the search boxes are ordered first name, THEN last name.

To download search results in Excel, click the CSV button.

[Search by Name](#) [Search by SSNs or SIDs](#) [Search by File Upload](#) [Watch List](#)

Name (full or partial)

First name  Last name  Middle initial

Date of birth

mm/dd/yyyy

[Search](#)

Otherwise, your results will display in list format below the search area.

#### ▪ Searching by SSNs or SIDs



You can perform a search with multiple SSNs/SIDs by entering a list of SSNs/SIDs, separated by commas, tabs, spaces, or new lines. If you have an Excel spreadsheet of SSNs or SIDs, you can copy and paste the column of SSNs/SIDs into the search box. Once you've entered your SSNs/SIDs, click Search.

Search by Name Search by SSNs or SIDs Search by File Upload **Watch List**

Enter at least one SSN or SID. Separate a list by commas or white space (tabs, spaces, or new lines)

987654321  
000000000  
123456789

Include SSNs/SIDs in my watch list

Search

Checking the “Include SSNs/SIDs in my watch list” box will store students to your Watch List. You will receive emails when there are changes to the student.

#### ▪ Searching by File Upload

You can upload a .csv or .txt file, with one SSN on each line. Click the browse button, select your file, then click Search. Your results will display below.

Search by Name Search by SSNs or SIDs **Search by File Upload** Watch List

The file may include SSNs and/or SIDs (delimited by tabs, spaces, or new lines)

No file selected... Browse

Supported formats: .csv, .txt – Max Size: 20MB

Include SSNs/SIDs in my watch list

Search

Click the browse button, select your file, then click Search.

Proceed to the next section to learn how to interpret CBS Eligibility Checker search results.

**Note:** Refer to the CBS Eligibility Checker Layout and Code Descriptions provided earlier in this chapter.

## Interpreting the Search Results

WSAC depends on graduation and GPA data from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), high school registrars, or transcripts provided by students, to determine if College Bound students met the program’s high school graduation requirements. OSPI data includes students who attend most public high schools.

All OSPI data on graduating seniors is preliminary until late summer/early fall since graduation and GPA data cannot be compiled from the high schools and confirmed until that time. Therefore, WSAC provides information to colleges on those students who are likely to meet the requirements during the packaging period and designates them ‘OK to Award.’ This preliminary data from OSPI includes the student’s GPA as of the end of their junior year.

Students who are later confirmed to have met the requirements will then be listed by WSAC as ‘OK to Pay.’ Students who have valid applications but are not included in the OSPI match must submit their final transcript (official or unofficial) to WSAC or the campus for determination. Either the institution or WSAC can change the HS Grad Year and HS 2.0 GPA field after verifying the student’s GPA and graduation. If relying on the student’s high school transcript, the campus must retain that documentation.

**Important Note:** Please do not update HS Grad Year or HS 2.0 GPA for home-schooled students, students who are foster youth with a GED, students graduating from a non-GPA based school, or students graduating from a non-Washington state high school. Contact [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance.

Here is a preview of what your search results will look like full screen. You can sort results by any category by clicking on the black column heading.

Name	SSN	Birth Date	OK to Award	OK to Pay	HS Grad Year	HS 2.0 GPA	Enrolled By Deadline	5-yr Elig. Open	CBS Qtrs Used	CBS Qtrs Remaining	In Repayment	Last Updated
<a href="#">Details</a>			No updated 08/15/2023	No updated 08/15/2023	2017 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	No	6.50	5.50	No	08/22/2023
<a href="#">Details</a>			Yes updated 08/22/2023	Yes updated 08/22/2023	2020 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	Yes	4.50	7.50	No	08/22/2023

*\*This screenshot has not yet been updated to reflect the change in QER and 5-year eligibility.*

In the example above, all the students with a **YES** in the OK to Award column can be packaged for College Bound Scholarship along with the Washington College Grant, as long as they meet all of the requirements.

Students with a **NO** in the OK to Award column should not be packaged with CBS.

### Students cannot be paid CBS funds until there is a **YES** in the OK to Pay Column

Name	SSN	Birth Date	OK to Award	OK to Pay	HS Grad Year	HS 2.0 GPA	Enrolled By Deadline	5-yr Elig. Open	CBS Qtrs Used	CBS Qtrs Remaining	In Repayment	Last Updated
<a href="#">Details</a>			No updated 08/15/2023	No updated 08/15/2023	2017 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	No	6.50	5.50	No	08/22/2023
<a href="#">Details</a>			Yes updated 08/22/2023	Yes updated 08/22/2023	2020 actual from OSPI	Yes	Yes	Yes	4.50	7.50	No	08/22/2023

## **Verify Status in the CBS Eligibility Checker**

The “Verify” status occurs in the CBS Eligibility Checker when an institution needs to collect documentation to verify information by overriding a field or an indication to check information before a student can be awarded and paid CBS. If the student has “OK to Award” at “Yes” the student should be awarded CBS even if additional documentation is needed.

In the case where HS Grad Year and/or HS 2.0 GPA are at “Verify”, the school must collect a high school transcript (official or unofficial) to verify that information. Once collected, if the student graduated from a Washington state high school or earned a GED (with the exception of former foster youth), the institution should override the fields accordingly (see above **HS Grad Year** and **HS 2.0 GPA** sections). This will update the “OK to Award” and “OK to Pay” fields.

If the student graduated from home-school, are foster youth with a GED, graduated from a non-GPA based school, or graduated from a non-Washington state high school. Contact [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance. Please note that the student should be awarded CBS still until a determination is made by the College Bound team.

When “OK to Award” and “OK to Pay” are at “Verify” it is an indication that the last of a student’s QERs have been awarded, but not yet paid.

When “Verify” is in Enrolled By Deadline, it is indicating that one year hasn’t passed since the student’s high school graduation. Having this field at “Verify” will not delay an institution’s ability to be paid, provided all other fields are confirmed. Institutions may verify enrollment by overriding this field in the CBS Eligibility Checker (see above **Enrolled by Deadline** section) or it will be updated a year after the documented high school graduation year.

### **CBS Status in CBS Eligibility Checker is: OK to Award = Yes, and OK to Pay = No**

This status will occur frequently for students who are either prospective students or new students. When awarding students with this status, be sure to include both CBS and WCG awards on the student’s award offer if the student meets all other CBS eligibility criteria.

This status will also occur when a student is likely eligible for CBS but needs their HS Grad Year and/or HS 2.0 GPA information verified in the CBS Eligibility Checker. An official or unofficial high school transcript will need to be collected (if not already on file) and the CBS Eligibility Checker updated with high school information to allow CBS to be OK to Pay.

You also will want to indicate that the CBS award is tentative until your institution receives verification that the student graduated from high school (with at least a 2.0 GPA for students that direct admit to a public or private four-year institution). Institutions must verify student eligibility before disbursing funds.

### **CBS Status in CBS Eligibility Checker is: HS Grad Year or HS 2.0 GPA = Verify**

This status will occur when a student is likely eligible for CBS but needs their HS Grad Year and/or HS 2.0 GPA information verified in the CBS Eligibility Checker. An official or unofficial high school transcript will need to be collected (if not already on file) and the CBS Eligibility Checker updated with high school information to allow CBS to be OK to Pay.

If an institution is unable to verify high school information by May 1<sup>st</sup> of a given academic year, they may override the HS Grad Year to the following: “Transcript requested, but not received” in the CBS Eligibility Checker. In the “Reason” box, please indicate how and when the student was contacted. For example for the 2024-25 academic year, if the college has not received the requested transcript by May 1, 2025, they can use this option.

**Overrides**

Select a field to override

HS Grad Year

Value

— Select —

— Select —

GED, ineligible HS, or not graduated

**Transcript requested, but not received**

2016-2017

2017-2018

2018-2019

2019-2020

2020-2021

2021-2022

2022-2023

2023-2024

2024-2025

After May 1<sup>st</sup>, you may then award the student WA Bridge grant for the year and in future years. If a student does turn in a transcript, the institution must update the CBS Eligibility Checker. If the student is CBS eligible, the student must be awarded CBS for that academic year. There may be instances where a student is awarded Bridge in one year due to not having submitted their transcript but then follows through and establishes CBS eligibility for future years.

**Note:** This override is only available in the checker from May 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of August each year.

## CHAPTER 2

### Calculating WCG, WCG-C, WA Bridge Grant, and CBS Awards

#### The Commitment to Eligible College Bound Scholars

Washington has made a commitment that each eligible College Bound Scholar will receive state scholarship and/or grant assistance to cover the average cost of tuition (at public college rates), plus some fees and a small book allowance, during the periods of each student's eligibility.

Information about how this works and what types of state aid count towards state scholarship /grant assistance are included in this chapter.

#### All Eligible College Bound Scholars Must Receive Maximum WCG Funding

All eligible College Bound Scholars must first receive maximum WCG awards, as part of their CBS maximum award, and receive funding for all enrolled terms - including Summer terms.

Every eligible CBS Scholar must first receive a maximum WCG award before being considered for CBS funding. See page 36, for students who have exhausted their WCG funding, but still have eligibility remaining for CBS. The CBS amount is determined after WCG, and any other state grant or scholarship aid, has been awarded. For a full list, see page 42 under Subtraction of State Gift Aid for Determining Eligibility for CBS Award Amounts.

When a student's CBS amount is met with other state grants and/or scholarships, the student may receive a reduced or no WCG award. In this instance, report the student as having need met.

#### Notes:

- *The aid administrator must award WCG funds to all eligible CBS Scholars to ensure 100 percent coordination between CBS and WCG is achieved for all terms, including summer.*
- *If a CBS student has exhausted WCG eligibility, but still has CBS eligibility remaining, the institution shall award the student an award using CBS funds only.*

A student's maximum WCG and CBS award amounts vary based on the institution attended, the student's enrollment, and the student's Median Family Income (MFI) level. WCG award amounts may not be reduced for eligible CBS students due to institutional awarding policies such as gift equity policies.

## MAXIMUM MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME LEVELS

The MFI chart in this chapter includes the MFI levels that determine eligibility and award amounts for the WCG and CBS programs.

- The maximum MFI level for CBS student eligibility is 65 percent.
  - CBS students with MFI levels from 66 – 100% will not receive CBS but must receive WCG. Students in the 66 – 100% are ineligible to receive the WA Bridge Grant.
- The maximum MFI level for WCG students is 100 percent.

### Determining Income for MFI Levels

In most cases, use the income reported on the FAFSA or WASFA. Adjustments may be made through verification reviews and through professional judgment decisions of a Financial Aid Administrator. These must be submitted on a corrected FAFSA/WASFA.

Students who are confirmed in the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker will automatically be considered to have met income eligibility to receive a maximum WCG award, regardless of if they submitted a FAFSA or WASFA or not. **This does not meet CBS income or PTC eligibility requirements.** In order for a student to receive CBS or PTC, they must have a valid FAFSA or WASFA on file.

In 2023, through Legislative budget language, [ESSB 5187](#), Section 923 (2)(b), p. 670, the maximum award MFI range expanded from 0-60 percent MFI to 0-65 percent MFI for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

All other MFI categories remain the same. The Legislature would need to take action for it to be effective beyond the 2024-25 academic year.

When calculating family income for a “**dependent**” student, count the parents’ Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and non-taxable income. Do not include the student’s income.

When calculating family income for an “**independent**” student, count the student’s AGI and non-taxable income, and that of the spouse (if the student is married).

For both dependent and independent students, if the AGI is not present (i.e., parent/student is not a tax filer), use the sum of all taxable plus non-taxable income.

Under the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#), effective with the 2024-25 award year, only the following forms of untaxed income that are included on the federal tax return will be included on the FAFSA:

- Untaxed portions of Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA, or Individual Retirement Account) distributions (withdrawals);
  - **NOTE:** Do not include any rollover amounts from untaxed IRA distributions.
- Untaxed portions of pension and annuity distributions (withdrawals);
  - **NOTE:** Do not include any rollover amounts from untaxed pension and annuity distributions.
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans;
- Tax-exempt interest; and Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

For 2024-25, in alignment with federal aid, untaxed income no longer includes:

- Untaxed payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement saving plans represented by codes D, E, F, G, H, and S in Box 12 of IRS Form W-2 (which are not on the tax return);
- Housing, food, and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy, and others;
- Veterans' benefits;
- Workers' compensation;
- Other untaxed income not reported elsewhere on the FAFSA, like Black Lung Benefits, Refugee assistance, Railroad Retirement Benefits, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) benefits; or
- Cash support or any money paid on the student's behalf, except funds provided by the student's parents to the dependent student.

The Financial Aid Administrator may (but is not required to) subtract the following allowable exclusions:

- Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs such as Federal Work Study and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.
- Taxable student grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS in the AGI. This includes AmeriCorps benefits as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.
- Education tax credits under the American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning tax credits.

The family size for 2024-25 can be located on several fields on FAFSA or WASFA ISIRs. Schools should refer to Appendix C of the [2024-25 FAFSA Pell Eligibility and SAI Guide](#) for more information about determining family size. Only if all of the ISIR fields have no data, WSAC has guided schools to use the following assumptions to determine family size:

<b>Family Type</b>	<b>Family Size Assumption</b>
Dependent Student; 2 Parent Contributors	3
Dependent Student; 1 Parent Contributor	2
Independent Student; Not Married	1
Independent Student; Married	2
Independent Student; Not Married w/Dependents	2

If schools have additional documentation that provides clarification regarding family size, they may use that in determining the award. Schools will want to retain the documentation they based that on and may be required to add that information if an edit is generated when they are submitting award/payment information.

<b>Median Family Income (MFI) Levels for 2024-2025  Washington College Grant, Washington Bridge Grant,* and  College Bound Scholarship Program Eligibility</b>				
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>65% (CBS Maximum)</b>	<b>70% (WCG only)</b>	<b>75% (WCG only)</b>	<b>100% (WCG only - Maximum)</b>
<b>1</b>	\$40,500	\$44,000	\$47,000	\$62,500
<b>2</b>	\$53,000	\$57,500	\$61,500	\$82,000
<b>3</b>	\$65,500	\$71,000	\$76,000	\$101,000
<b>4</b>	\$78,500	\$84,500	\$90,500	\$120,500
<b>5</b>	\$91,000	\$98,000	\$105,000	\$139,500
<b>6</b>	\$103,500	\$111,500	\$119,000	\$159,000
<b>7</b>	\$105,500	\$114,000	\$122,000	\$162,500
<b>8</b>	\$108,000	\$116,500	\$124,500	\$166,000
<b>9</b>	\$110,500	\$119,000	\$127,500	\$170,000
<b>10</b>	\$112,500	\$121,500	\$130,000	\$173,500
<b>11</b>	\$115,000	\$124,000	\$133,000	\$177,000
<b>12</b>	\$117,500	\$126,500	\$135,500	\$180,500
<b>13</b>	\$120,000	\$129,000	\$138,000	\$184,000
<b>14</b>	\$122,000	\$131,500	\$141,000	\$188,000
<b>15</b>	\$124,500	\$134,000	\$143,500	\$191,500
<b>16</b>	\$127,000	\$136,500	\$146,500	\$195,000
<b>17</b>	\$129,000	\$139,000	\$149,000	\$198,500
<b>18</b>	\$131,500	\$141,500	\$151,500	\$202,500
<b>19</b>	\$134,000	\$144,000	\$154,500	\$206,000
<b>20</b>	\$136,000	\$146,500	\$157,000	\$209,500

Washington Student Achievement Council analysis of 2021 American Community Survey data as published by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. All figures have been rounded to the nearest \$500 income range.

**Note:** A CBS Scholar could be eligible for College Bound Scholarship funding for some years, and not eligible for others, if the family’s MFI level exceeded 65 percent in one or more years.

**\*WA Bridge Grants** are available to WCG recipients (not CBS eligible) who enroll in at least 3 credits, meet the 65% MFI, and do not qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. Amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. WA Bridge Grants are limited to need and are not prorated by enrollment level.

**Title IV grant aid** should be subtracted from the base income regardless of whether it was taxed or untaxed.

**Child support income** must be excluded from income calculations for less-than-half-time independent students, but not from other enrollment categories.

**Veterans’ benefits** are treated in the same manner as for the purposes of eligibility for Title IV financial aid.

**Note:** *In addition to having income qualify based on the MFI levels, state aid must fit within the student’s calculated need after counting in all other need-based resources.*



## **STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)**

The “Student Aid Index” replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as a formal evaluation of a student’s approximate financial resources to contribute toward their postsecondary education for a specific award year.

The SAI is initially based on information submitted on the FAFSA or WASFA. In some cases, SAI may be adjusted by the Financial Aid Administrator through a professional judgment decision. These must be submitted on a corrected FAFSA/WASFA.

## **COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)**

The “Cost of Attendance” is the budget used by the Financial Aid Administrator to reflect the student’s cost for the period of time for which the financial aid is being awarded. Information regarding the WG Apprenticeship COA will be issued in a separate manual.

The COA includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing and food, transportation, and miscellaneous/ personal expenses.

Each year the Washington Financial Aid Association (WFAA) publishes several standard budgets that include all amounts except for tuition and fees, which are determined by each institution.

The [WFAA Student Budgets](#) for the 2024-25 academic year includes three categories:

1. Dependent, living with parent(s)
2. Dependent/Independent, off campus
3. Not living with parent(s), on campus

WSAC requires that institutions submit the COA amounts each year during the participation renewal process. If the amounts used by institutions vary by more than 10 percent from the recommended WFAA standard budgets, institutions must submit their rationale to WSAC for review and approval for use when awarding state financial aid.

### **Cost of Attendance and Tuition Waivers**

A student receiving WCG or CBS must have the full-assessed tuition amount included in their COA. This COA amount must be reported when the Unit Record Report (URR) is submitted.

In addition, all tuition waivers received by WCG and CBS recipients must be reported either as need-based institutional gift aid or as non-need-based institutional gift aid on the URR.

**Note:** *The full-assessed tuition amount is what the student is or would be assessed before any tuition waiver(s) have been applied. The tuition waiver is then reported as a resource as described above.*

If a student receives other need-based assistance, but does not receive WCG or CBS, WSAC requests that any tuition waiver(s) received by the student be reported as institutional gift aid and that the full assessed tuition amount be included in the COA, whenever possible, when the URR is submitted.

A student who receives non-need-based tuition waiver(s) but does not receive any need-based financial assistance, is not reported on the URR.

## **NEED AMOUNT**

The Student Aid Index (SAI) is subtracted from the student's Cost of Attendance (COA) to determine the need amount. Please note that beginning 2024-25, the SAI value can be negative and for need purposes, should be treated as a zero.

Need-based aid, such as WCG, CBS, Passport, and WA Bridge Grants must be within the need amount and cannot exceed the need amount, even if a student has a qualifying MFI. This means you cannot award a student with a qualifying MFI if they do not have unmet need.

## **Professional Judgment**

The FAA may, using professional judgment, adjust the resources up or down to reflect the family's financial situation more accurately during the year. In general, adjustments shall be consistent with changes made for federal aid and reflected on the FAFSA/WASFA.

The aid administrator shall document the reason for the variance in the student's file. The FAA may consider assets when assets aren't being considered for SAI computations (e.g., students who auto qualify for Maximum Pell, etc.) for the purposes of WCG eligibility.

## **Family Income Change of 3 Percent or Less**

A student who received WCG in the previous year and whose family income has increased by no more than 3 percent may be eligible to continue to receive WCG in the current year. Discretion is left to the FAA. This applies when the student's current family income increases slightly above the 100 percent maximum MFI level.

The WCG policy that permits awarding to continuing recipients whose MFI changed by 3 percent or less is not applicable to CBS Scholars, however, because the 65 percent MFI standard is statutorily required for CBS recipients.

## **College Bound Scholarship and Washington College Grant Coordination**

Every eligible CBS Scholar must first receive a maximum WCG award before being considered for CBS funding. The CBS amount is determined after WCG, and any other state grant or scholarship aid have been awarded.

If a CBS student has exhausted their WCG eligibility, but still has CBS eligibility remaining, the institution shall award the student an award using CBS funds only. The student should receive what they would have received in total between WCG and CBS, even if it is only in CBS funding.

For example, if a student typically received \$4,126 in WCG and \$167 in CBS per term, but ran out of WCG QERs, they would receive the full \$4,293 in CBS as long as they have CBS QERs.

When a student’s CBS commitment is met with other state grants and/or scholarships, the student may receive a reduced or no CBS award. In this instance, report the student as having need met.

If a student is both CBS and PTC eligible, and has exhausted their WCG funds, their award cannot exceed the amount of the “*Total Maximum WCG and CBS to Eligible College Bound Scholars*”. The award is also limited by need.

**For example:**

A student typically qualifies for \$4,293 total in WCG (\$4,126) + CBS (\$167) for a given term. They have 0.25 QER remaining in WCG and qualify for \$933 in PTC. The calculation would be:

WCG + CBS Maximum =	\$4293
.25WCG =	-\$1032
PTC =	<u>-\$ 933</u>
CBS Award =	\$2,328

**AWARD AMOUNTS**

WSAC completed an additional review of the existing [RCW 28B.92](#) and [WAC 250-21](#), related to the Washington College Grant in setting award amounts.

As defined in statute, for students attending two- or four-year public institutions, the award amount is tuition and estimated fees for 15 credit hours, or the equivalent as determined by the office. Fees include operating fees, building fees, and services and activities fees.

WSAC has defined award amounts based on actual tuition and estimated fees using a 15 credit tuition and fee amount. Adjustments are only required for less than full time enrollment, as a result of need limitations, or quarters of eligibility restrictions. However, students enrolled in Applied Baccalaureate programs at a community or technical college, who take a mixture of upper and lower division courses, must have their award amount calculated using the tuition calculator on the State Board for Community & Technical College website because students are charged different rates for upper and lower divisions course in those programs.

The Baccalaureate Tuition Calculator provided by the SBCTC is located at:  
<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/collegeaccess/baccalaureate-tuition-calculator.aspx>

**See the table on page 41 for WCG and CBS award amounts.** You can also view grant amounts in the WSAC Portal under CSAW/Grant Amounts.

## Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

WCG-C was established during the 2022 legislative session through SSHB 1835. This bill allowed students in three specific public benefit programs to be considered meeting the income requirements and demonstrating financial need for maximum Washington College Grant funding without having to complete a FAFSA or WASFA. This applies to **WCG only** and does not meet the eligibility requirements for College Bound (CBS) or Passport to Careers (PTC).

Additionally, WSAC has provided pathways for other programs to join WCG-C. There are three ways that a program may be deemed eligible:

1. Direct legislation where data is sent directly from an eligible program to WSAC and entered into the WCG-C Eligibility Checker.
  - Examples: HEN, PWA, ABD
2. Through an application process with WSAC where data is sent directly from an eligible program to WSAC and entered into the WCG-C Eligibility Checker.
  - Example: EcSA
3. Through a pilot program approved through the WSAC application process, but the institution has the student data and awards accordingly. WCG-C eligibility would be indicated during Interim and URR reporting.

All students admitted to your college should be uploaded into the WCG-C Eligibility Checker to see if they are categorically eligible to meet the WCG income eligibility. Students who meet all residency and other program requirements that appear in the WCG-C Eligibility Checker should be awarded the maximum WCG award.

If a student self identifies as being eligible for WCG-C but does not appear in the WCG-C Eligibility Checker, please email WSAC through the secure portal messaging. The school will need to either upload a copy of the student's acceptance letter from DSHS/Economic Security Department (ESD) or include the following information:

- SSN
- Client ID
- First and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Program (HEN, PWA, ABD, and/or EcSA currently)

Once WSAC is able to verify the student, they will be added to the WCG-C Eligibility Checker.

**Note:** Refer to Chapter 1 for instructions on how to use the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker

## Awarding considerations:

- Students appearing in the WCG-Connect Eligibility Checker without a FAFSA or WASFA on file are to be considered as meeting the income eligibility for WCG and should be awarded based on meeting the maximum WCG award.
  - Students that fall into this category are not eligible to receive CBS or PTC as these programs require FAFSA/WASFA
  - Students that fall into this category are eligible to receive WA Bridge Grant as long as they are enrolled in at least 3 credits.
  
- Students appearing in the WCG-C Eligibility Checker and have a FAFSA or WASFA on file should be awarded based on meeting the maximum WCG award **regardless of their calculated MFI**. This means that you may need to adjust their award to maximum WCG if you already awarded on MFI based on their FAFSA or WASFA.
  - Students that fall into this category may be eligible to receive CBS and/or PTC if they meet the MFI required by the program.
  - Students in this category cannot receive the WA Bridge Grant *if they are receiving CBS*.
  - Students in this category can receive the WA Bridge Grant if they are enrolled in at least 3 credits and they are not receiving and are not eligible to receive CBS.
  - Students in this category are subject to need if there is \$1 or more of federal or state need-based aid awarded. If any amount of federal or state need-based financial aid is awarded (\$1 or more), need should be factored into the awarding of WCG and WA Bridge Grant.

## Washington Bridge Grant

For the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, WCG recipients who are receiving a maximum WCG award (0-65% MFI), but are not CBS eligible, and who have enrolled in at least 3 credits, are also entitled to receive a \$500 WA Bridge Grant.

**Note:** CBS eligible students are **ineligible** for the Bridge Grant. This includes students who still have requirements that need to be verified in the CBS Eligibility Checker and are at “Likely Eligible” status in CSAW. In order for a CBS student to be eligible for WA Bridge, the CBS Eligibility Checker will need to be updated.

The Washington Bridge Grant is an annual stipend awarded in addition to WCG to provide supplementary financial support to low-income students to cover higher education expenses beyond tuition and fees, such as books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and childcare.

The award amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. The award is limited to need and is not prorated by enrollment level. However, if a college does a per term award, they will not be required to retroactively award funds to a student who fails to enroll in all terms.

While schools may choose which method to award funds, institutions are encouraged to consider awarding proportionally, as there is less impact to students who transfer during the year or attend summer term.

For private institutions, student directive requirements apply to Washington Bridge Grant awards.

Eligible students are students who:

- Are enrolled in at least three credits at an eligible institution.
  - If a student enrolls in and attends at least 3 quarter credits (or the equivalent) the student will not owe back WA Bridge Grant if the student withdraws.
- Receive a maximum Washington College Grant award and still have need remaining.
- Meet satisfactory academic progress.
- Are NOT College Bound Scholarship eligible.
  - To be CBS eligible does not mean a student is receiving CBS funding. Please refer to CBS Eligibility Checker to determine eligibility.
    - Some examples of CBS students who might be eligible for a WA Bridge Grant include students who signed up for CBS but did not meet the high school graduation requirement and/or did not meet the enrollment deadline.
  - Passport students who are eligible for CBS, but due to the WCG and CBS commitment being met between WCG and PTC, are not receiving CBS. These students are still eligible for CBS and therefore would not be eligible for a WA Bridge Grant award.

Most award amounts are not divisible by both two and three. For institutions whose systems require even disbursements, the per term award may be rounded, up or down, by one dollar. This may not result in more than a two-dollar difference over a three-quarter year or equivalent. This procedure is also discussed in this chapter under “Award Rounding.”

**WCG, WA Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters for  
Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms**

<b>2024-25 Maximum WCG, Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters</b>							
<b>Institution/Sector</b>	<b>Median Family Income</b>						
	<b>CBS Max</b>	<b>0 - 65%</b>	<b>0 - 65%</b>	<b>Bridge 0-65%</b>	<b>66 - 70%</b>	<b>71 - 75%</b>	<b>76 - 100%</b>
	<b>WCG + CBS = Full CBS Award</b>	<b>Full WCG award</b>	<b>CBS Amount</b>	<b>Max WCG only (not CBS eligible) Bridge Grant lump sum**</b>	<b>WCG ONLY= 50% of full award</b>	<b>WCG ONLY = 24.5% of full award</b>	<b>WCG ONLY = 10% of full award</b>
University of Washington	\$12,878	\$12,378	\$500	\$500	\$6,189	\$3,033	\$1,238
Washington State University	\$12,387	\$11,887	\$500	\$500	\$5,944	\$2,912	\$1,189
Central Washington University	\$8,585	\$8,085	\$500	\$500	\$4,043	\$1,981	\$809
Eastern Washington University	\$8,023	\$7,523	\$500	\$500	\$3,762	\$1,843	\$752
The Evergreen State College	\$8,597	\$8,097	\$500	\$500	\$4,049	\$1,984	\$810
Western Washington University	\$8,732	\$8,232	\$500	\$500	\$4,116	\$2,017	\$823
Private Four-year Non-Profit	\$12,633	\$9,739	\$2,894	\$500	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-year For-Profit	\$12,633	\$8,517	\$4,116	\$500	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$7,540	\$5,619	\$1,921	\$500	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562
Community & Technical Colleges	\$5,263	\$4,763	\$500	\$500	\$2,382	\$1,167	\$476
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$8,110	\$7,610	\$500	\$500	\$3,805	\$1,864	\$761
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$5,263	\$3,694	\$1,569	\$500	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For Profit	\$5,263	\$2,823	\$2,440	\$500	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
NW Indian College – Tribal College	\$5,263	\$3,694	\$1,569	\$500	\$1,847	\$905	\$369

## **CBS Maximum Award Amounts to Disburse**

The value of the initial eligible CBS Scholar award shall be the difference between the “Total Maximum WCG and CBS to Eligible College Bound Scholars” amount, minus the WCG Maximum, and minus the value of any other state funded grants or scholarships (gift aid – see list below) the student has been awarded at the time of the CBS award decision.

The award shall be further reduced if total need-based aid is in excess of need or the student attends part-time. If additional state gift aid is awarded after the initial CBS award decision was made, the CBS award must be revised to reflect that additional state aid.

## **Subtraction of State Gift Aid for Determining Eligibility for CBS Award Amounts**

The following state programs must be subtracted from the “Total Maximum WCG and CBS to Eligible College Bound Scholars” amount in determining the amount to fund from the CBS program:

- **Washington College Grant** – Due to 100 percent coordination requirements, all eligible CBS Scholars must receive a maximum Washington College Grant award.
- **Passport to College Scholarship** – A state scholarship program for youth who experienced either foster care or unaccompanied homelessness.  
*Note: Students who receive Passport funds will likely have their maximum CBS commitment met with a combination of Washington College Grant and Passport scholarship funds, and therefore will not receive a CBS award.*
- **SBCTC Opportunity Grant** – The Opportunity Grant helps low-income adults train for high-wage, high-demand careers. It is administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
- **SBCTC Worker Retraining Funds** – Workers who are unemployed or have been notified by their employers that they are about to be laid off may be eligible for these funds administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
- **American Indian Endowed Scholarship** – A scholarship for students having financial need with close social and cultural ties to an in-state American Indian community, for pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies.

Do not subtract **State Work Study** or other institutional aid, including tuition waivers, because they are not considered as other state gift aid for this purpose.

*Note: There may be cases where eligible CBS Scholars will receive total state aid greater than the “Total Maximum WCG and CBS to Eligible College Bound Scholars” amounts.*

*An example of this is an eligible CBS student, who receives a WCG award and a Passport to College Scholarship award, which together may exceed the CBS maximum, but no CBS dollars are awarded to the student. Similar situations may also occur with combinations of WCG and SBCTC Opportunity Grant funding.*

*In these cases, the CBS Scholar would not receive College Bound Scholarship funding for the year, because the other awarded state gift aid exceeds the CBS Commitment amount. Report students as having CBS need met.*



## **Gift Equity Packaging Policy Update for Four Year Institutions**

[HB 1907](#) (from 2022) requires that postsecondary institutions that participate in state student financial aid programs have a gift equity packaging policy allowing for a student who receives a private scholarship to receive up to 100 percent of the student's unmet need before any of the student's federal, state, or institutional financial aid is reduced. This provision does not apply to public community and technical colleges.

## **Uneven WCG Disbursements Permitted to Students Not Receiving CBS funding**

Typically, WCG awards are disbursed evenly for all terms during the year if the student's enrollment status is the same each term. However, the Financial Aid Administrator may award a greater proportion of the student's WCG award in one term if the disbursement is justified by the student's costs in that same term, (i.e., extensive fees fall term that won't be charged the remainder of the year.)

If this exception is used, a statement shall be placed in the student's file acknowledging that an exception to uneven WCG disbursements has been granted and what the disproportionate costs were by term. If the student receives a larger WCG disbursement in one term, but then does not attend the full year, the student will be considered overpaid and will owe a WCG repayment.

***Note:** This uneven disbursement policy does not apply to those receiving CBS funding.*

## **Minimum Awards:**

- ❑ **The minimum CBS award amount is one dollar (\$1.00) per term.**
- ❑ **The minimum WCG award amount is also one dollar (\$1.00) per term.**  
Circumstances relevant to part-time enrollment and other factors may reduce a student's WCG to a very low level. The FAA may issue WCG awards as low as \$1.00 per term

***It is recommended that students be made aware of their ability to decline low award amounts if they wish to reserve QER for future use.***

## **Declining CBS or WCG Awards**

If a CBS or WCG awarded student wishes to decline a CBS or WCG award, the institution must maintain a written record of the award amount that is declined and the reason it was declined. This may occur, for example, when a student is awarded a very small amount and wishes to retain flexibility for future terms of eligibility.

If a WCG or CBS awarded student wishes to decline their CBS/WCG award, and/or return funds due to an enrollment level decrease, and to have their quarterly award and QER usage reduced to reflect that lower amount, the student must notify the financial aid office in writing. The aid office must then recalculate their eligibility and return those funds received either due to a tuition refund and/or funds returned by the student to WSAC using the CSAW portal. The aid office must ensure they update the reporting in CSAW to reflect the lowered award amount and enrollment level associated with that reduced award.

See the next table for maximum Washington College Grant Awards for students enrolled full-time.

**Maximum WCG and WA Bridge Grant for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters  
for Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms**

<b>2024-25 WCG and Bridge Grant Amounts</b>					
<b>Institution/Sector</b>	<b>Median Family Income</b>				
	<b>0% - 65%</b>	<b>0% - 65%</b>	<b>66% - 70%</b>	<b>71% - 75%</b>	<b>76% - 100%</b>
	<b>Bridge Grant (not CBS eligible)**</b>	<b>(full award)</b>	<b>(50% of full award)</b>	<b>(24.5% of full award)</b>	<b>(10% of full award)</b>
University of Washington	\$500	\$12,378	\$6,189	\$3,033	\$1,238
Washington State University	\$500	\$11,887	\$5,944	\$2,912	\$1,189
Central Washington University	\$500	\$8,085	\$4,043	\$1,981	\$809
Eastern Washington University	\$500	\$7,523	\$3,762	\$1,843	\$752
The Evergreen State College	\$500	\$8,097	\$4,049	\$1,984	\$810
Western Washington University	\$500	\$8,232	\$4,116	\$2,017	\$823
Private Four-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$9,739	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$8,517	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$500	\$5,619	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562
Community & Technical Colleges	\$500	\$4,763	\$2,382	\$1,167	\$476
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$500	\$7,610	\$3,805	\$1,864	\$761
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Please note that annual awards may not be exceeded for 3 quarter/2 semester enrollments. If annual award amounts do not divide evenly, you must round up/down accordingly to ensure you do not exceed the annual limit.					
*Eligible students will receive more than these amounts if enrolled for more than 3 quarters or 2 semesters.					
**Bridge Grants are available to WCG recipients (not CBS eligible) who enroll in at least 3 credits, meet the 65% MFI, and do not qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. Amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. Limited to need and is not prorated by enrollment level.					

## ADJUSTING MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNTS

The maximum WCG and CBS awards for full-time students appearing in the charts in the previous pages must be reduced under the following two conditions:

### Part-Time Students Using Enrollment Intensity

Both CBS and WCG awards must be reduced for students enrolled in less than 12 credits based on their actual number of credits enrolled.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, state aid will align with federal aid related to enrollment intensity for calculating awards and quarters of eligibility used calculations. Therefore, calculations at a given enrollment are specific to the number of credits a student is enrolled in (if they are enrolled less than full-time.)

Below are the enrollment intensity percentages at a given enrollment, as well as examples of what this would look like at a couple of institutions:

QUARTER Institution Enrollment Intensity for Awards and Quarters of Eligibility Used Calculations (WCG Max Award)				
Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity	Quarters of Eligibility Used	Award Amount at UW \$12,378	Award Amount at CTC \$4,763
12+	1	1	\$4,126	\$1,588
9.75	0.81	0.81	\$3,342	\$1,286
9.50	0.79	0.79	\$3,260	\$1,255
9.25	0.77	0.77	\$3,177	\$1,223
9.00	0.75	0.75	\$3,095	\$1,191
6.75	0.56	0.56	\$2,311	\$889
6.50	0.54	0.54	\$2,228	\$858
6.25	0.52	0.52	\$2,146	\$826
6.00	0.50	0.50	\$2,063	\$794
3.75	0.31	0.31	\$1,279	\$492
3.50	0.29	0.29	\$1,197	\$461
3.25	0.27	0.27	\$1,114	\$429
3.00	0.25	0.25	\$1,032	\$397

**NOTE:** Sample charts only. Comprehensive chart and amounts can be found at [www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources) or in CSAW > Grant Amounts.

WA Bridge Grants are not prorated based on enrollment.

<b>SEMESTER Institution Enrollment Intensity for Awards and Quarters of Eligibility Used Calculations (WCG Max Award)</b>				
<b>Credits Enrolled</b>	<b>Enrollment Intensity</b>	<b>Quarters of Eligibility Used</b>	<b>Award Amount at UW \$12,378</b>	<b>Award Amount at CTC \$4,763</b>
12+	1	1.50	\$5,944	\$1,412
9.75	0.81	0.81	\$4,815	\$1,143
9.50	0.79	0.79	\$4,696	\$1,115
9.25	0.77	0.77	\$4,577	\$1,087
9.00	0.75	0.75	\$4,458	\$1,059
6.75	0.56	0.56	\$3,329	\$790
6.50	0.54	0.54	\$3,210	\$762
6.25	0.52	0.52	\$3,091	\$734
6.00	0.50	0.50	\$2,972	\$706
3.75	0.31	0.31	\$1,843	\$438
3.50	0.29	0.29	\$1,724	\$409
3.25	0.27	0.27	\$1,605	\$381
3.00	0.25	0.25	\$1,486	\$353

**NOTE:** Sample charts only. Comprehensive chart and amounts can be found at [www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources) or in CSAW > Grant Amounts.

### **Attendance Less Than 3 Quarter Credits or the Equivalent**

A student enrolled in less than 3 quarter credits (or its equivalent) is not eligible to receive WCG, CBS, or WA Bridge Grant.

### **Clock Hour Schools**

Additional information on awarding students enrolled in clock hour programs appears in Chapter 5. Students must receive at least twelve clock hours of instruction per week to be awarded state aid. Except for the final payment term, all students should be paid as full-time students for each term.

The first term payment should be made as soon as possible once the student is enrolled and has met all program requirements. Once the student has successfully completed 300 hours, the student may be eligible for the next term payment. Then for each additional 300 hours successfully completed, the student may be eligible for additional term payments.

### **Institutional Gift Equity Policies**

Institutional gift equity policies do not apply to eligible College Bound Scholars or Washington College Grant eligible students. Eligible College Bound Scholars, including those with family income 66-100 percent, must receive the maximum WCG award for which they are eligible, even if they do not receive any CBS funds.

## **OTHER AWARDING CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **Use of State Funds for Prior Year Charges**

State financial aid is based on current year cost of attendance and more specifically tuition and fees. As such, State financial aid may not be used to pay a student's prior year charges in any amount.

### **Fourth Quarter/Third Semester Awards**

It is possible for a student to receive summer term funding of WCG and/or CBS, in addition to the typical 3 quarters/2 semesters, within the same year.

For students earning academic credits, they may enroll and receive payments for up to four quarter or three semester terms during the year.

For students earning clock hours, students may be able to enroll and receive up to five quarter payments per year (for more information on clock hours, see Chapter 5).

For students exceeding 3 quarter/2 semester terms, the value of the additional award is calculated as it would be for any regular term. Students receiving additional terms of aid will reach their maximum quarter usage limit more quickly than students engaged in the common three quarter/two semester enrollment pattern. In this scenario, it is permissible to exceed the 3 quarter or equivalent grant amounts listed in the award charts to add the additional term of funding.

### **Summer Awarding of CBS and/or WCG**

Award all eligible CBS and/or WCG students enrolling during Summer 2023.

#### **If Summer 1 (2024-25):**

- All eligible College Bound students and/or Washington College Grant students enrolling in summer 2024 (Summer 1) must receive their full eligibility in both CBS and WCG.

#### **If Summer 2 (2023-24):**

- No Summer 2 (2023-24) CBS and/or WCG awards should be made to students whose files are complete after August 1. Contact WSAC if you later need to adjust your Final Interim Report.

### **Awarding WCG to Non-CBS Students Summer 2, 2023-24**

If Summer 2 (2023-24):

- Summer 2 (2023-24) awards are part of colleges' 2023-24 WCG funding. Use the 2023-24 award chart if an award is made.

## **Applied Baccalaureate Students Taking Mixed Course Levels**

Students enrolled in Applied Baccalaureate programs at a community or technical college, who take a mixture of upper and lower division courses must have their award amount calculated using the tuition calculator on the State Board for Community & Technical College website because students are charged different rates for upper and lower divisions course in those programs.

The Baccalaureate Tuition Calculator provided by the SBCTC is located at:

<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/collegeaccess/baccalaureate-tuition-calculator.aspx>

## **Financial Aid Over-Award**

State aid, combined with other aid meeting need, may not exceed the student's calculated need. Need is defined as the difference between an institution's cost of attendance (COA) and SAI. However, a student will not be considered over-awarded if additions to the initial award due to late reporting of scholarships exceed their financial need by \$300 or less by the end of the year.

## **Changes in Need, MFI, or Other Aid Received that May Cause Award Revisions**

If any of these types of changes occur, the FAA must review the eligibility for WCG and/or CBS and, if necessary, readjust the awards.

### **Examples:**

- A CBS funded student receives additional state aid (e.g., Passport to College Scholarship or SBCTC Opportunity Grant) after a student has been awarded CBS. In this case, the CBS award must be revised. If a disbursement of the CBS has already been made, that award amount may need to be repaid to WSAC, either fully or partially, depending on the circumstances.
  - If the FAA can reduce the award disbursements for future terms; however, and not repay funds already disbursed, that is permissible in this limited instance. The WCG award needs also to be reviewed to be sure the award is not over need, for example. If the student fails to attend future terms the student would owe the funds.
- A WCG funded student (who is not an eligible CBS Scholar) receives additional aid, the MFI level changes, or the need changes. The FAA must review the award to make sure that the student is still eligible for the WCG amount originally awarded. This would include making sure that the proper MFI award amount was in place if there were changes in the family income or family size.

## **Payments Cannot be Made to Students for a Current Term After Withdrawal**

If a student completely withdraws for a term without earning at least 3 credits, no additional WCG or CBS payments may be made to the student for that term, on or after a student's official withdrawal date, unless it is determined to be a late award.

**Note:** State policy differs from the Federal policy on this issue of post withdrawal disbursements.

**Review  
Carefully**

### **Retroactive Awards and/or Payments for Previous Terms for Eligible CBS, WCG, WA Bridge Grant, and PTC students**

Retroactive awards are for when a student completes their financial aid application late but has previously been enrolled, is currently attending, -AND- a school reviews a financial aid application after a term has passed.

Retroactive awards and/or payments **MUST** be made for all programs which a student is eligible for a prior term(s) as long as they are for the current year and other program rules are followed.

The value of the retroactive awards and/or payments must be based on a student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits (must be at least 3 credits or the equivalent) determined by the institution at the end of the term(s). If a student is on state unsatisfactory or denied status, they would not be eligible for a retroactive award unless they appealed, and the appeal was approved by the institution.

If an institution retroactively awards WCG funds to a student who completed fewer credits for that term than they would have been awarded had the award been made at the beginning of the term, the student's CSAW enrollment status for the term must be updated to reflect the enrollment status for which the payment was actually made.

#### **Examples:**

- **Example 1:** Student completes FAFSA application in January but has attended since fall quarter. Student can receive a retroactive award for previous quarter/semester based on the number of credits they completed for that quarter. If they completed 10 credits, they would be awarded at 10 credits. Reminder that a student can receive Bridge Grant if they completed at least 3 credits.
- **Example 2:** Student attended fall quarter but has since withdrawn from the school they were attending. They did not have a valid FAFSA or WASFA on file until winter quarter. This would not be a retroactive award since the student was ineligible for fall quarter (due to not having a valid FAFSA or WASFA on file (and did not complete 3 or more credits) and is not currently attending the same school.
- **Example 3:** Student attended fall and winter quarters but did not file a FAFSA or WASFA until spring quarter and graduated after winter. Since the student is no longer enrolled, they are not eligible for a retroactive award.

## Late Awards

Late awards are when a college awards WCG and does not award CBS, WA Bridge Grant, or Passport at the same time. It is imperative that all awards are entered into the WSAC Portal at the same time. Schools that are not awarding all programs at the same time will be considered to be in institutional error. WSAC will be monitoring schools for late awarding practices.

To ensure students are held harmless, students should be awarded at the same level that the initial WCG award was made, regardless of number of credits completed or if the student is still enrolled.

The Financial Aid Administrator must ensure that 100 percent coordination between CBS and WCG is achieved for all terms, including summer.

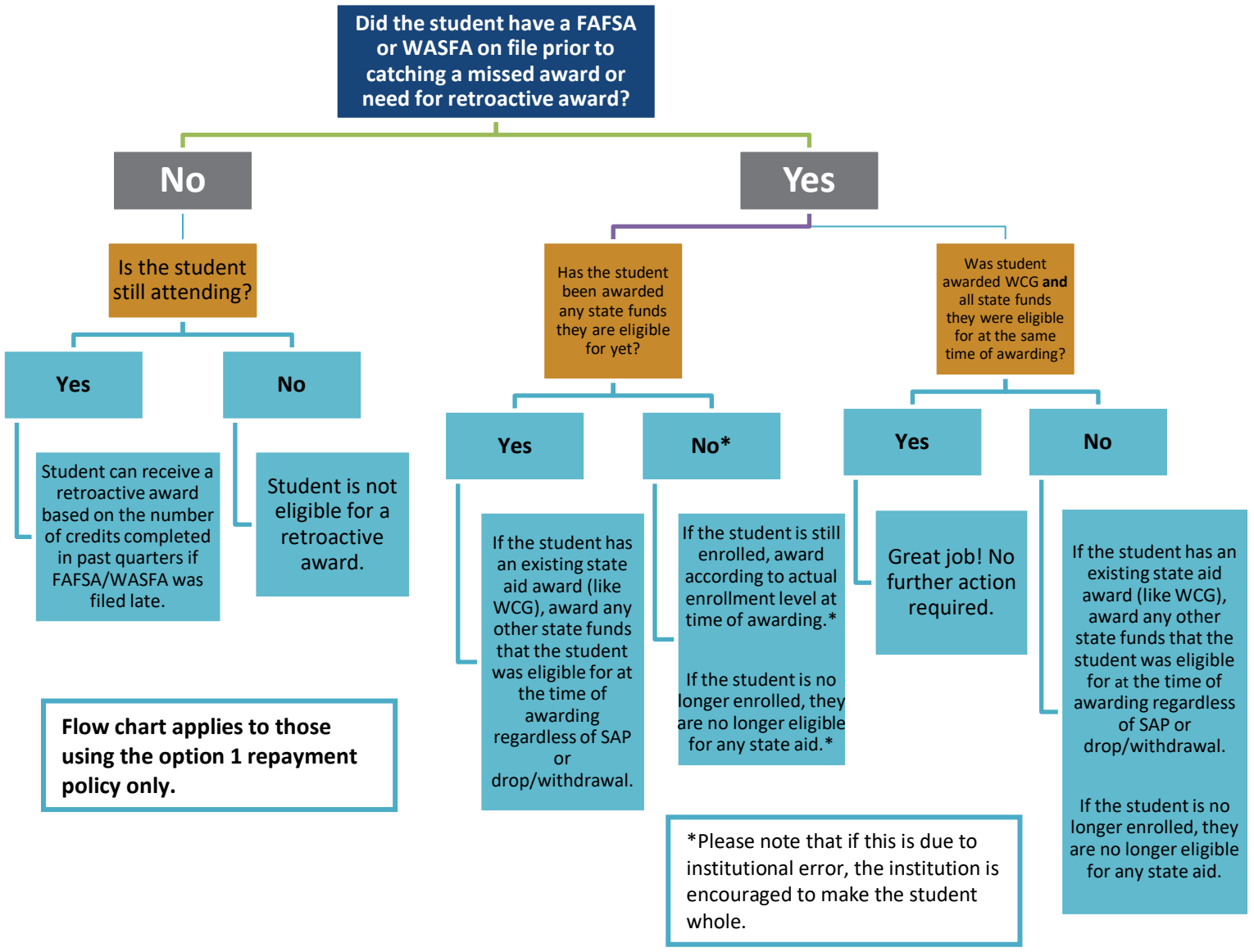
Students that an institution is completing an initial award of any state aid must be enrolled at the time of the award and the aid would be based on that enrollment. If a student has withdrawn, they would not be eligible. Please note that if this is due to institutional error, the institution is encouraged to make the student whole.

If the student had received all the aid they were entitled to at the beginning of the term, it might have played an important role in their retention and success.

### Examples:

- **Example 1:** School initially awards WCG, but student is also eligible for CBS at the time of awarding and is not awarded. School is completing the interim report for winter quarter and receives edit that CBS should have been awarded, but student did not maintain SAP after fall quarter. The student should still be awarded CBS as a late award since the student was *eligible at the time of awarding* and the award was missed due to institutional error. CBS is awarded at the same enrollment level as the original WCG award.
- **Example 2:** Student attended fall quarter and was awarded WCG only. They were also eligible for CBS at the time of awarding. They attended at least one day of the quarter/semester but received 100% reversal of tuition and fees due to the school's refund policy. Since the student was eligible at the time, they received WCG, CBS must be awarded as a late award due to institutional error based on the enrollment at the time WCG was awarded.
- **Example 3:** Student attended fall and winter quarters and graduated after winter. During spring quarter, it was found that the student received WCG for fall and winter quarters but was also eligible for Bridge grant and was not awarded. Even though the student is no longer enrolled at the time the misaward was found, they are eligible for a late award within the same fiscal year.
- **Example 4:** Student attends fall term and is not awarded an initial award of state financial aid. After the start of the quarter, they withdraw from all their courses but have attended at least one day in all of their courses. This student would not be eligible for any state financial aid awards since they have withdrawn before being awarded. If they did not receive any funding due to institutional error, the institution is encouraged to make the student whole.





**Award Rounding**

Major rounding of awards is not permitted. When a calculated award cannot be evenly divided, award one dollar more or less than the desired even disbursement in one of the terms. Rounding by more than two dollars per year is not permitted.

**Concurrent Award at Two Institutions**

While it is not encouraged, it is permissible for two institutions or an institution and a WG-A apprenticeship program to disburse separate state aid awards to the same student during the same term. The state aid at each institution/apprenticeship program shall be calculated based on enrollment. The cost of attendance should be coordinated between institutions/apprenticeship program.

It is presumed that the student's maintenance costs are considered in the overall award at one institution and the second institution's award shall not exceed the cost it recognizes for tuition and books.

If an institution exercises this option, **it must coordinate with the second institution or the apprenticeship program**. One institution may fund the full COA and one can only fund tuition and books. It is important that you document this in the student's file. This information will be requested by WSAC via edits generated by payment requests and interim reporting.

### Fractional Last Term

If a fraction of a term of eligibility is remaining for a student towards the end of their eligibility, a fractional award may be granted. Refer to the formulas below for award calculations, based on quarter institution or semester institution.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, state aid will align with federal aid related to enrollment intensity for calculating awards and quarters of eligibility used calculations.

Below are the enrollment intensity percentages at a given enrollment, as well as examples of what this would look like at a couple of institutions:

QUARTER Institution Enrollment Intensity for Awards and Quarters of Eligibility Used Calculations (WCG Max Award)				
Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity	Quarters of Eligibility Used	Award Amount at UW \$12,378	Award Amount at CTC \$4,763
12+	1	1	\$4,126	\$1,588
9.75	0.81	0.81	\$3,342	\$1,286
9.50	0.79	0.79	\$3,260	\$1,255
9.25	0.77	0.77	\$3,177	\$1,223
9.00	0.75	0.75	\$3,095	\$1,191
6.75	0.56	0.56	\$2,311	\$889
6.50	0.54	0.54	\$2,228	\$858
6.25	0.52	0.52	\$2,146	\$826
6.00	0.50	0.50	\$2,063	\$794
3.75	0.31	0.31	\$1,279	\$492
3.50	0.29	0.29	\$1,197	\$461
3.25	0.27	0.27	\$1,114	\$429
3.00	0.25	0.25	\$1,032	\$397

**Note:** Sample charts only. Comprehensive chart and amounts can be found at [www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources) or in CSAW > Grant Amounts. WA Bridge Grants are not prorated based on enrollment.

SEMESTER Institution Enrollment Intensity for Awards and Quarters of Eligibility Used Calculations (WCG Max Award)				
Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity	Quarters of Eligibility Used	Award Amount at UW \$12,378	Award Amount at CTC \$4,763
12+	1	1.50	\$5,944	\$1,412
9.75	0.81	0.81	\$4,815	\$1,143
9.50	0.79	0.79	\$4,696	\$1,115
9.25	0.77	0.77	\$4,577	\$1,087
9.00	0.75	0.75	\$4,458	\$1,059
6.75	0.56	0.56	\$3,329	\$790
6.50	0.54	0.54	\$3,210	\$762
6.25	0.52	0.52	\$3,091	\$734
6.00	0.50	0.50	\$2,972	\$706
3.75	0.31	0.31	\$1,843	\$438
3.50	0.29	0.29	\$1,724	\$409
3.25	0.27	0.27	\$1,605	\$381
3.00	0.25	0.25	\$1,486	\$353

**Note:** Sample charts only. Comprehensive chart and amounts can be found at [www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/faa-resources) or in CSAW > Grant Amounts. WA Bridge Grants are not prorated based on enrollment.

**Note:** You only need to perform this calculation if the student does not have enough Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER) to fully fund the enrollment status.

For example, if a student at a quarter institution has .42 QER, but is only enrolled in 4 credits, the student will only use .33 QER, and therefore, the fractional calculation is not yet necessary.

**Fractional award conversion examples:**

QER = Quarters of Eligibility Remaining  
 SER = Semesters of Eligibility Remaining

QER x Full-time award amount within MFI category

**Quarter WCG Institution Example:**

Joe student has .42 QER. The full-time WCG quarter award amount within Joe’s MFI category is \$1,803.

The calculation is:

$$.42 \times \$1,803 = \$757. \text{ Joe would be eligible for a } \$757 \text{ final quarter award.}$$

**Semester Institutions:**

QER / 1.5 = Semesters of Eligibility Remaining (SER)\*  
 SER x Full-time award amount within MFI category

\*A Semester is equal to 1.5 quarters, so for the first step of the formula you must convert the number of QUARTERS remaining (QER) into SEMESTERS remaining (SER). Do this by dividing the QER by the semester multiplier of 1.5. Then multiply the SER by the full-time award amount within the student’s MFI category.

**Semester WCG Institution Example:**

Maria student has .42 Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER). The full-time semester award amount within Maria’s MFI category is \$4,292. The calculation is:

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} .42 & / & 1.5 & = & .28 \\ \text{QER} & & \text{Semester Divider} & & \text{SER} \end{array}$$

Now, multiply the SER with the full-time WCG award amount within her MFI category.

$$.28 \times \$4,292 = \$1,202. \text{ Maria would be eligible for a } \$1,202 \text{ final semester award.}$$

**EMERGENCY AID**

WSAC will align with the updated federal policy which states that *“emergency financial assistance provided to the student for unexpected expenses that are a component of the student's cost of attendance, and not otherwise considered when the determination of the student's need is made, shall not be treated as other financial assistance”* (OFA). Components of the cost of attendance would include unexpected expenses for food, housing, materials, etc. Colleges must have a policy and process for students to request emergency financial assistance and document the request including the unexpected expense for each student. The expenses must not already be included in one of the student’s COA components. Volume 3, Chapter 3 of the 2024-25 Federal Student Aid Handbook provides additional guidance.

Funding utilized as EFA for students is not to be factored into need-based aid calculations. When completing Unit Record Reports, the award code/type will be reported as non-need-based, not considered when determining need-based aid eligibility.

For those campuses that participate in the Passport to Careers program and receive Passport Student Support Funds (PSSF), these funds could be used in this manner. Institutions are allowed to use PSSF funds as emergency financial assistance (EFA) funds and would need to document it like any other EFA funding. However, if PSSF funds are utilized as other financial assistance (OFA), standard need rules apply. The EFA funds would be reported as not subject to need but OFA funds would need to be included.

**AWARDING PRACTICES NOT PERMITTED**

**Single Parents and Part-Time Students**

All eligible students in these groups must be treated equally. No group, such as single parents or part-time students, may be disadvantaged relative to any other group of recipients in their access to state aid.

## CHAPTER 3

### SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

#### SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Institutions are responsible for monitoring each recipient's *Satisfactory Academic Progress*, as outlined in [WAC 250-21-010\(16\)](#) of the WCG rules, and in the institution's WSAC-approved institutional SAP policy.

The SAP policy is applicable to all state aid grant programs, including Washington College Grant, Washington Bridge Grant, College Bound Scholarship, and Passport to College Scholarship.

WSAC will now align the State SAP policy with the Federal SAP policy beginning with the 2024-25 academic year. Please see Volume 1, Chapter 1 in the FSA Handbook for more information on Federal SAP policy.

While institutions can implement this policy as early as the 2024-25 academic year, there is flexibility for institutions to adjust their policy to fit the needs of their student population: the minimum standard for the State SAP policy being the same as Federal SAP policy. This alignment of policy means the following changes:

- Institutions are allowed to move to an annual review of SAP for programs that exceed a year in duration.
- Assessment of SAP will transition from a minimum number of credits to complete to a percentage-based pace calculation with 67% being the minimum pace requirement.
- Students must be able to complete their program within 150% of the program length.

It is important to note that students have the right to appeal their SAP status. However, a student can never appeal to receive more than the maximum Quarters of Eligibility for a given program as these are mandated by statute. Note: The lifetime limit of quarters of eligibility beginning in 2024-25 is 18 maximum.

There are differences between state and federal SAP requirements including:

At the end of each term for programs that are less than a year duration, or at the end of the year for programs longer than one year duration, participating institutions shall examine the progress of each state aid recipient and determine which of the following applies to the student:

- Is meeting *Satisfactory Academic Progress*.
- Is to be placed in *Warning Status*<sup>1</sup> and may be continued on state aid.
- Is to be placed in *Unsatisfactory or Denied Status* and therefore ineligible for state aid until the student meets the conditions of the institution's reinstatement policy.

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<sup>1</sup>To avoid confusion with the federal definition of "probation," the term "warning" is used for state aid administration.

As institutions transition to align with Federal SAP, students will still be subject to State SAP policy through the 2023-24 academic year. If a student is placed on Warning or Denied status after the last term of the 2023-24 academic year, they will still need to address that status before being considered in good SAP standing.

An institution may submit an alternative approach to evaluating academic progress that includes a plan for improved student retention and comparison data to ensure state grant funds are used efficiently. WSAC will initially determine whether to approve the alternative policy, then evaluate it over a specified timeframe, then determine whether the policy may continue to be approved.

### **Maximum Usage Timeframe**

As stated in Chapter 1, Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship recipients may receive the equivalent of 6 full-time years of maximum usage (18 quarters, 12 semesters or the equivalent).

### **State SAP Policy**

#### **Quantitative Standard for Students in Quarter and Semester Credit Programs**

To meet “satisfactory academic progress” the student must successfully complete a minimum number of credit or clock hours for each term in which the grant was received.

Each school’s policy for measuring the progress of state aid grant recipients must define satisfactory as the student’s completion of the minimum number of credit or clock hours for which the aid was disbursed.

The minimum number of credits standard for enrolled students whose aid was calculated and disbursed as less than full-time students is:

- Full-time enrollment – 12 credits or 300 clock hours
- Three-quarter time enrollment – 9 credits or 225 clock hours
- Half-time enrollment – 6 credits or 150 clock hours
- Less than half-time enrollment – 3 credits or 75 clock hours  
(Only applies to WCG and CBS programs)

**Note:** *The minimum number of credits for full-time enrollment is 12 credits per term for institutions that base their enrollment on a credit system. For these institutions, 12 credits are considered the amount for which aid was calculated and disbursed even if the student enrolled for more than 12 credits.*

Enrollment bands are to be used when calculating SAP. The following chart illustrates how enrollment bands work:

Enrollment Bands to be used for Calculating Satisfactory Academic Progress					
Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity	WCG Award Amount at UW \$12,378	WCG Award Amount at CTC \$4,763	Warning Status Credits Completed	Denied Status Credits Completed
12+	1	\$4,126	\$1,588	6	5.5
11	0.92	\$3,796	\$1,461	4.5	4
10	0.83	\$3,425	\$1,318	4.5	4
9	0.75	\$3,095	\$1,191	4.5	4
8	0.67	\$2,764	\$1,064	3	2.5
7	0.58	\$2,393	\$921	3	2.5
6	0.5	\$2,063	\$794	3	2.5
5	0.42	\$1,733	\$667	1.5	1
4	0.33	\$1,362	\$524	1.5	1
3	0.25	\$1,032	\$397	1.5	1

### Successful Completion of Credits

Coursework that counts towards successful completion of program or degree completion typically includes letter grades of A-D and Pass. Grades received of F, E, Fail, Withdraw, Unofficial Withdrawal, and Incomplete do not count as successfully completed credits.

### Warning Status<sup>2</sup>

**Warning Status** for state aid recipients is triggered when a student completes at least one-half, but less than all, of the minimum number of credits for which the aid was calculated and disbursed, or otherwise fails to fulfill the conditions of the institution’s satisfactory progress policy.

- For a full-time student at 12 credits, this means that if the student successfully completes 6 to less than 12 credits, the student is to be placed in a warning status for the following term.
- For a three-quarter time student at 9 – 11 credits, a student must successfully complete 4.5 to less than 9 credits to be placed on warning status
- For a half-time student at 6 - 8 credits, a student must successfully complete 3 to less than 6 credits to be placed on warning status.
- For a less than half-time student at 3 - 5 credits, a student must successfully complete 1.5 to less than 3 credits to be placed on warning status.

Since all clock hours from the previous payment period must be earned before making additional payments, there is no routinely recognized warning status for clock hour students.

In addition, WSAC expects institutions to have rigorous policies for measuring academic progress that limit the number of terms a student can continue to receive state aid while in warning status. The institution may make disbursements and continue a student on State Work Study to a student who is in warning status.

<sup>2</sup>To avoid confusion with the federal definition of “probation,” the term “warning” is used for state aid administration.

## **Denied Status**

**Denied status** requires that each school's policy must deny further disbursements of all state aid at the conclusion of any term in which the student fails to complete at least one-half of the minimum number of credits within an enrollment band or clock hours for which the aid was disbursed or otherwise fails to fulfill the conditions of the institution's satisfactory progress policy. This status also may be given to a student who has remained in warning status for more terms than the institution's policies allow.

- For a full-time student at 12 credits, this means that if the student successfully completes less than 6 credits, the student is to be placed in a denied status beginning with the following term.
- For a three-quarter time student at 9 – 11 credits, a student must successfully complete less than 4.5 credits to be placed on denied status
- For a half-time student at 6 - 8 credits, a student must successfully complete less than 3 credits to be placed on denied status.
- For a less than half-time student at 3 - 5 credits, a student must successfully complete less than 1.5 credits to be placed on denied status.

***See chart above for enrollment band information.***

## **Quantitative Standard for Students in Clock Hour Programs**

Students enrolled in clock hour programs must enroll as full-time students and complete 300 hours for each term to meet the quantitative standard before being eligible for the next term disbursement.

Since all hours from the previous payment period must be earned before making additional payments, there is no routinely recognized warning status for clock hour students. A school, however, may petition WSAC to allow a warning status.

## **Qualitative Standard**

The institution's satisfactory academic progress policy must contain a qualitative standard. For purposes of state aid programs, the qualitative standard used to comply with federal satisfactory academic progress standards is acceptable.

## **Other Conditions of SAP Policy**

The value of any retroactive financial aid payments (differs from late award/payment as described in Chapter 2) shall be based on the student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits, determined by institution policy, at the end of the term. **See Chapter 2 for more information regarding retroactive payments.**

A student may be denied further state aid disbursements or awards if the student fails to fulfill any other conditions of the institution's WSAC-approved satisfactory academic progress policy.



### **Professional Judgment/Appeals**

The Financial Aid Administrator may, on a case-by-case basis, reinstate a student back into satisfactory academic progress in response to that student's extenuating circumstances. The FAA may choose to exercise professional judgment without a specific request to do so from the student.

For example, the FAA may decide to grant a student continued access to state aid if failure in one term is countered by an extensive history of prior success. The student's file must include documentation related to the professional judgment decision.

### **Reinstatement**

Each institution's satisfactory academic progress policy shall state which conditions a denied status student must meet before state aid will be reinstated. For example: the student may have to attend the institution without state financial aid for a specific period of time or may have to show proof that credits have been made up within a designated time period.

### **Notifying Students of SAP Policies**

Institutions must make information available to state aid recipients of the state SAP policies that impact their students' ability to continue receiving state aid for future terms.

This must include information about how state SAP is determined at the institution, how Warning Status and Denial Status are determined, and the institution's Reinstatement Policy of state aid should the student go into Denial Status.

The available information also must include when SAP reviews will take place and how and when students will be notified in writing should their state aid status change to Warning, Denial or Reinstatement.

This information may be included in institutional financial aid handbooks or other information made available to all students or all state aid recipients at each institution. It does not need to be sent individually to all state aid recipients.

## **STUDENT WITHDRAWALS/REPAYMENT CALCULATIONS**

See Chapter 5 for required repayment policy information.

## CHAPTER 4

### PORTAL ACCESS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

#### SECURE PORTAL ACCESS

Each Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) is required to obtain their own Portal login to access functions and submit reports via the WSAC Portal. A universal account, or the account of another aid administrator, cannot be used to access the Portal for multiple aid administrators.

***It is the responsibility of each college's appointed authorizing official to promptly remove Portal access for staff who should no longer have access, such as those who are no longer employed by the college or have moved to another department.***

To obtain an account, contact the appointed authorizing official at your college (usually the Director of Financial Aid). The appointed authorizing official will grant access to the appropriate programs and functions in the Portal using the 'Manage User' function.

To provide the highest level of security, the Washington Student Achievement Counsel (WSAC) has turned on two-factor authentication (2FA) for all WSAC portal user accounts. This added layer of security ensures that you are the only person who can access your account, even if someone finds your password. You will be required to enter a second time-based piece of information (authentication code) that only you will know,

To log in, you will enter your username (email) and password, and then you will be prompted to pick a method for receiving an authentication code. The methods are:

- Email – the code will be sent to your user email
- Text – the code will be sent via SMS to your phone as a text message (most common)
- Voice – the code will be spoken in a call to your phone \*
- Authenticator App – the code can be retrieved from an app on your phone or tablet (if set up)

Currently, the default settings will send the access code to your email address that is attached to your portal account. If you want to have the option to receive security codes via text as well, please follow the instructions at the end of this chapter.

Once you have selected a method, you will be directed to a page to enter the code. On entry, you will then be logged in.

Portal user administration instructions for the authorizing official to create and manage Portal accounts are located <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>, under Financial Aid Training.

If the authorizing official is unable to add or remove an account, contact [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov).

## Security of Information

All institutions are expected to treat information on the WSAC Portal in accordance with the Electronic Agreement contained in the Institutional Agreement to Participate.

Institutions and individuals are granted access to data with the expectation that they protect the confidentiality of this information with the same level of care as they do any other student aid document. College users will not be given access to Federal Tax Information (FTI)/Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) imported into the WSAC portal from the FAFSA process in accordance with the confidentiality protections of Section 6103(l)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code, and in accordance with all applicable privacy laws, regulations, and policies.

## Secure Data Transmission

No personally identifiable information (PII) shall be transmitted to WSAC via email. All institutions must send information to WSAC via the secure email function in the Portal or using CSAW.

## Portal Training

Portal users have access to the portal training site: <https://portaltraining.wsac.wa.gov/>. It is a great way to get acquainted with CSAW functions. Information in the Training Portal updates and resets each night allowing for training in a safe environment.

## REQUIRED REPORTS

Participating institutions are required to submit eligible Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholars, Passport to College, and WA Bridge Grant student details via quarterly Interim Reports, including a year-end submission for reconciliation purposes, and an annual Unit Record Report (URR).

Please refer to the [Unit Record Report](#) Manual for details regarding that report and the required deadlines for submission.

## Interim Report Definition

The **Interim Report** is a quarterly data submission that includes student details for every eligible student awarded the Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholarships and Passport to College.

Data reported on the interim reports provides the basis for WCG, CBS, and PTC funding projections.

### Interim Report Due Dates for the 2024-25 Academic Year

Report	Due Dates
Fall Interim Report	November 12, 2024
Winter Interim Report	February 18, 2025
Spring Interim Report	May 5, 2025
Final Interim Report*	July 14, 2025

\*The final Interim Report for the 2024-25 academic year also serves as the year-end reconciliation and is due July 14, 2025.



## Record Layouts

FAFSA simplification changes dictate that Controlled Unclassified Information/Federal Tax Information (CUI/FTI) cannot be reported so some fields and values have been updated to the record layout.

Columns in the file that previously asked for CUI/FTI will remain in the file layout for the 2024-25 AY, so schools don't have to make changes to their systems until the 2025-26 AY. You will be asked to leave these fields blank/null. See **CSAW File Upload Layout for All Institutions** section for detailed updates.

All institutions will use the CBS-WCG Award Warehouse (CSAW) to fulfill the Interim Reporting requirement.

The CSAW file for incremental file uploads is located on the upload page in the Portal, and at: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> in the Program Manuals, MFI & Award Charts tab. This file load allows for schools to indicate changed records only, utilizing the "IsDelete" column after loading in their initial master (full file) data. This will reduce the amount of edits the school will need to reprocess.

The full file upload will be phased out during the 2024-2025 AY. A sample full file upload CSV is located at: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> and on the upload screen in the Portal. Your file layout can be submitted in a different order, but the header names must be identical to the sample file and are not case sensitive. Please do not make any modifications to header names.

## ELIGIBLE AWARDED WCG, WA BRIDGE GRANT, AND CBS STUDENTS

**Eligible awarded WCG students** refers to Washington College Grant students, who have either received a WCG payment, or who have had WCG funds committed (student has received an award offer) but not yet disbursed at the time of the report.

**Eligible awarded WA Bridge Grant students** refers to Washington College Grant students meeting the 65% MFI eligibility, who have either received a WA Bridge Grant award, or who have had WA Bridge Grant funds committed (student has received an award offer) but not yet disbursed at the time of the report. Bridge students must be awarded at the same time as WCG.

**Eligible awarded CBS students** refers to eligible College Bound Scholars who have either received a CBS payment, or who have had CBS funds committed, but not yet disbursed at the time of the report. CBS students must be awarded at the same time as WCG.

## INSTRUCTIONS

For detailed interim report submission instructions, including how to upload a file and address edits, go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>.

### Edits

CSAW rejects data in the form of edits. All edits must be addressed individually, except informational edits. A complete list of edits is located in the instructions at the end of this chapter.

### Reporting Enrollment Intensity Status

In general, each student's credits (enrollment intensity) should reflect the funding the student was eligible to receive for a given term.

- Report the student's credits (enrollment intensity) for each term as of the date WCG or CBS was disbursed unless the student changed enrollment prior to the start of the term or census date is being used for satisfactory academic progress and repayment
- If the student wasn't considered eligible for aid for a term, do not report them.

#### Exceptions:


*Applies to both WCG and CBS Recipients.*

- If a student received a full refund of tuition charges and the balance of funds were not disbursed to the student, all funds must be returned via CSAW and the student's CSAW record must be updated to show as not enrolled for that term.

If a student enrolls in and attends at least 3 quarter credits (or the equivalent) the student will not owe back WA Bridge Grant.

**Reminder:** Be sure to update each student's enrollment intensity for the term on each of the Interim Reports. We have found some institutions that have updated the term award amounts but failed to update the enrollment intensity. This is very important as enrollment intensity for each term impacts the student's QER.

### Secure Data Transmission

No personally identifiable information (PII) shall be transmitted to WSAC via email. All institutions must send information to WSAC via the secure email function or using CSAW under Common > Messages And Files > Inbox. Click on  [Create a new secure message to WSAC](#) located on the upper right-hand corner of your screen .

### Security of Information

All institutions are expected to treat information in the WSAC Portal in accordance with the Electronic Agreement contained in the Institutional Agreement to Participate.

Institutions and individuals are granted access to data with the expectation that they protect the confidentiality of this information with the same level of care as they do any other student aid document. **The institution's Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) is required to immediately notify WSAC in the event of any breaches or potential breaches of data.**

Information contained in these files are for the sole purpose of administering state aid programs. This information may not be used for research. If you have questions about the proper use of the information, please contact WSAC at [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov)

Each institution must have one or more Financial Aid Administrator(s) with a WSAC-assigned portal account. Each account user must have a separate unique password. If you have forgotten your password, please click on the “forgot your password” link on the Portal login page. Accounts and passwords are not to be shared among staff – each person must have their own account and password.

## **CSAW RECONCILIATION AND FINAL INTERIM REPORT**

Institutions are encouraged to regularly reconcile their system records (**including finance/business office records and financial aid management system records**) with CSAW records. This is critical during all interim reports and especially for the final interim reporting period. Students who were disbursed state financial aid during the year at an institution, but not reported in CSAW cannot be reported after the final interim period.

After the close of fiscal year-end, payments cannot be issued for any students whether they are reported in CSAW or not. This can result in institutions owing thousands of dollars that they will be required to return to WSAC which could have negative fiscal impacts for institutions if these students are identified during the Unit Record reporting period.

During the year-end reconciliation reporting period (Final Interim Report submitted in July), institutions have access to a balance sheet on the interim report tab in CSAW. Please ensure that your ending balance is zero. If you think your balance should be zero but it is not, contact program staff at [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov).



**Review  
Carefully**

**Note:** This does not mean that you are cross-balanced with your institution’s financial records. That is a critical step you need to complete at the campus level before submitting your final interim report. This means comparing your student-level detail data in CSAW with the records in your financial aid management system and with your finance/student accounts/accounting department records. You can download student-level detail records from CSAW to compare your data.

Any remaining balance of WCG, WA Bridge Grant, CBS, or PTC funds at the end of the institution’s reconciliation process need to be returned to WSAC in the form of a check or by EFT and will be booked with the state due-to/due-from accounting records.

WSAC prefers to receive any funds returned by check, due to the turnaround time associated with EFT payments, unless there has been an unusual delay in the return of funds by a college, in which case an EFT will be required. Should an institution choose to return funds through EFT, proper documentation must be submitted prior to the EFT being initiated.

The documentation needed to be provided with a check or prior to an EFT being initiated should specify the following:

1. Student Name
2. Last 4 digits of Social Security Number
3. Term
4. Program name (WCG, CBS, PTC)

**Important: Please email WSAC at [repayment@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:repayment@wsac.wa.gov) and [wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov) as soon as you have initiated the EFT payment. WSAC has a very short turnaround time to process the EFT payment.**

**For complete instructions on how to complete the WCG-WA Bridge Grant-CBS-PTC interim report, go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>.**

New edits will be established once the WSAC portal is built to specifications of the new FAFSA and WASFA requirements. This manual will be updated and we will send formal guidance once the edits are built.

### Interim Report Complete List of Edits

Edit Description	Overridable
CBS student has 3 or less QER	Informational only
Must award maximum WCG amount	Informational only
PTC student has 3 or less QER	Informational only
WCG student has 3 or less QER	Informational only
Age, per birthdate, seems unreasonable (under 10 or over 99)	Non-overridable
An ISIR or WASFA transaction must be between 1 and 99	Non-overridable
An ISIR or WASFA transaction number is required	Non-overridable
Applied baccalaureate is only allowed for Community and Technical colleges	Non-overridable
Birthdate is required for all students	Non-overridable
Birthdate is required for PTC student	Non-overridable
Bridge award not allowed in non-WCG eligible term	Non-overridable
Bridge award should be blank if already paid in full	Non-overridable
Cannot have awards for both summer terms at the same institution (except for clock-hour schools)	Non-overridable
CBS award cannot be less than zero	Non-overridable
CBS receivable balance cannot exceed the award amount	Non-overridable
CBS student is not OK to Pay	Non-overridable
Enrollment status cannot be "Not Enrolled" unless all awards have been cancelled	Non-overridable
Enrollment status must be "Not Enrolled" if no awards are reported	Non-overridable
Student not eligible for CBS	Non-overridable
Student not eligible for WCG	Non-overridable
Student not eligible for Bridge	Non-overridable
Not eligible for Bridge Grant if CBS Eligible	Non-overridable

## Interim Report Complete List of Edits (continued)

Edit Description	Overridable
PTC award cannot be less than zero	Non-overridable
PTC Award requires FAFSA or WASFA on file	Non-overridable
PTC cannot be awarded to students attending less than half time	Non-overridable
PTC receivable balance cannot exceed the award amount	Non-overridable
Student does not have any CBS QER for this award	Non-overridable
Student does not have any WCG QER for this award	Non-overridable
Student does not have enough PTC QER for this award	Non-overridable
Student does not meet eligibility requirements for PTC	Non-overridable
Student has unpaid receivables for a prior term	Non-overridable
Total PTC awards for year cannot exceed \$2 of maximum	Non-overridable
Total WCG awards for year cannot exceed \$2 of maximum	Non-overridable
WCG award cannot be less than zero	Non-overridable
WCG receivable balance cannot exceed the award amount	Non-overridable
Bridge students must receive maximum WCG award	Overridable
CBS award exceeds maximum eligible amount	Overridable
CBS student is not OK to Pay (Summer 1)	Overridable
CBS students must receive maximum WCG award	Overridable
Combined enrollment status cannot exceed full-time for a single term	Overridable
Must award the maximum CBS amount	Overridable
PTC award exceeds maximum eligible amount	Overridable
PTC Student must enroll prior to age 22	Overridable
PTC students must receive maximum WCG award	Overridable
Student is Bridge Grant eligible but has not been awarded	Overridable
Student is eligible for PTC but hasn't been awarded	Overridable
Student is OK to award, not OK to pay, and hasn't been awarded CBS	Overridable
Student is OK to pay but hasn't been awarded CBS	Overridable
The student has been awarded WCG and WG-A in the same academic year	Overridable
Total Bridge Grant awards exceeds yearly max	Overridable
Total CBS awards for year cannot exceed \$2 of maximum	Overridable
WCG award exceeds maximum eligible amount	Overridable
WCG, Bridge, CBS, and PTC repayments must be referred at the same time	Overridable
WCG-C eligible student must be awarded max WCG	Overridable

Many edits can be resolved by correcting the data in the data fields. Correcting the data in CSAW will make the edit no longer appear. Overrides should be used when data cannot be corrected.



## Non-overridable Bridge Edits to be Addressed with Data Correction

Edit Name	Reason	Correct Data Change
<b>Bridge award not allowed in non-WCG eligible term</b>	Student is showing as not enrolled but has an award in Bridge field	Delete the Bridge grant award/"Need met" (\$0 award) or update enrollment status and add WCG award
<b>Bridge award should be blank if already paid in full</b>	Student is showing at "Need met"	Delete \$0 award and leave field blank
<b>Student not eligible for Bridge</b>	Student is ineligible for Bridge grant.	Delete Bridge award or update financial aid application transaction number
<b>Not eligible for Bridge Grant if CBS Eligible</b>	CBS status is eligible or likely eligible for CBS	Delete Bridge award and award CBS, or update Checker if you have documentation that the student didn't meet CBS requirements
<b>Student must be awarded Bridge Grant in the first term they are eligible</b>	Student wasn't awarded Bridge in Summer or in the first term they were eligible	Award student starting in the first term they are enrolled at your college and were eligible

## Common Edits to be Addressed with Data Correction Instead of Overriding

Edit Name	Sample <u>Incorrect</u> Override Reason	<u>Correct</u> Data Change
<b>Combined Enrollment Status Cannot Exceed Full-time</b>	No aid was disbursed	Remove student award records if you know student is not attending or is ineligible. Do not report as 'need met'.
<b>Combined Enrollment Status Cannot Exceed Full-time</b>	No financial aid my institution	Remove student award records if you know student is not attending or ineligible. Do not report as 'need met'.
<b>Student is OK to Award, Not OK to Pay, and Hasn't Been Awarded CBS</b>	Waiting for HS Transcript	CBS should be awarded but not paid until documentation is collected.
<b>Student is OK to Pay But Not Awarded CBS</b>	Out of MFI range	Update award to match MFI level.
<b>Student is OK to Pay But Not Awarded WCG/Bridge/CBS/PTC</b>	Need met	Enter \$0 in award amount

\*This applies only to students enrolled at institutions that are considered two-year degree institutions. BAS refers to students at those institutions who are enrolled in applied baccalaureate degree programs at those institutions.

## CSAW FILE UPLOAD LAYOUT FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS

A sample full upload .CSV is located at <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>. Loading a new file will override previously loaded information.

The CSAW file for incremental (change) file is available at: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> and on the upload screen in the Portal. The file layout can be submitted in a different order; however, **the header names must be identical to the sample file** and are not case sensitive.

WSAC has sent out a copy of the new file layout once it has been updated to accommodate the FAFSA CUI/FTI changes. Colleges are encouraged to use this option as the master (full file) will be phased out in the 2024-25 AY.

The incremental file upload adds one field (IsDelete) to the existing CSAW file layout. After initially loading all students on your first file load, institutions are able to upload incremental change only files into CSAW. Uploading incremental student data will not affect any of the awards that are not included on the change file – it will not delete students like the current full file load does. This allows the institution to add or update student records as few as one at a time.

Incremental uploads will increase CSAW performance because edits are only run against data that has been uploaded. Any edits that were addressed previously for students not on the change file will not need attention unless the award or enrollment has been adjusted.

The full file upload will be phased out in the 2024-25 AY. As a reminder, full file uploads represent a FRESH start. This means that each full upload must contain ALL enrollment data for the current academic year. Full file uploads also result in the need for you to address all edits each time including those you may have previously addressed.

### ***Please Note:***

- Including the Passport and Term Type fields in the CSAW file upload are strongly encouraged to ensure timely awarding and accurate reporting. **Do not report Student Support Funds on this file.**
- Winter term fields are not required for Semester institutions.
- The SchoolCode field is an optional field. It may be completed or left blank.
- The WCG, WA Bridge Grant, CBS, and PTC AwardAmount fields may be left blank if the student is not enrolled for that term.
- Enrollment intensity will be calculated by CSAW based on the number of credits reported each term.
- All Enrollment Status and Boolean data type (yes/no) fields are not case-sensitive.
- The WcgApprenticeship fields are not required and should be left blank. This field will be removed from the file layout with other file changes coming in the 2025-26 AY.
- When using the incremental file, to delete student awards from CSAW, the school would need to list the student on the change file with input value of 'Y' in the 'Is Delete' column. CSAW would then delete/cancel their awards.
- Enter \$0 award for students who have their full need met by other aid. This will prevent you from receiving an edit for the student. **If a student has no award of any type, is ineligible, or is not enrolled, do not enter \$0, please remove them from your reporting.**

## 2024-25 CSAW File Upload Layout

Field	Valid Inputs	Remarks
<b>IsDelete</b>	('true' or 'y')	Optional, leave blank if not deleting or cancelling an award. (only on incremental files – not on full file)
<b>Ssn</b>	Numbers and hyphens	9-digit student identifier. SSN, ITIN, or WASFA ID. Dashes will be removed, and any 8-digit entries will be left-padded with a zero (this is applicable in cases where Microsoft Excel interprets SSN as a number and removes the leading zero).
<b>SchoolCode</b>	Any characters	Unique identifier for this student, for this institution.
<b>LastName</b>	Any characters	Required
<b>FirstName</b>	Any characters	Required
<b>MiddleInitial</b>		Optional
<b>FamilySize</b>	Leave blank	Not Required. Leave blank
<b>NumberInCollege</b>	Leave blank	Not Required. Leave blank
<b>FamilyIncome</b>	Leave blank	Not Required. Leave blank
<b>BirthDate</b>	mm/dd/yyyy	Required. 10byte max, requires slashes. Leading zeros on month and day not required.
<b>IsirWasfaTransactionNumber</b>	Integer 1-99	ISIR or WASFA Transaction number used to award student. Leading zero on 1-9 is optional. Leave blank if WCG-C student did not file FAFSA or WASFA.
<b>Summer1EnrollmentStatus</b>	Integer 0, 3-25 3.25, 3.50, etc	Report number of credits student enrolled in include partial credits such as .25; .50; .75  The credits reported that the student was eligible for at the time of disbursement or as of the first day of the term will calculate the enrollment intensity in CSAW. If left blank, this will be set to Not Enrolled.
<b>Summer1TermType</b>	(Quarter or '1') (Semester or '2'), optional	If left blank or excluded from file, will use the default term type.
<b>Summer1AppliedBaccalaureate</b>	('true' or 'y') ( 'false' or 'n')	This only applies to students at CTCs and private colleges that

Field	Valid Inputs	Remarks
		primarily offer associate degrees. All other institutions should leave this blank. Determines whether this student is enrolled in a baccalaureate program for this term.
<b>Summer1BridgeAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer1CbsAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Maximum CBS award amount, minus specified state aid. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer1PtcAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	If left blank, will assume all Passport students are being entered by hand. '0' indicates "need met."
<b>Summer1WcgAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer1WcgApprenticeship</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank
<b>Summer1WcgAwardIsServed</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank
<b>FallEnrollmentStatus</b>	Integer 0, 3-25 3.25, 3.50, etc	Report number of credits student enrolled in include partial credits such as .25; .50; .75  The credits reported that the student was eligible for at the time of disbursement or as of the first day of the term will calculate the enrollment intensity in CSAW. If left blank, this will be set to Not Enrolled.
<b>FallTermType</b>	(Quarter or '1') (Semester or '2'), optional	If left blank or excluded from file, will use the default term type.
<b>FallAppliedBaccalaureate</b>	('true' or 'y') (false' or 'n')	This only applies to students at CTCs and private colleges that primarily offer associate degrees. All other institutions should leave this blank. Determines whether this student is enrolled in a baccalaureate program for this term.
<b>FallBridgeAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.

Field	Valid Inputs	Remarks
<b>FallCbsAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Maximum CBS award amount, minus specified state aid. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>FallPtcAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	If left blank, will assume all Passport students are being entered by hand. '0' indicates "need met"
<b>FallWcgAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>FallWcgApprenticeship</b>	Leave blank	Not Required. Leave blank
<b>FallWcgAwardIsServed</b>	Leave blank	Not Required. Leave blank
<b>WinterEnrollmentStatus</b>	Integer 0, 3-25 3.25, 3.50, etc	Report number of credits student enrolled in include partial credits such as .25; .50; .75  The credits reported that the student was eligible for at the time of disbursement or as of the first day of the term will calculate the enrollment intensity in CSAW. If left blank, this will be set to Not Enrolled.
<b>WinterTermType</b>	(Quarter or '1') (Semester or '2'), optional	If left blank or excluded from file, will use the default term type.
<b>WinterAppliedBaccalaureate</b>	('true' or 'y') ( 'false' or 'n')	This only applies to students at CTCs and private colleges that primarily offer associate degrees. All other institutions should leave this blank. Determines whether this student is enrolled in a baccalaureate program for this term.
<b>WinterBridgeAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>WinterCbsAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Maximum CBS award amount, minus specified state aid. 0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>WinterPtcAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	If left blank, will assume all Passport students are being entered by hand. '0' indicates "need met"
<b>WinterWcgAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.

Field	Valid Inputs	Remarks
<b>WinterWcgApprenticeship</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.
<b>WinterWcgAwardIsServed</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.
<b>SpringEnrollmentStatus</b>	Integer 0, 3-25 3.25, 3.50, etc	Report number of credits student enrolled in include partial credits such as .25; .50; .75 The credits reported that the student was eligible for at the time of disbursement or as of the first day of the term will calculate the enrollment intensity in CSAW. If left blank, this will be set to Not Enrolled.
<b>SpringTermType</b>	(Quarter or '1') (Semester or '2'), optional	If left blank or excluded from file, will use the default term type.
<b>SpringAppliedBaccalaureate</b>	('true' or 'y') (false' or 'n')	This only applies to students at CTCs and private colleges that primarily offer associate degrees. All other institutions should leave this blank. Determines whether this student is enrolled in a baccalaureate program for this term.
<b>SpringBridgeAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>SpringCbsAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Maximum CBS award amount, minus specified state aid. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>SpringPtcAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	If left blank, will assume all Passport students are being entered by hand. '0' indicates "need met"
<b>SpringWcgAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>SpringWcgApprenticeship</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.
<b>SpringWcgAwardIsServed</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.
<b>Summer2EnrollmentStatus</b>	Integer 0, 3-25 3.25, 3.50, etc	Report number of credits student enrolled in include partial credits such as .25; .50; .75 The credits reported that the student was eligible for at the time of disbursement or as of the first day of the term will calculate the enrollment intensity in CSAW. If left blank, this will be set to Not Enrolled.

Field	Valid Inputs	Remarks
<b>Summer2TermType</b>	(Quarter or '1') (Semester or '2'), optional	If left blank or excluded from file, will use the default term type.
<b>Summer2AppliedBaccalaureate</b>	('true' or 'y') (false' or 'n')	This only applies to students at CTCs and private colleges that primarily offer associate degrees. All other institutions should leave this blank. Determines whether this student is enrolled in a baccalaureate program for this term.
<b>Summer2BridgeAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met." Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer2CbsAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Maximum CBS award amount, minus specified state aid. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer2PtcAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	If left blank, will assume all Passport students are being entered by hand. '0' indicates "need met"
<b>Summer2WcgAwardAmount</b>	Number up to two decimal places	Award amount. '0' indicates "need met". Leave blank if not awarded.
<b>Summer2WcgApprenticeship</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.
<b>Summer2WcgAwardIsServed</b>	Leave blank	Not required. Leave blank.

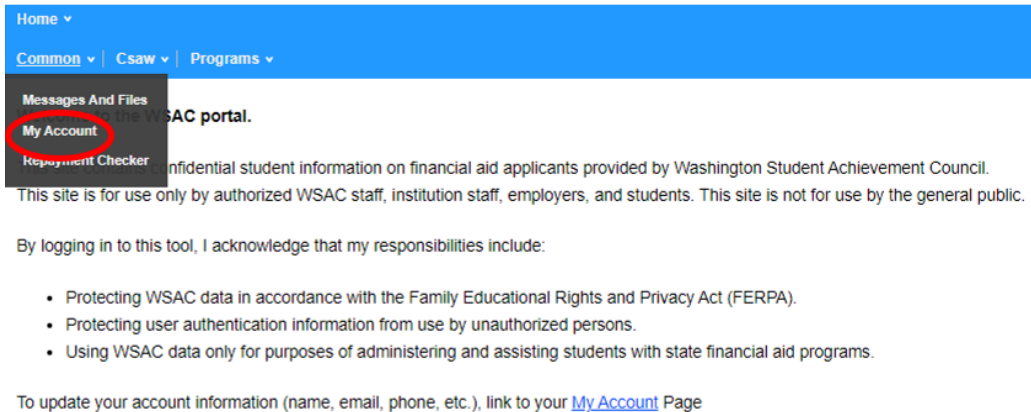
- IsDelete field only appears on the incremental file layout
- Winter term fields are not required for Semester institutions.
- The SchoolCode field is an optional field. It may be completed or left blank.
- The WCG and CBS AwardAmount fields may be left blank if the student is not enrolled for that term.
- The WA Bridge Grant AwardAmount fields may be left blank if the student is not eligible to receive the WA Bridge Grant, receives a lump sum payment, or if they aren't receiving a payment in that term.
- IsirWasfaTransactionNumber should be left blank for WCG-C students who did not file a financial aid application.
- All Enrollment Status and Boolean data type (yes/no) fields are not case-sensitive.

## TWO-FACTOR LOGIN INFORMATION

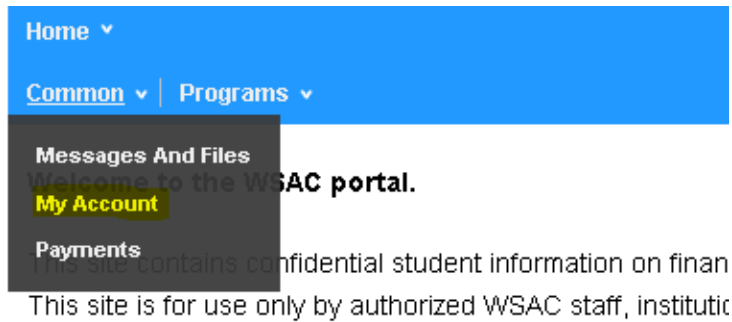
Currently, the default settings will send the access code to your email address that is attached to your portal account. If you want to have the option to receive security codes via text as well, please follow the instructions below.

Log in to the Portal <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov>.

1. Go to the "My Account" option on the "Common" menu.



2. Click on the "update" link to add a phone number.



### My WSAC portal account

**Login**

**Email** [update](#)

This email is used to sign in, and can be used to verify your account.

**Phone** [update](#)

This phone number can be used to verify your account via automated call or text message.

Remember this browser

[Change password](#) [Connect authenticator app](#)

**Personal Information**

Depending on how your account was created, some personal information may be pre-filled from different data sources, such as FAFSA applications or forms filled out on the WSAC portal. You are welcome to update inaccurate or outdated information.

**Name** [update](#)

**Pronouns**

None [update](#)



## CHAPTER 5

### WCG AND CBS PAYMENTS, REPAYMENTS, AND REPORTING

#### PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER PAYMENT REQUESTS, STUDENT REPAYMENTS, AND REPORTING

For the most efficient and timely processing of funds, colleges are strongly encouraged to use the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) method.

Private colleges are required to provide monies to eligible students and then request reimbursement from WSAC.

Public institutions are not required to have previously disbursed funds to eligible students before requesting program funds.

#### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Request Procedure

##### Payment Requests

Once a student is identified as eligible and an award is calculated, the institution may begin the disbursement process.

Payment requests must be submitted through the use of CSAW (College Bound - WCG Award Warehouse) located in the Portal. Institutions upload their eligible student file into CSAW and manage awards from within the warehouse. Payments should be requested at minimum, on a monthly basis for all programs the student is eligible to receive aid.

The file layout specifications and instructions for requesting reimbursements in CSAW are located in Chapter 4.

**Note:** *The Clock Hour school payment request calendar is located at the end of this chapter.*

When submitting files, please populate the SSN field for undocumented students in the following order:

- SSN
- Tax ID Number (ITIN)
- 9-digit WASFA Applicant ID number

Payment requests may be made any time from late-July through late-June of the academic year. Payments for a new year will not begin until the college's annual participation agreement is approved, and the final interim report is reconciled for the prior year. For the 2024-25 academic year, colleges that owe funds back to WSAC for 2023-24 will be permitted to begin their Summer 2024(Summer header) payment processing even if they have not returned all 2023-24 funds due the delayed implementation by the US Department of Education with the 2024-25 FAFSA and ongoing system processing issues. EFT payment requests will be processed within 24 hours of receipt whenever possible.

Please allow a minimum of five to six business days from the time a request is submitted until funds are received at your institution.

## Disbursement Procedures

The institution must confirm that the student is still eligible and confirm enrollment status at the time of disbursement. In addition, the institution shall check the CBS Eligibility Checker, the Archive, and if applicable, the WCG-C Eligibility Checker in the WSAC Portal to ensure student eligibility.

If a student does not attend, withdraws prior to the start of a term, reduces enrollment levels prior to the start of the term or fails to commence attendance in all classes that their enrollment level/award amount is based on, institutions must bill the student and report the repayment to WSAC.

If a student changes enrollment prior to the start of a term, institutions must adjust the student's award in CSAW. Institutions that choose to cover repayment amounts owed will return the funds via CSAW as an award cancellation/adjustment and not report the student in repayment.

Reducing a processed award will create a negative payment request for that student under the 'Request Funds' tab. It is permissible to only submit negative payment requests; however, WSAC will not send funds until you have submitted positive awards to offset the reduced awards.

***Note:** If the institution does not have positive payments to offset any reduced awards after the final interim report is reconciled, the institution must return any owing funds to the Washington Student Achievement Council via check or EFT.*

## Payments Cannot be Made to Students for a Current Term After They Withdraw

If students withdraw for a term without earning at least 3 credits, no additional WCG or CBS payments may be made to the students for that term on or after a student's official withdrawal date unless there is an institutional error discovered where late awarding is necessary.

***Note:** State policy differs from the Federal policy on this issue of post-withdrawal disbursements.*

## Retroactive and Late Awards and Payments for Previous Terms

Retroactive WCG, WA Bridge Grant, and CBS, and PTC awards and payments **MUST** be made to **eligible students** for a prior term(s) as long as they are enrolled for the current academic year and other program rules are followed.

The value of the **retroactive awards** and payments must be based on a student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits (at least 3 credits) determined by the institution at the end of the term(s). If a student is on state unsatisfactory or denied status, they would not be eligible for a retroactive award unless they appealed, and the appeal was approved by the institution.

The value of the **late awards** and payments must be based on the amount of aid they were originally eligible to receive. Because late awards are considered institutional error, the student should receive the full amount they were eligible for regardless of if they are in good standing or now in SAP. This applies whether or not the student is currently enrolled or has already graduated.

## **Required Student Directive for Private Institutions**

Private institutions must use WSAC's Student Directive Form to record a student's decision on where to apply their financial aid payment. The student's financial aid payment can be deposited directly into a student's account, or disbursed in the form of a check or electronic payment, based on their choice on the directive. For a copy of the student directive, see Chapter 6.

- ❑ Institutions must not coerce or influence the student's choice on where to apply their financial aid payment.
- ❑ The directive remains in effect for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment at the institution, excluding approved leaves of absence and summer terms. A new directive is required if the student is not continuously enrolled.
- ❑ Institutions must allow students to change their minds at any time, prior to disbursement, and follow their current directives at all times.
- ❑ Institutions must remind students once a year that their current directive is still in place and that they may change it.

The institution may not withhold or delay the disbursement of state aid due to any student debt, including tuition, fees, or fines owed the institution.

## **Conditions of Award Statements**

Prior to disbursement, the institution must inform the state aid recipient of their responsibilities to the program through a "Conditions of Award" statement. A copy of this statement is in Chapter 6.

The statement must be presented annually and can be delivered to the student through paper or electronic means each year. The statement must be provided in its entirety and is not satisfied by providing a link to the document or by attaching a copy of the document. The Conditions of Award does not have to be signed by the student as long as the institution can provide assurances to WSAC that the document was provided to the student each year.

It is the institution's responsibility to maintain documentation that the conditions were presented to the student.

WSAC may request a copy of the Conditions of Award statement that was presented to the student and documentation that it was presented to the student. WSAC's request for this documentation must be fulfilled within 5 business days.

## **Power of Attorney Disbursements**

A student whose off-campus program precludes their return to the institution for disbursement of state aid funds must assign a Power of Attorney to a responsible person to receive payments on their behalf. A copy of the Power of Attorney documentation must be kept in the student's file.

## **Institutional Repayments**

If a student is awarded incorrectly due to institutional error, it is the institution's financial obligation to repay the funds and they must be returned to WSAC immediately.

## Student Repayments

Repayment is a student's responsibility if it is due to incorrect information provided by the student, failure to complete the term, or failure to commence attendance in all classes on which their enrollment level/award amount is based. If a grant recipient leaves an institution during an academic term in which they receive WCG, the student may be required to repay WCG funds.

*Note: The Washington College Grant Repayment Policy Requirements are Mandatory for all Participating WCG Institutions.*

## Persian Gulf Veterans

[Persian Gulf veterans](#) are not required to repay the unused portions of grants received under state student financial aid programs.

## Unclaimed Property

If a student fails to cash their WCG check or pickup any remaining funds by the close of the academic year, the funds shall be returned to the program at WSAC and treated as funds declined by the student. These funds shall no longer be referred to the state as unclaimed property.

If a student fails to cash a check in the full amount of their award, the student's QER will be restored once the funds are returned to WSAC. Student's QER will not be restored for partial awards being returned.

## STATE AID GRANT REPAYMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### General

WSAC provides two repayment policy options for colleges to choose from:

- **Option 1:** If a student commences attendance in all classes for which they were enrolled and awarded for, they are considered to have earned their award.  
or
- **Option 2:** Using the institution's census date which is the date by which the student's enrollments are 'frozen' and upon which financial aid is disbursed.

Institutions will choose one option only. Colleges will make the choice with the 2024-25 annual participation renewal process.

WSAC no longer uses the last date of attendance to determine repayment. Students' award amounts are determined based on either option 1 or option 2. Students who fully withdraw are subject to institutional policies and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policies.

**Prior to the start of a term (applicable to either repayment option):**

Students who fail to attend every class for which they were enrolled, those who withdrew prior to the start of the term, or those who received funding based on fraudulent information will be required to repay 100% of the funds received.

Students who had their state aid funds *disbursed prior to the start of the term* and who changed enrollment status *prior to the first day of the term*, must have their state aid eligibility recalculated to reflect their enrollment status as of the start of the term.

- ❑ If a student reduces enrollment, they may be responsible for any award differences between enrollment status changes.
- ❑ Students who increase enrollment status throughout the term are entitled to additional funds for enrollment status increases.

Prior to Start of Term		
Owe 100%	Adjust Award Up	Adjust Award Down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Show Student</li><li>• Complete Withdraw</li><li>• Fraudulent Aid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student increased enrollment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student decreased enrollment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ May owe back difference</li></ul></li></ul>

**Funds disbursed after the start of a term:**

**Option 1:**

If a student commences attendance in all classes for which they were enrolled and awarded for, they are considered to have earned their award.

- ❑ If a student decreases their enrollment, they do not owe a repayment.
- ❑ Students who increase enrollment status throughout the term are entitled to additional funds for enrollment status increases. May not exceed need.

Students who make enrollment status adjustments (down) after disbursement and after the start of the term will be subject to completion of satisfactory academic progress requirements.

If a student’s enrollment is adjusted during the tuition refund period and tuition is reduced, and the student failed to commence attendance in all classes for which their disbursement was made, the grant must be reduced to not exceed the cost of tuition and fees.

If a student attended at least one class for all classes for which their disbursement was made, the award is considered earned and no revision is necessary. The enrollment level at which the student was paid, should be what is reported in CSAW.

After the Start of Term		
Earned 100%	Adjust Award Up	Adjust Award Down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A student who commenced attendance in at least one class for all courses which they were awarded aid.*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student increased enrollment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student decreased enrollment and did not commence attendance in all classes for which their disbursement was made.</li> </ul>

\* Further decreases to enrollment could impact SAP.

**Note:** For this section, “state grant” refers to all state grant and scholarship programs.

**Option 2:**

Using the institution’s census date which is the date by which the students’ enrollments are ‘frozen’ and upon which financial aid is disbursed.

- If a student decreases their enrollment before the census date, the award must be reduced to their enrollment as of the census date. Student owes the repayment and must be billed/reported accordingly, or school can return the funds.
- If a student decreases their enrollment after the census date, they do not owe a repayment provided they commenced attendance in the classes their aid was based on.
- Students who increase enrollment status prior to census date are entitled to additional funds for enrollment status increases. May not exceed need and the cost of tuition and fees.
- Students who increase enrollment after census date are not entitled to additional funds for enrollment status increases.

Students who make enrollment status adjustments (down) after disbursement and after the established census date will be subject to completion of satisfactory academic progress requirements.

If a student’s enrollment is adjusted during the tuition refund period and tuition is reduced, and the student failed to commence attendance in all classes for which their disbursement was made, the grant must be reduced to not exceed the revised enrollment intensity and cost of tuition and fees.

The student’s award should match the enrollment level as of the census date. The enrollment level at which the student was paid, should be what is reported in CSAW.

After the Start of Term		
Earned 100%	Adjust Award Up	Adjust Award Down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aid awarded at the enrollment level on the census date. *</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student increased enrollment prior to census date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student decreased enrollment before the census date.</li> </ul>

\* Further decreases to enrollment could impact SAP.

## REPAYMENT AND AWARD ADJUSTMENT EXAMPLES

Any practice other than in the examples provided below will require the institution to submit an alternate Repayment Policy to WSAC for consideration. The alternate policy must be clear and ensure that students receive their maximum awards, prevent ineligible students from receiving awards, avoid initial disbursements in excess of tuition and fees based on the guidance stated above, and adjust remaining eligibility appropriately to not exceed QERS.

***Note:** It is permissible for students to decline a WCG award in part or in whole. This permissible declination (as in C below) is consistent with existing WSAC WCG guidance, although is most common when a student has minimal need remaining and wishes to retain a full award for a future term. Students should be notified that this option is available to them and how it will affect them.*

### Repayment Examples:

- **Example 1 - OPTION 1:** Student registers for full-time (12 credits) and attends one class for each course they are enrolled in. Student has earned and been disbursed full state aid. Student then drops seven credits. No repayment is required but the student will complete the term with five credits which would put them on denied status for SAP if the school is utilizing state SAP policy. Additionally, the 12 credits would be used in calculating the student's pace which is newly aligned with the federal pace requirement.

**ACTION:** No adjustment necessary; award and enrollment will be reported at fulltime.

**RESULT:** Student not meeting state SAP policy or pace is affected (if aligning with federal policy) but can appeal for aid reinstatement. One QER would be used unless repaid.

- **Example 2 - OPTION 1:** WCG calculated and disbursed at full-time and student attends at least one class for each course for which funds were disbursed but does not complete any classes.

**ACTION:** No adjustment necessary; award and enrollment will be reported at fulltime.

**RESULT:** Student will not owe a repayment, but the student will have used 1 QER and be impacted by state SAP or pace.

- **Example 1 - OPTION 2:** Student registers for full-time (12 credits) and begins attending the term. On the tenth day of the term, prior to census date, student drops seven credits.

**ACTION:** Awards must be recalculated to 5 credits and if funds were disbursed at full-time, the student will owe a repayment for the difference between full time and 5 credit enrollment. There is no additional repayment policy, e.g. last day of attendance calculation since as of census date the state financial aid is determined to be earned. The college has the option of returning the funds on behalf of the student, so no repayment is owed by the student, thus reducing barriers for future enrollment.

**RESULT:** Student owes a repayment, unless returned by the college, but SAP will be based on 5 credit revised enrollment and will meet SAP requirements and are eligible for future financial aid if the debt is repaid. However, the repayment will prevent the student from receiving any further financial if the debt is not paid in full prior to the next enrollment period. .42 QER used. The student's pace would be calculated using 5 credits.

- **Example 2 – OPTION 2:** WCG calculated and disbursed at fulltime for 13 credits, then student withdraws from six credits after the census date. The student notifies the financial aid office that they wish to decline the refund and have the tuition refund returned to their WCG award and their award reduced to match their new enrollment level/QER. This may involve the student returning funds to the school to be returned to WSAC via CSAW so that their award/enrollment level reflects the lower amount. (e.g., full-time to half-time and aid returned to reflect half-time)

**ACTION:** Adjust student’s WCG award to appropriate enrollment level and return funds to WSAC via CSAW. Award and enrollment level will be reported at half time. If a student enrolls in and attends at least 3 quarter credits (or the equivalent) the student will not owe back WA Bridge Grant.

**RESULT:** Student’s WCG will reflect appropriate QER at awarded enrollment and student will remain in good standing for SAP (as long as all credits for which the award was adjusted are completed).

## **AWARD ADJUSTMENT EXAMPLE (EITHER OPTION)**

### **Example**

- WCG is calculated at less than full-time and disbursed at less than full-time. Student adds classes at any point in the term which changes their enrollment level to a higher level and the WCG award amount and tuition are increased.

**ACTION:** WCG Award MUST be increased to the enrollment level for which the student is enrolled—regardless of any alternative institutional policy or institutional census date. The award and enrollment level will be reported at the higher level.

**RESULT:** Student receives additional WCG funds and CSAW reporting is adjusted to reflect the higher enrollment level.

### **Alternative Repayment Policy Option**

Institutions may propose alternative policies to our office for review. WSAC will analyze alternative policies and may require adjustments to achieve consistent treatment of students in similar circumstances across campuses and support student success. Institutions will be notified if they are approved or require modifications.

Key considerations when developing alternative policies should include the following:

- Ensuring students receive their maximum awards
- Prevent ineligible students from receiving awards
- Avoid awards in excess of maximum tuition and fees
- Adjust remaining eligibility appropriately to not exceed QERs



## Repayments for Deceased Students

All repayments for deceased students are forgiven. Please forward proof of death for all In Repayment accounts to the Repayment mailbox using the secure email function in the Portal. WSAC will process the cancelation.

## Timely Management of Repayment Referrals for Institutions

Institutions must enter repayment accounts into the WSAC Portal under Transmittal using the Receivable Transmittal feature within **10** business days of the date a student withdraws or the end of the term, whichever is earlier. There are two types of repayment accounts: ***Institution to Bill and In Repayment.***

***Please note:*** *In order to report a receivable or Institution to Bill, you must have first reported awards and requested funds through CSAW for that student.*

**Institutions** may choose from the following options:

### 1. **Institution to Bill (has 2 subcategories):**

**Calculation Pending:** Under Institution to Bill, this allows you to flag a student in CSAW who has not met satisfactory academic progress and may owe a repayment but for whom you have not yet completed the calculation. You must enter a date that indicates the last date of the term or the student's withdrawal, whichever is earlier.

This will ensure that the student does not receive additional state aid elsewhere. You must complete the calculation and enter the dollar amount or convert to In Repayment within 30 calendar days from the initial date of withdrawal/the end of the term, whichever is earlier as reported above.

**Calculation Completed/student owes:** This allows you to report the student as Institution to Bill, with an attached dollar amount you are actively collecting on from the student. This prevents the student from receiving aid elsewhere while they are in a repayment status for state aid.

**All Institution to Bill accounts not paid in full must be converted to In Repayment Status prior to submission of the Final Interim Report, or the institution assumes liability and will have to repay the funds to the state aid programs.**

### 2. **In Repayment:** The institution has determined that a repayment is owed within the initial 10 business day window or is updating the status from Institution to Bill as explained above within the 30 calendar days from the initial date you determined they were no longer attending.

Accounts are transferred to our billing service within a short period of time and actively collected on by our contracted billing service.

The following chart summarizes the different repayment actions and the timeframe for completing those actions. Detailed information is provided in the following pages of this chapter and in the [Common/Messages and Files/Files, Forms, and Memos](#) area of the Portal.

REPAYMENT ACTION	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION		
	INSTITUTION TO BILL Under Review	INSTITUTION TO BILL Repayment Amount Known	IN REPAYMENT
STATE AID REPAYMENT RECORD ENTERED INTO CSAW	10 business days from the end of the term or date of withdrawal; whichever is earlier; enter date	10 business days from the end of the term or date of withdrawal; whichever is earlier; enter amount (Summer 2 CANNOT BE ITB AND MUST BE IN REPAYMENT)	10 business days from the end of the term or date of withdrawal; whichever is earlier; enter amount
REPAYMENT CALCULATED AND REPORTED TO WSAC	N/A – Repayment is under review and student is blocked from receiving additional funding	Immediately upon creating “ITB – Repayment Amount Known” record	Immediately upon creating In Repayment record
LAST DAY TO CONVERT TO “INSTITUTION TO BILL REPAYMENT KNOWN” OR “IN REPAYMENT” ACCOUNT	Must convert to either “ITB Repayment Amount Known” or “In Repayment” within 30 calendar days from end of the term or date of withdrawal; whichever is earlier <b>-OR-</b> The Institution is liable for the funds to WSAC	N/A	N/A
LAST DATE TO CONVERT “INSTITUTION TO BILL REPAYMENT AMOUNT KNOWN” INTO “IN REPAYMENT” ACCOUNT	N/A	Must convert to “In Repayment” prior to submission of your Final Interim Report Submission	N/A
LAST DATE TO REFER TO WSAC	If not converted to “ITB Repayment Amount Known” or “In Repayment” within 30 calendar days of date outlined above, institution becomes financially liable and must return funds to WSAC	Must convert to “In Repayment” prior to submission of your Final Interim Report Submission	Already referred to WSAC
LAST DATE TO ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR CURRENT YEAR “INSTITUTION TO BILL AMOUNT KNOWN” OR “IN REPAYMENT” ACCOUNT	N/A	Up to the date you convert them to “In Repayment” prior to the submission of your Final Interim Report	Never - Institutions are not permitted to accept payments once an account is referred to WSAC for collection.
LAST DATE TO ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR PRIOR YEAR REPAYMENTS	N/A	N/A	Never – Refer student to WSAC

**Note:** Summer 2/Trailer repayments may not be established as institution to bill and must be reported as In Repayment in CSAW. All summer 2/Trailer repayments must be entered by August 31 each year.

## Institution to Bill Accounts

The institution must create Institution to Bill records for accounts that the institution chooses to actively collect on during the academic year. Institution to Bill records shall be entered into the Portal within 10 business days of the student's withdrawal, or the end of the term, whichever is earlier. Doing so prevents students in repayment status from receiving aid at another institution by flagging them on the CBS Eligibility Checker (formerly named 'Cruncher').

The institution has two options under this category based on the timelines described above.

The institution may retain the repayment account within the academic year if it continues active collection procedures or if a student is making payments to the institution. Any remaining balance must be converted to In Repayment status prior to submission of your Final Interim Report. **The institution shall not accept payments from the student past the date you convert them to In Repayment.**

If the student repays the Institution to Bill obligation in full to the institution within the academic year, it is the institution's responsibility to remove the Institution to Bill account for that student as soon as possible after receipt of payment. **If the institution does not remove the record, then the Institution to Bill account will continue to appear on the student's record and the student will be ineligible for further state aid disbursements.**

A reduction in the student award shall correspond with funds collected within the academic year for Institution to Bill accounts.

Institutional refunds can be applied directly to student awards in Institution to Bill status and the award reduced in CSAW. Accounts that are In Repayment status require the institution to return the refunds directly to WSAC outside of the CSAW portal.

***Note:** Summer 2/Trailer repayments may not be established as Institution to Bill and must be reported as In Repayment in CSAW. All summer 2/Trailer repayments must be entered no later than August 31 each year. Students who withdraw must be reported within 10 business days as outlined above to ensure ineligible students do not continue to receive aid.*

## In Repayment

If an institution does not want to actively collect from a student, refer accounts to WSAC to commence collection activity.

***Note:** Once an In Repayment account is created, it cannot be canceled. In Repayment may only be canceled when it was determined that the repayment was created in error and the student never owed. Contact WSAC Receivables Coordinator for further assistance at: [repayment@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:repayment@wsac.wa.gov).*

To refer a repayment account to WSAC for collection, select the In Repayment status in the Transmittal function on the Portal. If an Institution to Bill record exists for the repayment already, convert the original Institution to Bill account to an In Repayment account using the instructions at the link referenced above.

***Note:** Repayments of less than \$50 should not be referred to WSAC.*

**If a student is a recipient of WCG, CBS, Bridge Grant, and/or PTC the repayments must be referred to WSAC simultaneously to ensure seamless and transparent billing to the student.** If the student does not owe a repayment in all programs, please report the referral for that program as “referral amount is less than \$50” and you won’t receive an edit on the student.

**As noted above, institutions have a total of 30 calendar days. The initial reporting must be entered within 10 business days. Repayments not referred within the time frames above will become the financial responsibility of the institution for failure to report. Institutions will be required to return the funds to WSAC.**

Accounts that are In Repayment status require the institution to return the funds directly to WSAC outside of the CSAW portal.

If students contact the institution regarding their repayment after it has been referred to WSAC, the institution **must** direct students to WSAC’s contracted billing service, University Accounting Service (UAS), at 844-870-8701.

***Note:** Institutions must enter repayments into the Portal before sending communications to students that refer them to UAS or WSAC.*

For students that have been referred to WSAC and have entered collections, please have them contact Financial Asset Management Systems, Inc (FAMS) at 1-800-399-4984 or at [www.famspayonline.net](http://www.famspayonline.net).

## **Authority**

Washington College Grant ([WAC 250.21.051\(7\)](#))

## **No-Show Repayments**

If a state grant recipient never attends courses in the term for which they received a state grant award, the state grant repayment amount is 100 percent of the award. If an institution is unable to distinguish between a no-show and an unofficial withdrawal, the no-show policy shall apply. The student is responsible for the repayment and will have used a quarter of eligibility. If the institution elects to return the funds in full on the student’s behalf, the student’s quarter of eligibility will be restored.

## **Institutional Errors**

Institutions are responsible for repaying WSAC for overpayments resulting from calculation errors. Institutions shall reduce the student’s award(s) to reflect the amount the student was eligible to receive. Once the institution returns the funds in full, the student’s quarter of eligibility will be restored.

## **Canceling In Repayment Accounts**

Once an In Repayment account is created, it cannot be canceled. In Repayment may only be canceled when it was determined that the repayment was created in error and the student never owed. Examples are proof of an updated last date of attendance, grade change, proof of high school diploma, etc.

Institutions may not accept any payment or apply tuition refunds for an In Repayment account and must forward all funds to WSAC. For further assistance, contact WSAC Receivables Coordinator at [repayment@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:repayment@wsac.wa.gov).

If it is determined that a repayment was created in error and needs to be canceled in the Portal, the institution must enter a clear explanation for why the repayment has been canceled. Any funds the student has paid WSAC towards the repayment will be refunded to the student by WSAC.

Cancellation of repayments created more than one academic year before the current year must be done by contacting WSAC at [repayment@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:repayment@wsac.wa.gov).

## **INFORMATION FOR CLOCK HOUR PROGRAMS**

In order to equate the clock hour programs to the credit hour programs, the following policy makes the annual award amount equitable for students attending both clock hour and credit hour programs.

### **Payment Periods:**

1. All clock hour students, except for their final term, must be reported as full-time students in CSAW. First payments are made at the beginning of the program for eligible students. Additional payments may be made for each 300 clock hours successfully completed and are reported within a quarter term payment schedule.
2. Additional payments shall not be disbursed until the previous payment's clock hours have been earned/completed.
3. For a full-time, two-term (600 clock hours) student in good standing, the student should be awarded for two payment periods (equivalent to two quarterly payments).
4. For a full-time, three-term (900 clock hours) student in good standing, the student should be awarded for three payment periods (equivalent to three quarterly payments).
5. For a full-time, four-term (1200 clock hours) student in good standing, the student should be awarded for four payment periods (equivalent to four quarterly payments).
6. For a full-time, five-term (up to 1500 clock hours) student in good standing, the student should be awarded for five payment periods (equivalent to five quarterly payments).

### **Program Lengths**

Clock hour programs must be at least 600 hours in length to qualify for state aid awards. The program must provide a minimum of twelve clock hours of instruction per week.

A final quarter payment request can be submitted for students nearing completion of their program who have between 75 and 299 remaining hours.

#### **Remainder Hours – Award Percentages**

75 - 149 hours	=	25% of a full-time award (report as less than half-time)
150 - 224 hours	=	50% of a full-time award (report as half-time)
225 - 299 hours	=	75% of full-time award (report as three-quarter time)
300+ hours	=	100% of full-time award (report as full-time)

## Academic Year Cross-Over Programs

If a payment falls in the cross-over between academic years, the school can select the academic year in which to request the payment.

Additional clock hours earned beyond a full disbursement that are clocked prior to July 1 of the next academic year may be carried over. For example, if a student earns 980 hours in one academic year and is awarded for two 450-hour terms, the 80 remaining hours may be carried into the next academic year.

## Clock Hour Payment Request Calendar

Payment periods are described as periods 1-5. Due to Portal limitations, the payment periods must still be referred to as Summer 1, Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer 2 (in corresponding terms).

*Assign the term based on the dates when the majority of the student's enrollment for each 300-clock hour time period will occur.*

Payment Period	Date Range	Term
1	July 1 – September 11	Summer 1
2	September 12 – November 22	Fall
3	November 23 – February 5	Winter
4	February 6 – April 18	Spring
5	April 19 – June 30	Summer 2

*Based on ten-week minimum between payment periods, five payment periods maximum.*

## PASSPORT STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS (PSSF) PAYMENT REFUND POLICY SUMMARY

Passport to Careers Student Support Funds are provided to the postsecondary institution (by WSAC) or apprenticeship program (by a contracted third party) and are used for the recruitment and retention of Passport eligible students.

Institutions with signed agreements and viable student support plans will receive the same amount of campus student support funding as what was received in the 2023-24 academic year.

Student Support Fund payments are typically valued at \$500 per student per quarter or 300 clock hours, or \$750 per student per semester. Student support payment amounts are reviewed annually and are subject to funds availability.

In 2024-25, institutions will receive the equivalent amount of funding as what was received in 2023-24. If you have any questions about student support fund amounts, please email [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov).

### **Student Support Fund Payment Process (for Postsecondary Institutions only):**

1. Institution awards student scholarship in the portal.
2. Institution requests scholarship funds from WSAC, WSAC processes scholarship payment through CSAW.
3. Student Support Funds are automatically “posted” in the portal.
4. WSAC processes the Student Support Fund payment *after* the college submits their quarterly WCG/CBS/PTC interim report, it has been approved by program staff, and then PSSF funds will be sent to the institution.

### **Student Support Fund Refund Policy (WSAC only):**

1. If the student enrolls, but does not attend, scholarship and Student Support Funds must be returned to WSAC by the institution.
2. If the student enrolls and attends classes, but withdraws, does not make SAP, or discontinues attendance and the institution has done their due diligence to recruit and support the student, WSAC will not require Student Support Funds to be returned. In these cases, the institution has upheld their agreement to participate through the Passport Addendum and has earned the Student Support Funds.

**Note:** *Scholarship funds should be returned based on the state’s repayment calculation policy and scholarship payments to the student are subject to repayment.*

### **Student Support Fund Repayment Process (Institutions only):**

When a Passport student scholarship is returned in full, the institution should document the Student Support Fund returned to WSAC and provide the following payment information:

1. Student name
2. Year
3. Term for the refund
4. Type of funding (scholarship or incentive)

Student Support Fund payment refunds need to be submitted to WSAC within the fiscal year that they were paid for.

**For example**, if funds were paid in Fall 2024 and through the reconciliation process, the student scholarship portion was returned for non-enrollment, the Student Support Funds should also be returned at that same time and within the same fiscal year for that student.

## CHAPTER 6

### CONDITIONS OF AWARD AND DIRECTIVES

#### **Forms Used to Provide Required Notification to Students**

Prior to the first annual disbursement of state financial aid, institutions must inform students of the conditions associated with their state financial aid award(s) by providing them with the Washington State Aid – Conditions of Award below.

Conditions of Award statements must be provided to students on paper or electronically.

Emailed Conditions of Award statements must display the Conditions language, in its entirety, in the body of the email, unless the institution requires students to certify their acceptance by filing a signed form or otherwise verifying receipt of the Conditions language. Institutions must maintain documentation that the state Conditions of Award were provided to awarded students.

WSAC strongly encourages institutions to inform students of their potential eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Adding a statement to award letters is one way institutions can inform students that they may be eligible for Basic Food benefits.

*Sample language you might consider incorporating into student communications:*

College students who receive the Washington College Grant may be eligible for Basic Food benefits in Washington. For more information about Basic Food assistance and how to apply: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/basic-food>

WSAC values institutional flexibility in best meeting our shared student disclosure obligations. Institutions may propose alternative Conditions of Award language varying from the statement below during the annual participation renewal process. Alternative Conditions language must still convey the points included in the statement below and will be evaluated for approval accordingly.

Institutions may incorporate state Conditions of Award language into more comprehensive conditions statements that cover other forms of financial aid, subject to WSAC approval during renewal.



## Conditions of Award Statement – Applies to Students at All Institutions Each Year

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### Washington State Aid – Conditions of Award

By accepting state financial aid, you agree to the conditions listed below. If you have questions or find that you cannot comply with these conditions, please contact your institution's financial aid office.

1. You must meet the requirements for Washington State residency.
2. You do not owe a repayment to any state grant or scholarship nor are you in default on a state student loan.
3. You must be enrolled in an eligible program and not be pursuing a degree in theology.
4. If you hold a bachelor's degree or the foreign equivalent, you are not eligible to receive state grant funds.
5. If you do not attend or if you withdraw from your classes, you may owe a repayment of all or part of any state funds you have received.
6. You must maintain the academic progress standards established by your institution in order to receive additional state aid.
7. There could be other circumstances that would require a repayment or reduction in your current award amounts.
8. You must meet all eligibility requirements for the state aid program(s) awarded.
9. The offer of this financial assistance is subject to, and conditioned upon, the availability of funds. Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and the institution through which the grant, scholarship, or work study is awarded, reserve the right to withdraw, reduce, or modify the awards due to funding limitations or due to changes in circumstances which affect your eligibility for the program(s).
10. If you fail to cash your check containing state funds or pick up any remaining funds by the close of the academic year, the funds shall be returned to the program at WSAC and treated as funds declined by you.

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The State of Washington is offering you financial assistance to help support your educational expenses. Please visit <https://wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview> to receive more information about financial aid, scholarships, work study, and student loans.

You may choose to voluntarily make financial contributions to WSAC in recognition of the assistance that you received. All voluntary contributions will be used to provide financial assistance to other students. Please contact [finaid@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:finaid@wsac.wa.gov) for more information.

## **Required Directive Form for Students at Private Institutions**

Private institutions must use the following WSAC Student Directive Form to record a student's decision on where to apply their state financial aid payment(s) each term.

The student's financial aid payment can be deposited directly into a student's account or disbursed in the form of a check based on their choice on the directive. In addition, institutions:

- Must not coerce or influence the student's choice on where to apply their financial aid payment.
- Will keep the directive in effect for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment at the institution, excluding approved leaves of absence and summer terms. A new directive is required if the student is not continuously enrolled.
- Must allow students to change their minds at any time, prior to disbursement, and follow their current directives at all times.
- Must remind students once a year that their current directive is still in place and that they may change it.

The student must sign and date the directive. The signature can be either a wet or an electronic signature. For electronic signatures, the institution must have assurances that only the student can access their signature page, likely through a portal that is name and password protected.

**State of Washington**  
**Student Achievement Council**

**STUDENT DIRECTIVE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF STATE AID**

Return this form to the **NAME of Institution** Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

You have been awarded financial aid from the State of Washington. Your designation and signature on this form will document your choice for funds to be applied directly into your student account or to be given to you in the form of a check. A state grant or scholarship recipient has the following two choices:

- Choosing to have the funds deposited to your student account permits the aid to be automatically credited toward expenses you may owe to the institution. This option allows faster processing of any refunds of financial aid proceeds that may be due you.
- Choosing to have state financial aid funds given directly to you means that state student aid will not be automatically available to pay for tuition and fees. You are responsible for using the funds to pay for educational expenses including any expense you owe to the institution.

**Please choose one of these options:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I choose to have state aid funds applied directly to my student account and automatically credited toward expenses I owe **NAME of Institution**.

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to have state aid funds given directly to me (not credited to my student account). I understand that I am responsible for all outstanding balances on my student account at **NAME of Institution**.

**Your choice will stay in effect as long as you are enrolled at this institution. However, you may change your directive for a future term by informing your Financial Aid Office in writing.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Make sure you check one of the options above and return this form to:

**NAME of Institution**

**Address**

**Address**

**Address**

## CHAPTER 7

### INFORMATION FOR INSTITUTIONS

#### INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in state aid programs an institution must:

1. Be a public university, college, community or technical college operated by the state of Washington; be a private institution whose home campus is located in the state of Washington and who is accredited by a Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) approved accrediting association; or be a nonprofit institution recognized by the state of Washington (as provided in [RCW 28B.77.240](#)).

Certain branch campuses, extensions, or facilities operating within the state of Washington, and affiliated with an institution operating in another state, may participate under certain circumstances. Such facilities must be either:

- A separately accredited institution; or
  - Operated as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom instruction to at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students for a minimum of 20 consecutive years within the state of Washington.
2. Be approved by a national or regional accrediting association that is recognized by the council and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and in alignment with [WAC 250-61-050](#).
  3. Participate in a fully certified status in the federal Title IV student financial aid programs including, at a minimum, the Federal Pell Grant program. Institutions not participating in a fully certified status will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for continued participation and may have additional conditions imposed by the office in order to maintain their participation in state financial aid programs.
  4. Demonstrate a continuing administrative capability to administer financial aid programs.
  5. Sign the “Agreement to Participate” and have it endorsed by WSAC.

#### AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

The **Agreement to Participate** documents an institution’s legal commitment to abide by all program statutes, rules, and guidelines. The agreement is designed for multiple years of use, typically for five years.

Each year participating institutions submit or certify their student maintenance budgets, Conditions of Award statements and delivery methods, state aid repayment, satisfactory academic progress, and packaging policies, as directed by WSAC for approval and renewal of participation in the following fiscal year. Additional supporting documentation may also be required.

For-profit and newly admitted non-profit institutions are required to submit additional performance data including, but not limited to, their most recent federal composite score, graduation and placement rates as validated by the institution’s accreditor, federal Cohort Default Rates, current enrollment levels and tuition costs, as directed by WSAC.

## STUDENT MAINTENANCE BUDGETS

Student budgets are reviewed to determine if the maintenance portion is within 10 percent of the Washington Financial Aid Association's (WFAA) maintenance budgets. If the institution's student maintenance budgets vary from this standard by more than 10 percent, the institution must provide an explanation justifying the variance.

## STATE OF WASHINGTON CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Prior to the first disbursement of state aid each year, institutions must inform state aid recipients of their responsibilities to the program(s) through a "State of Washington Conditions of Award" statement. Please refer to Chapter 6, Conditions of Award.

Statements must include the Opportunity Pathways link - <http://www.opportunitypathways.wa.gov> and must be presented or delivered to the student via paper or electronic means.

The statement does not have to be signed by the student.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

Per [RCW 28B.76.502](#) institutions must take reasonable steps to ensure that each incoming student participates in a financial aid workshop including, but not limited to:

- An explanation of the WCG program rules including Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), repayment rules, and usage limits.
- Information on campus and private scholarships and work study opportunities including the application processes, and overview or student loan options, consequences of default and sample monthly repayment amounts.
- Overview of personal finance
- Average salaries for a wide range of jobs
- Financial education
- Contact information for local financial aid resources and the federal student aid Ombuds' office.

For full context please see [RCW 28B.76.502](#)

## REPAYMENT POLICY

Schools must follow the state grant repayment policy as outlined in Chapter 5, Payments, Repayments, and Reporting. Please note that as of 2024-25 schools will now have two options for their repayment policy:

- **Option 1)** the current repayment policy where the students' state financial aid is considered 'earned' when at least one class for each registered course is attended.
- OR
- **Option 2)** by using the institution's census date which is the date by which the students' enrollments are 'frozen' and upon which financial aid is disbursed.

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

Satisfactory academic progress policies may be specific to state aid recipients and must meet the provisions of [WAC 250-21-010\(16\)](#), and the Satisfactory Academic Progress Chapter (Chapter 3) of this manual.

An institution may submit an alternative approach to evaluating academic progress that includes a plan for improved student retention and comparison data to ensure state funds are used efficiently. WSAC will initially determine whether to approve the alternative policy, then evaluate it over a specified timeframe, then determine whether the policy may continue to be approved.

## PACKAGING POLICIES

Policies should reflect priorities for awarding Washington College Grant, Bridge Grants, College Bound Scholarship, Passport to College Scholarship, and State Work Study funds (if applicable).

Policies must ensure that legislatively directed awarding policies are reflected, such as ensuring that each WCG eligible student receives the maximum award for which they are eligible for all eligible terms and ensuring that WASFA applicants are treated equitably. Additionally, policies must reflect that institutional gift equity policies do not apply to WCG or CBS programs.

[HB 1907](#) (2021-22 session) requires that postsecondary institutions that participate in state student financial aid programs have a gift equity packaging policy—allowing for a student who receives a private scholarship to receive up to 100 percent of the student's unmet need before any of the student's federal, state, or institutional financial aid is reduced. This provision does not apply to public community and technical colleges. (See Chapter 2 for more information on gift equity packaging).

## NOTIFICATIONS

The campus designee responsible for signing the Program Participation Agreement must notify WSAC within thirty days of material changes affecting the institution—including additional locations of the institution as applicable that may impact students eligible for state aid.

**WSAC must be notified immediately when a breach of information occurs (electronic, written, etc.). Note what steps are being taken to mitigate any impacts to the institution, its students, and WSAC systems.**

Material changes that must be reported to WSAC within thirty days include, but are not limited to:

- Participation status in Federal Title IV student financial aid programs
- Locations of main and/or branch campuses and other instructional sites
- Accreditation status
- **Contact information and or changes for key financial aid professionals**
- Institutional ownership
- Third-party servicers

Any findings (including preliminary ones) or discoveries resulting from an internal or external program review or audit shall be sent directly to WSAC.

## **PROGRAM AUDITS AND RECORDS RETENTION**

WSAC staff shall review institutional administrative practices to verify compliance with rules, regulations, and program guidelines. As outlined in the rules, the burden of proof for a grant recipient's eligibility lies with the institution.

Each participating institution must maintain intact and accessible records of student's application, receipt, and expenditure of state aid funds. This includes all accounting records, as well as the original and supporting documents verifying how the funds were spent.

The institution must be able to reconstruct the calculations and rationale for the student's eligibility and award, if requested by WSAC. An institution may keep records electronically.

If the institution keeps its records electronically, it must maintain source documents supporting the electronic data in either hard copy, imaging software or on microfilm.

If a program review or audit reveals that funds were improperly awarded and disbursed as a result of institutional error or failure to follow the appropriate rules and guidelines, the institution must repay the amount of the affected state aid funds to WSAC. The burden for repayment is on the institution, not the student.

### **Records Retention**

Records relating to the state aid programs must be maintained in accordance with [RCW 40.14](#). This law requires all documentation substantiating a student's eligibility for, and receipt of, state aid be maintained for six years in accordance with the Washington State Record Retention Schedule.

Financial Aid Administrators at public institutions must coordinate their records retention plan and schedule with their institution's records officer.

### **Reporting Fraudulent Information**

Colleges must report any suspected instances of potential fake/fraudulent applications, received by the institution, to WSAC as soon as they are identified. WSAC will need to review for any potential or actual loss of state funds.

## CHAPTER 8

### LAWS AND AGENCY RULES

**Revised Code of Washington (RCW)** — A codification of current statutes (laws enacted and amended by the Legislature).

**Washington Administrative Code (WAC)** — The administrative rules and regulations by which state agencies operate to execute the Laws enacted by the Legislature.

#### CHAPTER 28B.92 RCW

##### STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

###### Sections

- [28B.92.005](#) Financial aid application due dates and information—Notification.
- [28B.92.030](#) Definitions.
- [28B.92.040](#) Guidelines in performance of office duties.
- [28B.92.060](#) State need grant awards. (Repealed)
- [28B.92.065](#) Washington college grant program appropriations reduction.
- [28B.92.070](#) Persian Gulf veterans—Limited application of RCW
- [28B.92.085](#) Part-time students—Review of financial aid policies and procedures.
- [28B.92.086](#) Dual credit programs—Review of financial aid policies and programs.
- [28B.92.090](#) Aid granted without regard to applicant's race, creed, color, religion, sex, or ancestry.
- [28B.92.100](#) Theology student denied aid.
- [28B.92.110](#) Application of award.
- [28B.92.120](#) Office to determine how funds disbursed.
- [28B.92.130](#) Grants, gifts, bequests, and devises of property.
- [28B.92.140](#) State educational trust fund—Deposits—Expenditures.
- [28B.92.150](#) Rules.
- [28B.92.200](#) Washington college grant program.
- [28B.92.205](#) Washington college grant program—Financial need.
- [28B.92.210](#) Washington college grant program—Caseload forecast.
- [28B.92.220](#) Postsecondary institution student-level data—Education data center.
- [28B.92.225](#) Individual-level data—Certificates—Washington college grant program.
- [28B.92.230](#) Individual-level outreach—Washington college grant program.

**NOTES:** *Financial aid counseling curriculum for institutions with Washington College Grant (formerly state need grant) recipients—Financial education workshops: RCW 28B.76.502*



## CHAPTER 250-21 WAC

The guidance in this manual reflects the program rules for the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 250-21 – Washington College Grant.

### STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM—WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

#### WAC Sections

- [250-21-010](#) Program definitions
- [250-21-011](#) Student eligibility
- [250-21-021](#) Institutions seeking participation
- [250-21-026](#) Participating institutions
- [250-21-031](#) Institutional administrative requirements
- [250-21-041](#) Award procedure
- [250-21-051](#) Institutional fund management requirements
- [250-21-061](#) Program administration and audits
- [250-21-071](#) Student complaint process
- [250-21-081](#) Suspension or termination of institutional participation
- [250-21-091](#) Appeal process
- [250-21-100](#) Apprentice eligibility
- [250-21-121](#) Apprenticeship programs seeking participation
- [250-21-126](#) Participating apprenticeship programs
- [250-21-131](#) Apprenticeship program administrative requirements
- [250-21-141](#) Award procedure
- [250-21-151](#) Program fund management requirements
- [250-21-161](#) Program administration and audits
- [250-21-171](#) Apprentice complaint process
- [250-21-181](#) Suspension or termination of program participation
- [250-21-191](#) Appeal process

## CHAPTER 28B.15.012 RCW

### CLASSIFICATION AS RESIDENT OR NONRESIDENT STUDENT – DEFINITIONS.

- [28B.15.012](#) Classification as resident or nonresident student—Definitions.

## CHAPTER 250-18 WAC

### RESIDENCY STATUS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

#### WAC Sections

- [250-18-010](#) Purpose and applicability.
- [250-18-015](#) Definitions.
- [250-18-020](#) Student classification.
- [250-18-025](#) Classification procedure.
- [250-18-030](#) Establishment of a domicile.
- [250-18-035](#) Evidence of financial dependence or independence.
- [250-18-045](#) Administration of residency status.
- [250-18-050](#) Appeals process.
- [250-18-055](#) Recovery of fees for improper classification of residency.
- [250-18-060](#) Exemptions from nonresident status.

## **CHAPTER 28B.118 RCW**

### **COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

#### **Sections**

- [28B.118.005](#) Intent—Finding.
- [28B.118.010](#) Program design and student eligibility.
- [28B.118.020](#) Duties of the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
- [28B.118.030](#) Duty of school districts—Notification.
- [28B.118.040](#) Duties of the office of student financial assistance.
- [28B.118.050](#) Grants, gifts, bequests, and devises.
- [28B.118.060](#) Rules.
- [28B.118.075](#) Caseload estimate.
- [28B.118.080](#) Advising resources—Identification of officials, resources, programs, and students.
- [28B.118.090](#) Transmitting data to the education data center.

## **CHAPTER 250-84 WAC**

### **COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP RULES**

#### **WAC Sections**

- [250-84-010](#) Purpose.
- [250-84-020](#) Definitions.
- [250-84-030](#) Eligible applicant.
- [250-84-040](#) Program promotion to eligible students.
- [250-84-050](#) Tracking of scholars.
- [250-84-060](#) Eligibility for receipt of college bound scholarships.
- [250-84-070](#) Scholarship award.
- [250-84-080](#) Request for review and student complaints
- [250-84-090](#) Grant disbursement to institutions.
- [250-84-100](#) Program administration and audits.

**WASHINGTON STATE AID PROGRAMS**  
**PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION CODES 2024-25**

1010	University of Washington	4430	Olympic College
1020	*Washington State University	4440	Peninsula College
<hr/>		4370	Pierce College
		4450	Seattle Central College
2030	Central Washington University	4480	Shoreline Community College
2040	Eastern Washington University	4490	Skagit Valley College
2050	The Evergreen State College	4420	South Puget Sound Community College
2060	Western Washington University	4470	South Seattle College
<hr/>		4500	Spokane Community College
		4510	Spokane Falls Community College
		4520	Tacoma Community College
3080	Antioch University	4530	Walla Walla Community College
3090	Bastyr University	4540	Wenatchee Valley College
3100	*Cornish Institute	4550	Whatcom Community College
3230	City University of Seattle	4560	Yakima Valley College
3310	*DigiPen Institute of Technology	<hr/>	
3120	*Gonzaga University	5700	Bates Technical College
3110	*Heritage University	5710	Bellingham Technical College
3130	*Northwest University	5720	Clover Park Technical College
3240	*Northwest College of Art	5730	Lake Washington Institute of Technology
3140	*Pacific Lutheran University	5740	Renton Technical College
3150	*Saint Martin's University	<hr/>	
6889	Seattle Film Institute		
3160	Seattle Pacific University	6740	**Divers Institute of Technology
3170	Seattle University	6750	International Air & Hospitality Academy
3190	*University of Puget Sound	6840	Perry Technical Institute
3200	Walla Walla University	6884	**Stylemasters College of Hair Design
3210	*Whitman College	6887	**Evergreen Beauty College
3220	*Whitworth University	6890	**Paul Mitchell The School Richland
3500	*Western Governors University - WA	6892	**Paul Mitchell The School Spokane
<hr/>		6894	**Paul Mitchell The School Federal Way
4300	Bellevue College		
4310	Big Bend Community College		
4580	Cascadia College		
4320	Centralia College		
4330	Clark College		
4340	Columbia Basin College		
4350	Edmonds Community College		*Semester payment institutions
4360	Everett Community College		**Clock Hour institutions
4380	Grays Harbor College		
4390	Green River College		
4400	Highline College		
4410	Lower Columbia College		
4460	North Seattle College		
4570	Northwest Indian College		

## APPENDIX – MFI and Award Charts

### Median Family Income (MFI) Levels for 2024-25 Washington College Grant, Washington Bridge Grant,\* and College Bound Scholarship Program Eligibility

Family Size	65% (CBS Maximum)	70% (WCG only)	75% (WCG only)	100% (WCG only - Maximum)
1	\$40,500	\$44,000	\$47,000	\$62,500
2	\$53,000	\$57,500	\$61,500	\$82,000
3	\$65,500	\$71,000	\$76,000	\$101,000
4	\$78,500	\$84,500	\$90,500	\$120,500
5	\$91,000	\$98,000	\$105,000	\$139,500
6	\$103,500	\$111,500	\$119,000	\$159,000
7	\$105,500	\$114,000	\$122,000	\$162,500
8	\$108,000	\$116,500	\$124,500	\$166,000
9	\$110,500	\$119,000	\$127,500	\$170,000
10	\$112,500	\$121,500	\$130,000	\$173,500
11	\$115,000	\$124,000	\$133,000	\$177,000
12	\$117,500	\$126,500	\$135,500	\$180,500
13	\$120,000	\$129,000	\$138,000	\$184,000
14	\$122,000	\$131,500	\$141,000	\$188,000
15	\$124,500	\$134,000	\$143,500	\$191,500
16	\$127,000	\$136,500	\$146,500	\$195,000
17	\$129,000	\$139,000	\$149,000	\$198,500
18	\$131,500	\$141,500	\$151,500	\$202,500
19	\$134,000	\$144,000	\$154,500	\$206,000
20	\$136,000	\$146,500	\$157,000	\$209,500

*Washington Student Achievement Council analysis of 2021 American Community Survey data as published by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. All figures have been rounded to the nearest \$500 income range.*

Note: A CBS Scholar could be eligible for College Bound Scholarship funding for some years, and not eligible for others, if the family’s MFI level exceeded 65 percent in one or more years.

\*WA Bridge Grants are available to WCG recipients (not CBS eligible) who enroll in at least 3 credits, meet the 65% MFI, and do not qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. Amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. WA Bridge Grants are limited to need and are not prorated by enrollment level.

**Maximum WCG and WA Bridge Grant for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters  
for Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms**

<b>2024-25 WCG and Bridge Grant Amounts</b>					
<b>Institution/Sector</b>	<b>Median Family Income</b>				
	<b>0% - 65%</b>	<b>0% - 65%</b>	<b>66% - 70%</b>	<b>71% - 75%</b>	<b>76% - 100%</b>
	<b>Bridge Grant (not CBS eligible)**</b>	<b>(full award)</b>	<b>(50% of full award)</b>	<b>(24.5% of full award)</b>	<b>(10% of full award)</b>
University of Washington	\$500	\$12,378	\$6,189	\$3,033	\$1,238
Washington State University	\$500	\$11,887	\$5,944	\$2,912	\$1,189
Central Washington University	\$500	\$8,085	\$4,043	\$1,981	\$809
Eastern Washington University	\$500	\$7,523	\$3,762	\$1,843	\$752
The Evergreen State College	\$500	\$8,097	\$4,049	\$1,984	\$810
Western Washington University	\$500	\$8,232	\$4,116	\$2,017	\$823
Private Four-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$9,739	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$8,517	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$500	\$5,619	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562
Community & Technical Colleges	\$500	\$4,763	\$2,382	\$1,167	\$476
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$500	\$7,610	\$3,805	\$1,864	\$761
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369

Please note that annual awards may not be exceeded for 3 quarter/2 semester enrollments. If annual award amounts do not divide evenly, you must round up/down accordingly to ensure you do not exceed the annual limit.

\*Eligible students will receive more than these amounts if enrolled for more than 3 quarters or 2 semesters.

\*\*Bridge Grants are available to WCG recipients (not CBS eligible) who enroll in at least 3 credits, meet the 65% MFI and do not qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. Amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. Limited to need and is not prorated by enrollment level.

**WCG, WA Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters for Students Enrolled Full-Time for All Terms**

2024-25 Maximum WCG , Bridge Grant, and CBS Award Amounts for 3 Quarters/2 Semesters							
Institution/Sector	Median Family Income						
	CBS Max	0 - 65%	0 - 65%	Bridge 0-65%	66 - 70%	71 - 75%	76 - 100%
	WCG + CBS = Full CBS Award	Full WCG award	CBS Amount	Max WCG only (not CBS eligible) Bridge Grant lump sum**	WCG ONLY= 50% of full award	WCG ONLY = 24.5% of full award	WCG ONLY = 10% of full award
University of Washington	\$12,878	\$12,378	\$500	\$500	\$6,189	\$3,033	\$1,238
Washington State University	\$12,387	\$11,887	\$500	\$500	\$5,944	\$2,912	\$1,189
Central Washington University	\$8,585	\$8,085	\$500	\$500	\$4,043	\$1,981	\$809
Eastern Washington University	\$8,023	\$7,523	\$500	\$500	\$3,762	\$1,843	\$752
The Evergreen State College	\$8,597	\$8,097	\$500	\$500	\$4,049	\$1,984	\$810
Western Washington University	\$8,732	\$8,232	\$500	\$500	\$4,116	\$2,017	\$823
Private Four-year Non-Profit	\$12,633	\$9,739	\$2,894	\$500	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-year For-Profit	\$12,633	\$8,517	\$4,116	\$500	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$7,540	\$5,619	\$1,921	\$500	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562
Community & Technical Colleges	\$5,263	\$4,763	\$500	\$500	\$2,382	\$1,167	\$476
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$8,110	\$7,610	\$500	\$500	\$3,805	\$1,864	\$761
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$5,263	\$3,694	\$1,569	\$500	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For Profit	\$5,263	\$2,823	\$2,440	\$500	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$5,263	\$3,694	\$1,569	\$500	\$1,847	\$905	\$369

Please note that annual awards may not be exceeded for 3 quarter/2 semester enrollments. If annual award amounts do not divide evenly, you must round up/down accordingly to ensure you do not exceed the annual limit.

\*Eligible students will receive more than these amounts if enrolled for more than 3 quarters or 2 semesters.

\*\*Bridge Grants are available to WCG recipients (not CBS eligible) who enroll in at least 3 credits, meet the 65% MFI and do not qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. Amount can be a flat rate, lump sum payment for the year, or awarded proportionally across terms, whichever is in the best interest of the student. Limited to need and is not prorated by enrollment level.

**WASHINGTON STATE AID PROGRAMS**  
**PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION CODES 2024-25**

1010	University of Washington	4430	Olympic College
1020	*Washington State University	4440	Peninsula College
<hr/>		4370	Pierce College
		4450	Seattle Central College
2030	Central Washington University	4480	Shoreline Community College
2040	Eastern Washington University	4490	Skagit Valley College
2050	The Evergreen State College	4420	South Puget Sound Community College
2060	Western Washington University	4470	South Seattle College
<hr/>		4500	Spokane Community College
		4510	Spokane Falls Community College
		4520	Tacoma Community College
3080	Antioch University	4530	Walla Walla Community College
3090	Bastyr University	4540	Wenatchee Valley College
3100	*Cornish Institute	4550	Whatcom Community College
3230	City University of Seattle	4560	Yakima Valley College
3310	*DigiPen Institute of Technology	<hr/>	
3120	*Gonzaga University	5700	Bates Technical College
3110	*Heritage University	5710	Bellingham Technical College
3130	*Northwest University	5720	Clover Park Technical College
3240	*Northwest College of Art	5730	Lake Washington Institute of Technology
3140	*Pacific Lutheran University	5740	Renton Technical College
3150	*Saint Martin's University	<hr/>	
6889	Seattle Film Institute		
3160	Seattle Pacific University	6740	**Divers Institute of Technology
3170	Seattle University	6750	International Air & Hospitality Academy
3190	*University of Puget Sound	6840	Perry Technical Institute
3200	Walla Walla University	6884	**Stylemasters College of Hair Design
3210	*Whitman College	6887	**Evergreen Beauty College
3220	*Whitworth University	6890	**Paul Mitchell The School Richland
3500	*Western Governors University - WA	6892	**Paul Mitchell The School Spokane
<hr/>		6894	**Paul Mitchell The School Federal Way
4300	Bellevue College		
4310	Big Bend Community College		
4580	Cascadia College		
4320	Centralia College		
4330	Clark College		
4340	Columbia Basin College		
4350	Edmonds Community College		*Semester payment institutions
4360	Everett Community College		**Clock Hour institutions
4380	Grays Harbor College		
4390	Green River College		
4400	Highline College		
4410	Lower Columbia College		
4460	North Seattle College		
4570	Northwest Indian College		