2021-22 SFA Workshops
Residency & WASFA
Public Institutions
May 24, 2021
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Due to the number of registered participants, the chat function will be disabled as a group tool.

Please post all questions in the Q & A during the session.

Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.
Washington residency and state financial aid

Making residency decisions

Residency and state aid

Residency for WASFA filers
Who makes residency decisions for state aid?

Residency officer determines if a student meets residency requirements for tuition purposes.

Residency officer tells financial aid office if and how students qualified for residency.

Financial aid office determines which financial aid programs may be available.
Residency and WA state financial aid

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

- WA College Grant (WCG)
- College Bound Scholarship (CBS)
- State Work Study
- Passport to Careers
- American Indian Endowed Scholarship
- National Guard Education Grant

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

All 25+ ways meet residency requirements for these 4 programs
### The WCG/CBS five

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Financially independent students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) Financially dependent students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Students who move out of state at the end of high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Students who live in WA for one year prior to first term (residency affidavit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residency for WASFA filers

Students who aren’t eligible for federal aid

| Undocumented students with or without DACA | Temporary Protected Status | Pending asylum | Nonimmigrant visas |

Can meet residency requirements for state aid through:

| Residency affidavit (e) | OR | Qualifying immigration status |
Residency affidavit requirements (e)

By the time they begin college, students must:

**Through 7/24**
- Earn a HS diploma, GED, or equivalent in WA
- Live in WA for 3 years immediately before earning diploma/equivalent and then continuously after

**7/25 and after**
- Earn a HS diploma, GED or equivalent from anywhere in the US
- Live in WA for 1 year immediately before first term

Sign an affidavit saying they meet above requirements and will apply for US permanent residency when eligible.
## Does this apply to summer term?

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

## Can continuing students qualify?

- Continuing nonresident students may qualify if they lived in WA for one year prior to their first term.
Residency affidavit

Students should only submit once

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

Residency officers need WASFA “residency report” to know which WASFA-filers meet residency affidavit requirements

No additional documentation required unless conflicting info
WASFA filers who don’t meet residency affidavit

Must have qualifying immigration status:

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

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

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

Most WASFA filers will meet residency requirements through the residency affidavit.

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

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

Residency is determined by your school’s residency officer. If you see conflicting information, check in with them!
Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

What is the WASFA?

Awarding Guidance

Accessing the WASFA & Residency Affidavit
What is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)?

- The WASFA is for students who don’t qualify for Federal financial aid because of:
  - Immigration status/undocumented
  - Defaulted federal loans
  - Repayments owed on federal grants
  - Unable to provide selective service confirmation
  - U.S. citizen with undocumented parents/family members who do not wish to file a FAFSA

- Colleges may use the WASFA to determine eligibility for state and institutional need-based aid.
Like the FAFSA, students complete a new application each year.

Available beginning October 1 of each year.

Students access the WASFA at:
http://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families.
Data collected on the WASFA can only be used for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for state financial aid programs.

The privacy statement for applicants can be found on the WASFA registration page.

**WASFA Privacy Statement**

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

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

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

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

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

* As of 3/31 of each application year. **Awards based on Final Interim Reports
Awarding Guidance
Funding for students who complete a WASFA

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

WASFA runs parallel to the FAFSA

- To ensure “Equitable Opportunity,” students who apply using the WASFA must be given the same consideration as students filing the FAFSA.
  - Award utilizing the same process.
Students applying using a WASFA are to be verified in a similar manner to students applying with the FAFSA.

- If you find conflicting information, you will need to verify with the student.
  - Unlike the FAFSA, there is no automatic verification process.

Also (unlike the FAFSA) students filing the WASFA are not required to file tax returns.

- Evaluate the same as you would non-tax filers.
WASFA Guidance

- Financial aid staff determine if students meet the eligibility requirements for WCG, CBS, and PTC.
  - High school graduation/GPA, Median Family Income (MFI), Quarters of Eligibility (QER), etc.

- College Residency Officers determine student residency status.
  - Residency Officers may obtain the “residency report” from their FAO to get the WASFA residency affidavit information.
  - Financial aid staff should work directly with their Residency Officers if conflicting information is found.
WASFA Guidance

- Affidavit is part of the WASFA and campus coordination is necessary.
- Residency information is available in the WSAC portal with the option to download CSV. File.
- Will review how to identify students who may be affected by the 2021-22 residency changes in the next section.
WASFA Interface
Accessing Student WASFA

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

- Residency changes effective July, 2021
  - High school diploma/equivalent and 1 year in Washington (12 consecutive months) prior to enrolling in college.

- The 2021-22 WASFA is currently open and those students may need to be manually reviewed for eligibility.

- The 2022-23 WASFA will have the residency language updated.
View results onscreen or download results in .CSV

Option to select all applicants for a particular year and/or only new transactions.

- Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format by the financial aid office.

Many ways to search for individual students:

- SSN/DACA/ITIN, WASFA ID, Name, DOB, etc.
- Can download Residency information for students.
WASFA Interface Search Options

Search WASFA Applications

Must Select Academic Year

Show New transactions only

Search Tips:
- Leave fields blank to search for all applicants
- When searching, ensure you have correct Academic Year selected
On the WASFA Interface, select the Residency Data Only radio button, click search:

Results display on screen, or can be downloaded into .csv file.
The fields you will use for residency determination are highlighted in yellow on the screenshot below.

- Disregard the fields that are crossed off and greyed out.
## Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions/Subject</th>
<th>Email us at</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Administrators</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov">wcg@wsac.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– WCG/CBS/Award Questions</td>
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<td>Repayments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students – State Financial Aid Questions</td>
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<td>Unit Record Report</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov">unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WASFA Help</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wasfa@wsac.wa.gov">wasfa@wsac.wa.gov</a></td>
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### Online
- [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov)
- [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org)
Questions?

Email: WCG@wsac.wa.gov