



STATE OF WASHINGTON

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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Washington Scholars of 2009 -- Grant Q & A Sheet

What is the award benefit?

The award is a state-funded scholarship to help pay undergraduate educational expenses at the public and private colleges or universities in Washington State. Scholars may use the scholarship to pay any educational expense such as tuition, books and supplies, room and board, etc. ***It is the Scholar's responsibility to pay tuition or make arrangement with the school for payment of tuition.*** Public colleges may apply the grant directly to the student account, however, private colleges must disburse the grant directly to the Scholar.

A Scholar who chooses to attend a private college may receive the scholarship if the school agrees to match the state grant with institutional gift aid on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Most private schools do provide matching grants during the regular academic year, fall through spring.

Note: Scholars pursuing a theology degree receive an honorary recognition only, but are not eligible for the state grant.

What is the dollar value of the award?

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

Examples of the maximum grants payable to a Scholar enrolled full-time for this academic year (2008-09) are:

- ☛ \$6,574 - \$6,720 at the public research institutions (UW and WSU);
- ☛ \$6,720 at private colleges and universities (i.e., Gonzaga, PLU, UPS, etc.);
- ☛ \$4,701 - \$4,843 at the public comprehensive colleges (CWU, EWU, TESC, and WWU); and
- ☛ \$2,730 at the public community and technical colleges (i.e., Pierce College, Lake Washington Technical College, etc).

The actual grants paid for the 2009-10 academic year may be greater or lesser than these amounts.

When do I receive the grant?

Fall term payments are issued after the school has verified the Scholar's enrollment and GPA status (usually reported to the Board about ten days into the academic term). Winter and spring term grants are available about 30 days into the term.

First priority for payment is to Scholars confirmed by the school in the fall as enrolled during the regular academic year. Grants are permitted for summer term study if funds are available, again prorated among all participants.

How long may I receive a grant?

Each Scholar may receive a maximum accumulative benefit of up to eight semesters or 12 academic quarters of grants for undergraduate study, subject to authorization by the Legislature. Use of the award is measured solely on the number of academic terms the Scholar receives a grant, regardless of the amount paid or whether the student attended full- or part-time. *With the exception of the first year*, grants may be issued for non-consecutive terms of study. Full-time enrollment provides a higher grant value but is not required for receipt of the grant at public institutions. Private colleges may require full-time enrollment for the Scholar to meet institutional gift aid criteria (i.e., the dollar-for-dollar match to the state grant).

What are my responsibilities at this time?

- ☛ Complete, sign and return the “Award Response Form” to the address noted at the bottom of this page. If you decline the award, or fail to provide a timely response, your grant eligibility will be forfeit and the award will be offered to the Washington Scholar-alternate in your district. The response form may be printed from the HECB Web site at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/wsp.asp> by clicking “For new (2009) Washington Scholars.” You cannot submit the form online. You must mail a printed response to the HECB.
- ☛ Enroll at an in-state public or participating private college or university by fall term 2009 and remain continuously enrolled for one academic year (two semesters or three academic quarters). You may petition the Board for a waiver of the enrollment requirement due to compelling circumstances.
- ☛ Identify yourself as a Washington Scholar to the on-campus institutional grant coordinator to activate the award. This ensures that the school reports your enrollment to the HECB, a prerequisite to grant payment. The school will verify your enrollment and cumulative GPA to the Board each academic term before grant payments are issued. The list of institutional coordinators is available on the HECB Web site noted above.
- ☛ Remain a Washington State resident, and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.30. If the GPA falls below the minimum after the first two semesters or three quarters of grant receipt, you may petition the Board for probationary status. Probation allows you to continue receiving the grant for a limited time while working to increase your GPA to meet or exceed the minimum standard.
- ☛ Notify the Board of changes to your educational plans, especially if: (1) you need to petition for an enrollment waiver; (2) you will transfer between schools; (3) your grant is to be reactivated after a suspension of benefits or leave of absence; or, (4) you decide to pursue a degree in theology.
- ☛ Notify the Board of any changes in name, permanent address, e-mail address, or status (e.g., "stopping out"). Failure to do so may impact your eligibility to receive a grant. You must complete and return the annual survey (requested in May, due back in June). That information is critical to anticipate program funding needs.

For further information, contact:

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