



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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On-going Washington Scholars Grants -- Q & A Sheet

What is the award benefit?

The award is a state grant (scholarship) to help pay for undergraduate educational expenses at the public and private colleges or universities in Washington State. A Scholar attending a private college qualifies for the award if the school matches the state grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis with institutional gift aid. Most private schools do match the grant during the regular academic year (fall through spring).

Because the scholarship may be used to pay any legitimate educational expense (tuition, books and supplies, room and board, etc.), it is the Scholar's responsibility to pay tuition or make arrangement with the school for payment of tuition. Although the public colleges may deposit the grant directly into the student's account, the private colleges must disburse the grant directly to the Scholar.

Note: Scholars pursuing theology degrees 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 if funds are available, prorated among all participants.

How long may I receive a grant?

Each Scholar may receive an 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 grant aid criteria (i.e., the dollar-for-dollar match to the state grant).

What are my responsibilities at this time?

- ☛ Complete the survey and return it to the address noted at the bottom of the page. The survey may be accessed at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/wsp.asp> by clicking on "For Returning Washington Scholars." You cannot submit the form online. You must mail a printed response to the HECB.
- ☛ Maintain communication with the on-campus institutional grant coordinator to ensure that your name appears on the institutional list of Scholars provided to the Board. The school must verify your enrollment and cumulative GPA each term before grant payments are issued by the Board.
- ☛ Provide the Board with early notice of educational plan changes if: (1) you will transfer between schools; (2) your grant is to be reactivated after a suspension of benefits or leave of absence; or, (3) you decide to pursue a degree in theology. This allows the Board to anticipate and project program costs.
- ☛ Remain a Washington State resident and maintain a 3.30 minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA). If the GPA falls below the minimum standard during the first two semesters or three quarters of grant receipt, you may petition the Board for probationary status. The probationary period permits you to receive the grant for a limited time while working to increase your grade point average to meet the standard.
- ☛ Notify the Board of name, permanent address, e-mail address, or status changes (e.g., "stopping out" for any term). Failure to do so may impact your eligibility to receive grant payments. You will be asked to return annual surveys to assist the Board in anticipating current and future funding needs.

For further information, contact:

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