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Financial Aid

Webster University's Financial Aid Office offers a comprehensive program of financial aid resources for students needing supplemental financial support for their educational expenses.

To apply for federal, state, and institutional aid, a student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA can be accessed online at fafsa.gov. Webster University's academic year begins with the summer semester and ends with the following year's spring semester (Summer, Fall, Spring). Webster's Spring semester usually ends in the 2nd week of May. To be considered for priority financial aid, FAFSA must be submitted by February 1st of each calendar year. In general, the FAFSA opens October 1st of each calendar year, to apply for aid for the academic year. Students should make sure to complete the FAFSA and any other requirements communicated by the Financial Aid Office prior to the end of the previous academic year. As some funds are offered on a first come, first served basis, completing the FAFSA after the February 1st priority deadline, or failure to submit any required documents in the timeframe specified, may result in a reduction in overall gift and campus-based aid availability.

If a student chooses to borrow a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsibility to repay the full amount of the loan borrowed plus any interest that may have accrued, per the terms specified in the loan agreement.

Cost of Attendance

An important part of determining a student's eligibility for financial aid is calculating the Cost of Attendance (COA). In accordance with federal regulations, Webster University has developed a Cost of Attendance (i.e., budget) for the anticipated expenses a student may incur during the academic award year. These expenses include tuition and fees, housing, food, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

Housing and food can refer to either on-campus or off-campus living expenses. Expenses are also considered for students who live at home with parents or relatives. Travel expenses include items such as gasoline, vehicle maintenance and insurance. Personal expenses include reasonable estimates for laundry, clothing, and entertainment. Many of the elements in the Cost of Attendance are estimates, so it is possible for a student to spend more or less than anticipated during any given year.

How Financial Need is Determined

After the FAFSA is processed by the Department of Education, it produces the Student Aid Index (SAI). This number results from the information provided on the FAFSA. The SAI is an eligibility index number that a school's financial aid office uses to determine students' eligibility for certain types of student aid. Calculation of an SAI takes into consideration both the contributor's contribution (if applicable) and the student's contribution. For independent students, there is no contributor contribution unless they are married filing separately. .

Federal Financial Aid Student Eligibility

To be considered for federal financial aid, also referred to as Title IV funds, a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required.

Gift Aid

Gift aid includes scholarships (awards for academic achievement, community service, demonstrated leadership, artistic talent, etc.) and grants (funding to meet a student's need as determined by the federal formula used when filing a FAFSA). These programs reduce school costs but do not require repayment and/or work as a condition of receiving the funds.

Webster has a wide range of institutional scholarship programs for both incoming freshmen and new transfer students that are applied to tuition and other charges payable to Webster.

Scholarships and grants awarded to the student from outside sources are required to be reported to the financial aid office, so that these resources can be included in the overall financial aid offer. Students may report all outside scholarships in their Financial Aid Portal. Please report any outside financial resources no later than one month prior to the first day of classes. Please note, per federal requirements, the financial aid office may need to reduce previously offered aid to accommodate outside resources within the overall cost of attendance

The University reserves the right to revise any gift aid offered based on new information. Initial aid eligibility is calculated based on the information available at that time

Self-Help Aid

Student loans may be used to address any expenses billed by Webster University, as well as any personal expenses, or other educationally related expenses. Webster University participates in the Federal Direct lending program that offers Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS loans. Students are welcome to seek out a private loan for educational purposes from a lender of their choosing.

Federal loans allow students to defer payment until after leaving the University or dropping below half-time enrollment. Some loans carry an interest subsidy. All have long-term repayment and controlled fixed interest rates.

There are also privately funded alternative educational loan programs designed to supplement institutionally administered Federal loan programs. These are not federally insured and may or may not carry a higher, variable interest rate and/or may require a credit worthy co-signer with a favorable credit history.

Second undergraduate bachelor's degrees will be funded through loan programs only. For students working on a second undergraduate degree, federal and private loan programs are the only available aid programs. Federal loan limits for undergraduates are set at \$31,000 and \$57,500 for dependent and independent students, respectively. Any funds borrowed for the original bachelor's degree is deducted from the aggregate loan limit for the student's dependency classification to determine loan funds still available. The actual dollar amount awarded is determined by completing a FAFSA for each academic year of study, grade level, and overall enrollment level for the semester. Students will receive notification of funding eligibility for the year, via the financial aid offer.

Refunds

Financial aid refunds are processed through the Bursar's Office (Business Office).

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Satisfactory Academic Progress

According to the United States Department of Education regulations, all students applying for federal and/or state financial assistance must maintain satisfactory progress in their course of study to receive these funds. These standards stipulate, but are not limited to, maintaining acceptable grades, completing a sufficient number of credit hours per semester and completing a degree within a reasonable time frame. A student who does not meet these standards is not eligible to receive federal, state and/or institutional financial aid. All semesters of attendance are considered for satisfactory progress regardless of whether the student received aid. Adherence to the following standards will be necessary for continued financial aid eligibility. A student must be making academic progress regardless of whether the student had previously received aid. Before aid is disbursed, a student's progress will be evaluated annually after spring semester grades are recorded. Any student who has not previously received financial aid may not be notified of their status until they apply for financial aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is determined by:

- Qualitative Measurement (GPA)
 - Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average based upon institutional hours attempted to remain in good standing.
- Quantitative Measurement: Pace of Progression (Credit Hours)

Students must complete attempted hours according to the following:

- Completion of 67% of cumulative hours attempted (i.e., a student attempts 15 hours and must complete 10 hours).
- Course grades of "I", "WF", "W", or "F" are considered as attempted and not completed.
- Course grade of Pass/Fail, will be counted in the total number of attempted hours. If the course is successfully completed, the credits are added to the total number of earned credit hours but the Pass grade is not included in the GPA calculation. Failing a course of this type will negatively impact the progression and GPA requirement.
- Courses completed at Webster University as well as courses transferred and accepted by Webster University are considered in the Pace of Progression completion rate.
- Once a student completes the coursework for a class in which they had previously earned a grade of "I", they must notify the Financial Aid Office of the completion and the financial aid status will be reviewed and updated.

Maximum Time-Frame

Degree requirements must be completed within a specific time frame. The maximum time frame for an Undergraduate Degree at Webster University is 180 credit hours (120 credit hours x 150%). Hours earned at Webster as well as hours transferred and accepted by Webster are considered in this time frame. Any student who has exceeded the maximum time frame and/or who mathematically cannot finish the program within this period will be considered ineligible for financial aid. Webster University understands students may change their educational goals and programs of study and additional education is often needed to enhance career opportunities. These students may provide a written request for reevaluation of their status.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Monitoring

Students are reviewed for GPA, Pace of Progression, and Maximum Timeframe annually at the end of each Spring semester. Students who are on academic plan Probation for financial aid will be evaluated at the end of each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring), to determine whether their probationary status will be continued.

Suspension/Academic Plan Probation Status

A student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if:

- The student's cumulative GPA is less than the stated requirement in the Qualitative Measurement section.

and/or

- The student has not successfully completed the minimum 67% of attempted hours including transferred hours.

A student placed on financial aid suspension will lose eligibility to receive financial assistance. Students will receive a notice in writing of their suspension status from the Financial Aid Office.

Non-Satisfactory Progress Appeal

If there are extenuating or mitigating circumstances contributing to the inability to meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements, a student who has been suspended from financial aid may complete and submit a Non-Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form (available online or in the Financial Aid Office) for reinstatement of financial aid within thirty (30) days of notification. Students may appeal for one of the following reasons:

- The death of a relative to the student.
- Severe injury or illness of the student.
- Other extenuating circumstances which may include but are not limited to:
 - Severe illness of a relative for whom the student has custodial responsibility.
 - Emergency situations such as fire or flood.
 - Military reassignment, required job shift change, or job transfer preventing the student from completing a semester.
 - Separation or divorce.

Such an appeal must be accompanied by supporting documentation and be submitted to the Financial Aid Office which will forward the appeal to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeals Committee.

A student placed on a Financial Aid Academic Plan Probation:

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the Financial Aid Office by submitting another Non-Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form.

The Webster University Financial Aid Office will attempt to notify, in writing, any student currently receiving financial aid who is placed on Financial Aid Suspension. However, failure to receive

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the recipient has achieved satisfactory academic progress for renewal.

Other Scholarships

Scholarship funds donated to Webster University for specific needs and purposes are awarded to eligible students by the University's Scholarship Committee. These funds carry special eligibility requirements and conditions. (Unless otherwise specified, all scholarships are for study at the St. Louis campus.)