

# Financial Aid

Approximately 60 percent of students attending the University of Washington Tacoma receive federal, state or institutional financial aid to help them pay for their education.

There are four basic types of aid.

- **Grants:** Federal, state and institutional grants do not require repayment.
- **Loans:** Must be repaid, generally beginning six months after a student graduates or leaves school. Loans require repayment with interest charges of approximately 8 percent (depending on the program) accruing during the repayment period.
- **Work-Study:** Students can be employed either on or off campus, with the primary focus being that students enhance their field of study by working part-time in a career-related position.
- **Scholarships and Tuition Waivers:** Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement and in some cases the quality of the personal essay that is submitted as part of the scholarship application process.

## What is Financial Need?

For most aid programs, financial need is defined as the difference between what it costs to attend school and what the student can afford to pay. The amount a student should be able to pay is determined by a standard, federally mandated need-analysis method. The method establishes whether a student is financially independent (unmarried students under the age of 24 years may be considered dependent and in that case must provide parent information) or financially dependent on his or her parents and takes into account past earnings and benefits, a percentage of net assets and all other sources of support.

There is no income standard or other simple

method of determining whether a student will qualify for need-based financial aid. Any student who thinks he or she needs help should apply.

If a student has additional medical, transportation, child-care, or other unusual expenses not covered by the living allowance, the student may, by submitting a revision request with documentation (physician's statement, child-care, or baby-sitter bills, etc.), ask the Office of Student Financial Aid to consider the additional costs in his or her budget.

## Eligibility for Financial Aid

To qualify for federal financial aid, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or other eligible noncitizen
- Be admitted to the university in an approved program and meet minimum enrollment requirements (most distance learning, correspondence and nonmatriculated students are not eligible for financial aid)
- Not be in default on a previous student loan or owe a repayment on a grant or loan for which the student was not eligible
- Be registered with the Selective Service (if required)
- Be making satisfactory academic progress (The definition of satisfactory progress differs with different kinds of aid. In general, undergraduate students are required to register for and complete 12 credits per quarter; graduate students, 10 credits per quarter. Check with the financial aid staff for detailed information.)
- Provide financial information (including parents' information, where required)
- Be free of any federal or state drug-related convictions while you were receiving federal student aid

Eligible students are considered for funding based on three things: need, class level and state residency status. Need determines priority for those programs within the class level. Students with the fewest resources are given first priority for all aid funds.

## Application and Important Dates

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the basic application for most types of financial aid.

Students must complete and submit their FAFSA information directly to the federal processor online. Students must apply for a personal identification number (PIN) in order to complete the online FAFSA. PINs can be obtained by registering through [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). To access FAFSA on the Web, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Applications are also available from the Office of Enrollment Services.

Students should complete their FAFSA for the upcoming year (defined as summer through spring quarters) beginning in mid-December or early January.

A student who wishes to apply for financial aid to support study during summer quarter must submit a separate application.

## Priority Dates

For priority consideration, the FAFSA must be dated as received by the federal application processor by Feb. 28 of each year. Students are encouraged to mail the FAFSA no sooner than Jan. 1 and no later than Feb. 15 before the upcoming academic year. Students who submit their FAFSAs after the priority date, fifth-year students and part-time students may be eligible to borrow funds through the Federal Stafford Loan or the Federal PLUS/Federal Supplemental Loan programs. Undergraduates may qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

Because the priority date falls before the income tax deadline, students and parents can use estimated income figures if their tax information is not prepared. Tax and asset documents may be requested at a later date to verify information provided on the initial application.

Students who apply for financial aid should remember to keep copies of financial documents used in completing the FAFSA, should stay in touch with the financial aid counselor and should notify the Office of Enrollment Services of any change in address.

### Consortium Agreements

UW Tacoma students will occasionally need to enroll at a community college to complete admission deficiencies. The credits at the community college may be counted toward the student's total quarter enrollment credits using a Financial Aid Consortium Agreement. Both UW Tacoma and the community college must approve Consortium Agreements. If approved, Consortium Agreements enable the student to receive financial aid based on the total credits being taken at both institutions. Agreements must be submitted to the Office of Enrollment Services no later than three weeks prior to the start of the quarter.

### Scholarships

Consideration for need-based scholarships is given based on information received on the FAFSA (on-time applicants only). Scholarship lists are available through the Office of Enrollment Services and at websites listed later in this section.

UW Tacoma offers several full and partial scholarships available to fund study only at UW Tacoma. For information on scholarship opportunities, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 253-692-4400 or check online at [www.tacoma.washington.edu/finaid](http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/finaid).

### Online Resources

- The University of Washington Student Guide at [www.washington.edu/students/osfa](http://www.washington.edu/students/osfa)
- The U.S. Department of Education Money Matters at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov); click on Student Financial Assistance for federal aid information
- The Financial Aid Information Page at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) for general news and aid sources as well as for the fastWEB scholarship search
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### Student Tax Information

Student Fiscal Services in Seattle monitors student tax information at the University of Washington. This information includes data for use in claiming educational tax credits and deductions that you have paid for tuition and fees. In addition, the UW provides information to help you determine

if your scholarships, fellowships, grants or tuition reductions are taxable. The UW cannot provide individual tax advice. If you have questions, you should consult your tax adviser about your specific circumstances.

Scholarships, fellowships, grants and tuition reductions are not considered taxable income if they are used solely for qualified educational expenses. Any amount used for personal or non-qualified expenses are subject to tax. For more details refer to the IRS Publication 970: Scholarships and Fellowships.

Washington State's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program is a 529-qualified tuition program according to IRS regulations. This program allows individuals to prepay for students' college educational expenses. Funds from the GET program are used to reduce qualified educational expenses. The amounts used to pay these expenses are not taxable or reported to the IRS on the 1098T forms that the UW provides students for filing their tax returns.

Go to [www.washington.edu/students/sfs/sao/maintax.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/sfs/sao/maintax.html) to find links to the following topics:

- Education Tax Credits and Tax Deductions (Form 1098T)
- Print Your 1098T Information
- Nonresident Alien (NRA) Student Tax (Form 1042S)
- Employees' Tuition Exemption Tax Withholding
- Canadian Tax Information

For questions, please email [taxquest@u.washington.edu](mailto:taxquest@u.washington.edu) or call 206-221-2621 for assistance.

### Financial Aid Program Eligibility

	UNDERGRADUATE Washington Resident	UNDERGRADUATE Nonresident	GRADUATE Washington Resident	GRADUATE Nonresident
Federal Pell Grant	■	■		
Federal Supplemental Grant	■	■		
State Need Grant/SSIG	■			
University Tuition Exemption	■		■	
University Grant	■		■	
Academic Scholarship	■		■	
Federal Perkins Student Loan	■	■	■	■
Federal Direct Stafford Loan	■	■	■	■
Federal Direct Plus Loan	■	■		
Federal and State Work Study	■	■	■	■