

Financial Information

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 in the summer semester and ends in the following year spring semester (Summer, Fall, Spring). To be considered for priority financial aid offer, the FAFSA should be submitted by February 1st. Students may complete the FAFSA through June 30th of the academic year; however, this may result in limited aid eligibility. In addition to the annual FAFSA, a student needs to complete and submit the Webster University Financial Aid Application available online at webster.edu/financialaid/forms.

If a student obtains a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsibility to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest, less the amount of any refund, and that, if the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of the moneys not paid from federal student financial aid funds.

Cost of Attendance

An important part of determining a student's eligibility for financial aid is calculating a Cost of Attendance. In accordance with federal regulations, Webster University has developed a Cost of Attendance (i.e., budget) for anticipated expenses a student may incur during the current school year. These expenses include tuition, room, board, books and supplies, travel and personal. Room and board can refer to either on campus or off-campus living expenses, depending upon a student's response on the FAFSA. 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 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 Federal Processor, it produces an expected family contribution (EFC) amount. The EFC is the amount of money that a family is expected to contribute toward the price of the student's education from its income and assets. There is a different need analysis formula for each of three student groups: dependent students, independent students with no dependents, and independent students with dependents. The EFC takes into consideration both the parent contribution and the student contribution. Generally, "family contribution" refers to both of these combined. For independent students, there is no parent contribution.

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 awarded directly to the student from outside sources are added to the offer letter, becoming part of the total aid package. The amount of the private aid can impact eligibility in other programs as can the criteria of the program itself. It is important for all students to provide information regarding the selection and renewal (if applicable) criteria, the amount and anticipated disbursement date for any outside scholarship or grant offered to them to the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible to insure any impact on other aid or charges can be determined.

The University reserves the right to transfer funds from one gift aid program to another. Aid eligibility is calculated based on the information available at that time. If changes occur or additional information is obtained, this can affect the source and amount from which aid is ultimately provided.

Self-Help Aid

Student loans (repaid with interest after leaving the University or enrolled less than half-time) may reduce both direct (tuition, fees, campus residence) and indirect costs (living expenses, transportation, books, day care). Federal work study employment eligibility directly provides the student the ability to earn money to help off-set the cost of attendance.

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 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, may require a credit worthy cosigner with a favorable credit history.

Second undergraduate degrees may 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. There are maximum allowable loan levels from the Federal Stafford Direct Student Loan Programs for independent or dependent undergraduate course work. Any money borrowed for the original baccalaureate degree would be deducted from the ceiling to determine loan funds still available. The actual dollar amount is determined by filing a FAFSA for each academic year of study. Students will receive notification of funding eligibility per year and the criteria to receive and maintain that funding.

Refunds

Financial aid refunds are processed through the Bursar Office.

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

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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 Qualitative Measurement, Pace of Progression, and Maximum Time-Frame annually at the end of each Spring semester. Students who are on academic plan probation will be evaluated at the end of each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring).

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

A student who has been suspended from financial aid may complete and submit a Non-Satisfactory Progress Appeal Form (available online or in the Financial Aid Office) for reinstatement of financial aid within thirty (30) days of notification, if there are extenuating or mitigating circumstances contributing to their inability to meet the requirements. 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 documents and be submitted to the Financial Aid Office who will forward the appeal to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee.

A student placed on a Financial Aid Academic Plan Probation:

- Will be reviewed at the end of each semester for continued eligibility.
- Must achieve a Qualitative Measurement (GPA listed above) and Pace of Progression (67% of attempted hours completed) each semester.
- Will lose all financial aid eligibility in future semesters and be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if either or both measurements are not achieved with no opportunity for appeal.

Reinstatement

A student who has been suspended from financial aid for failing to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress and has not had an appeal accepted may be eligible for reinstatement if they enroll in courses at their own expense and meets the criteria listed for cumulative Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students must notify the Financial Aid Office by submitting another Non-Satisfactory 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 such notification does not relieve the student of the requirement to

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read, understand and follow the Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for Financial Aid Recipients.

University Withdrawal

If a student fully withdraws from the university, the Bursar Office may adjust their charges based upon their withdrawal date and the Webster University Refund Policy. For the university refund policy, refer to the University Business Office website. Regardless of any adjustment to a student's charges, if the student fully withdraws from the university, financial aid may be adjusted based on the percentage of the semester completed before withdrawal. In some cases, Federal Return of Title IV Funds regulations may require that aid be returned to the federal government for students who withdraw from Webster University. Financial aid is awarded for the entire term and if a student withdraws prior to the end of a term, then the Return of Title IV Fund rules will determine how much financial aid has been earned.

The student can keep the earned amount for the term, but the unearned portion must be immediately returned to the federal government. In some situations, this will leave the student with a balance owed to the university. A student should contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from a course or term to understand the effects this action may cause to financial aid eligibility.

Veterans' Educational Benefits

Webster University courses of study are approved for veterans' educational benefits in compliance with prescribed regulations by special approval agencies in each state and for each foreign country where the University offers programs. Non-degree students are not eligible for VA educational benefits.

The regional VA office will be notified of the date on which a student officially ceases attendance if veterans' educational benefits apply. Except under extenuating circumstances, students receiving VA benefits who withdraw from a course will be reported to the VA offices as making unsatisfactory progress.

Records of progress are kept by the institution on both veteran and non-veteran students. Progress records are furnished to all students at the end of each scheduled term. The policy and regulations regarding student standards of progress for graduation are detailed under Undergraduate Grading Policy of the Academic Policies and Information section of this catalog. Additional information may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar at the St. Louis home campus.

Veterans who provide Webster University with a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance from the VA under chapter 31 or 33 will be allowed to access classes, libraries or other institutional facilities even if payment from the VA is delayed. Students will not need to seek additional funding or incur late fees due to a delayed disbursement.

Any conduct that is detrimental to the school and/or other students will result in the termination of VA educational benefits. The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for financial aid also applies to VA educational benefits.

Scholarship Programs

Webster University funds the Webster University Scholarship Program through the University's annual operating budget.

The following are application guidelines:

1. Applicants are seeking their first baccalaureate degree.
2. Applicants have a minimum cumulative grade average of B or better (as calculated by Webster University) on all prior work attempted in high school and/or college.
3. Applicants are accepted to the University as a degree-seeking student by April 1st (freshmen) or June 1st (transfers). The deadline for international students is March 1st. Some scholarships require a separate application and have deadlines as early as February 15th. Please consult the Scholarship page at www.webster.edu/financialaid/scholarships.html for more information.
4. Applicants must enroll as full-time students and take 13 or more credit hours in each semester. (A limited number of scholarships for part-time students are offered.)

To be considered for Webster University scholarship funds, the following items must be submitted:

- Completed admission application.
- Secondary or postsecondary transcripts.
- ACT or SAT composite scores (freshmen only).

Some scholarships require a separate application form, which may be obtained in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or online at <http://www.webster.edu/admissions>. The University's decision is communicated in writing, normally within two weeks of committee review. The selection process for scholarship candidates is competitive and scholarship funds are awarded by the University without regard to financial need. Awards apply only to fall and spring semester tuition charges at Webster. Applicants who are accepted or submit required credentials after the scholarship application deadline are considered only if funds remain. Scholarship funds are only applied to tuition costs. Need-based financial assistance is also available to U.S. citizens and others who meet eligibility guidelines.

Scholarship Process

Scholarship decisions are based on the University's evaluation of an applicant's previous academic background.

Freshmen Academic Scholarships

Freshman applicants will be considered for scholarship based upon the applicant's academic grades in high school, class rank in high school and SAT or ACT composite scores. The applicant's essay, résumé of school/community activities and letters of recommendation are also considered in the awarding of academic scholarships.

Transfer Academic Scholarships

Transfer applicants who have successfully completed at least 30 college-level, graded, transferable credit hours will be considered for scholarship based on the cumulative post-secondary grade point average (GPA).

An applicant who has successfully completed fewer than 30 credit hours must also submit a high school transcript. Scholarship

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decisions for these students are normally based on the cumulative postsecondary GPA and the high school transcript.

International Academic Scholarships

International applicants will be considered for merit-based International Academic Scholarship based upon the scholarship application, applicant's cumulative grade point average (GPA) at high school and/or university, and essay.

Eligibility Notification

A scholarship applicant receives written notification of the University's decision. A student who is awarded a Webster University scholarship receives a contract that details the amount, eligibility requirements for the disbursement of funds and the conditions for renewal. Webster University scholarships apply to tuition only at the University and are not linked to a student's major area of study.

Academic Scholarship Renewal

Webster University scholarships are renewable if the recipient makes satisfactory academic progress as defined in the scholarship contract, maintains continuous enrollment in a minimum of 13 credit hours each semester at Webster and has not exceeded eight full time semesters for freshmen and four full time semesters for transfer students. Student records are checked at the end of the spring semester to determine whether 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.)

This page was modified on 04 August 2020.

Please see the Undergraduate Catalog Addendum to view changes that were made.