



Washington College Grant (WCG), WGC- Connect & Repayments

Gabriele Matull Worst, Associate Director
October 18, 2023





What Will We Be Covering Today?



What is WA Grant?

Overview of WCG – Connect (WCG-C)

Overview of Washington College Grant (WCG)

State Aid Repayment

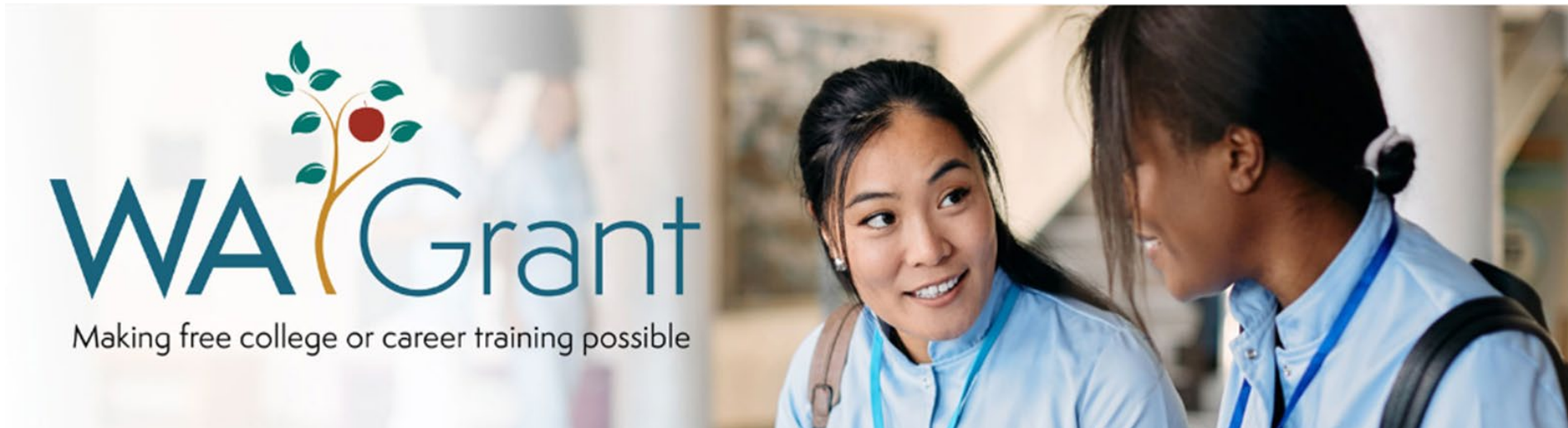
WA Bridge Grant



WA Grant



What is the Washington College Grant (WA Grant)



Washington State has made a groundbreaking commitment to financial aid for low- and middle-income people of all ages with the **Washington College Grant** (WA Grant). This grant gives eligible people more money for more types of education like certificate programs, job training, apprenticeships, or college.



The WA Grant provides need-based financial aid to income-eligible resident students pursuing education beyond high school.

- WA Grant is an entitlement, so any student who qualifies based on income and other program requirements, is eligible to receive the grant.





WSAC Programs



Washington College Grant is a program under the WA Grant Umbrella.

WCG for
College

WCG
Connect
(WCG-C)

WA Grant
Apprenticeship
(WG-A)



WCG Program Requirements

A Student Must:

- ☑ Be a resident of Washington state
- ☑ Demonstrate financial need
 - ☑ Complete FAFSA/WASFA
- ☑ Have earned a high school diploma or equivalent

- ☑ Attend an approved participating institution or apprenticeship program
- ☑ Not be pursuing a degree in theology
- ☑ Not be in default or owe a repayment on another state financial program



Income eligibility is determined by the Median Family Income (MFI) Chart.



Family Size	65% (CBS Maximum)	70% (WCG only)	75% (WCG only)	100% (WCG only - Maximum)
1	\$38,000	\$41,000	\$44,000	\$58,500
2	\$49,500	\$53,500	\$57,500	\$76,500
3	\$61,500	\$66,000	\$70,500	\$94,500
4	\$73,000	\$78,500	\$84,000	\$112,500
5	\$84,500	\$91,000	\$97,500	\$130,500
6	\$96,500	\$104,000	\$111,000	\$148,000

Portion of 2023-24 MFI chart



How much can a student get? (by income)

Award amounts vary based on family size and income.

Family Size	Full Award	Partial Award
 Eligible Student Family of 1	Income \$38,000 or less	Income Up to \$58,500
 Eligible Student Family of 4	Income \$73,000 or less	Income Up to \$112,500



A map of the state of Washington is shown in a light gray color. A large, semi-transparent teal rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the map, extending from the top to the bottom of the page. The text "Washington College Grant" is centered in white on this teal background.

Washington College Grant



Washington College Grant

WCG for
College

- » **WCG is one of the most generous financial aid programs in the country.**
- » **WCG gives eligible students money for more types of education, like certificate programs, job training, apprenticeships, or college.**
- » **WCG does not require full time enrollment.**
- » **WCG works with other financial aid programs, allowing eligible students to have, not only funding for tuition, but other living expenses.**





Who is eligible?



Washington residents (including people without Citizenship)



Recent high school graduates or working-age adults



Low- to middle-income families and individuals



People who enroll in approved programs, part-time or full-time





WCG Maximum Usage Time Frame

Recipients may receive the equivalent of
5 full-time years of maximum usage.

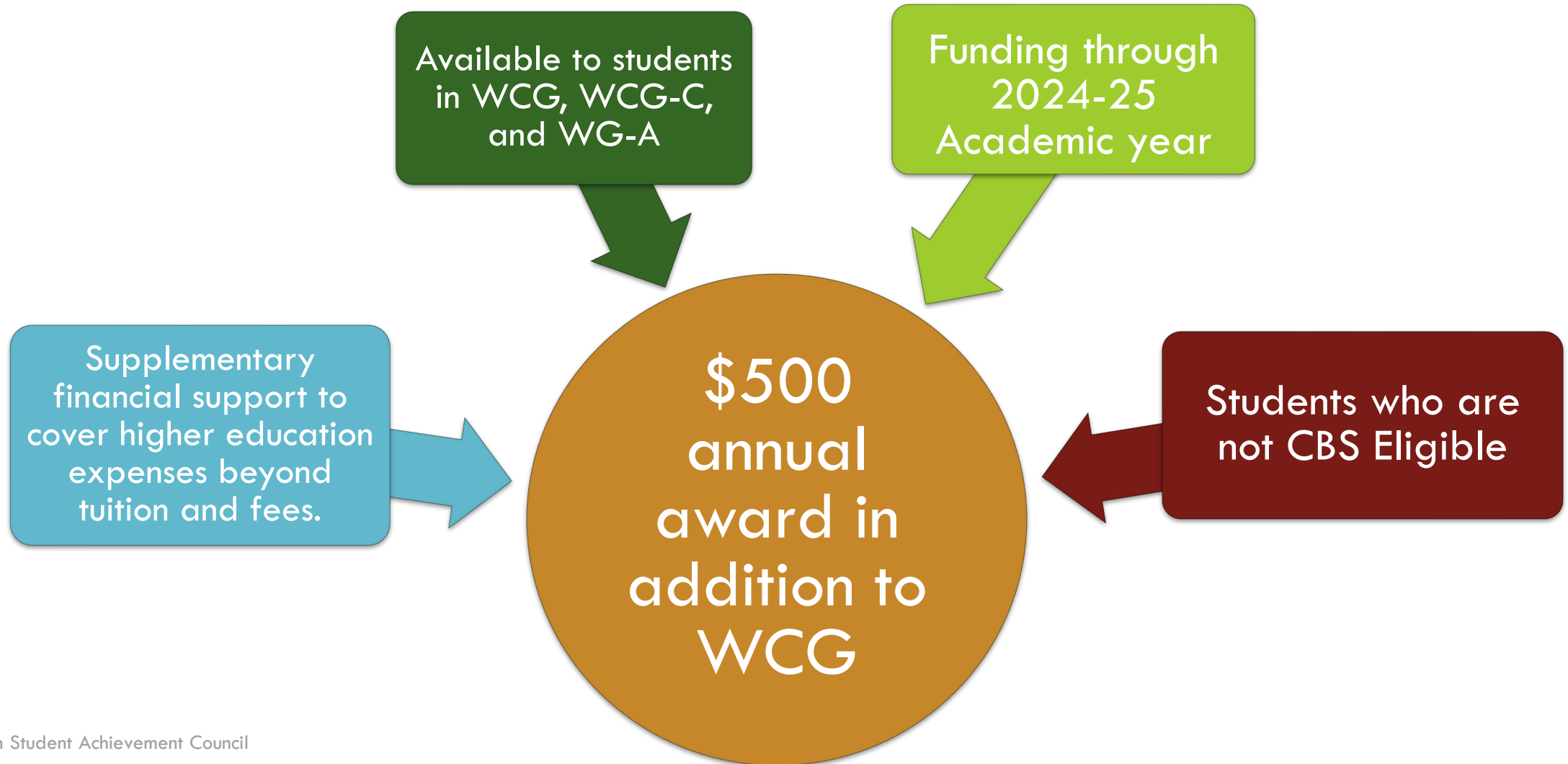
15 Quarters

10 Semesters

Equivalent
Clock Hours



Washington Bridge Grant





Who is Eligible for Washington Bridge Grant?

Students who:

Receive a maximum Washington College Grant award and still have need remaining;

Enroll in at least 3 credits at an eligible institution; and

Meet satisfactory academic progress.

Award Amounts for the 2023-24 Academic Year

2023-24 WCG and Bridge Grant Amounts 4-Year Institutions					
4-Year Institution/Sector	Median Family Income				
	0% - 65% Bridge Grant (not CBS eligible)	0% - 65% (full award)	66% - 70% (50% of full award)	71% - 75% (24.5% of full award)	76% - 100% (10% of full award)
University of Washington	\$500	\$11,956	\$5,978	\$2,929	\$1,196
Washington State University	\$500	\$11,536	\$5,768	\$2,826	\$1,154
Central Washington University	\$500	\$7,693	\$3,847	\$1,885	\$769
Eastern Washington University	\$500	\$7,261	\$3,631	\$1,779	\$726
The Evergreen State College	\$500	\$7,802	\$3,901	\$1,911	\$780
Western Washington University	\$500	\$7,950	\$3,975	\$1,948	\$795
Private Four-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$9,739	\$4,870	\$2,386	\$974
Private Four-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$8,517	\$4,259	\$2,087	\$852
WGU Washington	\$500	\$5,619	\$2,810	\$1,377	\$562



Award Amounts for the 2023-24 Academic Year

WG-Apprenticeship 

2023-24 WCG and Bridge Grant Amounts 2-Year Institutions					
2-Year Institution/Sector	Median Family Income				
	0% - 65%	0% - 65%	66% - 70%	71% - 75%	76% - 100%
	Bridge Grant (not CBS eligible)	(full award)	(50% of full award)	(24.5% of full award)	(10% of full award)
Community & Technical Colleges	\$500	\$4,573	\$2,287	\$1,120	\$457
CTC Applied Bachelor's	\$500	\$7,322	\$3,661	\$1,794	\$732
Private Two-Year Non-Profit	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369
Private Two-Year For-Profit	\$500	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$692	\$282
Northwest Indian College - Tribal College	\$500	\$3,694	\$1,847	\$905	\$369





Washington College Grant – Connect



Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

WCG
Connect
(WCG-C)

2SHB 1835 (2022) allows for automatic WCG income eligibility for students receiving any of the following public benefit programs:

- Aged, blind, or disabled assistance (**ABD**) benefits
- Essential needs and housing support program (**HEN**) benefits
- Pregnant women assistance program (**PWA**) financial grants

Effective beginning July 1, 2023, for the 2023-24 Academic Year and beyond



WCG-C Goal

The Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C) is intended to reduce the initial barrier to enrollment of a financial aid application.

These students will be verified as meeting the income requirement for WCG without having to complete a FAFSA or WASFA.



Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

Students who meet eligibility under this category are referred to being eligible under the Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C).

Program is still WCG, just a different way to qualify.



Washington College Grant – Connect (WCG-C)

WCG-Connect Eligibility

- Be in ABD, HEN, or PWA
- Must meet residency and all program requirements
- FAFSA or WASFA **not** required
- Qualify for maximum WCG award
- Qualify for WA Bridge Grant




Awarding Requirements

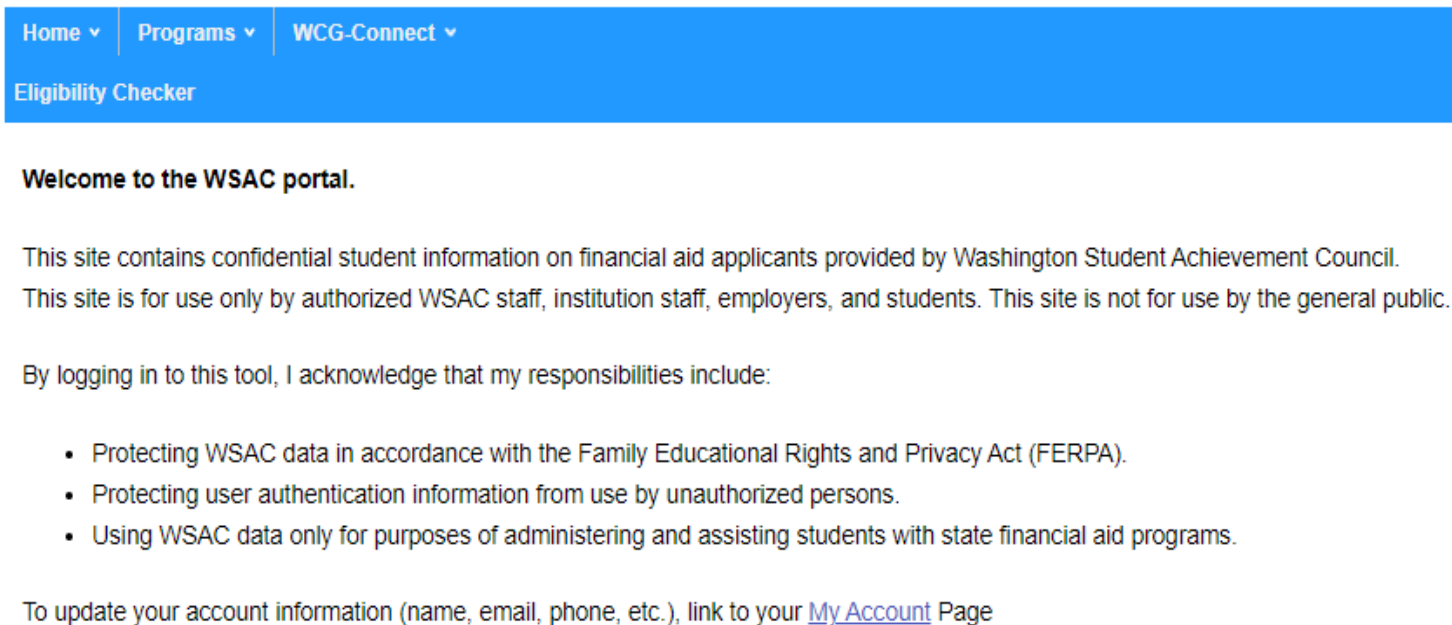
- **WCG-C students who filed FAFSA or WASFA**
 - Must be awarded **maximum WCG even if MFI is over 65%**
 - Awards will need to be adjusted
 - Award WA Bridge Grant

- **Awarding students CBS and/or PTC**
 - Must have a FAFSA or WASFA
 - MFI must be met and is not included under WCG-Connect
 - CBS students not eligible to receive the WA Bridge Grant



WCG-C Eligibility Checker

- WSAC has built the **WCG-C Eligibility Checker** as a way for schools to identify their students.
- To access the Eligibility Checker, log into the Portal and go to Home > Programs > WCG-Connect. 
- Click on Eligibility Checker.



The screenshot shows the WSAC portal interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the following menu items: Home ▾, Programs ▾, and WCG-Connect ▾. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "Eligibility Checker". The main content area contains the following text:

Welcome to the WSAC portal.

This site contains confidential student information on financial aid applicants provided by Washington Student Achievement Council. This site is for use only by authorized WSAC staff, institution staff, employers, and students. This site is not for use by the general public.

By logging in to this tool, I acknowledge that my responsibilities include:

- Protecting WSAC data in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Protecting user authentication information from use by unauthorized persons.
- Using WSAC data only for purposes of administering and assisting students with state financial aid programs.

To update your account information (name, email, phone, etc.), link to your [My Account](#) Page



WCG-C Eligibility Checker

Last Name ⌵	First Name ⌵	MI	SSN ⌵	Birth Date ▾	WCG-C Eligible Year ⌵	WCG QER ⌵	CBS ⌵	In Repayment ⌵	Last DSHS Report ⌵
	JONATHAN		👁️.....		2023-2024	1 🔗			Apr 2023
SMITH		R	👁️.....		2023-2024	14 🔗		Yes \$	Apr 2023
		C	👁️.....		2023-2024	11.75 🔗			Apr 2023
		A	👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023
	JAMES		👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Mar 2023
	KEVIN		👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023
MORRISON			👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023
			👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023
	SIMON		👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023
	RACHEL		👁️.....		2023-2024	15			Apr 2023



Search results will be Provide the following information for your students.

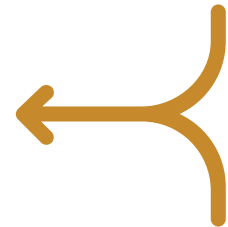


WCG-C CSAW Information

In the student detail, WCG-C students will have “Eligible under WCG-C” indicated.

Hover over this to view the eligible years.

Click on the link to go back to the Eligibility Checker for that student.



7.500 WCG QER [i](#)
[Eligible under WCG-C \[i\]\(#\)](#)



WCG-Connect Eligibility


Eligible Years


2023-2024











WCG-C CSAW Information

- CSAW has been updated to recognize WCG-C eligible students
- If a WCG-C student has no WASFA or FAFSA information, there will be no information (including MFI)
 - There will be no edits for WCG-C students that are awarded with max WCG and Bridge.

2023-2024 Peninsula 

Student ID #:	not specified	MFI:	n/a 	ISIR/WASFA Trans #:	
Family income:		Family size:		# in college:	

2023-2024 Peninsula Summer 1 term

Enrollment:	Full time	Calendar:	Quarter	Apprenticeship:	no
	Award	Paid	Max Award	Receivable	
WCG 	\$1,524.00	\$1,524.00 	\$1,524.00 	 add receivable	
Bridge 	\$500.00	\$500.00 	\$500.00 	 add receivable	
CBS			n/a		
PTC			n/a		



Adding Eligible Students Not In Checker

- If a student self-identifies that they are WCG-C eligible, but is not in the eligibility checker, schools will need to collect documentation of their eligibility from their program and let WSAC know by emailing the WCG team **through secure messaging in the portal.**
- Please attach copy of student's public benefit program verification letter or send the following information:
 - First & Last Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Social Security Number
 - DSHS Client ID
 - Name of Program
 - Start Date in Program

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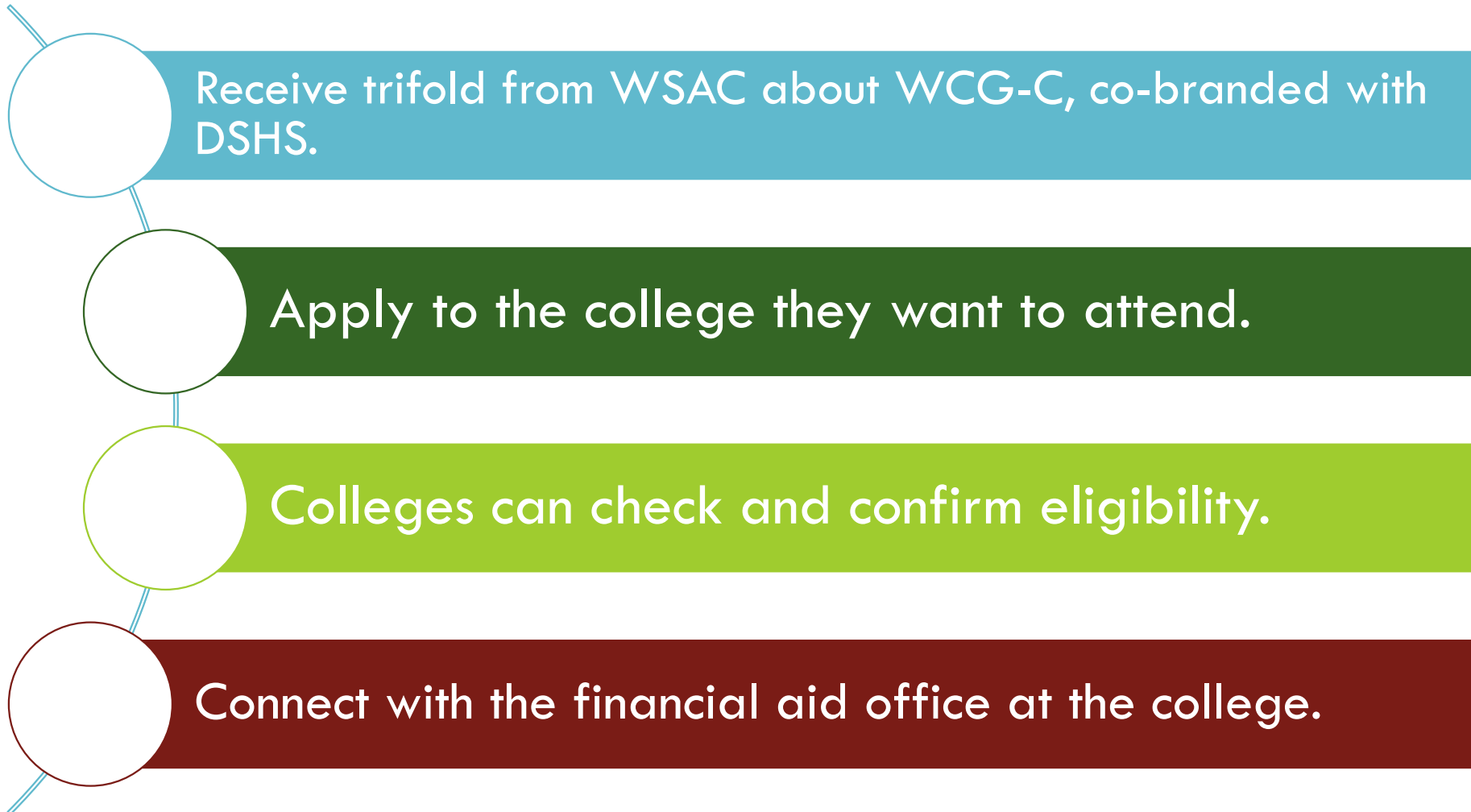
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1835: What does it look like for a prospective student?





Maximizing Financial Aid

WCG-C state aid can cover tuition and fees.

Students can apply for federal aid in addition to the state aid they receive.

Completing the FAFSA can qualify a student for up to \$7,395 in additional aid.

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾

Loans and Grants ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾

Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

New to the FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

Start Here

Returning User?

Correct info | Add a school

View your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)

Log In

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>



Repayment



WCG/CBS/WA Bridge Repayment

Prior to Start of Term		
Owe 100%	Adjust Award Up	Adjust Award Down
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Show StudentComplete WithdrawFraudulent Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Student increased enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Student decreased enrollment<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May owe back difference

After Start of Term		
Earned 100%	Adjust Award Up	No Adjustment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A student who commenced at least one class for all courses which they were awarded aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Student increased enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Student decreases enrollment<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Subject to SAP



WCG/CBS/WA Bridge Repayment

If a student's enrollment is adjusted during the tuition refund period and tuition is reduced, and the student failed to commence attendance in all classes for which their disbursement was made, the grant must be reduced to not exceed the cost of tuition and fees.





Repayment Options

Must be reported within 10 Business days from the end of the term or date of withdrawal; whichever is easier

Institution to Bill (ITB)

- Institution collects funds from student
- Must be collected or converted to In Repayment by final interim submission

Two options:

- Calculation Pending
 - SAP issue, but amount isn't calculated yet. Ensures student doesn't receive any other aid.
- Calculation Complete/Student Owes
 - Amount is known and entered

In Repayment (IR)

- Amount is collected from our contracted billing service





Cancelling Repayments



Institutions may cancel a repayment in limited circumstances.

- Examples include:

- Proof of updated last date of attendance
- Grade change
- Proof of high school diploma

REMINDER: *You must enter a clear explanation for any cancellations.*

- Institutions must not accept payment for an “In Repayment” account and then cancel the debt in the Portal.

- Student may owe collection or other fees
- Creates inaccurate records
- Refer students directly to our billing service to make payment



Repayment Contacts



- Current billing service provider: University Accounting Service (UAS)
 - Refer students to UAS at 844-870-8701 or uasconnect.com

- Students can also contact WSAC with questions:
 - 888-535-0747, Option 4
 - repayment@wsac.wa.gov



- Collections
 - Financial Asset Management Systems (FAMS)
 - 800-399-4984 or famspayonline.net



Help for FAAs



We are here to help you!

Email us at wcg@wsac.wa.gov.

If you are including PII information included, please message us through the secure message feature in the WSAC portal.



Resources

Program manuals,
webinars, other trainings,
and specific guidance is
available at:

wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources





Discussion and Questions





Questions?

Thanks for joining me!

Contact WSAC at
wcg@wsac.wa.gov