

National Merit

Purpose and Philosophy

Walla Walla University has a desire to attract academically gifted students to the University. Students who score well in the National Merit competition have demonstrated their academic potential. WWU developed the National Merit Scholarship to recognize this potential talent.

WWU wants students to start with WWU as a freshman, and stay with WWU until graduation. WWU also realizes students will sometimes take classes at home during the summer break. Because of this philosophy, students who do not start as a freshman, or take classes at other institutions (other than during the summer) will lose their eligibility for this scholarship.

Awarding Requirements

Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition are eligible for the President's Scholarship.

Semi-finalists and **Commended** Students in the National Merit Scholarship competition are eligible for the WWU Merit Scholarship.

Students will need to submit proof of their National Merit Scholarship competition placement in order to receive this scholarship.

The standings in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Minority Students and the National Hispanic Recognition Program are counted the same as the standings in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students must meet the same criteria for either program.

The amount of the Scholarship is locked in when students first enroll at WWU, and the amount does not increase based on their grades at WWU, or because WWU increases the awards for later freshman classes.

Students who delay their enrollment at WWU after high school graduation will have their Scholarship calculated based on the Scholarship program in effect for the school year when they first enroll (provided they haven't lost eligibility by attending another college or university.)

Student Financial Services (SFS) will include these scholarships in the student's WWU Financial Aid Award.

To be clear, these students are not eligible for this Scholarship (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Graduate students
- Non-matriculated students
- Transfer students
- Returning Students
- Students receiving free or discounted tuition
- Students working on a second degree
- Students who are not meeting WWU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

- Students with a WWU Cumulative GPA of less than 3.80, measured at the end of spring quarter

WWU does not required recipients to be U.S. citizens to qualify for the Scholarship.

Scholarship amounts and requirements are linked to the student's first quarter enrolled. Changes made to the Scholarship program for future freshmen classes are not retroactive to previous recipients unless specifically stated.

President's Scholarship

National Merit finalists receive a full tuition scholarship the first two years (6 quarters) and a 50% tuition scholarship the second two years (6 quarters). Recipients may also receive Leadership Awards but are not eligible for the Achievement Scholarship or Out-of-Area Grant. Recipients who also receive Educational Allowance (Subsidy) from their parent's employer have a restriction on their total Scholarship – see details later in this policy.

This Scholarship does not pay for required fees, including the General Fee or class fees.

This Scholarship does not pay for Challenge or Validation examination fees.

Recipients taking more than 16 credits of classes receive the scholarship using their total tuition amount because this Scholarship is not limited to the bracket tuition amount.

Students who drop classes and receive a tuition refund will have their Scholarship recalculated for the quarter using their new total tuition amount.

WWU Merit Scholarship

Semi-finalists receive a \$1,500 WWU Merit Scholarship per year.

Commended scholars receive a \$1,000 WWU Merit Scholarship per year.

Recipients may also receive the Achievement Scholarship, Out-of-Area Grant, and Leadership Awards.

Attendance Requirements:

Once students start at Walla Walla University after graduating from high school, they are expected to remain at WWU until graduation in order to continue receiving the Achievement Scholarship.

Taking college credit classes prior to graduating from high school does not disqualify the student from receiving this Scholarship.

Taking college credit classes during summer sessions at any college does not disqualify the student from receiving this Scholarship.

Students who attend another college or university after graduating from high school (for one or more credits, other than summer quarter) and then attend WWU will permanently forfeit this scholarship. They will be considered transfer students and will be considered for the Transfer Scholarship.

Students who unsuccessfully attend schools elsewhere prior to attending WWU and come with zero transferrable credits are considered for this Scholarship.

Students who attend an unaccredited college or university prior to attending WWU and come with zero transferrable credits are considered for this Scholarship.

Students who lose the Scholarship because of GPA, attend another college or university during the summer, bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.8, and return to WWU, will have their Scholarship reinstated. The GPA is calculated using their WWU grades plus the grades for that summer's transferrable credits. Only courses that are accepted for transfer and apply towards the student's degree are considered. Students who successfully raise their GPA this way must notify SFS, and supply WWU with an official transcript.

Students who attend WWU after graduating from high school, then leave WWU, attend another school (for one or more credits, other than summer quarter) and return to WWU, their Scholarship will **not** be reinstated. They will be considered a returning student, and are also not eligible for either the Transfer Scholarship or the Achievement Scholarship.

Students who have a break in enrollment from WWU and do not enroll elsewhere will be eligible for the Scholarship upon their return to WWU as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. They will be under their original scholarship program, not the scholarship program for new students when they return.

Concurrent Enrollment:

- Students enrolled full time at WWU may take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, without affecting their eligibility for this Scholarship. No permission is required.
- Students enrolled part time at WWU summer quarter may take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, without affecting their eligibility for this Scholarship. No permission is required.
- Students enrolled part time at WWU (other than summer quarter) who take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, will lose their eligibility for this Scholarship, unless prior approval is given by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.
 - This permission is not routine, and will require the student to show why they cannot take the class(es) through WWU.
 - Requests for permission **after** completing the class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, will usually be denied and the student will lose their eligibility for this Scholarship.

Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) or Oxford:

- Students cannot receive the Scholarship to attend an Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) school or Oxford, even if they are a Modern Languages major.

- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through WWU their first year will be considered for the Scholarship when they enroll as a regular WWU student if their cumulative high school GPA and their ACA GPA is 3.0 or better when they enroll at WWU.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through WWU other than their first year will be considered for the Scholarship when they return to WWU as a regular student.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through another school their first year will forfeit the Scholarship, but will be considered for the Transfer Scholarship.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through another school other than their first year will forfeit the Scholarship, and will not be eligible for the Transfer Scholarship, when they return to WWU.
- There is no special exception for attending Avondale College, which is not part of the ACA program.

GPA Requirements

Students must be meeting WWU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, which is reviewed each quarter.

Recipients of the Scholarship must maintain a 3.80 cumulative GPA to renew this award.

The GPA that is used is calculated using the student's WWU class history, and is based on their cumulative GPA at the end of spring quarter each year.

Students whose cumulative GPA at the end of fall or winter quarter is less than 3.80 will continue to receive the Scholarship for the school year as long as they are otherwise meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

Students may petition for their GPA to be calculated using all of their college credits, including classes taken prior to enrolling at WWU and summer classes.

Students may attend another college or university during the summer to increase their GPA to 3.8 or above. Only courses that are accepted for transfer and apply towards the student's degree are considered. Students who successfully raise their GPA this way must notify SFS, and supply WWU with an official transcript.

SFS will use the spring quarter cumulative WWU GPA to determine eligibility for the Scholarship for the subsequent year.

- In order to avoid a delay in the financial aid award notice for the subsequent year, a preliminary award for the following year will be made after fall grades are reported.
- SFS may check the cumulative GPA at the end of winter quarter, and award or withdraw the Scholarship for the subsequent year based on winter quarter's cumulative GPA.
- The GPA will be checked again the end of spring quarter; and the scholarship awarded or withdrawn based on the spring quarter cumulative WWU GPA.

Students who lose their Scholarship and then bring their cumulative GPA up to 3.8, the Scholarship will be reinstated for future quarters if the students notify SFS.

National Merit Finalists who lose the President's Scholarship because their cumulative GPA is below 3.80 may receive the Out of Area Grant if they are otherwise eligible. If these students bring their cumulative GPA to 3.80 or higher, they receive the President's Scholarship and are no longer eligible for the Out of Area Grant.

The GPA earned while attending an ACA program cannot be used to increase the WWU GPA.

President's Scholarship: If the recipient's spring quarter cumulative GPA falls to 3.00-3.79, the student will be awarded the Achievement Scholarship for the following academic year based on their freshman class's highest Achievement Scholarship, providing they are meeting WWU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The quarters receiving the Achievement Scholarship count towards the recipient's 6 quarter scholarship maximum for each level.

For example, recipients have a 3.75 GPA at the end of their first year. The next fall quarter they would be eligible for their freshman class's top Achievement Scholarship in place of the President's Scholarship. At the end of fall quarter, the students raise their cumulative GPA to 3.8 or above. They will receive the President's Scholarship instead of the Achievement Scholarship winter and spring quarters. At the end of spring quarter, they will have used their 6 quarters of eligibility at 100%.

National Merit Finalists have a total of 12 quarters of eligibility for the President's Scholarships or the Achievement Scholarships. For example, a student who receives 8 quarters of the President's Scholarship and 4 quarters of Achievement Scholarship will have reached the end of their eligibility. The quarters they are not eligible for either the President's Scholarship or the Achievement Scholarship because of a GPA below 3.0 are not included when counting their 12 quarters of eligibility.

WWU Merit: If the recipient's cumulative GPA falls to 3.00 - 3.79, the recipient continues to receive their Achievement Scholarship, providing they are meeting WWU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The quarters enrolled when they do not get the WWU Merit Scholarship do not count towards the recipient's 12 quarter WWU Merit Scholarship maximum. Students who use their 12 quarters of Achievement Scholarship could still have eligibility for their WWU Merit Scholarship, providing they are meeting other eligibility requirements.

Disbursement & Duration of Scholarships

WWU's awards are disbursed in one-third increments each quarter, fall/winter/spring.

The Scholarship does not apply for summer enrollment.

These Scholarships are renewable. Students may receive a maximum of 12 quarters, including the initial year.

Students need to be enrolled in at least 12 credits hours as of the census date to receive the full Scholarship. For students taking less than a full load of 12 credit hours as of the census date:

- Students who are taking 1-5 credit hours will forfeit the Scholarship for the quarter
- Students who are taking 6-8 credit hours will be awarded 50% of the quarter's Scholarship
- Students who are taking 9-11 credit hours will be awarded 75% of the quarter's Scholarship

- For purposes of determining pro-ration, “credit hours” includes classes students are taking which may not be required for their degree.
- In determining the 12 quarters of eligibility, 6-8 credits count as 50% of a quarter; 9-11 credits count as 75% of a quarter.
- Graduating seniors in their last 3 quarters of attendance can have their full Scholarship for one quarter while taking 6-11 credits of classes, if they otherwise show eligibility.

Educational Allowance Recipients

National Merit Finalists who also receive Educational Allowance (“Subsidy”) from their parent’s employer will have their Presidents Scholarship calculated using this formula:

Tuition + Foreman Hall rent - Educational Allowance = maximum President's Scholarship.

Foreman Hall rent rate is used regardless of the student’s gender or living arrangements. Students on the Portland campus can substitute Hansen Hall rent rates in this formula.

Examples:

A freshman with 70% subsidy would get 30% of tuition, plus Foreman Hall rent rate (subsidy + scholarship = 100% of tuition plus Foreman Hall rent rate).

A freshman with 35% subsidy would get 65% of tuition, plus Foreman Hall rent rate (subsidy + scholarship = 100% of tuition plus Foreman Hall rent rate).

A junior with 70% subsidy would get 30% of tuition plus Foreman Hall rent rate (subsidy + scholarship = 100% of tuition plus Foreman Hall rent rate).

A junior with 35% subsidy would get 50% of tuition (this is the "normal" award and the student doesn't receive the "plus Foreman Hall rent rate.")

If a parent's employer decides not to pay subsidy because the student is a President's Scholar the student's award will still be reduced by this policy based on what the employer should pay.

Appeals and Exceptions

Appeals for exceptions are handled by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Petition forms are available online.

- No appeals have been approved for students requesting the Scholarship beyond 12 quarters.
- Appeals for summer Scholarships have been approved for Biology majors required to spend one quarter at the Rosario Marine Station. This counts as one of the student’s 12 quarters of Scholarship. Only one summer exception is allowed. Appeals have not been approved for non-Biology majors.
- No appeals have been approved for an exception for students not meeting the 3.80 cumulative GPA requirement (for example, a student receiving a 3.79 GPA)

Fraud and Deception

Students who are awarded this Scholarship based on fraudulent or deceptive data will lose their Scholarship retroactively. For example, students who fail to report on their applications for admissions they have previously attended another college or university. When this deception is discovered, the Scholarship will be revoked retroactively to their first quarter enrolled.

Glossary of Terms

First enrolled at Walla Walla University: For purposes of this award, this refers to the first quarter enrolled at WWU after graduating from high school, not including summer quarters. Students who first enroll during a summer quarter are awarded this scholarship based on the Scholarship guidelines for the following school year (not the prior school year.)

School Year: For purposes of this award, the school year refers to fall, winter and spring quarters. When summer is referenced, it is included as the first quarter (“header quarter”) of the school year.

Transfer Student: For purposes of this award, a transfer student is any student who successfully takes one credit hour or more of classes at another college or university after graduating from high school, other than during the summer, and then transfers to Walla Walla University.

Returning Student: For purposes of this award, a returning student is any student who successfully takes one credit hour or more of classes at Walla Walla University after graduating from high school, other than during the summer, and then transfers to another college or university where they successfully complete one or more credit hours, other than during the summer. If they return to WWU, they are a returning student and not a transfer student.

SFS: Walla Walla University’s Student Financial Services Office.

Census Date: WWU normally uses the end of the 10th day of instruction as its census date.

Other Circumstances

Circumstances not covered by the above criteria will be submitted to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee for determination. If a specific situation comes up regularly, the decision will be added to the guidelines if appropriate.

Program requirements are subject to change.