



Financial Assistance

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What's Available

Financial aid programs come in many shapes and sizes. To be sure you consider every available option, you need to know where to look for financial aid. Listed are some primary sources of financial aid.

Federal Financial Aid

To receive federal financial aid, you must:

- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs.
- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in a degree or certificate program in college.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Possess a valid Social Security Number.
- Have complied with U.S. Selective Service registration requirements.
- File a FAFSA

Not owe a refund on any state or federal educational grant and/or not be in default on a student loan.

State Financial Aid

Nevada offers students a variety of financial aid programs:

Millennium Scholarship -

Graduating Nevada high school seniors who have good grades may receive a Millennium Scholarship for college.

State Grants - Nevada's public colleges offer various grants that are state funded.

State Scholarships

Tribal Scholarships - If you are a Native American, your tribe or nation may offer college scholarships.

Other Financial Aid

Not all financial aid is provided by the state or federal government. Some types are based on need or achievement.

WNCC Scholarships

Talent Grants

Private Scholarships

Special Programs

Many financial aid programs are available to specific groups. Some of the better known are:

National Merit Scholarships -

The independent, non-profit Merit Scholarship Corporation awards about \$5,000 in scholarships a year.

The Military - Educational benefits and scholarships are available to those who serve in the U.S. armed forces.

Tax Incentives for Higher Education

Families have numerous ways to save for their children's college education. See your tax adviser.



Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

Malcolm X

FAFSA TIPS

- Try to file the FAFSA as soon as possible starting January 1 and before your earliest financial aid deadline.
- You must be enrolled in college to receive federal aid. If you withdraw from school, you may be required to repay your federal student aid, depending on how much of the aid you earned.
- If your family's income or assets are too high, you may not receive need-based aid, but you may qualify for scholarships or low-interest federal loans. By filing the FAFSA, you'll be creating a safety net if your financial situation suddenly changes.

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Update Your Information

It is important for students to update their mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail address and other contact information on . . .

Web-REG

Online Registration



Did You Know That . . .



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Fall & Spring Semester HOURS

Monday-Friday
7:30 am - 5 pm

Wednesday
Evenings
5 - 6 pm

PELL GRANTS ARE FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE.

Students who meet the requirements, can receive more than \$4,000 a year for college or vocational training.

FINANCIAL AID COVERS MORE THAN JUST TUITION AND BOOKS.

Students often focus on tuition and books, but paying rent, eating and getting from one place to another also adds up. Luckily, federal and some state grants and scholarships, as well as low-interest federal, student and parent loans take that into account.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID.

Permanent residents and other eligible non-citizens also qualify for federal and state financial aid. In addition, some private scholarships may not require U.S. citizenship.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ATTEND FULL TIME TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID.

You can use your Pell Grant and other aid if you're only going to college half-time. Even if you attend less than half-time, You may still be able to receive a Pell Grant.

COMPLETING THE FAFSA IS NOT DIFFICULT. The FAFSA step-by-step instructions, in English and Spanish, are easy to follow. If you get stuck, turn to the free help that's available, starting with your high school counselor or colleges financial aid administrator.

A COLLEGE EDUCATION PAYS OFF. A college degree leads to higher paying jobs, steadier employment and more career opportunities.

SCAM ALERT

Someone claiming to work for the U.S. Department of Education is calling students, offering them grants or scholarships, and asking for their bank account numbers so a processing fee can be charged. Sometimes the caller tells the student that he/she

understands the student has federal student loans and offers to replace the loans with an \$8,000 grant. The caller explains that a processing fee must be charged and obtains the student's checking account information.

There is no government program to replace

loans with grants and there is no processing fee to obtain student grants from the Department of Education. Never provide your bank account or credit card information over the phone unless you made the call and trust the company you are calling.

**If you are a victim of this or a similar scam you should:
Contact your bank and report the fraud to the Department of Education Office of Inspector General hotline at 1-800-647-8733.**

Veterans Affairs Information

Information for veterans who are planning to use their VA educational benefits at WNCC

- The VA requires that all courses be taken for credit-this means no Audit classes are permitted.
- The VA requires that the classes attempted must fulfill a requirement in a degree or certificate program.
- A veterans data form is required for each term that you are requesting benefits . Your authorizing signature on the data form gives us permission to provide information about you to the Department of Veterans Affairs so they can process your claim for educational benefits.
- Veterans are encouraged to complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid to determine their eligibility for other types of financial assistance.
- To speak to someone about your eligibility for veterans benefits, come by the Veterans Services office in Bristlecone Building, Room 102 to speak to Veterans Coordinator, Kathryn Clark-Ross or her assistant, Michael Nolan, or call 775-445-3260.



Financial Aid Guide: Defining Key Terms

GENERAL AID TERMS

After you submit your FAFSA which will ask about dependency status, you'll receive your SAR.

Award Letter: List of types and amounts of aid that the school is offering. You are not required to accept all aid. You can view your award letter on WEB-Reg.

Cost of Attendance

(COA): This figure includes the total price of tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses for one academic year of education (also known as the Student Budget).

Dependency Status:

If you are considered a dependent student, colleges will count parent income, assets and circumstances in addition to your finances in awarding aid.

Expected Family

Contribution (EFC): A measure of your family's financial strength based on income, assets, family size etc., based on the FAFSA. The EFC represents the

amount of money the federal government believes your family is able to contribute toward college. The amount you end up actually paying could differ from the EFC, depending on what resources available at your college.

Financial Aid Package:

The total financial aid you are offered, including scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. This information is typically summarized in an award letter.

Financial Need: The difference between your educational costs and the EFC.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

The form determines the amount of federal and state aid for which you are eligible.

Student Aid Report (SAR):

The official notification sent to students from the Department of Education after the FAFSA is received. This document will state your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

GENERAL AID TYPES

Federal Aid: Aid that comes from the U.S. government and that is usually disbursed through your college.

Gift Aid: Financial aid that does not need to be paid back:

- *Financial need*
- *Scholarships: typically based on achievement or talent.*

Loans: Funds that must be paid back later, with interest. Federally-guaranteed loans can be from a private lender (*e.g., a bank*) or from the federal government (*administered by your college*). Private loans are offered by private lenders with terms set by the lender, not the government.

Private Aid: Financial aid from non-government sources.

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

Pell Grant: Gift aid that is given based on financial need. The amount of aid you will be eligible to receive is based on your EFC. Current maximum per year is \$4,050.

Federal Work-Study: Provides part-time employment for students who have financial need. Jobs are usually available both on and off campus.

Stafford Loan: Currently a variable interest rate loan. You can receive this loan from your college. They can be subsidized (*no interest accrues while in school*) or unsubsidized (*interest accrues while in school*).

BASIC LOAN TERMS

Interest: An annual charge for borrowing money, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance. Interest rates are either variable (*the rate can change*) or fixed (*the rate will not change*).

Annual percentage rate (APR): The overall cost of borrowing money, expressed as an annual percentage of the loan balance. The APR combines the interest rate with the loan fees and also includes the effects of compounding.

Default: Failure to repay your loan; it may lead to legal action to recover the money and can affect your credit rating.

Delinquency: Occurs when at least one loan payment is late or missed. Serious delinquency may result in default.

Principal: The full amount borrowed. During repayment, it refers to the portion of the original amount still owed.

Loan Fees: One-time charges to originate or guarantee a loan, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance.

APRIL 3
FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE



Keep Your Scholarship

Some scholarships may be renewable. However, renewable awards might have ongoing requirements, including:

- Submission of a renewal application. Scholarships may require a new application each academic year.
- Grade Point Average. You may need to maintain a minimum GPA to remain eligible.
- Satisfactory Academic Progress. You may be required to fulfill academic requirements such as completing a certain number of credits or courses.
- Designated field of study. Will you lose the award if you change majors?
- Full-time enrollment status. Scholarships frequently require you to be considered a full-time student.



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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE MISSION

The Western Nevada Community College Financial Assistance Office strives to promote the educational success of the Western Nevada Community College community by providing professional service, resources and by eliminating financial barriers.

Dates to Remember for 2006

Fall Scholarship Deadline	April 1
Financial Aid Priority Funding	April 1
Summer Registration begins via Web-REG.....	April 3
Fall Registration begins via Web-REG	April 17
Fall classes begin	August 28
Labor Day Holiday - <i>School Closed</i>	September 4
Spring Scholarship Deadline	December 1

we're on the web @ **www.wncc.edu**

Step-By-Step Guide for Adult Students

1. Why are you considering returning to school?

By focusing on your motivation, you can better determine your career and educational goals. Consider why you want to go to school. Do you want to change careers, increase your earning potential, and/or resume your college education and finish a degree program?

2. Develop a plan to achieve your educational goals. This plan will serve as a guide during your educational career. Do you want to complete your education by a certain date? Do you need to complete some courses (prerequisites) before you can begin the course work for your chosen career field?

3. Review your plan to determine how it will fit into your lifestyle.

- Will your plan allow you enough time for work and leisure activities?
- If you have a family, are they supportive of your educational goals?
- Will you need child care for any children?

4. Determine the cost of education and how you will pay for it.

Remember to think about all costs involved in school attendance including tuition, mandatory fees, transportation expenses, books and supplies, food and technical equipment that may be required. Consider how the cost of education will fit into your budget with your other expenses such as rent, house payment, car payment, child care, etc. Consider your options

for paying for college:

- Financial aid
- Employer tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs
- Scholarship and grants
- Student loans
- Working part-time

5. If you have outstanding loans from your previous education,

review the opportunities available to you when you return to school, such as deferring your loan payments.

6. Some schools offer organizations or support groups for adult students. You will be able to meet other students who have similar situations and educational goals. A support group may help you cope as you manage family responsibilities, work, and education.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Education

