Your Guide to Financial Aid

FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH SPECIALIST

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What is Financial Aid?

College financial aid is money that helps students pay for college or career/technical school.

May come from federal or state government, schools or private organizations.

Some do have to have to be repaid, others don’t.

Application Overview

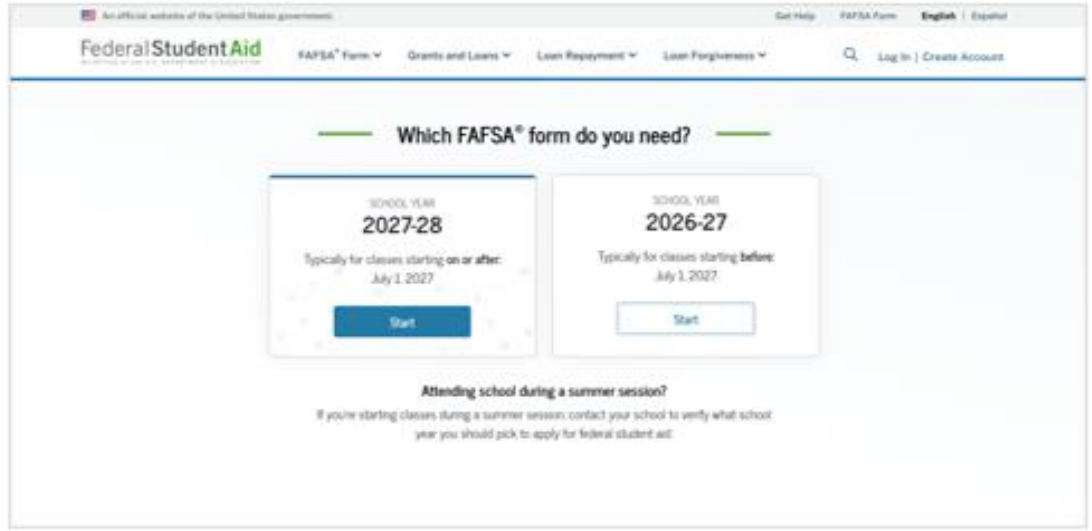
FAFSA (federal aid)

- Be a U.S citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Parent citizenship and/or Social Security Number not required

WASFA (state aid)

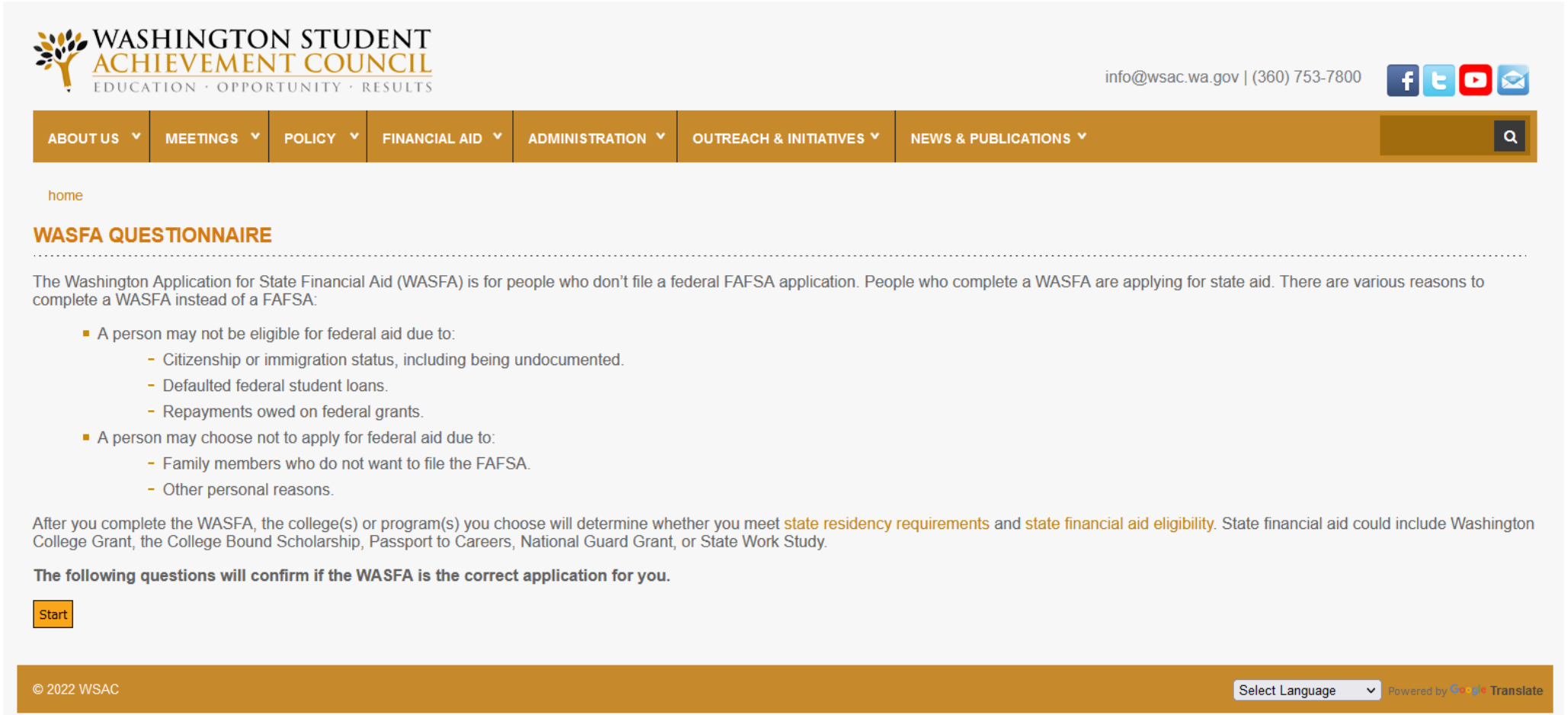
- Not eligible for federal aid due to citizenship or immigration status
- Family members who do not want to file the FAFSA form
- Have lived in Washington for the last 12 consecutive months

Only one application is needed!





Unsure of What Form to Use?



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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WASFA QUESTIONNAIRE

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is for people who don't file a federal FAFSA application. People who complete a WASFA are applying for state aid. There are various reasons to complete a WASFA instead of a FAFSA:

- A person may not be eligible for federal aid due to:
  - Citizenship or immigration status, including being undocumented.
  - Defaulted federal student loans.
  - Repayments owed on federal grants.
- A person may choose not to apply for federal aid due to:
  - Family members who do not want to file the FAFSA.
  - Other personal reasons.

After you complete the WASFA, the college(s) or program(s) you choose will determine whether you meet state residency requirements and state financial aid eligibility. State financial aid could include Washington College Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, Passport to Careers, National Guard Grant, or State Work Study.

The following questions will confirm if the WASFA is the correct application for you.

Start

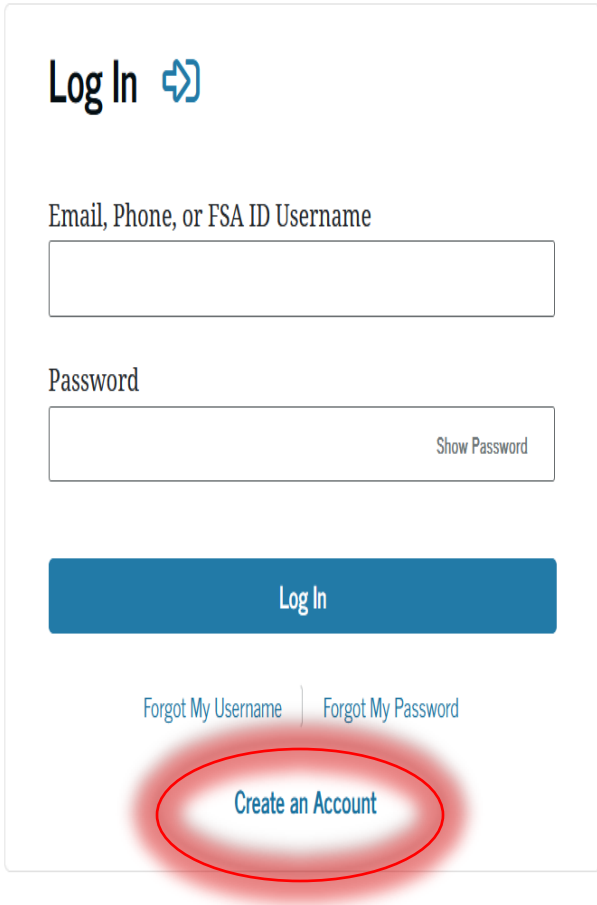
© 2022 WSAC

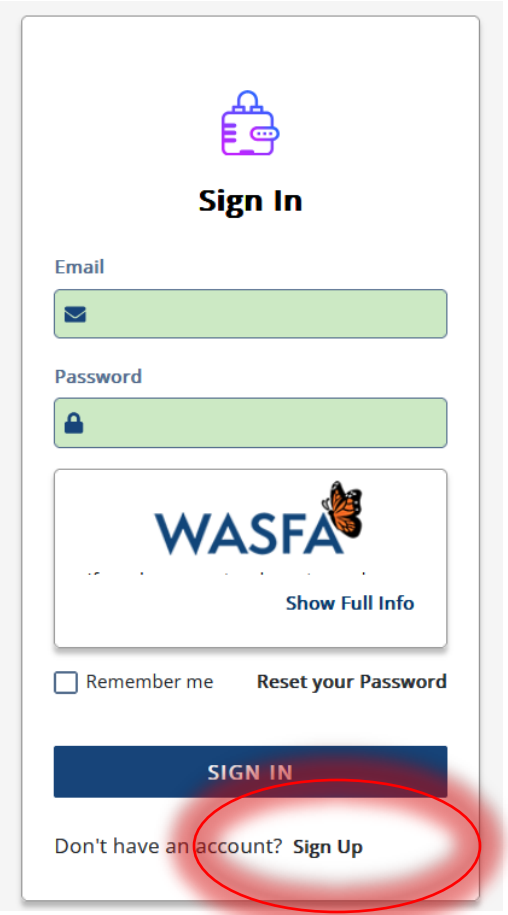
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https://wsac.wa.gov/WASFAelig

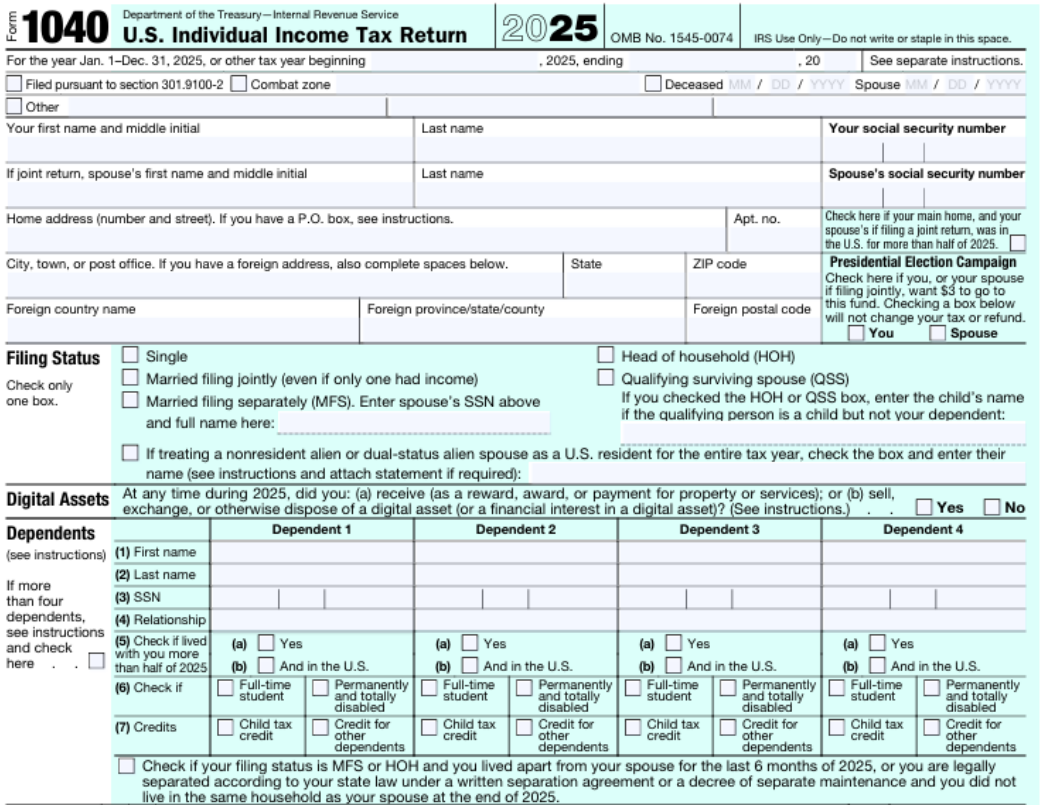
Step 1 – Create Accounts

- FAFSA → with valid SSN
- WASFA → with ITIN (if applicable)
- Full legal name
- Date of Birth
- Personal email address for parent and student
- Phone number for parent and student
- Mailing address





What Information Will I Need?



Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service **U.S. Individual Income Tax Return** **2025** OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2025, or other tax year beginning , 2025, ending , 20 See separate instructions.

☐ Filed pursuant to section 301.9100-2 ☐ Combat zone ☐ Deceased MM / DD / YYYY Spouse MM / DD / YYYY

☐ Other

Your first name and middle initial	Last name	Your social security number
If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial	Last name	Spouse's social security number
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.	Apt. no.	Check here if your main home, and your spouse's if filing a joint return, was in the U.S. for more than half of 2025. ☐
City, town, or post office. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below.	State / ZIP code	**Presidential Election Campaign** Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want $3 to go to this fund. Checking a box below will not change your tax or refund. ☐ You ☐ Spouse
Foreign country name / Foreign province/state/county / Foreign postal code		

Filing Status Check only one box.

☐ Single ☐ Head of household (HOH)
☐ Married filing jointly (even if only one had income) ☐ Qualifying surviving spouse (QSS)
☐ Married filing separately (MFS). Enter spouse's SSN above and full name here: If you checked the HOH or QSS box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent:
☐ If treating a nonresident alien or dual-status alien spouse as a U.S. resident for the entire tax year, check the box and enter their name (see instructions and attach statement if required):

Digital Assets At any time during 2025, did you: (a) receive (as a reward, award, or payment for property or services); or (b) sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of a digital asset (or a financial interest in a digital asset)? (See instructions.) . . ☐ Yes ☐ No

Dependents (see instructions) If more than four dependents, see instructions and check here . . ☐

	Dependent 1	Dependent 2	Dependent 3	Dependent 4
(1) First name				
(2) Last name				
(3) SSN				
(4) Relationship				
(5) Check if lived with you more than half of 2025	(a) ☐ Yes (b) ☐ And in the U.S.	(a) ☐ Yes (b) ☐ And in the U.S.	(a) ☐ Yes (b) ☐ And in the U.S.	(a) ☐ Yes (b) ☐ And in the U.S.
(6) Check if	☐ Full-time student ☐ Permanently and totally disabled	☐ Full-time student ☐ Permanently and totally disabled	☐ Full-time student ☐ Permanently and totally disabled	☐ Full-time student ☐ Permanently and totally disabled
(7) Credits	☐ Child tax credit ☐ Credit for other dependents	☐ Child tax credit ☐ Credit for other dependents	☐ Child tax credit ☐ Credit for other dependents	☐ Child tax credit ☐ Credit for other dependents

☐ Check if your filing status is MFS or HOH and you lived apart from your spouse for the last 6 months of 2025, or you are legally separated according to your state law under a written separation agreement or a decree of separate maintenance and you did not live in the same household as your spouse at the end of 2025.

- Based on your **2025 tax information**
- FAFSA offers a direct data transfer option
  - ❑ Not everyone is eligible for the direct data transfer option
- WASFA requires you to enter your information manually

NOTE: For a complete list of the documents and information you'll need, contact the financial aid specialist at your school.

Dependent vs. Independent Student

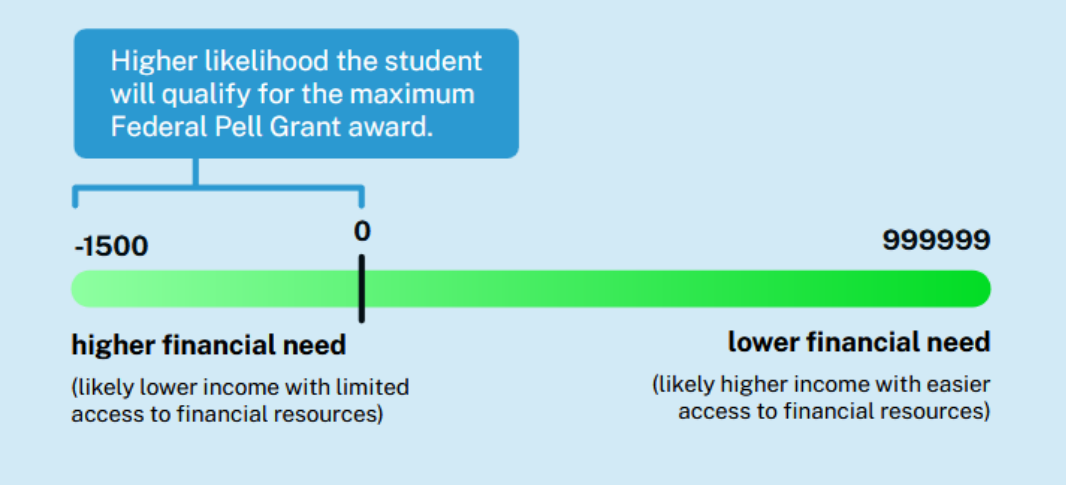
Dependent Student
Must include parent(s) financial info

- Under age 24 (most high school students)
- Even if student is NOT living with parents
- Even if student works and provides for themselves

Independent Student
Does NOT need to include parent(s) financial info

- 24 years or older
- Married
- Has children or dependents
- A veteran
- Emancipated minor or in foster care (after age 13)
- Are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Student Aid Index (SAI)



- Number used to estimate level of financial need
  - It is not a dollar amount
- It is calculated based on income, family size, and allowances
- SAI can be found by logging into your FAFSA and viewing your "Submission Summary Report"

Cost of Attendance – SAI = your financial need (unmet need)

A negative SAI does not mean your college costs are fully covered or free. It means you may qualify for the maximum amount of financial aid the college can offer.

Types of Aid


SCHOLARSHIPS
GRANTS
FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE
WORK STUDY
LOANS

Loans

Borrowed money to help pay for college. Students need to repay the amount borrowed plus **interest** over time.

Types of Student Loans:

- ❑ Federal Student Loans (via FAFSA)
  - Subsidized Loans: Need-based; the government pays interest while you are in school
  - Unsubsidized Loans: Not based on need; interest accrues while in school
  - Direct PLUS Loans: For parents or graduate students
- ❑ Private Loans
  - Offered by banks or private lenders

Grants

Grants are need-based financial aid that typically does **NOT** have to be repaid.

Common Types of Grants:

- **Federal Pell Grant**
  - For undergraduate students with unmet need
  - FAFSA eligibility
- **FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant)**
  - Additional federal grant for students with high financial need
  - FAFSA eligibility
- **State Grants**
  - Offered by WA state if a student meets residency and eligibility requirements
  - FAFSA or WASFA eligible
- **Institutional Grants**
  - Provided by colleges based on financial need or other criteria
  - FAFSA or WASFA eligible

Work Study

Federal (or state) Work-Study offers part-time job opportunities for students with financial need, helping them earn money to support their educational expenses.

- Jobs may be on campus or off-campus
- Earn hourly wages, paid directly to the student
- Opportunities to gain experience in the student's field or build their resume
- Hours are typically flexible and designed to work around your class schedule

Additional Scholarships

Most scholarships are typically sent directly to the school, where the Financial Aid Office applies the funds to your student account. Some scholarships may only be used for tuition and fees, while others can help cover additional expenses such as housing and food.

❑ **Types of scholarships:**

- Academic
- Athletic
- Talent-based
- Need-based
- Private scholarships



❑ **Where to find them:**

- Scholarship search websites
  - The Washboard
  - College Success Foundation
  - iGrad
  - Scholarships.com
- Local organizations and businesses

CBC Foundation Scholarship

Two application periods per academic year:

- **Cycle 1:** January 1 through February 28
- **Cycle 2:** August 1 through September 30

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Foundation Scholarship!

www.columbiabasin.edu/scholarships



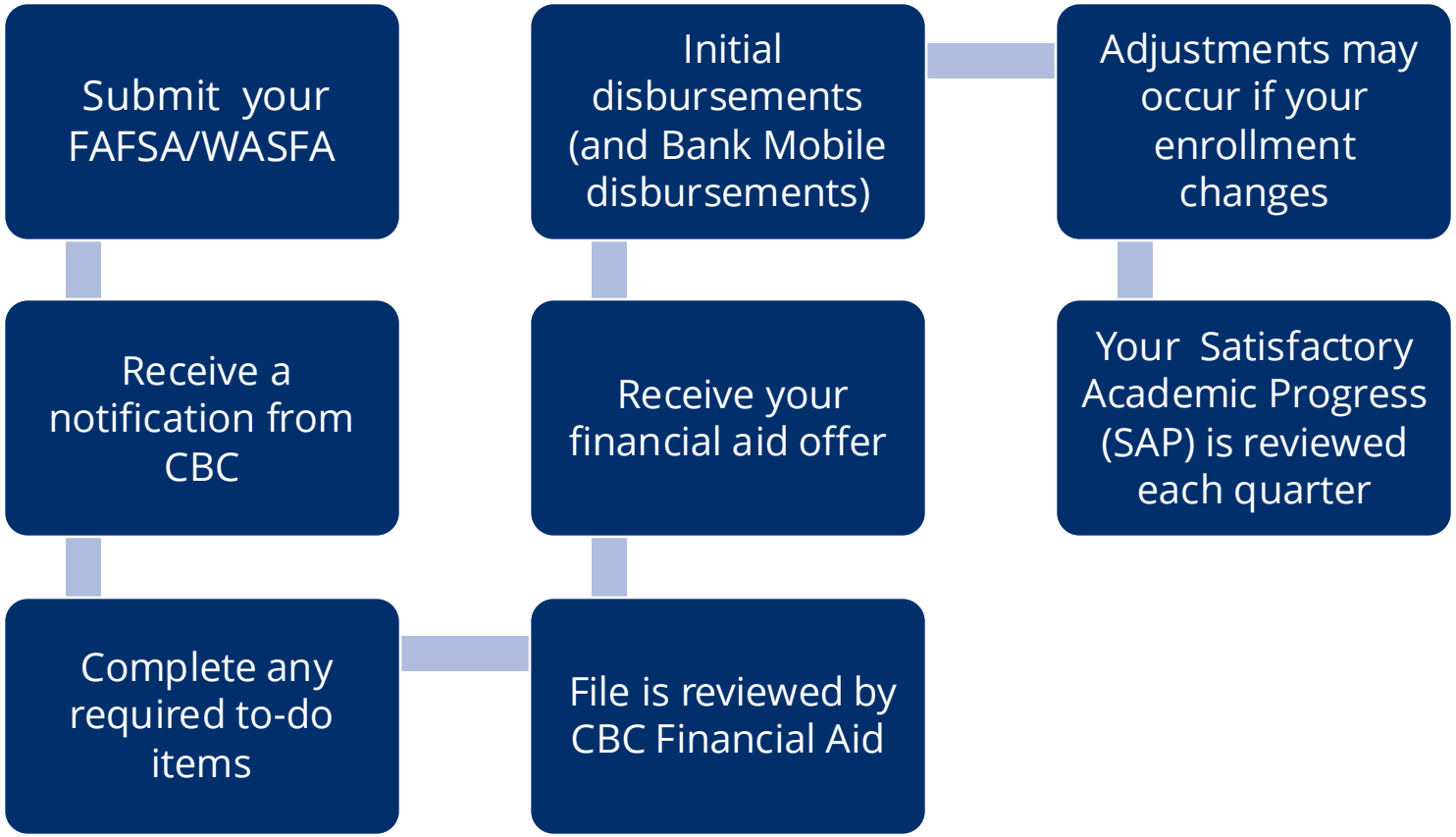
"You have no idea the impact this scholarship will have on my life. Receiving help from someone who doesn't know my story motivates and encourages me to keep going. Thank you for donating to help me reach my dreams."

– Emy

CBC Financial Aid: What You Need to Know

- Submitting a FAFSA or WASFA does not guarantee you will receive aid.
- Your eligibility may be affected by academic progress.
- Aid is awarded each term based on your enrollment and cost of attendance.
- The financial aid year runs from Fall to Summer.
- Students with a prior bachelor's degree are not eligible for Pell or WCG/CBS
- You cannot receive financial aid from two schools at the same time.

Timeline


Submit your FAFSA/WASFA
Receive a notification from CBC
Complete any required to-do items
File is reviewed by CBC Financial Aid
Receive your financial aid offer
Initial disbursements (and Bank Mobile disbursements)
Adjustments may occur if your enrollment changes
Your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is reviewed each quarter

Understanding Your Award Offer

Direct costs: Known amounts you will be billed for – paid to the college

- Tuition
- Fees (labs, technology, security, student activities, etc.)
- Housing – if you choose to live in on campus housing

Cost of Attendance (COA) $28,967	
Housing and Food	$17,702
Books/Supplies	$528
Transportation	$2,790
Misc/Personal	$1,908
Tuition/Fees	$6,039
Student Aid Index (SAI) $-1,500	

Indirect costs: estimated expenses, to be paid elsewhere.

- Books
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous/personal

CBC Columbia Basin College

Grants/Scholarships	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Annual
WA College Grant	$1,588.00	$1,588.00	$1,588.00	$0.00	$4,764.00
Federal Pell Grant	$2,465.00	$2,465.00	$2,465.00	$0.00	$7,395.00
Supplemental Educ Opp Grant	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00	$0.00	$900.00
Total Grants/Scholarships	**$4,353.00**	**$4,353.00**	**$4,353.00**	**$0.00**	**$13,059.00**

Other Funding	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Annual
Total Other Funding	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**

Your Estimated Net Price - The difference between unmet need and all grants/scholarships/other funding: **$15,908**

Loans	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Annual
Total Loans	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**

Estimated outstanding costs not covered by grants, scholarships, other funding and loans: $8,408

Work Study	Fall 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Annual
Work Study Offer	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	$0.00	$7,500.00
Total Work Study	**$2,500.00**	**$2,500.00**	**$2,500.00**	**$0.00**	**$7,500.00**

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The Student Aid Index (SAI) is an eligibility index number that the financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attended the school. This number results from the information that you provide on your FAFSA® form. This number is not a dollar amount of aid eligibility or what your family is expected to provide. A negative SAI indicates the student has a higher financial need.

Learn how the SAI is calculated here: https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-sai-calculated

Your Unmet Need (COA – SAI) = $28,458

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Your Unmet Need (COA – SAI) = $28,458

Contact Information





Questions?



We All Soar Together