

Eligibility for Title IV Funds

Financial assistance is available in several forms: grants or scholarships, loans, and campus employment. Grants are based on financial need while college scholarships are based on merit. Each is a gift and does not have to be repaid. Financial assistance may be in the form of grants only, but usually is a combination of grant, loan, and/or campus employment. Aid recipients are expected to invest in their education through the use of educational loans and student employment.

Federal, state, private, and institutional funds are the basic sources of financial assistance. The federal government provides assistance through the following programs: Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Perkins Loans, Federal Work-Study (FWS), and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, which includes the Federal Stafford Loan and the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). For all federal programs, the Title IV academic year is defined as 24 credits over a minimum of 30 weeks.

Financial assistance through federal programs is administered in accordance with government regulations and availability of funds. Changes in federal regulations or funding levels may result in a change to a student's financial aid package. Many states provide financial assistance through state grant programs. Pennsylvania residents may receive assistance through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Other state grants are made based upon the policies and guidelines of those granting agencies.

Please note that once curricular requirements for graduation are met, eligibility for federal and state assistance is affected. Students choosing to continue taking classes should check with the Office of Financial Aid regarding any change in eligibility.

Students should investigate private grants or scholarships that they may be eligible to receive. Local civic groups, churches, schools, or parents' employers may have grants or scholarships available. The Office of Financial Aid must be notified of all outside scholarships received. College policy toward outside aid (except military benefits) is to use those funds to reduce or eliminate remaining financial need. If the total outside aid creates an over-award, adjustments are made first to self-help aid (loans and work study). Adjustments to College grants occur only if no other option can resolve the over-award. There is a separate policy in the Veterans section of the catalog that explains how the receipt of military benefits affect W&J funding.