Financial Aid

Whitman College believes in the value of a liberal arts education, and we are committed to making that education accessible to all students regardless of their economic circumstances. That’s why we offer a comprehensive financial aid program and a dedicated team of financial aid staff who work closely with students and their families.

Whitman College offers scholarships, grants, loans, and federal and state work-study programs, to help make college affordable. Merit- and talent-based scholarships are available for students regardless of financial need. We also offer generous need-based scholarships.

Over 91% of students receive financial aid, with an average need-based aid package of more than $52,833. Last year, the college awarded more than $36 million in financial aid.

We know the importance of investing in higher education, but work closely with students to balance their debt by finding external scholarships and helping connect students with employment. In fact, most students graduate with less than $20,000 in student loans.

Federal aid programs include Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, and Direct Loans. The state of Washington offers Washington College Grants, College Bound Scholarships, and state work-study program.

Awards to domestic students with need are based on financial information provided on the College Board’s CSS Profile and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Dependent students must complete both the CSS Profile and the FAFSA. Independent students must only submit the FAFSA. International applicants are no longer required to complete the CSS Profile, and instead must complete our internal Whitman International Student Financial Aid Application (WISFAA), for which there is no submission fee. Students do not need to submit the CSS Profile or FAFSA to be eligible for merit-based aid. Talent-based scholarships for music, debate, fine arts and Theater have a separate application.

Whitman’s merit-based awards are renewable for up to four years for full-time students. Need-based aid is recalculated every year and will adjust with tuition and changes to the student’s family situation.

Financial aid (both merit and need-based) is available for eight semesters at Whitman or, in the case of students transferring credits to the college, the equivalent of eight semesters when transfer credit and Whitman attendance are combined (regardless of whether or not financial aid was received at the previous institution). For financial aid purposes only, 15 credits is the equivalent of one semester. If a student is unable to earn the necessary credits to complete degree requirements in eight semesters, the student may petition the Admission and Financial Aid Committee for a ninth semester of financial aid (see Residency).

Running Start and Similar Programs

Students who earn credits from Running Start (either Washington’s Running Start or a similar program from another state) will transfer no more than 14 Running Start credits and be considered first-year students for purposes of financial aid eligibility if they complete General Studies 175 and 176 (i.e. “First-Year Seminars”) during their initial year of enrollment at Whitman (See Financial Aid Website). At the end of their first term of enrollment, students may notify the Registrar and Financial Aid that they wish to add the remainder of the Running Start credits to their academic record.

Filing Deadlines

Students should file the CSS Profile/FAFSA/WISFAA according to the schedule below. If you are late applying for financial aid, your need-based aid may be reduced by 10% or could even be put on a waiting list for scholarship.

CSS Profile (for domestic students who wish to apply for Whitman Need-Based Scholarship):

- The CSS Profile must be submitted online at cssprofile.collegeboard.org
- Early Decision I candidates by November 15
• Spring Semester Transfer candidates by November 1
• Early Decision II candidates by January 10
• Regular Decision candidates by January 15
• Fall semester Transfer candidates by March 1
• Returning students by April 15
• Returning students must complete their financial aid file by May 1, including tax returns. See below.
Whitman’s CSS code is **4951**.

**FAFSA (for domestic students who wish to apply for Federal and State Aid):**

- Students may file the FAFSA as early as October 1 but it should be submitted no later than, the deadline to submit the CSS Profile. IMPORTANT for 2023-24 – Due to the FAFSA Simplification Act – the FAFSA form will open sometime between October-December 2023.
- The FAFSA should be submitted online at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). If both the student and at least one parent have an FSA ID, they may use the FSA IDs to sign the form online. Otherwise, the signature and certification page need to be printed out, signed, and submitted to the federal processor.
- We highly recommend that you use the IRS Data Retrieval tool on the FAFSA. It will automatically populate the income questions with IRS data from your tax return.
Whitman’s federal code is **003803**.

**WISFAA (beginning 2022-23 school year for new International students who wish to apply for Whitman Need-Based Scholarship):**

- The WISFAA must be submitted online at [https://engage.whitman.edu/register/wisfaa](https://engage.whitman.edu/register/wisfaa)
- Early Decision I candidates by November 15
- Spring Semester Transfer candidates by November 1
- Early Decision II candidates by January 10
- Regular Decision candidates by January 15
- Fall semester Transfer candidates by March 1

**Income Tax Returns:**
Income tax returns are not required of all need-based aid applicants, but if your parents are self-employed or own a business, we may request a complete copy of their recent federal tax returns including all schedules, W-2s, and business returns. All requested tax documentation must be received by May 1.

Late applications will be considered and additional offers made to late applicants only to the extent that aid funds are available.

**Maintaining Financial Aid Eligibility/Financial Aid Probation**
In order to receive financial aid funds from Whitman College, the federal government, and the state of Washington, students must make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) toward completing their degree.

Satisfactory academic progress includes 1) completing a minimum number of cumulative credits; 2) maintaining a minimum term and cumulative grade point average; and 3) completing a degree within a reasonable period of time.

1. **Minimum credit requirement**
   All students receiving financial aid must **complete at least 66.67 percent of the cumulative credits** that they attempt in order to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

   Note: Recipients of Washington State aid must successfully complete 50% or more of their attempted credits each semester. Completing less than 50% of attempted credits will trigger immediate suspension of state aid eligibility. Any less than 100% completion will result in the student being placed in a warning/probationary status for the following semester.
During the warning/probationary period for state aid, the student is expected to complete 100% of attempted credits; if not, suspension of state aid will ensue, with the possibility for appeal. If approved for an additional semester of state aid probation, the student could receive aid for one more semester, again with the expectation that 100% of attempted credits be completed. If the student fails to complete 100% of attempted credits in this probationary semester, the student will no longer be eligible to receive state aid.

II. Minimum term and cumulative grade point average

Students must earn a **minimum GPA of 1.7 each semester** and a **minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 during their second semester at Whitman and subsequently**. Transferred credits, including those received during foreign or domestic off-campus study, do not count in the calculation of the cumulative and term grade point average, but they are included in the calculation of both attempted and completed credits.

III. Maximum time frame

Whitman scholarships are awarded for four years (the equivalent of eight semesters in total). In order for a student to finish his or her degree within the four years, at least 31 credits or more should be finished each year. Transfer students will be eligible to receive institutional scholarships based on the class standing they are assigned upon admission and evaluation by the registrar’s office (i.e., a junior transfer student will have two years of scholarship eligibility). Students are eligible to receive federal and state financial aid until they have **attempted a maximum of 150% of the minimum number of credits required for the degree** (186 credits), or completed all the requirements to receive their degree.

Students who do not meet the above standards will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. The maximum period of financial aid probation is one semester, during which time a student will maintain eligibility for financial aid. If a student does not resume good standing and/or make satisfactory progress after one semester on probation, they will lose eligibility for Whitman-administered financial aid. A student who loses that eligibility may appeal for reinstatement to the Admission and Financial Aid Committee by submitting an academic plan.

*Please note: These policies govern financial aid and do not have any bearing on your Whitman academic standing as they are separate policies. The College’s catalog has more information on academic requirements.*

**General Whitman Scholarships**

Whitman scholarships, awarded by the college (one-half each semester), are gifts which are credited to the recipient’s tuition, room, and board charges. A scholarship is not a loan, and its acceptance places the recipient under no more obligation than that of remaining in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward graduation. A complete statement of the conditions of the offer is included with the offer of a need-based scholarship award.

**Other Gift Aid Available**

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Pell Grants, Washington College Grants, Washington State Opportunity Scholarships, and College Bound Scholarships are gift aid provided by the federal and state governments. All programs are based on financial need, and none require repayment. Unless a recipient’s need changes later in the year, Whitman’s original award of gift aid (Whitman scholarship and/or federal/state grants) is a one-year commitment to that amount of total gift aid. The award may be made before information regarding the applicant’s qualification for gift aid outside the college is known. When the applicant later qualifies for governmental gift aid, such as the SEOG, a Pell Grant, or Washington College Grant, Whitman’s scholarship award will be reduced by the equivalent amount, thereby freeing funds so that more students may be helped.

**Loan Opportunities**

Whitman participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program which includes Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans for student borrowers, PLUS Loans for parents. Direct Loans may be need-based (subsidized) or non-need-based (unsubsidized and PLUS). Generally, borrowers have 10 years to repay the loans, but extended and income-based repayment plans are available. Each year, new subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans will have a potentially new interest rate. Annual interest rates can be found at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).
Students may borrow private or alternative loans to help with their educational expenses, when the amount of their financial aid does not meet their required level of funding.

Several major banks and lending institutions offer private loan programs. The interest rates and applicable fees vary, and we suggest that students and parents carefully read the information provided about the loans before making a decision about which loan program to choose.

Interest on the loans is the responsibility of the family throughout the life of the loan, but may be deferred along with the principal until the student leaves higher education. The Office of Financial Aid Services welcomes your questions about private loans, and will be happy to assist you with the application process.

Short-term loans are available through the Student Accounts Office to meet sudden financial needs confronting students.

Whitman encourages students and their parents to use loan funds wisely. Loans place some responsibility for financing higher education on the student, enabling them to receive financial assistance when needed and to pay some of the cost of the education at a time when they are better able to do so. Students should not exceed the amount they need to meet educational expenses when borrowing. Inquiries are welcome and should be sent to the Office of Financial Aid Services.

**Employment Opportunities**

All Whitman students who apply for financial aid and have need are offered employment opportunities. The offer of federal work-study opportunity often gives a student priority treatment in acquiring part-time work. However, jobs are not guaranteed. There is considerable competition for the most “desirable” jobs. For a current listing of job opportunities, please visit the Career and Community Engagement Center’s website at [https://www.whitman.edu/after-whitman/career-and-community-engagement-center](https://www.whitman.edu/after-whitman/career-and-community-engagement-center)

**Named Scholarship Funds**

Thanks to the generous support of Whitman alumni and friends, the college awards more than $40 million annually in scholarship assistance to its students. Scholarship funds are provided from both named endowments and annual contributions. Scholarship awards are based on financial need and/or merit. In the fall of each academic year, students are notified of the specific funds from which their scholarships are drawn. Named scholarship funds are listed below:

Gordon and Virginia Scribner
Security Pacific Bank
Senior Fund
Esther and Delbert Shannon –
Yakima/Prosser
L. Shaw
Donald Sheehan
Harold L. and Helen M. Shepherd
Cameron and Marion Sherwood – Politics
Claire Sherwood – Women
Donald and Virginia K. Sherwood
Gene Kelly Sherwood
Anna Ennis and Walter Guest Shuham
Robert and Nadine Skotheim
Emma A. Smith
J. Malcolm “Mac” Smith – Political Science
Scott Bradford Smith – Study Abroad
Ralph Waldo and Aimee Snyder – Business
Marilyn Sparks – Theater
Eliza Hart Spaulding
Spokane Area Ashlock Scholarship
Jane C. Staats
Charles F. and Elizabeth Greenwell
Stafford – Prelaw
Marjorie Haddon Stansfield
Evelyn Ayres Starr
Agnes C. Steere and David C. Campbell – Music
Barbara Holmes Stevens
David Stevens – Economics
Mary J. Stewart
Samuel and Althea Stroum
George II and Myrtle Bond Struthers
Elbridge and Mary Stuart
Richard K. Stuart
Joseph L. Stubblefield Trust
W. Price and Ruth S. Sullivan
Norm and Lynn Swick – Special Needs
Sumio and Mii Tai
Mary Eby Tate
Brooke Taylor
Edmund Taylor
Lucille M. Thomas
Frank and Lilian Thompson – Teaching
Robert S. Thome Jr.
3-2 Engineering
Agnes Stephanson Tibbits – Women
Winton A. Ticknor
Timothy Tosswill
Ed and Rosa Viola Tucker
Sherrel Tucker
Dr. Robert C. Tugman
Robert C. Tugman
Guy M. Underwood
Nathaniel W. and Bessie O. Usher
Dean and Esther Vail
Catherine van Veen
Victor Family

William E. Wadsworth
Wallace Family
Marjorie E. Ward
James Prentice Warner and John Leigh
J. Walter and Katherine H. Weingart
J. Walter and Katherine H. Weingart Opportunity
Maurice and Gale Weir – Mathematics
Drs. Robert F. and Elizabeth M. Welty
Dr. Robert Welty and Eva Roberson
Mary F. and Sarah Wheeler
Velma Harris Whitlock
Whitman Alumni Association
Whitman Bridges
Whitman Opportunity
Robert L. Whiter – History
Whittaker Family
Eunice V. Wiener
Jean D. Wilkinson – Minority Students
J. Joy Williams
June Wilson Williams
Robert Jack Williams – Music
A.D. Wilson
Witman/Kenworthy
Ron Witten
Edna Mae and Clare Woodward
Brian Weston and Susan Reynolds
Workman
George Woodward – Mathematics
Dexter K. Yamada – Chemistry
Richard C. and Mary Anne Shaffer
Yancey
Robert and Jacqueline Young
Augusta Wilson Betz and Katharina Betz
Zimmerman
Carroll L. Zimmerman – Science
Bertha H. Zoellner
Special Scholarship Programs

**Whitman Achievement Scholarships** are merit-based scholarships awarded to entering students who have achieved high academic excellence in their college preparatory work. These awards for the current year range from $10,000 to $25,000 annually and are renewable for four years. Students who receive need-based financial aid will be awarded the Whitman Achievement Scholarship as part of their need-based financial aid package. Those students who do not demonstrate need will receive the Whitman Achievement Scholarship and any other merit-based scholarships for which they qualify. All applicants for admission are considered for the scholarship. The award is primarily based upon a calculation of weighted grade-point average. Test scores (if submitted) can increase the scholarship amount.

**Talent Scholarships** are awarded to a select group of entering students in recognition of exceptional musical talent and achievement. The general purpose of this scholarship program is to recognize students who will contribute to the excellence of the Whitman community. These awards for the current years range up to $10,000 annually and are renewable for four years.

**Garrett Sherwood Scholarships** are awarded by Whitman to exceptional applicants who exhibit outstanding academic achievement, leadership and contributions to their schools and communities. While at Whitman, Garrett Sherwood scholars meet regularly on campus throughout the school year for socials, networking receptions, roundtable discussions, national grant and fellowship information sessions, and other events. In addition, over spring break of junior year, Garrett Sherwood scholars travel to New York City for a career exploration and networking trip. There, they have a chance to meet local alumni who are leaders in finance, business, media, culture and government and can assist the Scholars in making contacts in their potential career fields. Garret Sherwood scholars are also invited to campus to visit at Whitman’s expense during the weekend of Spring Into Whitman Day.

**National Merit Scholarships** are awarded to selected National Merit finalists with Whitman as the sponsoring organization. Students will receive an additional $2,000 in National Merit Scholarship.