Information about your Financial Aid Notification Letter
Telephone: 610-436-2627
www.wcupa.edu/finaid email:finaid@wcupa.edu

1. **General Information**:
   a. Financial Aid is estimated based on the information you submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the eligibility requirements of the various programs.
   b. We assumed full-time enrollment status and used the housing status you reported on the FAFSA. Any changes to your FAFSA or enrollment status may require changes to your Financial Aid Package.
   c. Most aid programs (and all federal loan programs) require you to be enrolled in a degree program and be taking at least 6 credits per semester.
   d. Disbursement of most eligible aid will begin at the start of each semester.
   e. Students will be notified of changes to their aid package via an updated Financial Aid Notification (FAN).

2. **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) State Grants**:
   a. Estimated Financial Aid Award made prior to May shows an estimated grant amount that may change after PHEAA makes their awards final.
   b. PA State Grant eligibility status can be reviewed at www.pheaa.org
   c. Changes in enrollment can affect grant award amounts.
   d. *For renewal applicants and transfer students*: PHEAA grants will not be credited to your tuition bill until satisfactory academic progress is confirmed.
   e. A PA state grant (PHEAA) may be reduced or canceled if a student takes more than 50% of a semester's coursework in distance education classes.
   f. PHEAA may require additional information from PA residents regarding their PA State Grant eligibility. Please review your account at www.pheaa.org

3. **Federal Work-Study**:
   a. Students who were awarded Federal Work-Study funding will receive job assignments via their contracts in June; additional work-study jobs may be offered throughout the year as needed to fill vacancies.
   b. Please return your contract to the Financial Aid Office by the deadline date listed on the contract.
   c. Students who have not yet applied for Federal Work-Study and are interested can find the Federal Work Study Application online at www.wcupa.edu/finaid under "Forms".
   d. Students awarded Federal Work-Study are paid bi-weekly through the University Payroll Office. The funds are NOT credited on tuition bills.

4. **Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and Perkins Loans:**
   a. You must log on to MyWCU and under the Financial Aid section (in the middle of the page) click Accept/Decline Financial Aid to accept, reduce, or decline your loan. For information about accessing your accounts, please review the New Student Account Information page at www.wcupa.edu/infoservices/clientServices/itHelpDesk/studentAccount.aspx
   b. Credit for your loan(s) will appear on your bill only once you have accepted your loan(s) on MyWCU.
   c. You will be notified via your WCU Webmail when your loan funds are disbursed to your account.
   d. You have a right to cancel all or a portion of your loan within 14 days of disbursement. If you wish to decline or reduce the amount of a federal loan after initial disbursement, please submit a written request to the Financial Aid Office or email finaidloans@wcupa.edu.

   A. **Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans**
      1. Accept your loan(s) on myWCU.
      2. At https://studentloans.gov (if not previously completed):
         a.) Complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling.
         b.) Complete a Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN).
      How to navigate the Studentloans.gov website video: http://wcupa.financialaidtv.com/#playlist-40213:video-0

3. Direct Loans are disbursed to students' accounts beginning no earlier than 10 days prior to the start of the semester and continue as all eligibility requirements are met. You may monitor your funds through myWCU.
4. <u>Transfer Students</u>: Loan amounts are based on cumulative credits earned/transferred into WCU. All transfer students whose credits have not yet been evaluated are awarded up to $5,500 (first-year borrower limit). If/when you have additional transfer credits posted to your record, please email our office at finaidloans@wcupa.edu and ask us to re-evaluate your loan eligibility.
   B. **Federal Perkins Student Loans**:
      1. Accept your loan on MyWCU. Failure to accept your Perkins loan in a timely manner could result in cancellation of the loan.

5. **Direct PLUS Loans (Parent and Graduate):**
Apply at https://studentloans.gov starting **<u>May 1st</u>**. Request only the amount you need for the academic year, using the Estimate of Costs on your FAN letter. If no amount is requested, your loan will be certified for the maximum Total Costs listed on your award letter less the amount of other Aid Offered.
   a. Parents may apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan & complete a Direct PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN).
   b. Graduate students may apply for a Graduate PLUS Loan, complete a Graduate PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN), and complete Graduate PLUS Entrance Counseling.
   c. Parents approved with an endorser or granted extenuating circumstances will be required to complete a Plus Loan counseling session on https://studentloans.gov

6. **Private Education Loans:**
   a. We recommend that you begin identifying and comparing lenders now, and apply starting **<u>May 1st</u>**.
   b. Search on the internet under "Private Education Loans" and apply directly to the lender of your choice.
   c. Request only the amount you need for the academic year.

7. **Final Notes**
   a. We suggest that you plan to use personal funds (other than grants and student loans) to cover the costs of off-campus housing and other indirect costs, such as books and supplies, for the first two months of the semester, as your financial aid may disburse after those expenses have accrued.
   b. File a FAFSA for each academic year (which at WCU is fall through summer).
   c. Aid will be paid to your account at the beginning of each semester once your verification (if required) is complete and all other eligibility requirements are met. You may monitor changes to your aid on-line at MyWCU.
   d. If you need to withdraw from the university at any point in your academic career, it is in your best interest to contact the Financial Aid office to discuss the possibility of a portion of your financial aid being returned.
   e. Monitor and comply with any Financial Aid Alerts that display when you log into MyWCU. Incomplete Financial Aid alerts may delay disbursement of your financial aid.
   f. Report any additional aid not shown on this letter; your aid may be adjusted if that additional aid exceeds your demonstrated financial need.
   g. <u>This is not your bill</u>; it will be sent separately by the Bursar's Office. If your bill has a zero balance (financial aid fully covers your charges), you must confirm your intent to attend the University by responding to the bill. You may do that by confirming your enrollment under the Bursar's Office section of MyWCU (a separate and completely different action from accepting your loans under the Financial Aid section), by returning the top portion of your bill, or by calling the Bursar's Office.
   h. **Failure to respond to your bill will result in cancellation of your schedule!**
   i. Payment arrangements including the WCU installment payment plan must be made with the Bursar's Office for any balance not covered by financial aid.
   j. You may print and keep your FAN Letter for your records. We assume that you accept your grants and scholarships, but you will need to accept your federal student loan funding on MyWCU.
   k. When our office experiences high call volume (April – September) you may leave a message by pressing 3 while on the main menu or email us at FINAID@WCUPA.EDU We typically reply to email within 1-2 business days, and inquiries are answered in the order in which they are received.