

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I apply for a Newcombe Scholarship?

Applications are available shortly after the start of WCU's spring semester, and the Center for Women & Gender Equity tries to notify by email all those that prequalify. The application deadline normally falls around mid-March. For this year's official deadline, please view our online application, which can be accessed [here](#).

How many Newcombe scholarships are awarded each year, and how much is awarded?

There is no fixed number of Newcombe scholarships to be awarded, and the number of awards generally corresponds to the quality of the applicants of a given year. Historically, the number of scholarships awarded has been in the range of 20-30 per year, and are awarded in several different amounts, ranging from \$500 to \$3,500.

I will be graduating at the end of the Fall Semester. Am I still eligible?

Yes, as long as you are enrolled in at least nine credits during the fall semester of your graduation, you are still eligible. If selected, the full amount of your scholarship will be applied to your account during the fall semester.

I already have a Bachelor's degree. Am I still eligible?

No. The Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship is only available to mature women students who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree.

What if I'm not currently enrolled in classes for the upcoming year?

You may *apply* for the scholarship without being enrolled in classes, but if you are selected to receive a scholarship, you *must* take a minimum of 9 credits each semester or the scholarship will be revoked.

I am a previous recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. Can I reapply?

Yes! Prior recipients who still meet all of the eligibility requirements are welcome and encouraged to reapply.

What is a FAFSA, and where can I fill one out?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Anyone who wants financial aid for college needs to fill out a FAFSA. All federal grant and loan awards are determined by the FAFSA, and nearly all colleges use the FAFSA as the basis for their own financial aid awards. You may fill out a FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or pick up a paper copy at WCU's Office of Financial Aid. Applicants for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship **MUST** fill out and submit a FAFSA and submit the FAFSA by **March 1st**.

I'm an international student, so I don't file a FAFSA. Can I still apply?

Yes! International Students will need to visit the Financial Aid Office to pick up a paper copy of the FAFSA. Also, please describe in your essay the financial responsibilities that make it difficult to attend or stay in college. The selection committee members award scholarship amounts based on financial need.

Do you have any tips for writing a great application essay?

Of course! The essay is the portion of the application that provides the selection committee with the opportunity to get to know you, so be as honest and specific as possible when discussing your life circumstances, financial responsibilities, and career goals. Really think about the things in your life that make it difficult for you to attend and stay in college. These reasons might include a disability, illness, childcare or eldercare responsibilities, or financial problems, to name only a few possibilities. Tell us your story!

While there are no minimum or maximum word requirements for the essay, we have noticed that the most successful applicants usually supply an essay that is between two and three double-spaced pages long.

Consider visiting the Writing Center for assistance during all parts of the essay process. They are located in FHG Library 251. You can make an appointment by visiting <https://www.wcupa.edu/academics/writingcenter/>.

Is there anything else I need to do if I am selected for an award?

Yes. You will be asked to send a letter of appreciation to the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation and attend all Newcombe Scholarship programs. Details of upcoming events will be distributed via e-mail. Charlotte Newcombe Scholarship Program is designed to help you succeed academically and support the career development process. Attendance at these programs is mandatory to maintain your scholarship and be awarded future scholarships. If you can't attend an event, you will work with the Director of the Center for Women & Gender Equity to find another program that fits your schedule.