

# FINANCIAL AID

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Western offers financial aid to help deserving students bridge the gap between the expected family financial contribution and the cost of attending the university. All students admitted are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Student financial aid is awarded after a student has been accepted for enrollment and the financial aid application is complete. It is strongly recommended that financial aid applications and supporting documents be submitted by March 1.

## Applying for Aid

Western Colorado University utilizes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for all financial aid. This form is available online at: <https://studentaid.gov/>. The FAFSA should be filed as soon as possible after October 1 each year for the next school year.

## Grants

Grants need not be repaid. By completing the FAFSA, a student is automatically applying for consideration for need-based grants funded through federal, state (for residents only), and Institutional sources.

## Scholarships

Scholarships need not be repaid. Western Colorado University offers numerous scholarship opportunities for both incoming and continuing students.

## Employment Programs

Western's student employment program is funded through federal, state, and institutional sources. Students may work as many as 20 hours per week, and wages vary according to the job. It may be possible to work on campus even if you are not otherwise eligible for financial aid.

## Loan Programs

Loans must be repaid. The FAFSA must be completed to receive consideration for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program and the Federal Direct PLUS Program (parent loan).