

WAC 250-20-021 Program definitions. (1) The term "needy student" shall mean a post-high school student of an institution of post-secondary education who demonstrates to the higher education coordinating board the financial inability, either parental, familial, or personal, to bear the total cost of education for any semester or quarter. Needy student also means an opportunity internship graduate who enrolls in a postsecondary program of study within one year of high school graduation. The determination of financial inability to bear the total cost of education shall be made in accordance with federal needs analysis formulas and provisions as recognized and modified by the board.

(2) The term "disadvantaged student" shall mean a student who by reasons of adverse cultural, educational, environmental, experiential, or familial circumstance is unlikely to aspire to, or enroll in, higher education. Generally, this shall mean a dependent student whose parents have not attained a college education and/or whose family income is substantially below the state's median.

(3) The term "postsecondary institution" shall mean:

(a) Any public university, college, community college, or vocational-technical institute operated by the state of Washington political subdivision thereof, or any other university, college, school or institute in the state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level which is a member institution of an approved accrediting association.

(b) If such institution agrees to participate in the program in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

(c) Any institution, branch, extension or facility operating within the state of Washington which is affiliated with an institution operating in another state must be a separately accredited member institution of an approved accrediting association.

(d) The separate accreditation requirement is waived for branch campuses of out-of-state institutions if the branch campus:

(i) Is eligible to participate in federal student aid programs; and

(ii) Has operated as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of twenty consecutive years within the state of Washington; and

(iii) Has an annual enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students.

(4) The term "approved accrediting association" shall mean the following organizations:

(a) Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities;

(b) Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education;

(c) New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

(d) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

(e) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

(f) Western Association of Schools and Colleges;

(g) Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools;

(h) Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training;

(i) Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology;

(j) Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools;

(k) National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences.

(5) "Washington resident" shall be defined as an individual who satisfies the requirements of RCW 28B.15.012 (2)(a) through (d) and

board-adopted rules and regulations pertaining to the determination of residency.

(6) "Dependent student" shall mean any post-high school student who does not qualify as an independent student in accordance with WAC 250-20-021(7).

(7) "Independent student" shall mean any student who qualifies as an independent student for the receipt of federal aid. These qualifications include a student who has either:

(a) Reached his or her twenty-fourth birthday before January 1st of the aid year; or

(b) Is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces; or

(c) Is an orphan or ward of the court; or

(d) Has legal dependents other than a spouse; or

(e) Is a married student or a graduate/professional student; or

(f) Is determined to be independent for the receipt of federal aid on the basis of the professional judgment of the aid administrator.

(8) "Placebound student" means a student who:

(a) Is unable to complete a college program because of family or employment commitments, health concerns, exceptional monetary needs, or similar factors; and

(b) Has completed the associate of arts or the associate of science degree, or its equivalent; and

(c) May be influenced by the receipt of an enhanced student financial aid award to complete a baccalaureate degree at an eligible institution.

(9) Definitions of "undergraduate students" will be in accord with definitions adopted for institutional use by the board.

(10) "Student budgets" are determined by institutions and approved by the board. The student budget consists of that amount required to support an individual as a student for nine months and may take into consideration cost factors for maintaining the student's dependents. This should be the amount used to calculate the student's total need for all state and federal funds.

(11) "State need grant cost-of-attendance."

(a) The costs-of-attendance for each sector are calculated by adding together a standard maintenance allowance for books and supplies including tools, room, board, transportation and personal items, for all undergraduate students statewide as developed by the Washington Financial Aid Association, and the sector's regular tuition and fees for full-time, resident, undergraduate students.

(b) In no case may the costs-of-attendance exceed the statutory ceiling established by RCW 28B.92.060(4). The ceiling is calculated by adding together the same standard maintenance allowance used in determining the state need grant cost-of-attendance, plus the regular tuition and fees charged for a full-time resident undergraduate student at a research university, plus the current average state appropriation per student for operating expenses in all public institutions.

(c) For example, in the 1992-93 academic year, the value of the statutory ceiling is \$13,783. This value is composed of the Washington Financial Aid Association's maintenance budget of \$6,964, plus the regular tuition and fees charged for a resident undergraduate student at a research university of \$2,274, plus the current average state appropriation per student for operating expenses in all public institutions of \$4,545.

(d) The value of each element used in the construction of the statutory ceiling will be updated annually.

(e) The higher education coordinating board will consult with appropriate advisory committees and the representative association of student financial aid administrators, to annually review and adjust the costs-of-attendance. The costs-of-attendance for each sector will be published concurrent with annual guidelines for program administration.

(12) "Family income" is the student's family income for the calendar year prior to the academic year for which aid is being requested.

(a) Income means adjusted gross income and nontaxable income as reported on the federally prescribed application for federal student aid.

(b) For the dependent student family income means parental income.

(c) For the independent student family income means the income of the student and any other adult, if any, reported as part of the student's family.

(d) The institutional aid administrator may adjust the family's income up or down to more accurately reflect the family's financial situation during the academic year. When such adjustments are made they shall be consistent with guidelines for making changes to determine federal student aid eligibility.

(13) "Income cutoff" means the amount of family income below which a student is determined to be eligible for the state need grant.

(a) The cutoff shall be expressed as a percent of the state's median family income. The exact point of cutoff shall be determined each year by the board based on available funding.

(b) The board will endeavor to award students, in order, from the lowest income to the highest income, within the limits of available funding.

(c) At the discretion of the institution's aid administrator, a student who is eligible for a state need grant in a given academic year may be deemed eligible for the ensuing academic year if his or her family income increases by no more than three percent, even if the stated median family income cutoff for grant eligibility is lower than that amount.

(14) "Median family income" is the median income for Washington state, adjusted by family size and reported annually in the federal register.

(15) "Base grant" is the state need grant award for each sector before the addition of a dependent care allowance. The base grant per student will be no less than the published base grant in 1998-1999. The base grant may be further adjusted according to the student's family income level and rate of enrollment as described in WAC 250-20-041.

(16) "Dependent care allowance" is a flat grant amount, to be determined by the board, which is in addition to the eligible student's base grant.

(a) The allowance is awarded to those students who have dependents in need of care. The dependent must be someone (other than a spouse) living with the student.

(b) Care must be that assistance provided to the dependent by someone outside of the student's household and not paid by another agency.

(c) Eligible grant recipients must document their need for the dependent care allowance.

(17) "State need grant award" is the base grant adjusted according to level of family income, plus a dependent care allowance, if applicable.

(18) "Academic year" is that period of time between July 1 and the following June 30 during which a full-time student would normally be expected to complete the equivalent of two semesters or three quarters of instruction.

(19) "Clock hours" means a period of time which is the equivalent of either:

(a) A 50 to 60 minute class, lecture, or recitation; or

(b) A 50 to 60 minute period of faculty-supervised laboratory shop training or internship.

(20) "Gift equity packaging policy" is the institution's policy for assigning gift aid to all needy, eligible students.

(21) "Satisfactory progress" is the student's successful completion of a minimum number of credit or clock hours for each term in which the grant was received. Each school's policy for measuring progress of state need grant recipients must define satisfactory as the student's completion of the minimum number of credit or clock hours for which the aid was disbursed.

(a) The minimum satisfactory progress standard for full-time students is twelve credits per term or 300 clock hours per term. Satisfactory progress for three-quarter time students is nine credits per term or 225 clock hours per term. Satisfactory progress for half-time students is six credits per term or 150 clock hours per term. Satisfactory progress for less than half-time pilot program students is three credits or 75 hours per term.

(b) Each school's policy must deny further disbursements of the need grant at the conclusion of any term in which he or she fails to complete at least one-half of the minimum number of credits or clock hours for which the aid was disbursed or otherwise fails to fulfill the conditions of the institution's satisfactory progress policy.

(c) The school may make disbursements to a student who is in a probationary status. "Probation" is defined as completion of at least one-half, but less than all of the minimum number of credits for which the aid was calculated and disbursed. The school must have a probation policy, approved by the board, which limits the number of terms in which a student may receive the need grant while in a probationary status.

(d) The school's aid administrator may at any time, using professional judgment exercised on a case-by-case basis, reinstate a student back into a satisfactory progress status, in response to an individual student's extenuating circumstances.

(22) The term "full institutional accreditation" shall mean the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education grants to an educational institution that meets the agency's established standards and requirements. Institutional accreditation applies to the entire institution, indicating that each of an institution's parts is contributing to the achievement of the institution's objectives.

(23) The term "eligible program" for a public or private nonprofit educational institution, shall mean:

(a) A certificate, associate or baccalaureate degree program; at least a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree; or

(b) A program that provides at least a 15-week undergraduate program of 600 clock hours, 16 semester hours, or 24 quarter hours that

leads to a degree or certificate and prepares the student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; and

(c) A program encompassed within the institution's accreditation and be an eligible program for purposes of the federal Title IV student financial aid programs;

(d) Apprenticeships qualifying as eligible programs for opportunity internship graduates. Apprenticeships must be associated with participating state need grant institutions.

(24) The three "public sectors of higher education" are the research universities, comprehensive universities, and the community and technical colleges.

(25) A "for-profit institution" is a postsecondary educational institution other than a public or private nonprofit institution which provides training for gainful employment in a recognized profession.

(26) A "postsecondary vocational institution" is a public or private nonprofit institution which provides training for gainful employment in a recognized profession.

(27) The "less-than-half-time pilot project" is defined as follows:

(a) The pilot project is authorized for 2007-2011 in chapter 404, Laws of 2007 and is meant to test the feasibility of providing state need grant awards to students who enroll in three, four or five credits.

(b) All rules and guidelines that govern student and school participation in the state need grant program shall apply to pilot project except the following:

(i) The student may enroll for three, four or five credits per term.

(ii) The grant award is equal to one-quarter of the regular base grant amount.

(iii) Students otherwise enrolled in credit bearing course work may receive the grant for up to one academic year before being accepted into a program that leads to a degree or certificate.

(28) The term "former foster youth" means a person who is at least eighteen years of age, but no more than twenty-four years of age, who was a dependent of the department of social and health services at the time he or she attained the age of eighteen.

(29) An "opportunity internship graduate" means a low-income high school student who successfully completes an opportunity internship program (as defined in RCW 28C.18.162) and graduates from high school.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.92 RCW. WSR 10-16-026, § 250-20-021, filed 7/23/10, effective 8/23/10; WSR 08-15-156, § 250-20-021, filed 7/22/08, effective 8/22/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW. WSR 06-17-046, § 250-20-021, filed 8/8/06, effective 9/8/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW and RCW 28B.10.822. WSR 02-24-041, § 250-20-021, filed 12/2/02, effective 1/2/03. Statutory Authority: 2813.80 [Chapter 28B.80 RCW]. WSR 99-16-015, § 250-20-021, filed 7/23/99, effective 8/23/99. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW. WSR 96-18-024, § 250-20-021, filed 8/27/96, effective 9/27/96; WSR 96-04-019, § 250-20-021, filed 1/30/96, effective 3/1/96; WSR 95-17-045, § 250-20-021, filed 8/11/95, effective 9/11/95; WSR 95-10-007, § 250-20-021, filed 4/24/95, effective 5/25/95; WSR 93-08-010, § 250-20-021, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.800 through 28B.10.822. WSR 92-11-022, § 250-20-021, filed 5/13/92, effective 6/13/92; WSR 90-04-067, § 250-20-021, filed 2/5/90, effective 7/1/90. Statutory Authority: RCW

28B.10.806. WSR 88-10-001 (Order 2/88, Resolution No. 88-11), § 250-20-021, filed 4/21/88; WSR 87-16-046 (Order 2/87, Resolution No. 87-59), § 250-20-021, filed 7/29/87; WSR 86-12-077 (Order 5/86), § 250-20-021, filed 6/4/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.822. WSR 82-15-058 (Order 9-82, Resolution No. 82-52), § 250-20-021, filed 7/20/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. WSR 81-13-038 (Order 2/81, Resolution No. 81-67), § 250-20-021, filed 6/16/81; WSR 80-05-025 (Order 3-80, Resolution No. 80-56), § 250-20-021, filed 4/14/80; WSR 79-11-031 (Order 11-79, Resolution No. 80-18), § 250-20-021, filed 10/11/79; WSR 79-07-021 (Order 5-79, Resolution No. 79-33), § 250-20-021, filed 6/15/79; WSR 78-05-063 (Order 2-78), § 250-20-021, filed 4/27/78, effective 6/1/78; Order 2-77, § 250-20-021, filed 4/13/77; Order 3-75, § 250-20-021, filed 4/25/75; Order 1-75, § 250-20-021, filed 3/7/75; Order 1-74, § 250-20-021, filed 4/9/74; Order 1-73, § 250-20-021, filed 7/2/73.]