

Applying for Financial Aid

CONFUSING? SOMETIMES. WORTH IT? ABSOLUTELY.

The process of applying for financial aid can seem a bit overwhelming and complicated—it involves the government, after all. But it's the key to bringing a Christian education within reach for most students and families. Here are some answers to common questions:

How many forms will I need to fill out?

Just two—one from the government (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly called the FAFSA) and one from Walla Walla University (WWU Financial Aid Application).

What's the difference between the two?

The FAFSA calculates family financial need and eligibility for state and federal government grants and loans. The much shorter and simpler WWU application determines eligibility for aid that comes directly from WWU.

Why should I waste my time applying for aid if I'm pretty sure I won't qualify?

We hear that question a lot. But keep in mind that most students and families do qualify for financial help. Last year over 96 percent qualified for financial aid and approximately 93 percent of WWU students accepted it. The average award in grants, scholarships, loans and Work-Study was \$28,287.

How soon can I submit the FAFSA and WWU financial aid applications?

Both can be submitted October 1, prior to the academic period (e.g., October 1, 2022 for the 2023-2024 academic year).

Is there a financial aid deadline at WWU?

Yes and no. To be eligible for maximum financial aid, your financial aid application file should be complete by April 30. But WWU will work to get you the most aid possible, regardless of when your application is received.

Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?

Yes.

Can I complete both financial aid application forms online?

Yes. To submit the FAFSA via the Web, visit studentaid.gov. To submit the WWU Financial Aid Application, visit sfs.wallawalla.edu/application.

What documents will I need to fill out the applications?

To complete FAFSA—assuming you are a dependent student—your parents will need their tax returns and/or W-2s from *two years prior* to the start of the school year. E.g., use 2021 tax information when applying for the 2023-2024 academic year. Visit studentaid.gov for a worksheet outlining exactly what information you'll be asked to provide.

Can I sign the forms electronically?

Yes. But to sign the FAFSA electronically, you'll first need to get a Federal Student Aid Identification Number (FSA ID) at studentaid.gov/fsa-id.

The FAFSA asks for a school code. What's that?

By listing school codes, you can have FAFSA reports sent to any and all colleges or universities you're considering. The WWU school code is **003799**.

Will I be asked to submit additional documents?

Some applicants are selected for additional verification and may be asked to provide the source documents used to complete the FAFSA.

Can I see any information about my finances online?

On myWWU (mywwu.wallawalla.edu) you can see tasks you need to do in your "To Do" list. This will include any documents we still need to finish your financial aid award. You can see your scholarships and other financial aid awarded as soon as we enter it if you click on Self Service, Campus Finances, View Financial Aid. If you need assistance logging into myWWU, call our computer support office at **(509) 527-2317**.

How soon will I find out how much aid I can get?

After you submit your FAFSA application, WWU will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) within a few days. We will then review your file and request any necessary additional documentation. When your financial aid file is complete, you can expect to receive a financial aid award letter within two weeks.

What if I need help completing the FAFSA?

You'll find the answers to most questions on the FAFSA website at studentaid.gov. Or call us at **(800) 656-2315**. One of our financial counselors will be glad to help.

What if I don't agree with the results of the FAFSA report?

Every family situation is different, and sometimes there are changes in financial circumstances and other factors not covered in the FAFSA application process. Through a process called professional judgment, we're often able to take those into account and maximize your eligibility for aid. Call your WWU financial counselor for more information.

How safe is all that personal financial information I'm being asked to submit?

Very. To alleviate any privacy concerns you might have about the FAFSA process, visit studentaid.gov/notices/privacy.

More questions?

Visit sfs.wallawalla.edu.

Did you know?

- WWU offers generous merit-based scholarship packages; some are more than \$60,000 over four years.¹
- Your career may qualify you for a generous **loan forgiveness** program. Visit MyFedLoan.org/PSLF.
- The WWU Direct Loan default rate is 0.4 percent, much lower than the national average of 2.3 percent.²

¹2018–2019 school year

²U.S. Department of Education