



Financial Aid

The following information is subject to change at anytime, without notice, due to changes in Federal, State, Veterans Administration Regulations or Institutional Policies. Please visit ewc.wy.edu for the most up to date information.

All student financial aid at Eastern Wyoming College is administered by the Director of Financial Aid. To be considered for the maximum amount of aid possible all students should:

1. Complete an EWC Application for Admission.
2. Submit official high school and college transcripts. If you are a high school senior, an official sixth, seventh, or final transcript is required for institutional scholarships consideration. Final transcripts are required after you have graduated.

Among the available programs are:

FEDERAL (Title IV)

1. Federal Pell Grants
 - Academic Competitiveness Grant
2. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
3. Federal Work Study Program (FWS)
4. Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program—Subsidized and Unsubsidized
 - Stafford Loans
 - Parent Loans

(For more information about Title IV Financial Aid programs visit www.ed.gov)

STATE

1. Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP)
2. Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship Program
3. Tuitions and fees for survivors or dependents of emergency responders

INSTITUTIONAL

1. Scholarships
2. Activity and Part-time Grants
3. Institutional Employment

MILITARY

1. Montgomery GI Bill
2. Wyoming National Guard
3. Wyoming Educational Assistance for Veterans and Survivors

The college is approved for attendance by those who are eligible for educational benefits provided by the Veteran's Administration. Veterans wishing to use their education benefits must contact the EWC Financial Aid Office. Information is also

available on the EWC website: <http://ewc.wy.edu/services/finaid/veteran.cfm>

General Eligibility Requirements for Federal Aid

To be eligible to receive federal student aid, a student must meet certain requirements.

Students must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security number (unless you're from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau)
- Comply with Selective Service registration, if required (see www.sss.gov for more information)
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs
- Not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on a federal student loan
- Have financial need (except for unsubsidized Stafford and Parent PLUS Loans)
- Not have certain drug convictions
- Be making satisfactory academic progress

Academic Competitiveness Grant

To be eligible for an ACG each academic year, a student must:

- Be Federal Pell Grant eligible;
- Be enrolled in a degree program;
- Be enrolled in the first or second academic year of his or her program of study at a two-year or four-year degree-granting institution;
- Have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study (after January 1, 2006, if a first-year student, and after January 1, 2005, if a second year student);
- If a first-year student, not have been previously enrolled in an undergraduate program; and
- If a second-year student, have at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the first academic year.

First-year undergraduate students will be eligible to receive up to \$750. Second-year undergraduate students will be eligible to receive up to \$1,300.

Applying for Federal Aid

For complete information on Federal Aid programs, visit www.college.gov and www.studentaid.ed.gov. Individuals who plan to apply for federal aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students are encouraged to apply via the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov for faster processing. The paper FAFSA may be obtained from EWC or from high school counselors. (The FAFSA is also available in Spanish).

It is advisable to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 prior to the academic year in which you are planning to attend.

The Financial Aid Office will review the FAFSA results received directly from the federal processor, and follow federal regulations in determining eligibility and awarding federal aid. Your assistance in forwarding all information requested of you by the Financial Aid Office in a timely manner will enable them to give you priority consideration for Financial Aid. Students will be advised in writing concerning eligibility for federal aid. (If your financial situation or your family's financial situation has recently changed for the worse because of death, separation or divorce, or loss of job or benefits, you should contact the Financial Aid Office). Average processing time is 4 weeks (This may be longer at the start of the semester).

Eastern Wyoming College does not participate in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant), or the National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant).

Applying for Institutional Aid

Individuals who wish to apply for institutional aid (specifically scholarships and activity grants) must meet all deadlines and requirements, including satisfactory academic progress as defined in the Satisfactory Academic Policies for Financial Aid.

Institutional Grants and Scholarships have a priority deadline of March 15 for first time freshman. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Continuing and transfer students may apply for scholarships online at ewc.wy.edu, or by

requesting the continuing student scholarship application from the Financial Aid Office after April 1.

Note: *As some scholarships are need-based, students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA.*

Institutional scholarships and activity grants are determined by selected individuals and committees at Eastern Wyoming College. You will be notified only if you have been awarded a scholarship or activity grant.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Students are limited to working a maximum of 15 hours per week under the Institutional Employment or Federal Work Study Programs. There are a variety of positions available. Information is available in the Financial Aid Office and on-line at ewc.wy.edu/services/workstudy. Students must meet the Satisfactory Academic Policies for Financial Aid to receive and maintain federal and institutional work study eligibility.

Federal Work Study will be awarded on a "first-come, first served" basis to eligible students.

Method of Payment of Aid

Students receiving any type of financial assistance (federal or institutional) will have their student accounts credited for one-half of the award at the beginning of each semester for which they are eligible, unless otherwise specified by the donor. Grant and scholarship funds from all sources credit first to tuition and fees, unless the specific aid is targeted to other educational costs (i.e. housing).

Generally, financial aid funds will be credited to a student's account based on the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled on the last day of late registration. After the first day of the semester, credit balances are paid within 14 days after the credit balance occurs. Please be aware that your financial aid award could change based on credit hour load. Students unsure of whether their change in credit hours will affect their financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to dropping classes.

Federal Work Study/Institutional Employment payments are paid directly to the student after each month of employment.

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Financial Aid Eligibility

The Education Amendments of 1987 require that to be eligible for aid a student must be making “satisfactory progress” in his/her course of study. In order to satisfy this requirement and prevent abuse of the intentions of the federal aid programs, satisfactory progress guidelines must be adhered to by students who receive any type of Title IV federal aid (Pell, ACG, FSEOG, FWS, LEAP, Stafford, PLUS). (See Satisfactory Academic Policies for Financial Aid requirements further in this section).

ENROLLMENT STATUS

With the exception of Pell Grants, a student must enroll for six (6) or more credit hours per semester to receive federal financial assistance.

Length of Eligibility

Due to limited campus-based funds (Federal Work Study, Institutional Employment, Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants), students who have already received a degree from Eastern Wyoming College or another institution shall generally be eligible for Pell Grants (unless the student has already received a bachelor’s degree) or Federal Student Loans only. In some instances, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Director of Financial Aid.

A student who has attended EWC for more than six semesters will no longer be eligible for institutional aid, with the exception of jobs on campus; however, Satisfactory Academic Policies for Financial Aid apply.

CHANGE OF MAJORS

Credit hours accumulated under a previous major(s) at EWC or other postsecondary institutions shall be counted in the maximum number of hours allowed for aid eligibility for the currently sought degree or certificate. Extension of Financial Aid eligibility may be approved by the EWC Financial Aid Committee if the student petitions the Financial Aid Committee regarding a change in major.

Institutional Aid Eligibility

ACTIVITY GRANTS

Activity Grants are available to high school graduates with some special ability in men’s and women’s basketball, women’s volleyball, golf, rodeo, livestock judging, and debate. Peer Counselor Activity Grants are also available for adults who work with other adult students.

First-time students who do not have a high school diploma but who have special ability as determined by the activity sponsor may also qualify for activity grants.

DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS

Division Scholarships are available to first-time students who meet the requirements as determined by the EWC Financial Aid Policy Committee. EWC students or transferring students must meet the Satisfactory Academic Policies for Financial Aid to be eligible for Division Scholarships. Students receiving Division Scholarships must be majoring in one of the majors within the respective Division.

INSTITUTIONAL and FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Eastern Wyoming College provides a large number of scholarships for students. Students are encouraged to visit ewc.wy.edu to view the list of scholarships, requirements and application process.

Miscellaneous

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who transfer to EWC from other post-secondary institutions shall be eligible for federal aid in accordance with established EWC guidelines. Hours transferred from any prior institution(s) will be counted toward the maximum number of hours permissible for receiving federal aid at EWC. Prior student loan accumulation may affect a student’s overall loan eligibility at EWC.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you are transferring to EWC between the fall and spring semesters, please be aware that financial aid does not “automatically” transfer from one school to another. You should contact the EWC Financial Aid Office as soon as you have made the decision to transfer, so we can assist you with the transfer process.

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Satisfactory Progress Requirements- Probation/Suspension

Pursuant to Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 668.16, one of the basic institutional administrative requirements is to determine a student's eligibility for Title IV aid based on reasonable standards for measuring whether students are maintaining satisfactory academic progress in the completion of their educational programs.

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

All students receiving Title IV financial aid monies (Pell Grant, Academic Competitiveness Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP), Federal Work-Study Program, and Stafford/PLUS Loans) must meet the following academic standards:

EWC Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies for Financial Aid

To be eligible for federally funded financial aid programs, and Institutional Awards at Eastern Wyoming College, all students must initially and continually meet the following qualitative and quantitative requirements for satisfactory academic progress (SAP). The Federal Aid Programs include Federal Pell Grants, ACG, FSEOG, LEAP, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Stafford and PLUS loans. The Institutional Aid Programs include scholarships, activity grants, and institutional work-study.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed and determined before aid is initially awarded, then at the end of each spring semester during the student's program of study. *One-year programs, certain donor funded scholarships, and students on Financial Aid probationary status will be checked each semester.*

QUALITATIVE MEASURE

Students must have a minimum 2.00 cumulative college Grade Point Average (GPA) to be eligible and to remain eligible for federal financial aid at EWC. GPA requirements for Institutional Awards vary. Please refer to your scholarship award letter for more information. Specific details regarding the Wyoming State Hathaway Scholarship Program, the Academic Competitiveness Grant, and certain donor funded scholarships are available in the EWC Financial Aid Office.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE

In calculating the quantitative measure, all credit hours attempted will be considered. These include, but are not limited to, courses passed, courses from which the student withdrew, courses failed, repeated courses, transfer courses, and remedial/developmental coursework.

If a student has already received a degree or certificate, or is changing majors, the student will need to file an EWC Petition for Extension for Federal Financial Aid. Only those courses that apply to their new program will be considered in the quantitative measure.

EWC Financial Aid recipients must earn/pass at least 75% of the credit hours attempted during each award year with the exception of some Institutional Awards. For certain Institutional Awards, students must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credit hours each academic year. Please refer to your scholarship award letter for more information.

Returning EWC students must have earned 75% of all credit hours attempted - even if they did not receive financial aid. If their cumulative college GPA is below 2.0 or they have completed less than the 75% of all credit hours attempted, students may be awarded aid on a probationary status.

Students may receive financial aid if they have attempted below 150% of the credit hours required to complete their programs. To determine the maximum allowable credit hours for a specific program of study, please refer to the following chart:

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| <u>Program Type</u> | <u>Total Credit Hours Required</u> | <u>Maximum Attempted Hours Allowed For Aid Eligibility</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| AA | Between 64 and 80 | 96 to 120 |
| AS | Between 64 and 72 | 96 to 108 |
| AAS | Between 62 and 94 | 93 to 141 |
| Certificate | 31 to 34 | 46.5 to 51 |

After a student has attempted 30 hours of developmental/remedial credit hours, the student cannot receive financial aid for developmental/remedial credit hours. From that point forward, developmental/remedial credit hours will count in the student's attempted hours but not in enrollment status or cost of attendance for financial aid purposes.

REGAINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to request that the Financial Aid Office re-evaluate their academic record to determine if financial aid eligibility has been re-established once suspended from federal financial aid. A student may regain eligibility for federal student aid if they successfully complete an equivalent course load as when suspended from aid, with a 2.0 semester GPA - at their own expense.

FINANCIAL AID APPEALS

If a student is suspended from federal financial aid for not meeting the EWC Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, the student may appeal.

A student may appeal their suspension if he/she feels there are mitigating circumstances, such as personal injury, death of a family member, illness, etc. Documentation such as doctor's note, hospital records, etc. should be provided. **Students are allowed a maximum of two financial aid appeals at EWC.** Students will no longer be eligible for financial aid at EWC after two appeals.

All appeals must be submitted on the EWC Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal for Federal Financial Aid form, available in the EWC Financial Aid Office or on the EWC website (ewc.wy.edu), and should include complete and appropriate supporting documentation. Properly submitted appeals will be considered by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Incomplete appeals will not be considered.

If the student's appeal is approved, the student will be placed on financial aid probation and SAP will be reviewed at the end of each semester. He/she must earn 100% of all hours attempted for the semester AND must achieve a 2.00 GPA for the semester. Once the student's *cumulative* GPA reaches 2.00, and/or the student has a 75% completion rate SAP will be reviewed at the increments stated in the EWC SAP Policy.

If the student's appeal is denied, he/she may NOT receive federal financial aid until he/she has earned the deficient number of hours and/or a 2.00 cumulative GPA at THE STUDENT'S OWN EXPENSE. He/she may NOT appeal again to gain approval. **The appeal committee decision is final.**

Extension to 150% Credit Hour Limit: If a student feels there are mitigating circumstances as to why the student should be allowed to exceed to the 150% hour limit, the student may appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

All requests must be submitted on the EWC Petition for Extension form, available in the Financial Aid Office or on the EWC website (ewc.wy.edu) and must include complete and appropriate supporting documentation. Properly submitted requests will be considered by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Incomplete requests will not be considered.

These policies are subject to revision at any time, without notice, due to changes in Federal Regulations or Institutional Policies

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Withdrawals and Return of Title IV Aid

According to federal regulations, colleges must determine the amount of federal student financial assistance (SFA) a student earns if he or she completely withdraws, either officially or unofficially, from all classes. The date of a student's withdrawal from EWC will generally be the date of the student's notification to the Office of the Dean of the student's intent to withdraw. However, the College may use an earlier last documented date of attendance at an academically related activity if this date more accurately reflects the student's withdrawal date than the date the student begins the school's withdrawal process or notified the school of his or her intent to withdraw. When a student fails to officially withdraw from EWC, the withdrawal date will be assumed to be the mid-point of the semester or the last date of documented activity.

The amount of assistance that the student earned is determined on a pro-rata basis. That is, if the student completed 30 percent of the payment period, the student earned 30 percent of the assistance he/she was originally scheduled to receive. Once the student has completed more than 61 percent of the payment period, he/she is considered to have earned 100% of his/her federal assistance.

Any loan funds that the student must return, the student (or the parent for a PLUS Loan) must repay in accordance with the terms of the promissory note. If the student is responsible for returning grant funds, the student must make arrangements with EWC or the Department of Education to return the funds. Any amount that the student has to return is considered a grant overpayment.

If a student withdraws, receives all "F"s or a combination of both in any semester, the Financial Aid Office is required to determine a last date of attendance and a refund calculation may apply. The last date of attendance for that semester will be reported to the lender and subsequent disbursements may be cancelled.

Written examples of return of funds calculations and additional information are available in the Financial Aid Office upon request.

Veteran's Benefits

Eastern Wyoming College is approved for attendance by those who are eligible for educational benefits provided by the Veterans Administration. Veterans wishing to use their education benefits should contact the Financial Aid office for additional information.

Application process: You must complete the appropriate Application for VA Education Benefits. This form is available online at www.gibill.va.gov. For benefits other than those listed above, contact the Veterans Administration at 1-888-442-4551 or online at www.gibill.va.gov. Current rates are available at the www.gibill.va.gov website.

Wyoming National Guard Educational Assistance Plan

Subject to available state funds, all current members of the Wyoming Army or Air National Guard are eligible to have full in-state tuition and fees paid. Contact the Director of Financial Aid who is the VA Certifying Official. An application is available: www.wy.ngb.army.mil/education/

You MUST complete an application each semester you wish to receive funds.

Wyoming Educational Assistance for Veterans and Survivors

The State of Wyoming passed legislation to assist veterans, and dependents of deceased veterans, with tuition and fees at any eligible Wyoming College. (Wyoming Statute 19-14-106). This program is designed to help Vietnam Veterans, Overseas Combat Veterans, and their surviving dependents with tuition and fee assistance. The application is available on the EWC website at ewc.wy.edu.