

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
Department of Physical Therapy

Resources for Financial Assistance

WCU-Specific Resources

Graduate Assistantships [already allocated for Academic Year 2007-2008]

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for qualified graduate students. Application forms are included in the graduate school application packet or can be accessed on-line. A student awarded an assistantship will be assigned in the physical therapy department or to another department on campus. A full-time graduate assistantship is 20 hours/week but physical therapy students are allowed a maximum of 10 hours/week because of the demands of the curriculum. The stipend is approximately \$3000 per year (\$1500 per semester).

In-state and Out-of-State Tuition Waivers [already allocated for Academic Year 2007-2008]

A very limited number of tuition waivers are available. Students who receive a tuition waiver are required to accept a graduate assistantship. Out-of-state tuition waivers are only available for one year because the expectation is that the recipient will apply for (and receive) residency status in North Carolina after the first year.

Chancellor's Fellowship

The fellowships are available to well-qualified graduate students each fall semester. The awards, based on merit, are intended to encourage and assist superior students. The value of each fellowship is \$6,000 per academic year and carries no work requirement. The application deadline is April 15th and application forms are available from the Graduate School.

Graduate School Study Grants

Study grants are designed to support well-qualified students by paying \$300 per semester. There is no work requirement. The application is available from the Graduate School. The application deadline is May 15th for fall semester and November 15th for spring semester.

Morrill Family Fund for Research in Education

This financial source was established by Maurice B. and Anna C. Morrill to facilitate research relating to the advancement of teaching at any educational level. The purpose of this fund is for graduate students to produce and use quality research. Applications are available from the Graduate School. The deadline for the application is September 1.

Financial Aid

The university maintains an Office of Financial Aid. The office can provide information about various types of loans and financial aid. A financial aid brochure is available upon request. The financial aid office is located in 218 Killian Annex. The phone number is 828-227-7290 and the web address is <http://www.wcu.edu/finaid/index.html>.

Veterans Assistance

The university is approved for the training of Veterans Affairs benefit recipients.

This institution is approved under the provisions of Title 38 United States Code, Chapter 36. Persons eligible and entitled under provisions of Chapters 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, and Section 901 and 903, and Title 10 United States Code, Chapters 106 and 107 may enroll in programs approved by the North Carolina States Approving Agency. All inquiries concerning veteran educational benefits should be addressed to the Veterans Affairs Certifying Office, Office of Registrar, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723, or interested parties may call 828-227-7216.

North Carolina-Specific Resources

North Carolina Physical Therapy Association Scholarship and Loan

Awards are available to eligible second year physical therapy students with a strong academic record and a desire to practice in North Carolina. The amount varies based on availability of funds, and are awarded at both the fall and spring NCPTA meetings. Scholarship winner must practice in North Carolina for at least one year following graduation. Application materials: www.ncpt.org

Dr. Grover W. White Scholarship Program (Community Foundation of Gaston County)

For residents of Gaston, Cleveland or Lincoln counties of North Carolina, the award criteria include a minimum 3.5 undergraduate GPA and evidence of applicant's motivation to serve others. Financial need is also considered. The \$1500 scholarship is renewable annually.

College Foundation of North Carolina

A public resource designed to help students at all points of their high education careers, the CFNC website is a clearinghouse with information on both scholarships and loans. More information: www.cfnc.org

National Resources

Mary McMillan Award for Academic Excellence

For second-year MPT students with a superior scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy, this national American Physical Therapy Association scholarship is a \$3000 award. The rigorous application process begins with faculty nomination by November 1. More information: www.apta.org

Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence

Also for second-year students, the APTA established this award for students who have made contributions to minority affairs while maintaining high scholastic performance and developing their potential for superior achievements in physical therapy. Faculty select a nominee by December 1. The award amount varies, however the minimum is \$1500. More information: www.apta.org

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions Scholarship of Excellence

Each member institution may nominate one student based on academic achievements, service to the institution and community leadership, extracurricular activities and strong communication skills. The award amount is \$1000. More information: www.asahp.org/excellence_award.htm

AMBUCS Scholars Program

Targeting PT, OT and SLP students who demonstrate financial need, the AMBUCS scholarship is a variable amount award, ranging from \$500-\$6000. The application process begins with an online application. Selected semi-finalists are then asked for more information and finalists are awarded. More information:
www.ambucs.org

