

Guide to Consumer Information



The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 mandates that schools provide an annual notice to all students and staff describing the availability of a wide range of consumer information. You may also get this information by visiting Financial Aid in Cordelia Camp Building.

The Federal Higher Education Act, the federal Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA), and regulatory guidance provided in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) require direct individual notices of prescribed information to certain target audiences including prospective students, currently enrolled students, current employees, parents, coaches and counselors of prospective student-athletes, and the general public. Disclosures are to include crime/security statistics, student completion/graduation rates, FERPA privacy/security rights, financial aid program information, and gender-specific information on athletic participation and financial support.

These disclosures are updated annually prior to Oct 1. Availability of the disclosure is emailed annually to students at their Catamount Email account. For a printed copy of the disclosure, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

GENERAL INFORMATION (UNIVERSITY INFORMATION)

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Western Carolina University (“WCU” or the “University”) adheres to a policy of compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment or FERPA, which affords the following rights to students with regard to their education records:

- To inspect and review the student’s education records;
- To consent to disclosure of the student’s education records to third parties, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent;
- To request amendment of the student’s education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate or misleading;
- To be notified of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA; and
- To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

ACCREDITATION

Western Carolina University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Western Carolina University. For more information, visit [HERE](#).

HELPFUL LINKS:

- [Advising Center](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Center for Career and Professional Development](#)
- [Dining Information](#)
- [Financial Aid Office](#)
- [Health Services](#)
- [Licensure/Certification](#)
- [Net Price Calculator](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Parking Services](#)
- [Student Accounts](#)
- [Voter Registration](#)

To view a full list of special accreditation by appropriate agencies, click [HERE](#)

A current list of undergraduate degree programs can be found [HERE](#).

A current list of graduate degree programs can be found [HERE](#).

A list of faculty and instructional personnel can be found [HERE](#).

SCHOOL COSTS

Tuition rates are reviewed and set annually by the North Carolina Legislature. The University reserves the right to alter any charges without prior notice. For more information on the costs, visit [HERE](#).

NC PROMISE

Beginning in Fall 2018 semester, all undergraduate students, both residential and online, attending WCU will receive dramatically reduced student tuition costs as part of a new program from the State of North Carolina called NC Promise. [LEARN MORE](#)

Center for Career and Professional Development
[FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY](#)

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES (OAR)

Accommodations for students with disabilities are designed to level the playing field for those students and to ensure access. Accommodations are provided when deemed necessary and reasonable for a particular student and are determined on a case-by-case basis through an interactive process between the student and OAR. [LEARN MORE](#)

For more information contact:

Office of Accessibility Resources
Suite 135 Killian Annex
Cullowhee, NC 28723
828.227.3886 tel
828.227.7602 fax
accessibility@wcu.edu

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

In order to comply with federal laws such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), WCU has created policies and procedures that help to protect the rights of intellectual property owners as defined by these laws.

As a result, WCU prohibits the illegal sharing (downloading, distribution, copying) of materials that violate intellectual property laws.

Learn more [HERE](#)

Undergraduate Students by IPEDS Race/Ethnicity and IPEDS Gender Demographic distribution of Fall 2022 Census Undergraduates

| Race/Ethnicity | Enrollment | | | Pell Grant Recipients | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Gender | Headcount | % of Total Headcount | Headcount | % Student Demographic | % Pell Grant Recipient | % Total Headcount |
| American Ind or Alaska Nat | Total | 96 | 1.0% | 45 | 46.9% | 1.4% | 0.5% |
| | Female | 57 | 0.6% | 31 | 54.4% | 1.0% | 0.3% |
| | Male | 39 | 0.4% | 14 | 35.9% | 0.4% | 0.1% |
| Asian | Total | 130 | 1.3% | 53 | 40.8% | 1.6% | 0.5% |
| | Female | 74 | 0.7% | 27 | 36.5% | 0.8% | 0.3% |
| | Male | 56 | 0.6% | 26 | 46.4% | 0.8% | 0.3% |
| Black or African American | Total | 618 | 6.2% | 335 | 54.2% | 10.3% | 3.3% |
| | Female | 330 | 3.3% | 155 | 47.0% | 4.8% | 1.6% |
| | Male | 288 | 2.9% | 180 | 62.5% | 5.5% | 1.8% |
| Hispanic of any race | Total | 789 | 7.9% | 406 | 51.5% | 12.4% | 4.1% |
| | Female | 476 | 4.8% | 244 | 51.2% | 7.5% | 2.5% |
| | Male | 313 | 3.1% | 162 | 51.4% | 5.0% | 1.6% |
| Nat HI or Other Pacific Isl | Total | 14 | 0.1% | 9 | 64.3% | 0.3% | 0.1% |
| | Female | 7 | 0.0% | 6 | 85.7% | 0.2% | 0.0% |
| | Male | 7 | 0.0% | 3 | 42.9% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| Non-Resident Alien | Total | 226 | 0.2% | 4 | 1.8% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| | Female | 136 | 0.1% | 2 | 1.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | Male | 90 | 0.9% | 2 | 2.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Two or More Races | Total | 358 | 3.6% | 177 | 49.4% | 5.4% | 1.8% |
| | Female | 207 | 2.1% | 99 | 47.8% | 3.0% | 1.0% |
| | Male | 151 | 1.5% | 78 | 51.7% | 2.4% | 0.8% |
| Unknown | Total | 118 | 1.2% | 31 | 26.3% | 0.1% | 0.3% |
| | Female | 63 | 0.6% | 15 | 23.8% | 0.5% | 0.2% |
| | Male | 55 | 0.6% | 16 | 29.1% | 0.5% | 0.2% |
| White | Total | 7607 | 76.4% | 2202 | 28.9% | 67.5% | 22.1% |
| | Female | 4331 | 43.5% | 1354 | 31.3% | 41.5% | 13.6% |
| | Male | 3276 | 32.9% | 848 | 25.9% | 26.0% | 8.5% |
| Total Headcount | Total | 9956 | 100% | 3262 | 32.8% | 100% | 32.8% |
| | Female | 5681 | 57% | 1933 | 34.0% | 59.3% | 19.4% |
| | Male | 4275 | 43% | 1329 | 31.0% | 40.7% | 13.3% |

NOTES: 1. Values are derived from the IPEDS population used to report for corresponding Aid Year. 2. Results reflect the most recent IPEDS submission. 3. Data provided by the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness.

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TRANSFER OF CREDITS POLICY

Credits earned elsewhere (through course completion or examination completion) may be approved as credits toward a degree at Western Carolina University. Regardless of the basis of credit, a minimum of 25 percent of semester hours applied toward a bachelor's degree must be earned through regular enrollment in Western Carolina University junior-senior level courses, including a minimum of 12 hours in junior-senior courses in the major field.

Learn more [HERE](#)

A list of postsecondary schools with which WCU has established an articulation agreement can be found [here](#).

LEAVES OF ABSENCE POLICIES

Students are responsible for communicating directly with their instructor(s) when they have been, or anticipate being, absent from class. When possible, students should make arrangements with their instructors prior to their absence. Students are responsible for contacting each instructor to arrange for completion of required work, including missed assignments and exams. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will not notify instructors when an absence is for less than four consecutive days or when an absence is for a non-crisis situation. (Such as minor illness, regular doctor's visit, dentist appointments, prearranged trips, court)

Learn more [HERE](#)

RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND COMPLETION

The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness provides up-to-date information regarding student achievement. Visit [HERE](#)

For more information please contact Dr. William Moultrie at 828-227-7495 or wmoultrie@wcu.edu in the Division of Student Success.

FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDY ABROAD

Study Abroad Programs can range in cost depending on a number of factors, but International Programs and Services can assist in finding a program to fit almost any budget.

There are also many options for financial assistance such as financial aid, scholarships, fellowships and grants that help students pursue exchanges across the globe.

Learn more [HERE](#)

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

In order to receive student financial grants or loans, you'll need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid known as your FAFSA.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

The 2024-2025 FAFSA will open in December 2023.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The WCU Scholarship application opens on October 1. The deadline to apply is February 1.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

College students have many different options available to them when it comes to building a financial aid package that will make attending college possible. To view options, visit [HERE](#)

CONTACT FINANCIAL AID

828.227.7290 tel 828.227.7042 fax
finaid@wcu.edu

PRIVATE LOAN INFORMATION

Private Alternative Loans are loans for students who have exhausted or do not qualify for federal financial aid. A credit check will be required, and terms and rates vary by lender and are based on the creditworthiness of the applicant and co-signer. Loan amounts cannot exceed cost of attendance. While we work with any lending institution, a list of lenders may be found [HERE](#).

VERIFICATION POLICY

The U.S. Department of Education mandates schools use the verification process to check the accuracy and completeness of data provided on the selected applicant's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The verification process is meant to ensure that federal student financial aid is disbursed equitably and according to federal law and program regulation. The U.S. Department of Education or the school selects applications for verification.

WCU PACKAGING GUIDELINES

WCU Financial Aid Office uses packaging guidelines to award need-based and non-need-based financial aid. For more information, click [HERE](#)

WRITTEN AGREEMENT

A consortium agreement is a written contract that enables distance students to pursue coursework at two institutions simultaneously. Under such an agreement, a student may receive financial aid based on total hours of enrollment at both institutions.

EQUITY IN ATHLETICS DATA

As part of the Equity in Athletics Discourse Act, information on annual participation rates and financing of men and women's sports in intercollegiate athletic programs are available.

Learn more [HERE](#)

SECURITY POLICIES AND CRIME STATISTICS

In order for Western Carolina University to comply with the Clery Act requirements, the institution must:

- Collect, classify and count crime reports and crime statistics
- Issue campus alerts to provide the campus community with information necessary to make informed decisions about their health and safety
- Publish an annual security report containing safety- and security-related policy statements and crime statistics and distribute it to all current students and employees.
- Submit crime statistics to The Department of Education each year by type and location
- Maintain a daily crime log of alleged criminal incidents that is open to the public
- Disclose missing student notification procedures that pertain to students residing in those residence hall facilities
- Keep a fire log that is open to public inspection.
- Publish an annual fire safety report containing policy statements as well as fire statistics associated with each on-campus student housing facility
- Submit fire statistics to Department of Education each fall in the Web-based data collection. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act final rule of November 1, 1999, designates certain members of the university community as Campus Security Authorities.

To learn more about policies and procedures on reporting crimes and other emergencies, the annual fire safety & security reports, and other security and safety information, visit [HERE](#)

Contact: PHONE: 828.227.7301 EMERGENCIES: 828.227.8911

HEALTH AND SAFETY

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

All students are required to submit immunizations under North Carolina Law unless you are:

- Only enrolled in courses off campus
- Only enrolled in weekend courses
- Only enrolled in courses which start at 5 pm or later
- Enrolled in no more than four traditional day credit hours on-campus

Learn more [HERE](#)

CAMPUS DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE AND SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Alcohol and Other Drug education efforts at Western Carolina University are designed to benefit the entire academic community through comprehensive programming. Programming is developed and implemented in order to proactively and reactively educate students and employees. WCU Staff and Faculty are given information and resources during new employee orientation and supervisors are trained regarding the requirements of the [University Policy 38 \(Illegal Drugs and Illegal Use or Abuse of Alcohol\)](#). To read more on Drug and Alcohol Abuse prevention on WCU's campus, click [HERE](#).

To learn more, visit [HERE](#).

Contact: Alexandra Fields, Student Community Ethics 224E
Brown Building 828.227.7234 amfields@wcu.edu

Claire Allison, Health & Wellness Education HFR
227I 828.227-7147 callison@wcu.edu



FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING CONSUMER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Orr

828.227.7290 tel 105 Cordelia Camp Bldg.
828.227.7042 fax 1 University Drive
finaid@wcu.edu Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

INTERACTIVE CAMPUS MAP

