

Graduate School Scholarship Information

Merit and Need-Based WCU and CEAP Scholarships

*Scholarship Application Required
Application Deadline is February 1st*

Each scholarship has unique requirements as determined by the donor who provided the gift to endow the scholarship. Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to apply.

Apply online in **ScholarCat** through myWCU.

[Click here for information about additional non-WCU scholarships.](#)

Financial Aid Office Contact Information

118 Killian Annex
Western Carolina University
1 University Drive
Cullowhee, NC 28723

828.227.7290 phone
828.227.7042 fax
finaid@wcu.edu
finaid.wcu.edu
scholarships.wcu.edu

FAFSA Filing Deadline: January 1

Forgivable Education Loan for Service (FELS) Program

The [Forgivable Education Loans for Service Program](#) (FELS) is actively recruiting applicants interested in teaching and request your help in informing students of this opportunity. The areas of recruitment are: Biology, Chemistry, Comprehensive Science, English as a Second Language, Foreign Language, Math, Middle Grades, Physics, and Special Education.

FELS provides financial assistance to qualified students in baccalaureate, masters and doctoral programs who are committed to working in North Carolina in these designated critical employment shortage professions. Students may enroll in no less than six credit hours per semester to qualify. Funding ranges from \$3,500 to \$14,000 per year depending on enrolled credit hours and degree level. One loan will be forgiven for one year of full-time employment in a qualified position. Rules can be found [here](#).

The electronic application and program details can be retrieved [here](#). Students must establish a CFNC account to gain access to the application. Interested applicants may enter their email address to receive an alert when the application is available.

Graduate School Scholarship Information

Invest in Teachers Award

Award: The Invest in Teachers Award is a \$1,000 two-term award available for the academic year (\$500 for the fall term, and \$500 for the spring term).

Eligibility:

- First-year students who begin in any semester of the award year (spring, summer, or fall) in the following programs are eligible to be nominated for the Invest in Teachers Award that will be awarded in the fall and spring semesters:
 - All M.A.T. programs
 - All M.A.Ed. programs
 - M.S.A.: Master of School Administration
 - M.Ed.: Higher Education Student Affairs
 - Ed.D.: Educational Leadership
 - M.S.: Experiential and Outdoor Education
- All applicants for the Invest in Teachers Award must be registered for a minimum of 3 graduate credit hours in one of the above programs during both award terms (fall, spring)
- Must be nominated by a WCU faculty or staff member

Ineligible to Apply:

- Non-degree seeking graduate students, teacher licensure-only students, regional alternative licensure students (RALC), certificate-only program graduate students, students receiving an employer tuition and fee waiver or employer reimbursement.

[Click here](#) for information about the Invest in Teachers Award.

Awards will be made based upon the availability of funds and the student eligibility requirements listed above. E-mail communications regarding the application will be sent through WCU Catamount E-mail accounts.

Please contact the Graduate School at grad@wcu.edu or 828.227.7398 if you have any questions about the Invest in Teachers Award.

Grants

[TEACH Grant](#)

WCU is a TEACH Grant partner. The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) Program provides funds to students who are completing or who plan to complete coursework that is required to begin a career in teaching, and who agree to teach full-time for at least four years as a **highly qualified teacher** at a school or education service agency (ESA) **servicing low-income students** in a **high-need field**. The four years of teaching must be completed within eight years after you complete or otherwise cease to be enrolled in the program for which you received a TEACH Grant.

Graduate School Scholarship Information

Degree-Specific Opportunities

Scholarship: M.A.Ed. in Special Education

Award: Scholarship for the M.A.Ed. in Special Education, available for \$1,250 per term (\$2500 per year). Funds may be applied to Fall and Spring semesters only.

Eligibility:

- Must be enrolled in one of the following programs:
 - M.A.Ed.: Gifted, Creative, and Innovative Education
 - M.A.Ed.: Severe-to-Profound Disabilities
 - M.A.Ed.: Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities
- 2) Must enroll in two (2) courses per term and maintain a GPA of at least 3.0
- 3) Award cannot be used with other scholarships, such as the Invest in Teachers Scholarship, or other grants

If you would like to apply or if you have questions about this scholarship, please contact Dr. Lisa Bloom at bloom@wcu.edu or Dr. Karena Cooper-Duffy at kcooper@wcu.edu.

Roads to Learning and Earning

Award: Roads to Learning and Earning — Preparing Personnel to Improve Post-School Outcomes for Students with Significant Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal: to improve post-school outcomes for students with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in North Carolina, *especially those from rural areas*, by preparing middle and high school teachers, transition specialists, and related-services providers (speech/language therapists, school counselors, school psychologists, or social workers) to use effective, evidence-based practices that will improve transition from school to adulthood.

Eligibility:

- Available for M.A.T.: Adapted Curriculum and M.A.Ed.: Severe-to-Profound Disabilities students only
- Enroll in at least two courses per semester for three semesters per year (or at least 5 courses per year) leading to a master's degree in special education or a related area
- Attend two (2) one-week camps on the WCU campus, across two (2) summer terms
- Work collaboratively in courses with other participants, parents, and students in focus school districts to improve transition outcomes in these districts
- Continue (or pursue) professional employment in a rural school district in NC in a position that facilitates successful transition of students with IDD (e.g., middle or high school teacher or related services professional, transition specialist, etc.) for a period of three years following completion of the degree

If you would like to apply, or if you have questions about the Roads to Earning and Learning grant, please contact Alex Raxter at araxter@wcu.edu.

Graduate School Scholarship Information

Military Assistance

Active military personnel, veterans and dependents may be eligible for educational military benefits. [Western Carolina University's Office of Military Student Services](#) can assist students in identifying and completing the correct applications.

Travel Awards

The [Chancellor's Student Travel Grant Series](#) and the WCU Graduate Student Association provides travel awards of up to \$500 each semester to graduate students who will represent Western Carolina University at regional and national conferences.

Loans

[Perkins Loans](#)

Perkins Loans are low-interest loans awarded to students with exceptional financial need. Principal and interest are deferred until nine months after graduation, with a fixed 5% interest rate. Perkins Loans require a specific type of [Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note](#).

[P.E.O. Educational Loans](#)

P.E.O. Educational Loan Funds are loans offered at 2% to female students who graduated from a Haywood or Jackson Co., NC high school and are within two years of graduating from an accredited school with either a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree. More information on the loan requirements can be found [here](#).

For more information about other types of loans, please check out [Federal and Private Loans](#).

For additional funding opportunities for Graduate Students, please visit the [Graduate School's Tuition and Funding webpage!](#)

For more financial aid opportunities, please visit WCU Financial Aid website available at [scholarships.wcu.edu](#) or [scholarcat.wcu.edu](#).