

**Financial Aid Information**  
**Tuition and Fee Committee**  
**September 2021**

# FEDERAL STUDENT AID GLOSSARY

<b>Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>COA</b>	An estimate of educational expenses for a period of enrollment (an academic year).
<b>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</b>	<b>FAFSA</b>	The student aid application provided for under section 483 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), which is used to determine and applicant's eligibility for federal student aid programs.
<b>Expected Family Contribution</b>	<b>EFC</b>	The amount (federal determination) a student and the student's family may be reasonably expected to contribute towards the student's postsecondary education expenses for an academic year.

**Financial Aid Package** – the total student assistance – grants, scholarships, need-based employment and loans – offered to a student. Work study and some grant funds are limited. These funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

[studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

# WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

- Grants
- Work Study
- Loans
  - Loans for both students and parents
  - Federal or private lending sources
- Scholarships

[studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

# FINANCIAL AID PROCESSING

To date for 2021-2022,  
WCU has:

- Received 18,772 FAFSA's
- Verified 2,347 FAFSA applications
- Packaged 13,071 financial aid offers

Processing	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of Federal Student Aid Applications (FAFSA's) received	20,397	21,760	20,891	20,617
Number of FAFSA's verified	2,080	3,486	2,855	2,766
Number of students packaged (completed FAFSA results)	13,397	13,281	13,753	14,061
Number of summer aid applications	2,300	2,437	2,268	2,520

Funds Management (Disbursed/Paid Amount)	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Federal Grants	\$17,397,539.45	\$18,249,355.75	\$22,924,804.28	\$22,368,807.13
NC State Grants	\$8,395,194.00	\$3,806,215.50	\$3,732,154.50	\$4,593,848.50
Work Study	\$468,094.03	\$448,831.63	\$482,455.45	\$272,357.95
Federal Loans	\$72,643,665.00	\$58,996,757.00	\$56,203,146.00	\$49,407,080.00
Private Loans	\$3,087,530.00	\$3,553,632.76	\$4,953,577.00	\$4,777,335.21
Other Aid Programs	\$15,751,955.38	\$16,154,178.52	\$16,099,586.38	\$17,205,512.28
Total Aid Disbursements	\$117,743,977.86	\$101,208,971.16	\$104,395,723.61	\$98,624,941.07

# FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS

# SAMPLE ESTIMATED IN-STATE COSTS (BILLING)

## 2022-2023

	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Year</u>
Tuition	\$1,986	\$3,971
NC Promise	-\$1,486	-\$2,971
<b>Tuition</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Fees	\$1,684	\$3,368
Room (Amenities and Rates Vary by Hall)	\$2,350 - \$3,060	\$4,700 - \$6,120
Residential Technology Fee (High Speed Internet)	\$89	\$178
Meal Plan (Unlimited Basic)	\$2,194	\$4,388
Parking (Freshman Rate) *Less than full year may be prorated	\$400	\$400
Health Insurance (Unless Waived)	\$1,308	\$2,616
Total Billing (University Insurance Purchased)	\$8,525 - \$9,235	\$16,650 - \$18,070
Total Billing (University Insurance Charge Waived)	\$7,217 - \$7,927	\$14,034 - \$15,454

Rates are subject to change and are rounded to nearest dollar



# COST OF ATTENDANCE COMPARISON - UG

Undergraduate	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Tuition and fees	\$5,124.00	\$5,387.00	\$5,925.00	\$6,265.00	\$6,305.00	\$6,643.00	\$7,027.00	\$6,897.00	\$3,926.00	\$3,979.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition											\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fees											\$3,285.00	\$3,367.00
Room and Meals	\$6,769.00	\$6,980.00	\$7,178.00	\$7,477.00	\$8,016.00	\$8,665.00	\$9,218.00	\$9,553.00	\$10,103.00	\$10,725.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Room											\$6,566.96	\$6,710.96
Meals											\$4,387.00	\$4,387.00
Health Insurance	\$661.00	\$661.00	\$766.00	\$1,418.00	\$1,376.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loan Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$106.00	\$63.00	\$63.00	\$66.00	\$67.00	\$62.00	\$61.38	\$61.20
Books and Supplies	\$606.00	\$624.00	\$758.00	\$781.00	\$708.00	\$753.00	\$776.00	\$932.00	\$805.00	\$809.00	\$366.00	\$371.12
Travel	\$1,029.00	\$1,060.00	\$983.00	\$1,010.00	\$1,002.00	\$1,028.00	\$1,059.00	\$957.00	\$974.00	\$1,037.00	\$1,383.00	\$1,335.00
Personal Expenses	\$1,578.00	\$1,626.00	\$1,597.00	\$1,666.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,482.00	\$1,526.00	\$1,647.00	\$1,580.00	\$1,580.00	\$1,575.00	\$1,597.04
Totals	\$15,767.00	\$16,338.00	\$17,207.00	\$18,692.00	\$18,953.00	\$18,634.00	\$19,669.00	\$20,052.00	\$17,455.00	\$18,192.00	\$18,624.34	\$18,829.32

# COST OF ATTENDANCE COMPARISON - GR

Graduate	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Tuition and fees	\$5,452.00	\$5,737.00	\$6,322.00	\$6,694.00	\$6,734.00	\$7,085.00	\$7,192.00	\$7,361.00	\$7,361.00	\$7,414.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition											\$4,435.00	\$4,435.00
Fees											\$3,047.00	\$3,045.00
Room and Meals	\$7,966.00	\$8,205.00	\$8,401.00	\$8,749.00	\$9,290.00	\$9,537.00	\$9,847.00	\$10,419.00	\$10,782.00	\$11,170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Room											\$6,889.66	\$7,040.80
Meals											\$4,387.00	\$4,387.00
Health Insurance	\$661.00	\$661.00	\$766.00	\$1,418.00	\$1,376.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loan Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$214.00	\$127.00	\$127.00	\$143.00	\$147.00	\$142.00	\$142.56	\$145.74
Books and Supplies	\$966.00	\$995.00	\$908.00	\$947.00	\$744.00	\$767.00	\$790.00	\$932.00	\$734.00	\$734.00	\$372.00	\$693.00
Travel	\$1,029.00	\$1,060.00	\$983.00	\$1,010.00	\$1,002.00	\$1,028.00	\$1,059.00	\$957.00	\$974.00	\$1,037.00	\$1,383.00	\$1,335.00
Personal Expenses	\$1,578.00	\$1,626.00	\$1,597.00	\$1,666.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,482.00	\$1,526.00	\$1,647.00	\$2,097.00	\$2,097.00	\$1,575.00	\$1,597.04
Totals	\$17,652.00	\$18,284.00	\$18,977.00	\$20,604.00	\$20,800.00	\$20,026.00	\$20,541.00	\$21,459.00	\$22,095.00	\$22,594.00	\$22,231.22	\$22,678.58



# THE NC PROMISE EFFECT

Without NC Promise

Loan Debt Incurred in  
2017-2018:

\$75,762,195

Loan debt incurred by  
students & parents

With NC Promise

Loan Debt Incurred in  
2020-2021:

\$54,200,915.21

Loan debt incurred by  
students & parents

NC Promise  
Savings

28.46% Debt  
Reduction

Average Debt (Fall, Spring & Summer)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Undergraduate and Graduate	\$32,858	\$30,893	\$31,164
Graduate (includes any undergraduate debt incurred)	\$53,385	\$50,015	\$53,890
Undergraduate	\$27,189	\$25,536	\$25,295

### Default Rate

Default Rate Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
WCU	7.00 %	6.70 %	6.50 %	6.00 %	6.00 %	5.20 %
National	11.80 %	11.30 %	11.50 %	10.80 %	10.10 %	9.70 %

# TOTAL FEDERAL DEBT AVERAGES AND DEFAULT RATES

## Financial Aid

2020-2021 FINAL

NC Promise assists Western Carolina University in providing a high-quality, affordable education for anyone who wishes to pursue an undergraduate degree.

The Financial Aid Office provides students with the highest quality service while helping to remove financial barriers to higher education at Western Carolina University. Our staff is committed to administering federal, state and institutional assistance programs and maintaining compliance with laws and regulations.

2020-21 academic year:

- Due to COVID-19, emergency aid for students was allocated to Western Carolina University through Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding. Since May 2020, Western Carolina University has disbursed \$8,694,711 of emergency aid.
- Since NC Promise went into effect fall 2018, Western Carolina University has experienced a 11.42% decrease in debt incurred from 2019-20 to 2020-21 as noted in the chart below. Comparing 2018-19 to 2020-21, Western Carolina University has experienced a 13.38% decrease in debt.

Loan Program	2019-2020 Final Paid	2020-2021 Accepted	2020-2021 Final Paid	Difference +/-
Federal Direct Graduate Student PLUS Loans	\$1,006,290.00	\$768,325.00	\$733,714.00	-27.09%
Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans	\$9,170,703.00	\$6,928,960.00	\$6,636,171.00	-27.64%
Federal Direct Subsidized Student Loans	\$17,282,272.00	\$15,406,501.00	\$15,211,956.00	-11.98%
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans	\$28,743,881.00	\$27,233,981.00	\$26,825,239.00	-6.67%
Private Student Loans	\$4,987,277.00	\$4,793,835.21	\$4,793,835.21	-3.88%
Total Debt	\$61,190,423.00	\$55,131,602.21	\$54,200,915.21	-11.42%

	Student Loan Default Rates		
	2015	2016	2017
WCU	6.00 %	6.00 %	5.20 %
National	10.80 %	10.10 %	9.70 %

2018 Default rates will be released late September 2021

Aid Year	Students Receiving Pell		
	UG Students	Pell Recipients	Percentage
2018-19	10,027	4,154	41.43%
2019-20	10,469	4,058	38.76%
2020-21	10,517	3,887	36.96%

Average Debt (Fall, Spring & Summer)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Undergraduate and Graduate	\$32,858	\$30,893	\$31,164
Graduate (includes any undergraduate debt incurred)	\$53,385	\$50,015	\$53,890
Undergraduate	\$27,189	\$25,536	\$25,295

Undergraduate Cost of Attendance	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Tuition and fees	\$6,897.00	\$3,926.00	\$3,979.00	\$4,285.00
Room and Board	\$9,553.00	\$10,103.00	\$10,725.00	\$10,953.96
Loan Fees	\$66.00	\$67.00	\$62.00	\$61.38
Books and Supplies	\$932.00	\$805.00	\$809.00	\$366.00
Travel	\$957.00	\$974.00	\$1,037.00	\$1,383.00
Personal Expenses	\$1,647.00	\$1,580.00	\$1,580.00	\$1,575.00
Totals	\$20,052.00	\$17,455.00	\$18,192.00	\$18,624.34

2020-21 Book Rental costs are now part of Tuition and Fees instead of Books and Supplies

All aid years data is final

Processing	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of Federal Student Aid Applications (FAFSA's) received	20397	21760	20891	20617
Number of FAFSA's verified	2080	3486	2855	2766
Number of students packaged (completed FAFSA results)	13397	13281	13753	14061
Number of summer aid applications	2300	2437	2268	2520

Funds Management (Disbursed/Paid Amount)	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Federal Grants	\$17,397,539.45	\$18,249,355.75	\$22,924,804.28	\$22,368,807.13
NC State Grants	\$8,395,194.00	\$3,806,215.50	\$3,732,154.50	\$4,593,848.50
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[NCPROMISE.WCU.EDU](http://NCPROMISE.WCU.EDU)

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[STUDENTAID.GOV](http://STUDENTAID.GOV)

QUESTIONS