

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%
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$61,190,423.00</b>	<b>\$55,131,602.21</b>	<b>\$54,200,915.21</b>	<b>-11.42%</b>

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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,052.00</b>	<b>\$17,455.00</b>	<b>\$18,192.00</b>	<b>\$18,624.34</b>

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

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

Students Receiving Pell			
Aid Year	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%

2018 Default rates will be released late September 2021

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

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
<b>Total Aid Disbursements</b>	<b>\$117,743,977.86</b>	<b>\$101,208,971.16</b>	<b>\$104,395,723.61</b>	<b>\$98,624,941.07</b>