



CWU | Summary

State Need Grant FAQ

What is the State Need Grant?

The State Need Grant (SNG) helps the lowest-income students in Washington pay for post-secondary education. Students may use the SNG to earn a degree or to brush up job skills at a public or private school.

Who is eligible for a Need Grant?

A student's family income must be no more than 70 percent of the state's median family income (MFI)—currently \$54,400 for a family of four. Students also must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate financial need based on a completed Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or complete a qualified Opportunity Internship program
- Be pursuing a certificate, first baccalaureate degree (in any field but theology), or first associate degree
- Be a Washington State resident
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate with at least three credits in an eligible program
- Show satisfactory progress in the degree program

The Need Grant at CWU

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| Eligible students: 3,580 |
| Number served: 2,578 |
| Unfunded need: \$5 million |

What is the value of a Need Grant?

Award amounts are determined based on the value of tuition and fees in the public higher education sectors, although students may use the grant at independent universities. The award values for 2010-11 range from \$1,235 per year for part-time students at community and technical colleges, to just over \$7,700 per year for full-time students at research universities.

A student whose income is **at or below 50 percent** MFI may receive grants equal to full tuition. In 2011 those grants are equal to:

- \$7,717 at research/private four year universities
- \$5,575 at regional universities
- \$2,682 at community and technical colleges and private vocational schools

Those with incomes **between 50 and 70 percent** MFI receive a prorated award. The income cutoff and

grant amounts are based on available funding and the number of eligible enrolling students.

The Need Grant at CWU | **Average Need Grant: \$4,742**

How long may a student receive a Need Grant?

- For up to five years (10 semesters or 15 quarters) or
- 125 percent of the published length of a degree program

Students may apply the Need Grant toward a second associate's degree if five years have elapsed since the first associate degree.

How much money does the state spend on the Need Grant?

In fiscal year 2010, the program used \$210 million in state funds and \$1.2 million in federal matching money to help about 70,000 students.

The Need Grant at CWU

CWU has committed about \$12.2 million for the SNG in 2011. The university ran out of SNG funds in June 2010 and hasn't approved a grant since.



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2010-11 School Year

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