

CiHS and FINANCIAL AID

How do college credits earned through CiHS programs impact a student's financial aid eligibility?

Students with questions about the effect of CiHS on their student aid or scholarship packages should always check directly with the college's admissions, financial aid, and scholarship offices.

Washington College Grant

Dual credit courses do not apply to the WCG maximum usage timeframe unless the student completes a bachelor's degree before the limit is up, as students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree are no longer eligible for WCG. Some types of financial aid have a maximum timeframe for eligibility that limits the length of time students can receive aid. The limit depends on the state, federal, and/or institutional policy.

The WCG maximum is attending a full time for a maximum of six-years(18 quarters/12 semesters or the equivalent combination of the two at a full-time rate of enrollment.).This usage limit only applies to the quarters in which a student received WCG.

Because dual credit students cannot receive state financial aid to pay for college credits earned through dual credit, no coursework taken in dual credit programs will apply to the WCG usage limit.

Students who earn an associate degree through dual credit programs can use WCG toward another associate degree. Students who already have an associate degree can use WCG toward a second associate degree if they are enrolled in an aid-eligible program. This means students who earn an associate degree or who earn college credit toward an associate degree through dual credit programs may apply for WCG to pursue a second aid-eligible associate degree.

College Bound

College Bound (CBS) recipients may be eligible to receive six years of funding to be used within six years of first enrolling after high school graduation or receipt of approved high school equivalency (for example: GED). Please note that students who receive an approved high school equivalency, like the GED, have to have received it by their 21st birthday. Students must enroll in a college or university within one year of high school graduation or receipt of an approved high school equivalency. The six-year limit (18 quarters/12 semesters or the equivalent) applies regardless of whether students choose to enroll part- or full-time, or if they choose to take time off from school. The CBS maximum terms of eligibility are 18 quarters/12 semesters or the equivalent of full-time enrollment. Like WCG, this limit only applies to the quarters in which a student received the CBS, however students do have to be aware of the six-year limit for receipt of funds from first enrollment

Learn more at the CIHS FAQ Document: <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/dual-credit-programs>

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after high school graduation or approved high school equivalency receipt. In other words, no coursework taken in dual credit programs will apply to the CBS usage limit.

CBS students must also enroll in college or university within one academic year following their high school graduation or approved high school equivalency receipt to be eligible for CBS consideration. For example, a CBS student who graduated high school in the spring of 2025 is required to enroll in college or university by the fall term of 2026. CBS students who do not enroll in college within a year of high school graduation are not eligible to receive the scholarship.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

For federal and most state financial aid programs, students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). SAP refers to the academic standards students must meet to remain eligible for federal and most state financial aid programs. Please note, starting in the 2024-2025 academic year, state SAP standards aligned with federal sap standards.

While specific SAP policies vary by institution, SAP reviews include two key measures:

- Qualitative Measure: assesses the quality of the student's academic work
- Quantitative Measure: evaluates the student's pace of progression, which includes
 - Completion Rate (Pace of Progression)
 - Maximum Timeframe

The qualitative measure is usually based on a review of a student's Grade Point Average (GPA), conducted either at the end of each term or annually. Institutions typically require students to maintain a minimum GPA to demonstrate satisfactory academic performance.

The maximum timeframe quantitative measure requires students to complete their academic program within 150% of the published length of program. For example, if a program requires 90 credits to complete, a student must complete the program within 135 attempted credit hours. Dual credits earned may be included in the maximum timeframe calculation, depending on the institution's SAP policy. Please note, some institutions may have a stricter maximum timeframe policy than the federal 150% standard.

Federal regulations allow institutions to develop their own policy to calculate maximum timeframe limits and provide Pell Grant college/universities flexibility in determining which credits are counted toward a student's maximum timeframe. This allows registrars and financial aid offices to implement a policy that counts only those credits that apply to the student's current program of study when calculating maximum timeframe. However, how credits are counted is entirely at the discretion of the institution's credit transfer policy.

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Many institutions also apply SAP standards to their institutional aid programs, though requirements for institutional aid can vary by college/university and may not always align exactly with federal and state SAP standards.

The SAP evaluation may determine that students are not meeting SAP standards. Depending on the student's cumulative academic progress percentage, students who do not meet SAP standards may initially be placed on one of the following statuses:

- **Warning Status:** The student can continue to receive federal and state aid.
- **Not Meeting or Denied Status:** The student is no longer eligible for federal and state aid. This status is often assigned to students who remain in warning status for longer than the number of terms allowed by the college's policies.

Students who are approaching or not meeting SAP standards, including those near or exceeding the maximum timeframe limit, should work closely with a financial aid representative at their college or university to ensure continued eligibility for both federal and state aid programs.

If a student's dual credit coursework negatively impacts their SAP evaluation, it is important to know that all colleges and universities in Washington have an SAP appeals process in place. Appeals and reinstatement policies vary by institution, so it is also recommended that students work closely with a financial aid representative.

Private Donor and Institutional Scholarships

Policies surrounding private scholarships rest with the donor. How institutional scholarships are awarded is controlled by each college. It is up to each private donor or each college to determine how CIHS college credits impact consideration for scholarships that are reserved for first-year students. Many four-year colleges and universities allow Running Start students to apply for scholarships. Students should check with the scholarship office of the institution in which they are enrolling to understand the college or university policy.

Can a student receive financial aid assistance for CiHS?

CiHS students may not apply for federal or direct state financial aid. Students attending a public Washington high school that partners with an institution not defined in the RCWs cited or a private Washington high school may be required to pay a CiHS fee. If a student is charged a CiHS fee in accordance with statute, the student may pay CiHS fees with advanced college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set by the advanced college tuition payment program governing body.

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