Achievement Scholarship

Purpose and Philosophy

Walla Walla University has a desire to attract academically gifted students to the University. High School Cumulative (unweighted) GPA is one strong indicator of academic success in college. Other students may not have performed as well in high school, but have the potential of academic success in college, based on their ACT or SAT test scores. WWU developed the Achievement Scholarship to recognize this potential talent.

WWU wants students to start with WWU as a freshman, and stay with WWU until graduation. WWU also realizes students will sometimes take classes at home during the summer break. Because of this philosophy, students who do not start as a freshman, or take classes at other institutions (other than during the summer) will lose their eligibility for this scholarship.

Awarding Requirements

GPA Award: WWU will use the cumulative high school GPA from the transcript that has been submitted at the time of application for admission to WWU. If a student submits a later transcript with a higher high school GPA, the higher GPA will be used to recalculate their GPA Award.

The Scholarship is awarded using the student's unweighted high school GPA. This is because weighted GPAs are artificially inflated by taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP classes are available so students can "test out" of college-level work, resulting in less tuition money spent while attending college. A weighted GPA has the potential to increase a student's scholarship opportunity. Rather than suffer a loss in both lower tuition revenue and higher Scholarship awards, the university has decided to only accept non-weighted GPAs.

Students who complete at least the junior year of high school and have a General Education Development (GED) are eligible for the GPA Award.

Students who complete less than the junior year of high school and have a GED are not eligible for the GPA Award.

GPA Award transcript requirements:

Students must use the most recent transcript when they apply. For example, a student who applies for admission after 7th semester transcripts are available cannot use the 6th semester transcript. This encourages students to apply as soon as their 6th semester transcripts are available, to lock in their GPA Award.

The transcript must have a minimum of three years of calculable high school grades from an accredited high school or agency to be used for the GPA Award. If a student is unable to produce the required amount, they cannot receive the GPA Award but are considered for the ACT/SAT Award. A student who only has “P” (Passing) or “S” (Satisfactory) grades are not submitting calculable grades.

ACT/SAT Award: WWU will use test results received for the ACT (American College Testing) or SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) provided the test was taken prior to the student’s first enrollment* at
WWU. The student may take either (or both of) the ACT and/or SAT tests, and may take them multiple times prior to the student’s enrollment at WWU. The highest test score will be used to calculate their ACT/SAT Award.

Students who have not taken the tests before enrollment may be required take the test for academic placement. However, it will not impact the Achievement Scholarship.

**The Achievement Scholarship:**

Students are awarded an Achievement Scholarship based on the higher value of the GPA Award and the ACT/SAT Award – students do not receive both awards.

The amount of the Achievement Scholarship is locked in when students first enroll at WWU, and the amount does not increase based on their grades at WWU, or because WWU increases the awards for later freshman classes.

Students who delay their enrollment at WWU after high school graduation will have their scholarship calculated based on the Scholarship program in effect for the school year when they first enroll (provided they haven’t lost eligibility by attending another college or university.)

Once a student has submitted a transcript and an application and has been accepted, he or she will receive an award notification letter. The scholarship amount given in the letter will guarantee the student will receive at least that amount. If a student provides WWU with updated scholarship information after the initial scholarship letter is sent, and the new information makes them eligible for a higher scholarship, WWU will make the appropriate adjustment and increase his or her award.

Student Financial Services (SFS) will include these scholarships in the student’s WWU Financial Aid Award.

To be clear, these students are not eligible for the Achievement Scholarship (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Graduate students
- Non-matriculated students
- Transfer students
- Returning Students
- National Merit Finalists (President’s Scholarship)
- Students receiving free or discounted tuition
- Students working on a second degree
- Students who are not meeting WWU’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy
- Students with a WWU Cumulative GPA of less than 3.00, measured at the end of spring quarter

Students are not required to be U.S. citizens to qualify for the Achievement Scholarship.

**Scholarship amounts and requirements are linked to the student’s first quarter enrolled. Changes made to the Scholarship program for future freshmen classes are not retroactive to previous recipients unless specifically stated.**
Attendance Requirements:

Once students start at Walla Walla University after graduating from high school, they are expected to remain at WWU until graduation in order to continue receiving the Achievement Scholarship.

Taking college credit classes prior to graduating from high school does not disqualify the student from receiving this Scholarship.

Taking college credit classes during summer sessions at any college does not disqualify the student from receiving this Scholarship.

Students who attend another college or university after graduating from high school (for one or more credits, other than summer quarter) and then attend WWU will permanently forfeit this scholarship. They will be considered transfer students and will be considered for the Transfer Scholarship.

Students who unsuccessfully attend schools elsewhere prior to attending WWU and come with zero transferrable credits are considered for this Scholarship.

Students who attend an unaccredited college or university prior to attending WWU and come with zero transferrable credits are considered for this Scholarship.

Students who lose the Achievement Scholarship because of GPA, attend another college or university during the summer, bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.0, and return to WWU, will have their Scholarship reinstated. The GPA is calculated using their WWU grades plus the grades for that summer’s transferrable credits. Only courses that are accepted for transfer and apply towards the student’s degree are considered. Students who successfully raise their GPA this way must notify SFS, and supply WWU with an official transcript.

Students who attend WWU after graduating from high school, then leave WWU, attend another school (for one or more credits, other than summer quarter) and return to WWU, their Scholarship will not be reinstated. They will be considered a returning student, and are also not eligible for the Transfer Scholarship.

Students who have a break in enrollment from WWU and do not enroll elsewhere will be eligible for the Achievement Scholarship upon their return to WWU as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. They will be under their original scholarship program, not the scholarship program for new students when they return.

Concurrent Enrollment:

- Students enrolled full time at WWU may take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, without affecting their eligibility for this Scholarship. No permission is required.
- Students enrolled part time at WWU summer quarter may take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, without affecting their eligibility for this Scholarship. No permission is required.
- Students enrolled part time at WWU (other than summer quarter) who take class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, will lose their eligibility for this Scholarship, unless prior approval is given by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.
This permission is not routine, and will require the student to show why they cannot take the class(es) through WWU.

Requests for permission after completing the class(es) at other colleges or universities, including online courses, will usually be denied and the student will lose their eligibility for this Scholarship.

Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) or Oxford:

- Students cannot receive the Achievement Scholarship to attend an Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) school or Oxford, even if they are a Modern Languages major.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through WWU their first year will be considered for the Achievement Scholarship when they enroll as a regular WWU student if their cumulative high school GPA and their ACA GPA is 3.0 or better when they enroll at WWU.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through WWU other than their first year will be considered for the Achievement Scholarship when they return to WWU as a regular student.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through another school their first year will forfeit the Achievement Scholarship, but will be considered for the Transfer Scholarship.
- Students who attend ACA or Oxford through another school other than their first year will forfeit the Achievement Scholarship, and will not be eligible for the Transfer Scholarship, when they return to WWU.
- There is no special exception for attending Avondale College, which is not part of the ACA program.

**GPA Requirements**

Students must be meeting WWU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, which is reviewed each quarter.

Recipients of the Achievement Scholarship must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to renew this award.

The GPA that is used is calculated using the student’s WWU class history, and is based on their cumulative GPA at the end of spring quarter each year.

Students whose cumulative GPA at the end of fall or winter quarter is less than 3.00 will continue to receive the Scholarship for the school year as long as they are otherwise meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

Students may petition for their GPA to be calculated using all of their college credits, including classes taken prior to enrolling at WWU and summer classes.

For the purposes of scholarship eligibility, students can attend another accredited institution during the summer to improve their cumulative GPA and have the scholarship reinstated. This is provided:

- the students notify SFS
- official transcripts are submitted to the Academic Records Office as soon as available
- the courses taken are accepted for transfer, apply towards the student's degree and improve the student's cumulative GPA to the minimum required
• the students meet all other Scholarship requirements.

SFS will use the spring quarter cumulative WWU GPA to determine eligibility for the Scholarship for the subsequent year.

• In order to avoid a delay in the financial aid award notice for the subsequent year, a preliminary award for the following year will be made after fall grades are reported.
• SFS may check the cumulative GPA at the end of winter quarter, and award or withdraw the Scholarship for the subsequent year based on winter quarter’s cumulative GPA.
• The GPA will be checked again the end of spring quarter; and the scholarship awarded or withdrawn based on the spring quarter cumulative WWU GPA.

Students who lose their Scholarship and then bring their cumulative GPA up to 3.0, the Scholarship will be reinstated for future quarters if the students notify SFS, provided they meet all other requirements.

Students who lose their scholarship for a quarter or more because of a low GPA, but then raises their GPA up to at least a 3.0, and need to take more than 12 quarters to receive their degree, they may still receive the scholarship for 12 quarters maximum. (The quarters they are not eligible because of a low GPA are not included when counting their 12 quarters of eligibility.)

The GPA earned while attending an ACA program cannot be used to increase the WWU GPA.

Disbursement & Duration of Scholarships

WWU’s awards are disbursed in one-third increments each quarter, fall/winter/spring.

The Achievement Scholarship does not apply for summer enrollment.

The Achievement Scholarship is renewable. Students may receive a maximum of 12 quarters, including the initial year.

Students need to be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours as of the census date to receive the full Scholarship. For students taking less than a full load of 12 credit hours as of the census date:

• Students who are taking 1-5 credit hours will forfeit the Scholarship for the quarter
• Students who are taking 6-8 credit hours will be awarded 50% of the quarter’s Scholarship
• Students who are taking 9-11 credit hours will be awarded 75% of the quarter’s Scholarship
• For purposes of determining pro-ration, “credit hours” includes classes students are taking which may not be required for their degree.
• In determining the 12 quarters of eligibility, 6-8 credits counts as 50% of a quarter; 9-11 credits count as 75% of a quarter.
• Graduating seniors in their last 3 quarters of attendance can have their full Scholarship for one quarter while taking 6-11 credits of classes required for their degree, if they otherwise show eligibility.

Students must be meeting WWU’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.
Appeals and Exceptions

Appeals for exceptions are handled by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Petition forms are available online.

- No appeals have been approved for students requesting the Scholarship beyond 12 quarters.
- Appeals for summer Scholarships have been approved for Biology majors required to spend one quarter at the Rosario Marine Station. This counts as one of the student’s 12 quarters of Scholarship. Only one summer exception is allowed. Appeals have not been approved for non-Biology majors.
- No appeals have been approved for an exception for students not meeting the 3.0 cumulative GPA requirement (for example, a student receiving a 2.99 GPA)

Fraud and Deception

Students who are awarded this Scholarship based on fraudulent or deceptive data will lose their scholarship retroactively. For example, students who fail to report on their applications for admissions they have previously attended another college or university. When this deception is discovered, the Scholarship will be revoked retroactively to their first quarter enrolled.

Glossary of Terms

First enrolled at Walla Walla University: For purposes of this award, this refers to the first quarter enrolled at WWU after graduating from high school, not including summer quarters. Students who first enroll during a summer quarter are awarded this scholarship based on the Scholarship guidelines for the following school year (not the prior school year.)

School Year: For purposes of this award, the school year refers to fall, winter and spring quarters. When summer is referenced, it is included as the first quarter (“header quarter”) of the school year.

Transfer Student: For purposes of this award, a transfer student is any student who successfully takes one credit hour or more of classes at another college or university after graduating from high school, other than during the summer, and then transfers to Walla Walla University.

Returning Student: For purposes of this award, a returning student is any student who successfully takes one credit hour or more of classes at Walla Walla University after graduating from high school, other than during the summer, and then transfers to another college or university where they successfully complete one or more credit hours, other than during the summer. If they return to WWU, they are a returning student and not a transfer student.

SFS: Walla Walla University’s Student Financial Services Office.
Census Date: WWU normally uses the end of the 10\textsuperscript{th} day of instruction as its census date.

Other Circumstances

Circumstances not covered by the above criteria will be submitted to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee for determination. If a specific situation comes up regularly, the decision will be added to the guidelines if appropriate.

Program requirements are subject to change.