



Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability December 5, 2021

- **West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Title 135, Legislative Rule, West Virginia Invests Grant Program** 1
Mr. Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration
- **2021 West Virginia Financial Aid Comprehensive Report** 13
§18C-5-7(g), §18C-7-5, §18C-7-5 (B)
Mr. Brian Weingart, Senior Director of Financial Aid



WEST VIRGINIA
Community & Technical
COLLEGE SYSTEM

**Report to the Legislative Oversight Commission
on Education Accountability**

**Approval of Legislative Rule
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical
College Education
Title 135, Series 8, West Virginia Invests Grant Program**

TITLE 135
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION
SERIES 8
WEST VIRGINIA INVESTS GRANT PROGRAM

§135-8-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes guidelines and procedures that will direct the operation of the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Code §18B-1-6 and §18C-9-4.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~June 2, 2020~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~July 2, 2020~~

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall be terminated and have no further force or effect on ~~July 2, 2025~~

§135-8-2. Administration.

2.1. The Vice Chancellor for Administration shall administer the West Virginia Invests Grant Program under the general direction of the Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Council).

2.2. The Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board shall provide financial aid expertise and policy guidance to the Vice Chancellor for Administration.

§135-8-3. Institution Eligibility.

3.1. Only West Virginia public community and technical colleges and West Virginia public baccalaureate institutions that have a signed program participation agreement are eligible to participate in the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

3.2. Beginning with the 2021 fiscal year, only those eligible institutions in Section 3.1. of this rule that have one or more partnerships that establish Advanced Career Education (ACE) programs and pathways are eligible to participate in the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

§135-8-4. Student Eligibility.

4.1. To be eligible for a West Virginia Invests Grant Program award, an applicant must:

4.1.1. Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States who meets the residency requirements for Federal Student Aid to receive Title IV funds;

4.1.2. Have been a resident of West Virginia for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application for a grant or renewal of a grant;

4.1.2.a. For dependent students, the legal residence of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) shall be prima facie evidence of the student's legal residence.

4.1.2.b. Students may provide documentation that is approved by the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board to determine a student's eligibility as a resident of West Virginia.

4.1.3. Have earned a high school diploma or passed a state approved high school equivalency exam;

4.1.4. Have not been previously awarded a post-secondary degree; or reached ninety attempted credit hours;

4.1.5. Be enrolled in at least six credit hours per semester in an eligible post-secondary program, as defined by West Virginia Code §18C-9-3 at an eligible institution;

4.1.5.a. Recipients enrolled in an eligible post-secondary program can continue to receive West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds if during the recipient's program of study, the post-secondary program is no longer considered an eligible post-secondary program, as long as the student maintains all other eligibility criteria and maintains continuous enrollment.

4.1.6. Submit both a completed FAFSA and any application form required by the Council by the deadline established by the Council;

4.1.6.a. Must complete verification if selected on the FAFSA by the U.S. Department of Education or the institution.

4.1.7. Have, prior to the start of each ~~semester~~ academic year or prior to the initial period for which the student is enrolled if that period for which the student is enrolled is not the beginning of the academic year and in which funds are received, satisfactorily passed taken an approved drug test that is verified by the ~~eligible institution~~ Senior Director of Financial Aid, or his/her designee; provided, that the applicant shall be responsible for the actual cost of the drug test;

4.1.7.a. The Council shall approve ~~on an annual basis~~ the drug screening policy and requirements necessary to receive West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds.

4.1.8. Not be in default on a federal student loan;

4.1.9. For initial awards, an applicant must be accepted for enrollment by the institution and meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy. Eligibility for the West Virginia Invests Grant Program does not guarantee admission to an eligible institution or eligible post-secondary program.

§135-8-5. Awards.

5.1. The maximum amount of a West Virginia Invests Grant Program at a West Virginia public community and technical college shall be the cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to all students and academic fees approved by the Council for an associate or certificate program less all other federal and state scholarships and grants and institutional tuition waivers for which the student is eligible.

5.1.1 Academic fees include fees charged to students for specific courses or programs to support such expenses as, but not limited to, lab, equipment costs, and assessments. Academic fees do not include

textbooks, post-graduation expenses, or anything the student would keep or use after the course ends, for example tools, uniforms, or equipment.

5.1.4.2. A West Virginia public baccalaureate institution shall not charge students who are enrolled in an eligible program more than the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at West Virginia public community and technical colleges.

5.1.42.a. The maximum amount of a West Virginia Invests Grant at a West Virginia public baccalaureate institution shall be the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at West Virginia public community and technical colleges less all other federal and state scholarships and grants and institutional tuition waivers for which the student is eligible.

5.1.23. Students are required to apply for and utilize all federal and state scholarships and grants for which they may be eligible before the West Virginia Invests Grant Program award amount is determined.

5.1.34. Federal and state scholarships and grants include the Pell Grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity (SEOG) Grant, the PROMISE Scholarship, the West Virginia Higher Education Grant, and the Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student (HEAPS) Grant.

5.1.45. If scholarships and grants exceed tuition, ~~and mandatory fees,~~ and academic program fees approved by the Council in any given term, then the student shall not be eligible for a West Virginia Invests Grant Program award in that term.

5.1.56. West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds can only be used toward courses that apply to an eligible post-secondary program.

5.2. No West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds will be disbursed until a signed agreement has been received from the applicant.

5.3. The Council shall establish criteria to be used in award selection each year based on the amount of funding expected to be available to use for awards. In determining to whom to award, the Council may consider applicants' relative levels of financial need, application filing dates, academic program, and/or state policy priorities.

5.4. If a West Virginia Invests Grant Program recipient transfers from one participating institution to another participating institution, the grant is transferable with the approval of the Vice Chancellor for Administration or his or her designee.

5.5. Awards may be made for summer terms. Any summer award under this provision is dependent upon the availability of funds as determined by the Council.

§135-8-6. Renewal.

6.1. A West Virginia Invests Grant may be renewed until an applicant has met the requirements for an associate's degree or until the applicant has reached ninety attempted credit hours as determined by the institution.

6.2. To renew a West Virginia Invests Grant, an applicant must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of each academic year;

6.3. Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy;

6.4. Make satisfactory progress in completing at least two hours of verified community service each term for which the student is receiving West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds as approved and verified by the institution;

6.4.1. Recipients who do not complete at least two hours of verified community service in a term ~~may will~~ lose funding for that term ~~or will not be eligible for any disbursement in subsequent terms until the community service requirement is met.~~

6.5. Must meet all the eligibility criteria in Section 4.1. of this rule.

§135-8-7. Post Award Changes.

7.1. If a West Virginia Invests Grant Program recipient terminates enrollment for any reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the Council by the institution in accordance with the refund policy associated with Title IV funds.

7.2. If a recipient does not meet the renewal requirements for any reason, they may ~~reapply~~ renew as soon as the next term if all eligibility and renewal requirements are met.

§135-8-8. Monetary Repayment.

8.1. Each recipient of the West Virginia Invests Grant Program shall enter into an agreement with the Vice Chancellor for Administration agreeing to the following:

8.1.1. Once a recipient completes their program of study or is no longer enrolled at least half-time, they must provide acceptable documentation as determined by the Council that they are continually residing in West Virginia for at least two years from the time the recipient drops below half-time.

8.1.2. Recipients who are serving as a member of the armed services of the United States and maintaining legal residency in West Virginia while stationed for military purposes will be considered as meeting the residency requirement for the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

8.2. A recipient will be required to make monetary repayment if:

8.2.1. The recipient does not continually reside in West Virginia for two years upon completion of their program of study and after dropping below half-time enrollment; or

8.2.2. It is determined that the recipient fraudulently obtained West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds; or

8.2.3. The recipient does not provide acceptable documentation of continually residing in West Virginia in a timely manner.

8.3. In addition to the repayment of the grant, interest will be charged at a rate determined by the Vice Chancellor for Administration and will begin to accrue at the time the repayment period begins.

8.4. If a recipient fulfills a portion of the residency obligation, interest will accrue from the day on which the recipient ceased to be a resident of West Virginia.

8.4.1. The monetary repayment may be prorated based upon a percentage of the two years that the recipient resided in West Virginia.

8.5. As permitted by federal law, applicable state regulations, and the terms of the grant agreement, reasonable collection costs, late charges and attorney fees may be assessed in the collection of delinquent accounts.

8.6. Recipients have a ten-year period to repay the West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds. If extenuating circumstances exist, the Vice Chancellor for Administration, upon receipt of appropriate documentation, may extend the period of repayment to fifteen years.

8.7. A recipient may request a deferment for pursuing a half-time course of study at an accredited institution of higher education or while serving on active duty as a member of the armed services of the United States.

8.8. A recipient may request a forbearance due to monetary hardship, sickness, or other acceptable reasons as approved by the Vice Chancellor for Administration if a recipient is unable to make payments but does intend to fulfill the monetary obligation.

8.9. A recipient's obligation is excused in the event the recipient:

8.9.1. Becomes permanently or totally disabled as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician. The Vice Chancellor for Administration may require additional evidence of the disability

8.9.2. Is deceased. A copy of the death certificate must be submitted.

§135-8-9. Collections.

9.1. Institutional and Council staff shall exercise due diligence in collecting monetary repayments from grant recipients.

9.2. Institutional due diligence means:

9.2.1. Conducting counseling with the student both at entrance and exit providing the student with information necessary to carry out the terms of repayment, reminds the recipient of the rights and responsibilities associated with the grant funds, and updates the recipient's personal information to assist in locating the recipient if he or she fails to keep the institution or the Council informed of his or her address.

9.3. Council due diligence means:

9.3.1. Notifying the grant recipient of his/her obligations annually during any grace or deferment period.

9.3.2. Performing regular billing.

9.3.3. Following up past due payments with a series of documented and reasonably spaced attempts to contact the student before the obligation becomes 120 days past due, provided the Council has a current address for the student.

9.3.4. Referring defaulted grants more than 150 days past due to the Secretary of the Department of Administration or to a collection agent.

§135-8-10. Appeals.

10.1. An applicant may appeal in writing, the decline of an initial award or renewal award or any other decision within fifteen (15) days of receiving notification, to the ~~Director of State Financial Aid Programs~~ Senior Director of Financial Aid. The Director, or his/her designee, may consult with the appeals committee comprised of financial aid staff and shall issue a written decision upholding or reversing the initial decision.

10.1.1. An applicant must follow the Council's policy on drug screening to appeal a failed drug test.

10.1.2. Any applicant appeal of a decision concerning satisfactory academic progress shall be referred to the institution for resolution consistent with the institution procedures established for this purpose.

10.2. The applicant may appeal the Director's decision to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board. Any appeal to the Advisory Board must be filed within fifteen (15) days of notification to the applicant that his or her appeal was denied. The appeal must be in writing and detail, with specificity, the grounds supporting the appeal. The Advisory Board may require additional evidence or materials be submitted. If the Advisory Board denies the appeal, the reasons for the denial shall be communicated in writing to the applicant with an explanation of the reason for the denial. The decision of the Advisory Board is final.

§135-8-11. Accounting, Reporting, and Auditing Requirements.

11.1. Before the end of each fiscal year, each institution's financial aid office must reconcile its West Virginia Invests Grant Program records with:

11.1.1. The Council's records of West Virginia Invests Grant Program awards and disbursements;

11.1.2. The institution's business office records of West Virginia Invests Grant Program disbursements.

11.2. All participating institutions may be subject to financial aid audits.

11.3. All participating institutions may be required to provide reports, which may include student level data, to the Council on recipients of the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Community And Technical College Education TITLE-SERIES: 135-08

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: West Virginia Invests Grant Program

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §18B-1-6 and §18C-9-4

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 11/09/2021 4:30 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor

ADDRESS: 1018 Kanawha Blvd., East, Suite 700

Charleston, WV 25301

EMAIL: tucker@wvctcs.org

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

this rule establishes guidelines and procedures that will direct the operation of the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

drug tests to be taken prior to each academic year instead of each semester and verified by the Senior Director of Financial Aid or his/her designee and not by the eligible institution.

Approved academic fees are also now covered by West Virginia Invests.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

NA

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

NA

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

NA

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

| Effect of Proposal | Fiscal Year | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 2021 Increase/Decrease (use "-") | 2022 Increase/Decrease (use "-") | Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation) |
| 1. Estimated Total Cost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Personal Services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Current Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Repairs and Alterations | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Estimated Total Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 |

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

NA

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Angela S Kerns -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



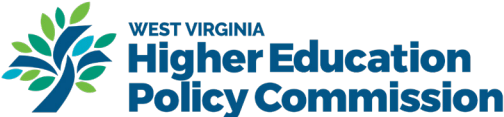
Report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability

2021 West Virginia Financial Aid Comprehensive Report

WEST VIRGINIA

FINANCIAL AID

2021 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



ABOUT THIS REPORT



Image courtesy of Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College

In accordance with West Virginia Code §18C-1-1f, this report represents the thirteenth annual Financial Aid Comprehensive Report. It contains (a) descriptions of and changes to West Virginia aid programs, (b) policy recommendations for West Virginia aid programs, and (c) longitudinal data about recipients of state financial aid. The Financial Aid Comprehensive Report, coupled with data published on the online higher education data portal, provides a comprehensive view of the principal sources of financial aid at West Virginia colleges and universities. It should be noted that the data presented are for the 2020-21 academic year. Additional data are available through the statewide higher education data portal - Explorer - at:

<http://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/>



Front cover image courtesy of West Virginia University Institute of Technology

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Image courtesy of Fairmont State University

CHANGES IN WEST VIRGINIA

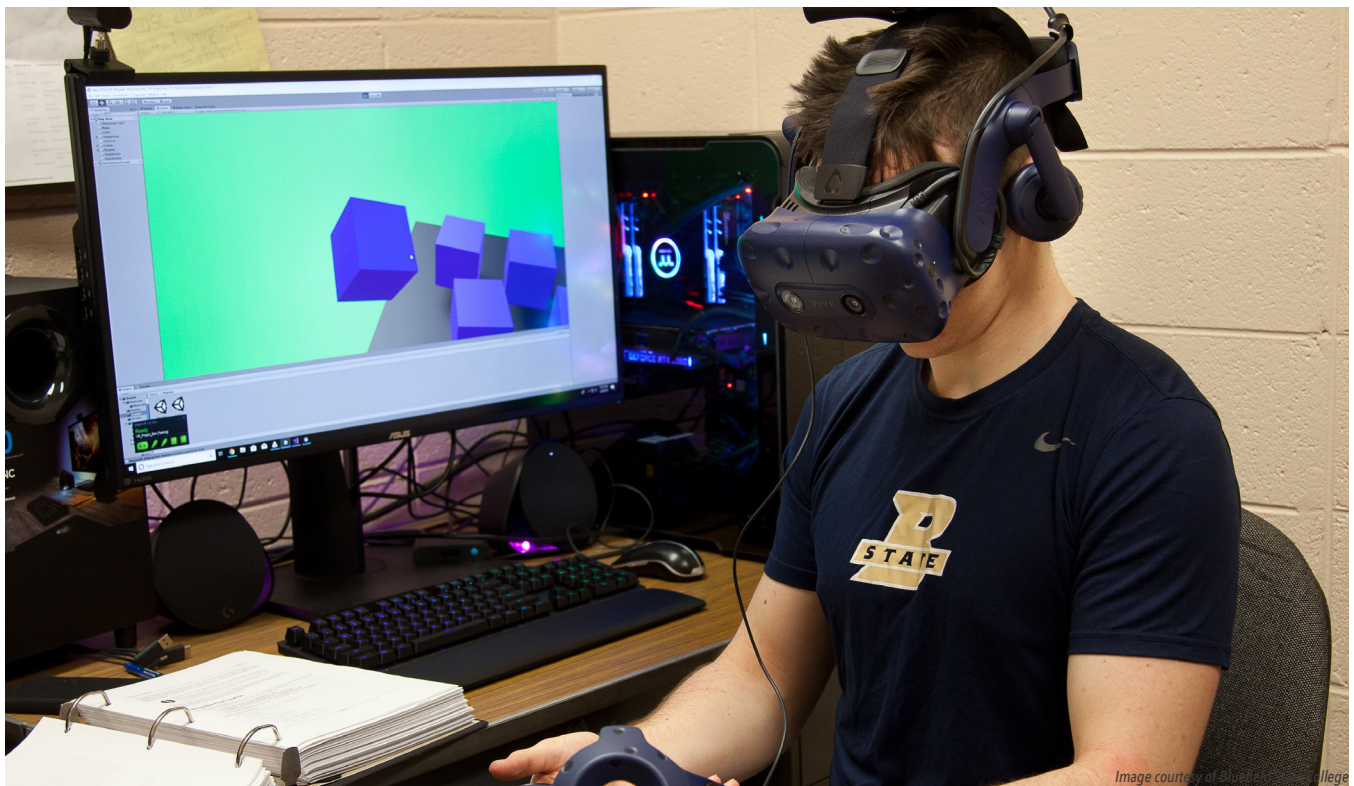
The Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board met seven times in 2020-21 and made recommendations to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission regarding the academic criteria necessary to receive the Promise Scholarship, the Promise award amount, and the Higher Education Grant Program (HEGP) award structure and recommendations to help students during the pandemic.

In response to COVID-19, a number of changes in the Promise Scholarship award guidelines were implemented. These included testing deadline extension for 2020-21 and 2021-22 awards and expanding the standardized testing option to include an ACT On-Campus test administered by the colleges, in addition to the national tests to qualify for Promise. All 2021 graduating seniors were offered a free ACT On-Campus test to qualify for Promise. The Class of 2021 and 2022 can superscore either their ACT or SAT tests to qualify for Promise. Further, the application deadline to apply for Promise was extended to July 1, 2021 for the 2021-22 awards. The grade point average to renew Promise was waived for 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic year.

For the WV Higher Education Grant, the deadline was extended to July 1, 2021 for 2021-22 awards. The grade point average to renew the WV Higher Education Grant was waived for 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years. The maximum award for the WV Higher Education Grant was increased to \$3,000 from \$2,900 for the 2021-22 award year.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Legislature passed changes to the West Virginia Invests Grant. These changes allow the West Virginia Invests Grant to pay for academic fees approved by the WV Council for Community and Technical Education. The legislation also allows students to take one drug screen per academic year instead of prior to each academic term and to utilize West Virginia Invests for one semester on a probationary basis, if students test positive on a drug screen. The community service requirement was waived from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021.

The grade point average to renew the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award and the West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology scholarship was waived for 2020-21. The national test score requirement for Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars program was waived for 2021-22 awards.



POLICY REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Promise Scholarship Program

In March 2020, COVID-19 caused significant changes in the world of higher education. The standardized testing deadline was extended from August 2021 through October 2021 and on-campus ACT tests were administered to allow students additional opportunities to qualify for Promise because of the cancellation of national standardized tests in 2020 and 2021. Through CARES Act funding, a free ACT On-Campus test was made available in 2021 to 2021 Promise applicants to qualify for the Promise Scholarship. Superscoring was allowed to be utilized for the Class of 2021 and 2022 because of the lack of opportunities students had to prepare themselves for national standardized tests during the pandemic. The test score requirement for the Class of 2021 for a 2021-22 award was lowered by one point on both the composite ACT and the subscores of the ACT test, or the equivalent on the SAT test. Students in the Class of 2021 were not qualifying for Promise at the same rate as students in previous classes. The cumulative grade point average for Promise renewal was waived at the end of the 2020-21 award year because many students struggled to adapt to online learning during the academic year.

At this time, it is recommended that no other changes to the academic criteria to earn the award or the award amount be implemented based upon the current appropriations and lottery funding. If the current funding for Promise were to change, then the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board and the Commission would need to consider changes to the Promise Scholarship Program.

Higher Education Grant Program

The Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board recommended that the maximum award for 2021-22 be increased to \$3,000 for students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of under 12,000.

West Virginia Invests Grant Program

In the 2019 legislative session, SB1 created the last dollar grant program to cover tuition and mandatory fees at participating institutions for certain certificate and associate degree programs that lead to high demand fields as identified by the West Virginia Department of Commerce. In the 2021 legislative session, SB335 made changes to the West Virginia Invests Grant program to include academic fees in eligible expenses for an award and to allow students to take a drug test once per academic year instead of each academic term. Students can also receive an award on a probationary basis for one semester, if they test positive on a drug screen.



Image courtesy of West Liberty University



WEST VIRGINIA
Promise
SCHOLARSHIP

The Promise Scholarship is a merit-based financial aid program designed to: 1) improve high school and postsecondary academic achievement through scholarship incentives; 2) promote access to higher education by reducing costs to students; 3) retain the “best and brightest” students in West Virginia colleges and universities; and 4) create a more educated workforce, which, in turn, will lead to greater economic development. Students who began receiving the award after January 1, 2010 receive annual awards up to \$4,750 to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at public or non-profit, private institutions in West Virginia. Awards may be used in conjunction with other forms of state, federal, and institutional financial aid.

The scholarship is automatically renewed for up to four semesters for an associate degree or eight continuous semesters or until a bachelor's degree is earned for students in a bachelor's degree program. To be considered for scholarship renewal, a student must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 at the end of the first award year on completed college coursework and a 3.0 GPA thereafter as well as earn 30 credit hours for a two-semester award or earn 15 credit hours for a one-semester award within an award year. The grade point average renewal requirement was waived for 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years. Recipients are also encouraged to engage in community service activities while in college.

To qualify for a Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- ▶ Complete high school graduation requirements at a West Virginia high school with at least half of the credits required for graduation obtained at a public high school, private high school, or homeschool in the state (unless the student is a West Virginia resident commuting daily to an out-of-state high school or meets the military dependent exemption);
- ▶ Complete the Promise core high school curriculum;
- ▶ Apply for the scholarship within two years of graduation from high school by submitting both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Promise application form;
- ▶ Have attained a cumulative core and overall high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale according to local standardized grading in coursework required for graduation by the West Virginia Board of Education;
- ▶ Have attained a composite ACT score of 22 (or the comparable SAT score) with a minimum score of 20 on all four subject tests. For the Class of 2021 for a 2021-22 award the required score was lowered by one point on both the composite ACT and the subscores of the ACT test, or the equivalent on the SAT test;
- ▶ Beginning with the 2019-20 award year, home-schooled applicants need to obtain a cumulative core and overall high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale instead of achieving an eligible score on the GED/Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and meet all other criteria to be Promise eligible;
- ▶ Have attained a 550-minimum score on the TASC exam if the student attended an alternative education program;
- ▶ Have resided in West Virginia continuously for 12 months immediately preceding application for the Promise (unless meeting the military dependent exemption); and
- ▶ Be a United States citizen or an eligible non-citizen who meets the residency requirements for Federal Student Aid.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of Promise recipients decreased from 10,185 in 2019-20 to 9,936 in 2020-21. The total cost of the scholarship decreased from \$46,537,525 in 2019-20 to \$45,066,815 in 2020-21.
- ▶ Approximately 91.2 percent of Promise recipients in 2020-21 attended a four-year public institution. Of these, most attended either West Virginia University (51%) or Marshall University (19.2%). Public community and technical colleges accounted for 2.8 percent of Promise scholars in 2020-21.

Total Promise Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Recipients | 10,403 | 10,450 | 10,397 | 10,185 | 9,936 |
| Awards | \$47,280,645 | \$47,396,369 | \$47,454,201 | \$46,537,525 | \$45,066,815 |
| Average Award | \$4,545 | \$4,536 | \$4,564 | \$4,569 | \$4,536 |

Promise Scholarship: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 9,057 | 91.2% | \$41,318,397 |
| Bluefield State College | 94 | 0.9% | \$403,372 |
| Concord University | 254 | 2.6% | \$1,119,778 |
| Fairmont State University | 670 | 6.7% | \$3,025,095 |
| Glenville State College | 125 | 1.3% | \$554,063 |
| Marshall University | 1,904 | 19.2% | \$8,751,803 |
| Shepherd University | 431 | 4.3% | \$1,930,043 |
| West Liberty University | 337 | 3.4% | \$1,523,170 |
| West Virginia State University | 170 | 1.7% | \$741,760 |
| West Virginia University* | 5072 | 51.0% | \$23,269,313 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 282 | 2.8% | \$1,021,641 |
| Blue Ridge Community and Technical College | 29 | 0.3% | \$96,307 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 32 | 0.3% | \$121,390 |
| Eastern WV Community and Technical College | 3 | 0.0% | \$9,420 |
| Mountwest Community and Technical College | 8 | 0.1% | \$29,016 |
| New River Community and Technical College | 13 | 0.1% | \$48,092 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 35 | 0.4% | \$149,205 |
| Southern WV Community and Technical College | 38 | 0.4% | \$131,376 |
| WV Northern Community College | 21 | 0.2% | \$65,756 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 103 | 1.0% | \$371,079 |
| Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions | 597 | 6.0% | \$2,726,777 |
| Alderson Broaddus University | 37 | 0.4% | \$176,755 |
| Appalachian Bible College | 10 | 0.1% | \$38,000 |
| Bethany College | 34 | 0.3% | \$159,125 |
| Davis & Elkins College | 55 | 0.6% | \$250,194 |
| Ohio Valley University | 11 | 0.1% | \$49,875 |
| University of Charleston | 188 | 1.9% | \$850,287 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | 245 | 2.5% | \$1,131,291 |
| Wheeling University | 17 | 0.2% | \$71,250 |
| Total | 9,936 | 100.0% | \$45,066,815 |

* Includes Potomac State College of WVU and WVU Institute of Technology.

WEST VIRGINIA Invests

The West Virginia Invests Grant is a "last-dollar-in" financial aid program designed to cover the cost of basic tuition and mandatory fees for certificate or associate degree programs in specific high-demand fields, as determined by the West Virginia Department of Commerce, at a participating West Virginia public two- or four-year institution. "Last dollar" means federal and state scholarships and grants and institutional tuition waivers are applied to tuition and mandatory fees first. West Virginia Invests will cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fees not being covered by other scholarships and grants.

The West Virginia Invests Grant is available to students attending participating West Virginia public two-year or four-year institutions. In order to be eligible for an Invests award, a potential recipient must:

- ▶ Be a West Virginia resident 12 months prior to applying;
- ▶ Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen for federal financial aid purposes;
- ▶ Have a high school degree or equivalent;
- ▶ Have not already earned a college degree or attempted 90 or more college credit hours;
- ▶ Not be in default on a federal student loan;
- ▶ Meet college's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy;
- ▶ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- ▶ Pay for and pass a drug screen once per academic year;
- ▶ Complete two hours of unpaid community service each term; and
- ▶ Reside in West Virginia for two years once the student is no longer enrolled at least half-time or else repay the grant.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of West Virginia Invests Grant recipients increased from 1,168 in 2019-20 to 1,431 in the 2020-21 academic year. The total funding awarded also increased from \$3,269,353 to \$4,139,513.
- ▶ Invests recipients received an average award of \$2,893 in 2020-21.
- ▶ A majority of Invests funds (95%) were disbursed to students attending a West Virginia public two-year institution, with Pierpont Community and Technical College, BridgeValley Community and Technical College and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College enrolling the highest number of Invests recipients at 322, 249 and 234 students, respectively.



From left to right, images courtesy of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, New River Community and Technical College and Mountwest Community and Technical College

Total WV Invests Grant Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2020-21

| | | | | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients | . | . | . | 1,168 | 1,431 |
| Awards | . | . | . | \$3,269,353 | \$4,139,513 |
| Average Award | . | . | . | \$2,799 | \$2,893 |

WV Invests Grant: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 71 | 5.0% | \$209,614 |
| Potomac State College of WVU | 71 | 5.0% | \$209,614 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 1,360 | 95.0% | \$3,929,899 |
| Blue Ridge Community and Technical College | 234 | 16.4% | \$582,198 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 249 | 17.4% | \$741,129 |
| Eastern WV Community and Technical College | 31 | 2.2% | \$69,814 |
| Mountwest Community and Technical College | 85 | 5.9% | \$246,896 |
| New River Community and Technical College | 111 | 7.8% | \$318,049 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 322 | 22.5% | \$1,104,739 |
| Southern WV Community and Technical College | 91 | 6.4% | \$228,159 |
| WV Northern Community College | 114 | 8.0% | \$336,485 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 123 | 8.6% | \$302,430 |
| Total | 1,431 | 100.0% | \$4,139,513 |



Image courtesy of West Virginia Northern Community College



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Higher Education GRANT PROGRAM

The West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program (HEGP) is a need-based financial aid program designed to ensure that West Virginia students with financial need are given an opportunity to pursue postsecondary education. The grant may be renewed until the student's course of study is completed but may not exceed an additional three academic years beyond the initial award. Students must file a FAFSA each year to be eligible for renewal. Awards are based on demonstrated financial need and generally may be used in conjunction with other forms of state, federal, and institutional financial aid.

The West Virginia Higher Education Grant may be used at approved public and private postsecondary institutions in West Virginia or Pennsylvania. The grant may be transferred from one eligible institution to another. Renewal is not automatic; students must reapply each year.

The West Virginia Higher Education Grant is available to degree-seeking residents of West Virginia. In order to be eligible for an HEGP award, a potential recipient must:

- ▶ Be a citizen of the United States;
- ▶ Have maintained West Virginia residency for at least 12 months prior to the date of application;
- ▶ Be a high school graduate or the equivalent thereof;
- ▶ Demonstrate an established level of financial need through submission of the FAFSA;
- ▶ Demonstrate academic promise defined as a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA or a score of 2250 on the GED or a 500 on the TASC (this requirement does not apply to those more than five years out of high school) and meet institutional admission requirements;
- ▶ Enroll at a participating institution in West Virginia or Pennsylvania as a full-time undergraduate student; and
- ▶ Have not previously earned a bachelor's degree.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of HEGP recipients decreased from 15,682 in 2019-20 to 14,461 in 2020-21, with total awards declining from \$37,312,270 to \$35,448,005. The average award amount increased from \$2,379 to \$2,451 during the same period.
- ▶ In the 2020-21 academic year, 67.8 percent of HEGP recipients attended public four-year institutions. Of these, most students attended either West Virginia University (25.7%) or Marshall University (15.7%).
- ▶ Public community and technical colleges accounted for 19.6 percent of HEGP awardees in 2020-21, while four-year private, nonprofit institutions accounted for 7.1 percent.



From left to right, images courtesy of Concord University, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Shepherd University

Total HEGP Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Recipients | 17,612 | 17,072 | 16,487 | 15,682 | 14,461 |
| Awards | \$40,219,387 | \$38,969,119 | \$37,656,198 | \$37,312,270 | \$35,448,005 |
| Average Award | \$2,284 | \$2,283 | \$2,284 | \$2,379 | \$2,451 |

HEGP: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 9,811 | 67.8% | \$24,953,480 |
| Bluefield State College | 397 | 2.7% | \$1,020,625 |
| Concord University | 554 | 3.8% | \$1,365,679 |
| Fairmont State University | 1,049 | 7.3% | \$2,629,357 |
| Glenville State College | 379 | 2.6% | \$939,000 |
| Marshall University | 2,272 | 15.7% | \$5,880,134 |
| Shepherd University | 550 | 3.8% | \$1,339,352 |
| West Liberty University | 438 | 3.0% | \$1,110,826 |
| West Virginia State University | 456 | 3.2% | \$1,109,956 |
| West Virginia University* | 3,716 | 25.7% | \$9,558,551 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 2,830 | 19.6% | \$6,412,997 |
| Blue Ridge Community and Technical College | 292 | 2.0% | \$609,340 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 436 | 3.0% | \$997,769 |
| Eastern WV Community and Technical College | 59 | 0.4% | \$142,426 |
| Mountwest Community and Technical College | 240 | 1.7% | \$569,647 |
| New River Community and Technical College | 296 | 2.0% | \$625,282 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 360 | 2.5% | \$842,060 |
| Southern WV Community and Technical College | 465 | 3.2% | \$1,116,673 |
| WV Northern Community College | 231 | 1.6% | \$478,536 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 451 | 3.1% | \$1,031,264 |
| Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions | 1,021 | 7.1% | \$2,592,108 |
| Alderson Broaddus University | 101 | 0.7% | \$257,354 |
| Appalachian Bible College | 25 | 0.2% | \$67,150 |
| Bethany College | 54 | 0.4% | \$140,083 |
| Davis & Elkins College | 201 | 1.4% | \$494,743 |
| Ohio Valley University | 29 | 0.2% | \$74,000 |
| University of Charleston | 340 | 2.4% | \$821,676 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | 243 | 1.7% | \$664,815 |
| Wheeling University | 28 | 0.2% | \$72,287 |
| WV For-Profit Institutions | 612 | 4.2% | \$1,381,120 |
| Huntington Junior College | 64 | 0.4% | \$136,018 |
| Mountain State College | 11 | 0.1% | \$30,450 |
| Salem University | 46 | 0.3% | \$107,642 |
| Valley College of Technology - Multiple Campuses | 115 | 0.8% | \$274,837 |
| WV Junior College - Multiple Campuses | 376 | 2.6% | \$832,173 |
| Pennsylvania Institutions | 187 | 1.3% | \$108,300 |
| Total | 14,461 | 100.0% | \$35,448,005 |

* Includes Potomac State College of WVU and WVU Institute of Technology.

HEAPS GRANT

The goal of the HEAPS Part-Time Component is to encourage and enable West Virginia students who demonstrate financial need to continue their education on a part-time basis at the postsecondary level. For students enrolled at a public college or university, the maximum grant is based on the actual per credit hour tuition and required fees charged. For students enrolled at other eligible institutions, the award is based upon the average per credit hour tuition and required fees charged by public undergraduate institutions of higher education. Total aid, including a HEAPS award, may not exceed the recipient's demonstrated financial need. Aid may be used at a community college, a state college or university, an private college or university in West Virginia, or a career and technical school. Recipients are selected each year by institutions based on the student's eligibility and the availability of funds.

Students eligible for a HEAPS award must:

- ▶ Maintain West Virginia residency for at least 12 months prior to date of application;
- ▶ Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States;
- ▶ Submit the FAFSA;
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need;
- ▶ Not be in default on a higher education loan;
- ▶ Not be incarcerated in a correctional facility; and
- ▶ Comply with the Military Selective Service Act.

HEAPS grants can be renewed until the program of study is completed but cannot exceed an additional nine years beyond the first year of the award. Renewal consideration will be based on meeting satisfactory academic progress, filing the FAFSA, demonstrating financial need, and following the institution's awarding procedures.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of students receiving a HEAPS Part-Time Component award decreased from 2,859 in 2019-20 to 2,739 in 2020-21 and the actual dollars awarded decreased slightly from \$3,271,425 to \$3,084,059 during the same period.
- ▶ The average award decreased from \$1,144 in 2019-20 to \$1,126 in 2020-21.
- ▶ About 49 percent of HEAPS Part-Time Component recipients were enrolled at public four-year institutions, while 47.1 percent were enrolled at public two-year institutions in 2020-21. Public vocational/technical centers accounted for 2 percent of recipients while 1.9 percent attended a four-year private, non-profit institution in 2020-21.



Image courtesy of Pierpont Community and Technical College

Total HEAPS Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients | 3,071 | 2,784 | 2,809 | 2,859 | 2,739 |
| Awards | \$3,002,973 | \$2,984,110 | \$2,961,220 | \$3,271,425 | \$3,084,059 |
| Average Award | \$978 | \$1,072 | \$1,054 | \$1,144 | \$1,126 |

HEAPS: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 1,343 | 49.0% | \$1,325,525 |
| Bluefield State College | 52 | 1.9% | \$79,025 |
| Concord University | 24 | 0.9% | \$53,428 |
| Fairmont State University | 287 | 10.5% | \$198,450 |
| Glenville State College | 57 | 2.1% | \$71,093 |
| Marshall University | 503 | 18.4% | \$345,509 |
| Shepherd University | 133 | 4.9% | \$105,104 |
| West Liberty University | 25 | 0.9% | \$33,899 |
| West Virginia State University | 49 | 1.8% | \$93,555 |
| West Virginia University* | 213 | 7.8% | \$345,462 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 1,291 | 47.1% | \$1,628,218 |
| Blue Ridge Community and Technical College | 330 | 12.0% | \$378,295 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 182 | 6.6% | \$209,635 |
| Eastern WV Community and Technical College | 39 | 1.4% | \$45,033 |
| Mountwest Community and Technical College | 143 | 5.2% | \$127,735 |
| New River Community and Technical College | 82 | 3.0% | \$108,400 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 133 | 4.9% | \$121,598 |
| Southern WV Community and Technical College | 126 | 4.6% | \$156,353 |
| WV Northern Community College | 144 | 5.3% | \$220,176 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 112 | 4.1% | \$260,993 |
| Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions | 51 | 1.9% | \$73,970 |
| Alderson Broaddus University | 18 | 0.7% | \$11,770 |
| Appalachian Bible College | 8 | 0.3% | \$8,619 |
| Davis & Elkins College | 3 | 0.1% | \$1,883 |
| University of Charleston | 19 | 0.7% | \$49,815 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | 3 | 0.1% | \$1,883 |
| Public Vocational/Technical Colleges | 54 | 2.0% | \$56,346 |
| Academy of Careers and Technology | 13 | 0.5% | \$18,655 |
| Fred. W. Eberle Technical Center | 8 | 0.3% | \$3,104 |
| Garnet Career Center | 11 | 0.4% | \$12,045 |
| James Rumsey Technical Institute | 4 | 0.1% | \$7,776 |
| Mercer County Technical Education Center | 4 | 0.1% | \$5,064 |
| Monongalia County School MTEC | 4 | 0.1% | \$2,800 |
| United Technical Center | 10 | 0.4% | \$6,902 |
| Total | 2,739 | 100.0% | \$3,084,059 |

* Includes Potomac State College of WVU and WVU Institute of Technology.

HEAPS WORKFORCE

The HEAPS Workforce Development Component is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and enroll in a postsecondary certificate, industry-recognized credential, or other skill development program in a high-demand occupation in West Virginia. Students demonstrating financial need who are enrolled in an approved program may receive the cost of the program up to \$2,000. Students enrolled in multiple approved programs for a single academic year can receive a cumulative maximum of \$2,000 for all programs. Eligible programs for funding reimbursement are non-credit skill upgrade programs that complement West Virginia Development Office initiatives for targeted industries or employers, promote job creation or retention, or assist in developing skills for new economy jobs or high-performance workplaces. The West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, with input from the West Virginia Development Office, annually sets programmatic funding priorities.

Students eligible for a HEAPS Workforce award must:

- ▶ Maintain West Virginia residency for at least 12 months prior to date of application;
- ▶ Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States;
- ▶ Submit the HEAPS Workforce Development application;
- ▶ Have earned a high school diploma or high school equivalent, or be pursuing the TASC;
- ▶ Not be in default on a federal student loan;
- ▶ Not be incarcerated in a correctional facility;
- ▶ Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in postsecondary certificate, industry-recognized credential, or other skill development programs of study; and
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of students receiving HEAPS Workforce Development Component funds increased from 760 in 2019-20 to 769 in 2020-21, while the actual dollars awarded decreased from \$1,210,909 to \$1,034,993 during the same period.
- ▶ The average award decreased from \$1,593 in 2019-20 to \$1,346 in 2020-21.
- ▶ About 60.3 percent of HEAPS Workforce recipients were enrolled at public two-year institutions in 2020-21. Public vocational/technical centers accounted for 16.1 percent of recipients while 23.5 percent attended an private for-profit institution in 2020-21.



Image courtesy of BridgeValley Community and Technical College

Total HEAPS Workforce Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients | 720 | 668 | 721 | 760 | 769 |
| Awards | \$1,128,138 | \$1,114,439 | \$1,140,944 | \$1,210,909 | \$1,034,993 |
| Average Award | \$1,567 | \$1,668 | \$1,582 | \$1,593 | \$1,346 |

HEAPS Workforce: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 464 | 60.3% | \$481,205 |
| Blue Ridge Community and Technical College | 192 | 25.0% | \$128,910 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 45 | 5.9% | \$85,192 |
| Eastern WV Community and Technical College | 162 | 21.1% | \$161,016 |
| Mountwest Community and Technical College | 8 | 1.0% | \$6,450 |
| New River Community and Technical College | 5 | 0.7% | \$4,463 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 2 | 0.3% | \$3,990 |
| WV Northern Community College | 6 | 0.8% | \$4,184 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 44 | 5.7% | \$87,000 |
| Public Vocational/Technical Colleges | 124 | 16.1% | \$213,660 |
| Academy of Careers and Technology | 41 | 5.3% | \$69,358 |
| Benjamin Franklin Career and Technical Center | 4 | 0.5% | \$6,755 |
| Cabell County Career Technology Center | 13 | 1.7% | \$22,122 |
| Carver Career and Technical Center | 24 | 3.1% | \$44,674 |
| Fayette Institute of Technology | 2 | 0.3% | \$4,000 |
| Garnet Career Center | 18 | 2.3% | \$31,902 |
| Mercer County Technical Educational Center | 9 | 1.2% | \$17,600 |
| Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center | 1 | 0.1% | \$2,000 |
| Roane Jackson Technical Center | 2 | 0.3% | \$1,712 |
| United Technical Center | 6 | 0.8% | \$10,000 |
| Wood County School of Practical Nursing | 4 | 0.5% | \$3,537 |
| WV For-Profit Institutions | 181 | 23.5% | \$340,128 |
| Valley College of Technology - Multiple Campuses | 181 | 23.5% | \$340,128 |
| Total | 769 | 100.0% | \$1,034,993 |



From left to right, images courtesy of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Pierpont Community and Technical College and Mountwest Community and Technical College



UNDERWOOD-SMITH
Teacher
 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program is a student financial aid program designed to enable and encourage West Virginians to pursue teaching careers at the pre-school, elementary, middle, or secondary school level. Undergraduate and graduate scholarships, not to exceed \$5,000 per academic year, are awarded on the basis of academic qualifications and interest in teaching.

Recipients of the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship must agree to teach at the pre-school, elementary, middle, or secondary school level in West Virginia for two years for each year of scholarship assistance. However, if a scholar enters a teacher shortage area, an exceptional children's program, a school having less than average academic results, or a school in an economically disadvantaged area as designated by the West Virginia Board of Education, then the scholar can teach one year for each year the scholarship was received.

Eligibility for an Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship is limited to West Virginia residents who:

- ▶ Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on a scale of 4.0 after successfully completing two years of course work at an approved institution of higher education; and
- ▶ graduate students who graduated or will graduate from an undergraduate institution with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Scholarship renewal is not automatic. The scholarship may be renewed as long as the recipient is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher education in West Virginia; is pursuing a course of study leading to teacher certification at the pre-school, elementary, middle, or secondary school level; maintains satisfactory progress according to that institution; and submits an application by the deadline.

There are also limited provisions for meeting the teaching requirement through alternative service. Students who fail to meet the teaching or alternative service requirements are required to repay the scholarship received plus interest and any required collection fees.

Highlights:

- ▶ The Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship provided average awards of \$4,400 to 25 teacher education majors in 2019-20, which was also the last year of the program. In the final phase-out year, 5 students received funding with an average award of \$4,000.
- ▶ The West Virginia Legislature restructured the program during the 2019 regular session, creating the new Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program. The new program provides up to \$10,000 per year for students who pursue teaching careers in high demand fields. The first cohort of teaching scholars enrolled as freshmen in the fall of 2020.

Total Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Recipients | 32 | 32 | 29 | 25 | 5 |
| Awards | \$155,577 | \$146,321 | \$125,000 | \$110,000 | \$20,000 |
| Average Award | \$4,862 | \$4,573 | \$4,310 | \$4,400 | \$4,000 |

Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Recipients: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 5 | 100.0% | \$20,000 |
| Glenville State College | 1 | 20.0% | \$5,000 |
| Marshall University | 1 | 20.0% | \$2,500 |
| West Liberty University | 2 | 40.0% | \$10,000 |
| West Virginia State University | 1 | 20.0% | \$2,500 |
| Total | 5 | 100.0% | \$20,000 |



Image courtesy of Glenville State College



The Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program is West Virginia's newest and most prestigious (we want to emphasize the prestige of the program) state-funded financial aid program – offering up to \$10,000 per year (\$40K total) to cover the cost of tuition and fees, room and board, and other eligible expenses toward earning a bachelor's degree in an approved teacher education program.

The program is designed to address ongoing teacher shortages in the fields of math, science, special education and elementary education. Recipients must commit to teaching in a high-demand field in West Virginia for five years after graduation. The scholarship becomes a student loan if they do not fulfill the service commitment at a prorated amount based on the number of years they teach (i.e., if they teach for 4 years, 80% of the loan is forgiven). To give scholars the greatest chance at success, each recipient will be paired with a practicing classroom teacher mentor. Mentors will check in on scholars periodically throughout the year and will be on-call to provide guidance and assistance as needed.

The award is stackable with other forms of financial aid. West Virginia residents who receive the Promise Scholarship (\$4,750 per year) will receive nearly \$15,000 per year to help pay for college.

Eligibility for the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program is limited to applicants who:

- ▶ Are high school seniors or recent high school graduates with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in an approved teacher preparation program in math, science, elementary education or special education at an eligible West Virginia institution;
- ▶ Have never been enrolled as a degree-seeking student at college or university;
- ▶ Achieved a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.25 on 4.0 scale, or an equivalent grade point average based on an individual school district's grading policy;
- ▶ Earned minimum ACT scores of 21 in math and 18 in English, or minimum SAT scores of 530 in math and 480 in English;
- ▶ Are United States citizens or hold valid Employment Authorization Documents (EAD), or work permits, issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office; and
- ▶ Agree to teach in a West Virginia public school for five years after college graduation in the fields of math, science, elementary education, or special education.
- ▶ Applicants are not required to be residents of the state of West Virginia.

Highlights:

- ▶ In the first year of the program, 25 scholars were awarded \$243,044 for an average award of \$9,722.

Total Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2020-21

| | | | | | 2020-21 |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Recipients | . | . | . | . | 25 |
| Awards | . | . | . | . | \$243,044 |
| Average Award | . | . | . | . | \$9,722 |

Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|---|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 21 | 84.0% | \$203,044 |
| Concord University | 2 | 8.0% | \$13,044 |
| Fairmont State University | 4 | 16.0% | \$40,000 |
| Glenville State College | 2 | 8.0% | \$20,000 |
| Marshall University | 2 | 8.0% | \$20,000 |
| Shepherd University | 2 | 8.0% | \$20,000 |
| West Liberty University | 1 | 4.0% | \$10,000 |
| West Virginia University | 5 | 20.0% | \$50,000 |
| WV State University | 3 | 12.0% | \$30,000 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 1 | 4.0% | \$10,000 |
| WVU at Parkersburg | 1 | 4.0% | \$10,000 |
| Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions | 3 | 12.0% | \$30,000 |
| Ohio Valley University | 1 | 4.0% | \$10,000 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | 2 | 8.0% | \$20,000 |
| Total | 25 | 100.0% | \$243,044 |





The West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Program is a student financial aid program designed to enable and encourage academically talented individuals to pursue careers in the fields of engineering, science, and technology. Scholarships are awarded to degree- or certificate-seeking students on the basis of academic qualifications and are not to exceed \$3,000 per academic year. Recipients of the ESTS agree to work full-time in an engineering, science, or technology field in West Virginia for one year for each year the scholarship was received or begin an approved program of community service related to engineering, science, or technology. Students who do not meet the employment or community service requirement must repay the scholarship received plus interest and any required collection fees.

To qualify for the ESTS, a student must:

- ▶ Be a United States citizen or resident alien who is an eligible non-citizen;
- ▶ Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation from high school or have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale after completing two semesters of coursework at an eligible institution of higher education; and
- ▶ Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an engineering, science, or technology program leading to a certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree at an eligible institution of higher education.

Scholarship renewal is not automatic. The scholarship may be renewed as long as the recipient is enrolled as a full-time student in an eligible institution of higher education; is pursuing a certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree in engineering, science, or technology; maintains satisfactory progress according to that institution; and submits an application by the deadline.

Highlights:

- ▶ The number of Engineering, Science, and Technology Scholarship recipients decreased from 250 in 2019-20 academic year to 233 in 2020-21. The total amount awarded also decreased during this period, from \$717,006 in 2019-20 to \$662,027 in 2020-21.
- ▶ ESTS recipients received an average award of \$2,841 in 2020-21, down slightly from \$2,868 the year before.
- ▶ Most ESTS recipients, 94 percent, attended a public four-year institution, with West Virginia University enrolling 61.4 percent of the total recipients and Marshall University enrolling 16.3 percent.

Total Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Recipients | 221 | 232 | 190 | 250 | 233 |
| Awards | \$641,504 | \$677,023 | \$561,700 | \$717,006 | \$662,027 |
| Average Award | \$2,903 | \$2,906 | \$2,956 | \$2,868 | \$2,841 |

Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2020-21

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|---|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 219 | 94.0% | \$621,527 |
| Bluefield State College | 5 | 2.1% | \$13,500 |
| Concord University | 3 | 1.3% | \$9,000 |
| Fairmont State University | 18 | 7.7% | \$51,000 |
| Marshall University | 38 | 16.3% | \$106,500 |
| Shepherd University | 9 | 3.9% | \$24,000 |
| West Liberty University | 3 | 1.3% | \$7,500 |
| West Virginia University | 143 | 61.4% | \$410,027 |
| Two-Year Public Institutions | 2 | 0.9% | \$6,000 |
| BridgeValley Community and Technical College | 1 | 0.4% | \$3,000 |
| Pierpont Community and Technical College | 1 | 0.4% | \$3,000 |
| Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions | 12 | 5.2% | \$34,500 |
| Bethany College | 1 | 0.4% | \$3,000 |
| Davis & Elkins College | 1 | 0.4% | \$3,000 |
| University of Charleston | 4 | 1.7% | \$12,000 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | 6 | 2.6% | \$16,500 |
| Total | 233 | 100.0% | \$662,027 |



Image courtesy of West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Medical Student Loan PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to enable needy medical students to obtain loan funds to pursue a degree at Marshall University School of Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or West Virginia University School of Medicine.

To be eligible for loan consideration, an applicant must:

- ▶ Be a United States citizen or legal immigrant pursuing United States citizenship;
- ▶ Be accepted for enrollment or be enrolled full-time at an approved West Virginia medical school with priority consideration given to residents of the state;
- ▶ Meet designated academic standards;
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need as determined by each medical school; and
- ▶ Not be in default on any previous student loan(s).

The program is funded by fees paid by medical students. The financial aid office at the medical school determines eligibility and makes the awards. The maximum annual loan amount cannot exceed \$10,000. Funding availability at each medical school may limit the number of awards or the value of individual awards. Students may apply for loan assistance for each year of medical school.

The first payment will be due one year following the date that the borrower ceases to be a full-time medical student at a West Virginia medical school. The borrower has a maximum of 10 years to repay the loan (principal and interest). Borrowers will not be required to make payments during periods of authorized deferments, including approved medical residencies and fellowships (not to exceed five years).

Instead of repaying the loan, the borrower may elect to have the loan forgiven at a rate of up to \$10,000 for each period of 12 consecutive calendar months of full-time practice in West Virginia in a qualifying medically-underserved area or in a qualified medical specialty in which there is a shortage of physicians. The medical specialties that qualify for loan forgiveness are family medicine/family practice; general surgery; internal medicine; obstetrics/gynecology; pediatrics; and psychiatry.

Highlights:

- ▶ In 2020-21, 352 students received a total of \$1,712,559 in awards through the Medical Student Loan Program.
- ▶ Approximately 4 percent of previous award recipients were in default status during the 2020-21 academic year, down from 8 percent the year prior.



From left to right, images courtesy of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University and Marshall University

Medical Student Loan Program: Awards, Total Funds Disbursed, Cancellation and Default Rate, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients | 247 | 240 | 246 | 242 | 352 |
| Funds Disbursed | \$1,424,846 | \$1,830,125 | \$1,732,612 | \$1,801,000 | \$1,712,559 |
| Loan Deferment | 12 | 35 | 16 | 11 | 10 |
| Loan Forgiveness* | 33 | 255 | 300 | 300 | 315 |
| Default Rate on Previous Awards | 2.5% | 7.2% | 7.2% | 8.0% | 4.0% |

*Starting in 2017-18 the number reported for loan forgiveness includes the total number of recipients in repayment who are seeking loan forgiveness. Prior to 2017-18, the number reported only included those who had completed their obligation toward loan forgiveness.

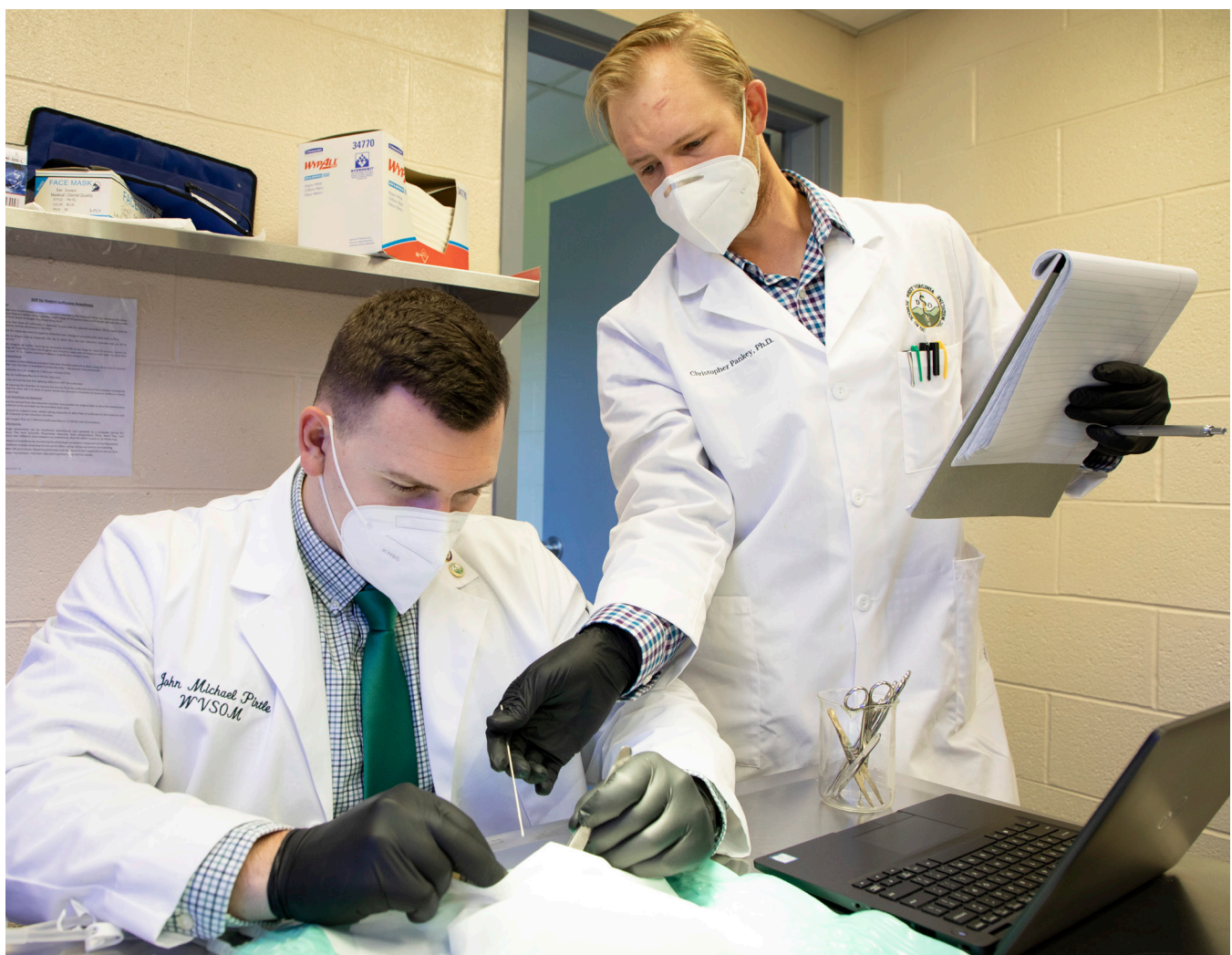


Image courtesy of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine



Choose West Virginia PRACTICE PROGRAM

The Choose West Virginia Practice Program is a state-funded incentive program and is administered by the Commission. The program provides a tuition waiver to nonresident West Virginia medical students who agree to remain in West Virginia to practice in underserved areas of the state upon completion of their education and training. Two medical students from each West Virginia medical school are eligible to be awarded each academic year and will receive a tuition waiver for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition (approximately \$30,000).

To be eligible for the award, students must:

- ▶ Be accepted or enrolled at Marshall University, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or West Virginia University in a program leading to a degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy;
- ▶ Meet institutional requirements for being classified as an out-of-state student;
- ▶ Not be in default of any previous student loan; and
- ▶ Be employed full-time or part-time at an eligible practice site.

Although students from any current medical school class year are eligible to apply, medical students who meet the eligibility criteria listed above and who are in their first year of medical school will receive preference.

Subject to continued state funding, students who receive an award will be eligible to receive an award in each of their remaining years of medical school as long as they:

- ▶ Progress to the next academic year of their program;
- ▶ Maintain good academic standing; and
- ▶ Maintain good professional standing.

Highlights:

- ▶ The total amount awarded increased from \$190,856 in 2019-20 to \$253,108 in 2020-21.
- ▶ Recipients received an average award of \$42,185 in 2020-21, an increase from \$31,809 the year before.



From left to right, images courtesy of Potomac State College of WVU, Concord University and Shepherd University

Choose West Virginia Practice Program: Total Recipients, Total Funds Disbursed, Average Award, 2019-20 to 2020-21

| | | | | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| Recipients | . | . | . | 6 | 6 |
| Funds Disbursed | . | . | . | \$190,856 | \$253,108 |
| Average Award | . | . | . | \$31,809 | \$42,185 |

| | Recipients | % of Total Recipients | Awards |
|--|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Four-Year Public Institutions | 6 | 100.0% | \$253,108 |
| Marshall University | 1 | 16.7% | \$33,358 |
| West Virginia Osteopathic School of Medicine | 3 | 50.0% | \$93,714 |
| West Virginia University | 2 | 33.3% | \$126,036 |
| Total | 6 | 100.0% | \$253,108 |



Image courtesy of West Virginia University

WEST VIRGINIA Nursing Scholarship PROGRAM

In partnership with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia Center for Nursing offers a loan forgiveness program to assist current and future West Virginia nursing professionals with their education. Nurses benefit from financial assistance, and in return agree to work or teach in West Virginia to fulfill the service obligation specific to their degree.

Students must be enrolled in an accredited West Virginia nursing program at least half-time. Students may be awarded for fall, spring, and/or summer. Recipients must begin employment at an eligible work site in West Virginia within six months of graduation to avoid repayment. A recipient who fails to provide verification that he or she is meeting the service obligation is required to repay the principal and any interest that accrues on the award amount. Repayment of the award must begin within six months of graduation and be completed within 10 years.

The following awards are offered through the Nursing Scholarship Program:

- ▶ Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): An award of up to \$3,000 per year is available for a student in an LPN education program who has completed at least one-half of the program. A recipient is required to practice nursing as an LPN in West Virginia for one year for each year in which the recipient received an award.
- ▶ Registered Nurse (RN): An award of up to \$7,500 per year is available for a student who has completed at least one-half of an RN education program. A recipient is required to teach in an accredited West Virginia nursing program or practice nursing as an RN in West Virginia for two years for each year in which the recipient received an award.
- ▶ Nursing Master’s Degree or Doctoral Nursing or Education Program: An award of up to \$15,000 per year is available to a student in a nursing master’s degree program or a doctoral nursing or education program. A recipient is required to teach in an accredited West Virginia nursing program for two years for each year in which the recipient received an award.
- ▶ Licensed Practical Nurse Teaching Certificate: An award of up to \$1,000 per year is available for a student obtaining a licensed practical nurse teaching certificate. A recipient is required to teach in a West Virginia LPN program for one year for each year in which the recipient received an award.



Image courtesy of West Virginia State University

Highlights:

- ▶ The Nursing Scholarship Program awarded a total of 183 scholarships to nursing students at all levels during the 2020-21 academic year totaling \$340,150 in scholarship aid.
- ▶ The number of Nursing Scholarship Program recipients increased from 169 in 2019-20 to 183 in 2020-21.
- ▶ The total awarded amount increased from \$294,172 in 2019-20 to \$340,150 in 2020-21.

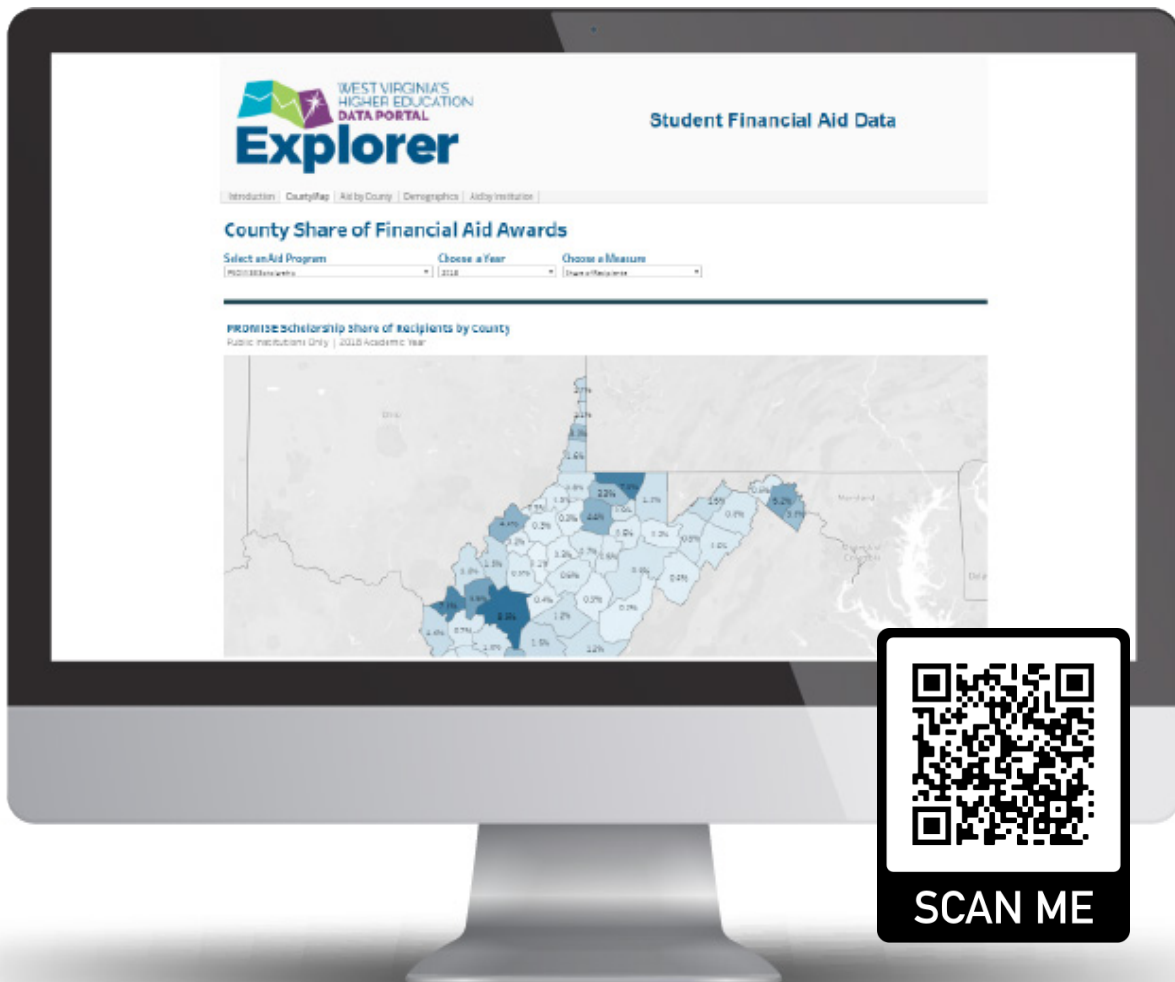
Nursing Scholarship Program: Awards and Total Funds Disbursed, 2016-17 to 2020-21

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Recipients | 208 | 130 | 150 | 169 | 183 |
| Funds Disbursed | \$199,500 | \$317,000 | \$276,950 | \$294,172 | \$340,150 |
| Average Award | \$959 | \$2,438 | \$1,846 | \$1,741 | \$1,859 |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional detailed information on state and federal financial aid programs in West Virginia, including demographics and aid distribution by county, visit **Explorer**, the state's higher education data portal, at:

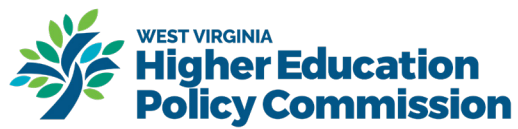
<http://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/>



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