

WEST VIRGINIA

FINANCIAL AID

2024 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



ABOUT THIS REPORT



Image courtesy of West Virginia Northern Community College

In accordance with West Virginia Code §18C-1-1f, this report represents the sixteenth 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 2023-24 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 Marshall University

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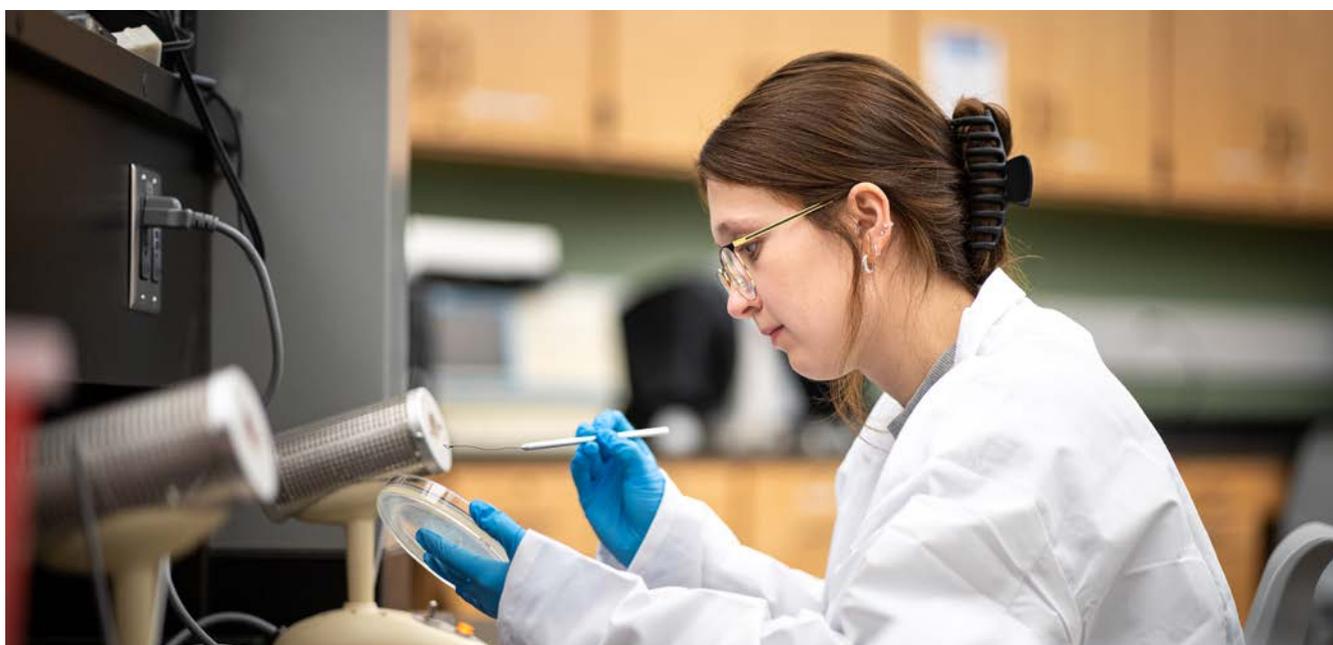


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CHANGES IN WEST VIRGINIA

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) created significant challenges for students and institutions. The state of West Virginia responded by extending deadlines for the WV Higher Education Grant to July 1, 2024 from April 15, 2024 and extending the Promise deadline to September 1, 2024 from March 1, 2024. Both programs require a student complete the FAFSA. The Governor declared a State of Emergency because of the FAFSA on April 30, 2024 which enabled the WV Higher Education Policy Commission to waive the FAFSA for first-time applicants of the Promise Scholarship, award the WV Higher Education Grant to students based off of either the 23-24 FAFSA, 24-25 FAFSA, or if a student qualified for federal means-tested programs through the Department of Health or Department of Human Services. Thousands of students became eligible to receive state financial aid through this action. The legislature and Governor in special session approved additional funding for higher education which led to the WV Higher Education Policy Commission to double the amount of the WV Higher Education Grant from \$3,400 to \$6,800 for 2024-25 and the creation of a College Access Grant to assist students financially so they could enroll Fall 2024 despite having issues completing the FAFSA.

The FAFSA for 2025-26 is delayed until December 2024. The U.S. Department of Education will be beta testing October 1, 2024 through December 1, 2024 to ensure the process is smoother.

The Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board met two times in 2023-24 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.

The testing criteria for Promise stayed the same for the Class of 2025 compared to the Class of 2024, and the maximum award was increased to \$5,500 for 2024-25. The renewal grade point average for Promise was adjusted to 2.75 cumulative grade point average on all college coursework and was implemented for the 2024-25 award year.

HB4919 passed the 2024 legislative session. The bill allows students who lose the Promise Scholarship to have one opportunity to seek reinstatement once the student has met the renewal requirements. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission will be implementing this during the Fall 2024 semester.



Image courtesy of Fairmont State University

POLICY REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Promise Scholarship Program

The standardized test score requirement to qualify for Promise for the Class of 2025 was maintained at the same level as the Class of 2024. Students continue to be able to use superscoring to meet the standardized test score requirement. The award amount was increased from \$5,200 to \$5,500 for the 2024-25 award 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 2024-25 be increased to \$3,400 for students with an Student Aid Index (SAI) of under 13,000. Through additional funding provided by the Legislature, the award amount was increased to \$6,800 for 2024-25.

West Virginia Student Aid Management System (WVSAM)

On July 1, 2022, a new portal was introduced to provide a single place for students to manage their state financial aid. The WVSAM system allows students to create an account, apply for multiple state financial aid programs, edit their applications, check the status of their application, update their contact information, view their award information, and easily contact the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Division of Financial Aid with any questions. Now in its third year, improvements continue to be made to the WVSAM system to improve the student experience.



Image courtesy of Concord 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. Starting with 2023-24, students can receive annual awards up to \$5,200 to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at public or eligible 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. 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 21 (or the comparable SAT score) with a minimum score of 19 on all four subject tests;
- ▶ 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 8,948 in 2022-23 to 8,747 in 2023-24. The total cost of the scholarship increased from \$42,432,489 in 2022-23 to \$43,346,930 in 2023-24.
- ▶ Approximately 90.8 percent of Promise recipients in 2023-24 attended a four-year public institution. Of these, most attended either West Virginia University (49.7%) or Marshall University (19.6%). Public community and technical colleges accounted for 3.8 percent of Promise scholars in 2023-24.

Total Promise Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	10,184	9,936	9,504	8,948	8,747
Awards	\$46,537,525	\$45,063,910	\$42,893,055	\$42,432,489	\$43,346,930
Average Award	\$4,569	\$4,535	\$4,514	\$4,745	\$4,956

Promise Scholarship: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	7,939	90.8%	\$39,624,531
Bluefield State University	56	0.6%	\$277,832
Concord University	244	2.8%	\$1,221,246
Fairmont State University	613	7.0%	\$3,011,356
Glenville State University	122	1.4%	\$578,187
Marshall University	1,716	19.6%	\$8,599,094
Shepherd University	416	4.8%	\$2,057,172
West Liberty University	281	3.2%	\$1,423,322
West Virginia State University	140	1.6%	\$650,773
West Virginia University*	4,351	49.7%	\$21,805,549
Two-Year Public Institutions	330	3.8%	\$1,336,833
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	38	0.4%	\$142,477
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	45	0.5%	\$191,020
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	3	0.0%	\$10,320
Mountwest Community and Technical College	16	0.2%	\$63,153
New River Community and Technical College	11	0.1%	\$48,992
Pierpont Community and Technical College	29	0.3%	\$137,136
Southern WV Community and Technical College	46	0.5%	\$180,400
WV Northern Community College	22	0.3%	\$76,779
WVU at Parkersburg	120	1.4%	\$486,556
Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions	473	5.4%	\$2,367,366
Appalachian Bible College	4	0.0%	\$20,800
Bethany College	35	0.4%	\$174,200
Davis & Elkins College	69	0.8%	\$354,645
University of Charleston	144	1.6%	\$704,680
West Virginia Wesleyan College	205	2.3%	\$1,029,841
Wheeling University	16	0.2%	\$83,200
WV For-Profit Institutions	5	0.1%	\$18,200
Salem University	2	0.0%	\$5,200
WV Junior College - Multiple Campuses	3	0.0%	\$13,000
Total	8,747	100.0%	\$43,346,930

* 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 1,398 in 2022-23 to 1,447 in 2023-24. The total funding awarded increased from \$5,181,355 to \$5,602,857 in that same period.
- ▶ Invests recipients received an average award of \$3,872 in 2023-24.
- ▶ A majority of Invests funds (96.6%) 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 296, 288, and 173 students, respectively.



From left to right, images courtesy of Moundwest Community & Technical College, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College and Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College

Total WV Invests Grant Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	1,168	1,431	1,335	1,398	1,447
Awards	\$3,269,353	\$4,140,593	\$4,595,285	\$5,181,355	\$5,602,857
Average Award	\$2,799	\$2,893	\$3,442	\$3,706	\$3,872

WV Invests Grant: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	49	3.4%	\$161,375
Potomac State College of WVU	49	3.4%	\$161,375
Two-Year Public Institutions	1,398	96.6%	\$5,441,482
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	173	12.0%	\$505,594
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	288	19.9%	\$1,071,263
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	35	2.4%	\$97,948
Mountwest Community and Technical College	136	9.4%	\$566,901
New River Community and Technical College	139	9.6%	\$637,691
Pierpont Community and Technical College	296	20.5%	\$1,422,407
Southern WV Community and Technical College	95	6.6%	\$337,031
WV Northern Community College	77	5.3%	\$283,566
WVU at Parkersburg	159	11.0%	\$519,081
Total	1,447	100.0%	\$5,602,857



Image courtesy of BridgeValley Community & Technical College

LEARN MORE AT WWW.COLLEGEFORWV.COM/PROGRAMS/INVEST-GRANT

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 increased from 14,284 in 2022-23 to 15,360 in 2023-24, with total awards increasing from \$38,066,517 to \$42,835,898. The average award amount increased from \$2,665 to \$2,789 during the same period.
- ▶ In the 2023-24 academic year, 64.5 percent of HEGP recipients attended public four-year institutions. Of these, most students attended either West Virginia University (23.1%) or Marshall University (16.2%).
- ▶ Public community and technical colleges accounted for 21.9 percent of HEGP awardees in 2023-24, while four-year private, non-profit institutions accounted for 6.0 percent.



From left to right, images courtesy of Marshall University, Glenville State university and Fairmont State University

Total HEGP Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	15,680	14,378	15,131	14,284	15,360
Awards	\$37,308,718	\$35,343,863	\$37,974,960	\$38,066,517	\$42,835,898
Average Award	\$2,379	\$2,458	\$2,510	\$2,665	\$2,789

HEGP: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	9,904	64.5%	\$29,071,099
Bluefield State University	338	2.2%	\$989,301
Concord University	658	4.3%	\$1,912,996
Fairmont State University	927	6.0%	\$2,584,745
Glenville State University	359	2.3%	\$994,576
Marshall University	2,493	16.2%	\$7,397,671
Shepherd University	610	4.0%	\$1,746,091
West Liberty University	479	3.1%	\$1,380,883
West Virginia State University	496	3.2%	\$1,431,343
West Virginia University*	3,544	23.1%	\$10,633,493
Two-Year Public Institutions	3,362	21.9%	\$8,575,394
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	314	2.1%	\$747,311
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	655	3.6%	\$1,591,818
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	89	0.6%	\$228,010
Mountwest Community and Technical College	333	1.7%	\$829,620
New River Community and Technical College	337	2.0%	\$851,873
Pierpont Community and Technical College	328	2.0%	\$898,807
Southern WV Community and Technical College	452	3.4%	\$1,153,208
WV Northern Community College	199	2.0%	\$518,804
WVU at Parkersburg	655	3.8%	\$1,755,943
Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions	920	6.0%	\$2,654,967
Appalachian Bible College	23	0.1%	\$72,600
Bethany College	69	0.4%	\$202,950
Davis & Elkins College	179	1.2%	\$512,605
University of Charleston	377	2.5%	\$1,025,597
West Virginia Wesleyan College	247	1.6%	\$768,543
Wheeling University	25	0.2%	\$72,672
WV For-Profit Institutions	981	6.4%	\$2,429,278
American Public University System	56	0.4%	\$128,700
Huntington Junior College	76	0.5%	\$197,412
Mountain State College	3	0.0%	\$5,330
Salem University	156	1.0%	\$433,950
Valley College of Technology - Multiple Campuses	206	1.3%	\$462,557
WV Junior College - Multiple Campuses	484	3.2%	\$1,201,329
Pennsylvania Institutions	193	1.3%	\$105,160
Total	15360	100.0%	\$42,835,898

* 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, a 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; and
- ▶ Not be incarcerated in a correctional facility.

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 3,101 in 2022-23 to 2,450 in 2023-24. The total dollars awarded decreased from \$3,770,933 to \$2,957,232 in the same period.
- ▶ The average award remained relatively unchanged at \$1,216 in 2022-23 to \$1,207 in 2023-24.
- ▶ About 44.2 percent of HEAPS Part-Time Component recipients were enrolled at public four-year institutions, while 51.8 percent were enrolled at public two-year institutions in 2023-24. Public vocational/technical centers accounted for 3.2 percent of recipients while 0.7 percent attended a four-year private, non-profit institution in 2023-24.



Image courtesy of West Virginia State University

Total HEAPS Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	2,859	2,739	3,060	3,101	2,450
Awards	\$3,271,425	\$3,084,059	\$3,609,009	\$3,770,933	\$2,957,232
Average Award	\$1,144	\$1,126	\$1,179	\$1,216	\$1,207

HEAPS: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	1,084	44.2%	\$1,273,617
Bluefield State University	45	1.8%	\$81,866
Concord University	26	1.1%	\$60,122
Fairmont State University	240	9.8%	\$214,861
Glenville State University	112	4.6%	\$131,654
Marshall University	307	12.5%	\$306,074
Shepherd University	90	3.6%	\$82,192
West Liberty University	30	1.2%	\$33,086
West Virginia State University	53	2.2%	\$73,626
West Virginia University*	181	7.4%	\$290,136
Two-Year Public Institutions	1,270	51.8%	\$1,531,475
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	394	16.1%	\$381,096
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	201	8.2%	\$278,732
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	48	2.0%	\$35,667
Mountwest Community and Technical College	129	5.3%	\$109,692
New River Community and Technical College	62	2.5%	\$130,127
Pierpont Community and Technical College	145	5.9%	\$89,077
Southern WV Community and Technical College	110	4.5%	\$162,883
WV Northern Community College	66	2.7%	\$78,034
WVU at Parkersburg	115	4.7%	\$266,167
Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions	17	0.7%	\$28,209
Appalachian Bible College	3	0.1%	\$7,980
Davis & Elkins College	5	0.2%	\$4,072
University of Charleston	7	0.3%	\$14,630
West Virginia Wesleyan College	2	0.1%	\$1,527
Public Vocational/Technical Colleges	79	3.2%	\$123,931
Academy of Careers and Technology	16	0.7%	\$21,887
Fred. W. Eberle Technical Center	20	0.8%	\$38,864
James Rumsey Technical Institute	15	0.6%	\$27,605
Mercer County Technical Education Center	12	0.5%	\$16,781
Monongalia County School MTEC	1	0.0%	\$700
United Technical Center	11	0.4%	\$7,050
Ben Franklin Career Center	8	0.3%	\$11,044
Total	2,450	100.0%	\$2,957,232

* 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;
- ▶ 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 843 in 2022-23 to 937 in 2023-24 and the actual dollars awarded increased from \$1,242,726 to \$1,416,430 during the same period.
- ▶ The average award increased from \$1,474 in 2022-23 to \$1,512 in 2023-24.
- ▶ About 72.1 percent of HEAPS Workforce recipients were enrolled at public two-year institutions in 2023-24. Public vocational/technical centers accounted for 20.8 percent of recipients while 7.0 percent attended a private for-profit institution in 2023-24.



Image courtesy of Pierpont Community and Technical College

Total HEAPS Workforce Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	759	763	917	843	937
Awards	\$1,209,414	\$1,025,628	\$1,234,719	\$1,242,726	\$1,416,430
Average Award	\$1,593	\$1,344	\$1,346	\$1,474	\$1,512

HEAPS Workforce: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Two-Year Public Institutions	676	72.1%	\$934,592
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	226	24.1%	\$181,242
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	54	5.8%	\$127,765
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	142	15.2%	\$248,141
Mountwest Community and Technical College	59	6.3%	\$42,062
New River Community and Technical College	29	3.1%	\$23,909
Pierpont Community and Technical College	5	0.5%	\$5,195
Southern WV Community and Technical College	20	2.1%	\$52,000
WV Northern Community College	53	5.7%	\$83,778
WVU at Parkersburg	88	9.4%	\$170,500
Public Vocational/Technical Colleges	195	20.8%	\$351,644
Academy of Careers and Technology	74	7.9%	\$127,331
Benjamin Franklin Career and Technical Center	22	2.3%	\$40,122
Cabell County Career Technology Center	6	0.6%	\$7,790
Carver Career and Technical Center	38	4.1%	\$69,980
Fred W. Eberle Technical Center	42	4.5%	\$84,000
Mercer County Technical Educational Center	5	0.5%	\$6,991
Roane Jackson Technical Center	2	0.2%	\$4,000
United Technical Center	3	0.3%	\$5,430
Wood County School of Practical Nursing	3	0.3%	\$6,000
WV For-Profit Institutions	66	7.0%	\$130,194
Valley College of Technology - Multiple Campuses	66	7.0%	\$130,194
Total	937	100.0%	\$1,416,430



From left to right, images courtesy of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Southern Community and Technical College and West Virginia University at Parkersburg



The Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program is West Virginia's newest and most prestigious 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 (\$5,200 per year in 2023-24) will receive \$15,200 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 GPA of at least 3.25 on 4.0 scale, or an equivalent GPA based on an individual school district's grading policy;
- ▶ Meet the college ready test scores;
- ▶ 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:

- ▶ The 2023-24 academic year is the fourth year of implementation of the scholarship program. Currently, there are a total of 95 recipients who received a total of \$859,831 of funding. The average award in 2023-24 was \$9,051.

Total Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2020-21 to 2022-23

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	.	25	43	67	95
Awards	.	\$243,044	\$423,044	\$632,603	\$859,831
Average Award	.	\$9,722	\$9,838	\$9,442	\$9,051

Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	88	92.6%	\$794,831
Bluefield State University	2	2.1%	\$20,000
Concord University	6	6.3%	\$47,910
Fairmont State University	11	11.6%	\$105,584
Glennville State University	6	6.3%	\$53,750
Marshall University	20	21.1%	\$185,000
Shepherd University	4	4.2%	\$34,692
West Liberty University	4	4.2%	\$40,000
West Virginia State University	8	8.4%	\$65,000
West Virginia University*	27	28.4%	\$242,895
Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions	6	6.3%	\$55,000
Davis & Elkins College	2	2.1%	\$20,000
University of Charleston	1	1.1%	\$10,000
West Virginia Wesleyan College	3	3.2%	\$25,000
Two-Year Public Institutions	1	1.1%	\$10,000
WVU at Parkersburg	1	1.1%	\$10,000
Total	95	100.0%	\$859,831

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





The West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology (WV STEM) 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, math 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 WV STEM Scholarship agree to work full-time in an engineering, science, math or technology field in West Virginia for one year for each year the scholarship was received. Students who do not meet the employment requirement must repay the scholarship received plus interest and any required collection fees.

To qualify for the WV STEM Scholarship, 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, math 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 (WV STEM) Scholarship recipients decreased from 264 in the 2022-23 academic year to 251 in 2023-24. The total amount awarded also decreased during this period, from \$749,215 in 2022-23 to \$720,681 in 2023-24.
- ▶ Recipients received an average award of \$2,871 in 2023-24, an increase from \$2,828 the year before.
- ▶ Most recipients, 92.4 percent, attended a public four-year institution, with West Virginia University enrolling 63.7 percent of the total recipients and Marshall University enrolling 17.1 percent.

Total Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Recipients, Awards, and Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	250	233	253	264	251
Awards	\$717,006	\$662,027	\$705,344	\$749,215	\$720,681
Average Award	\$2,868	\$2,841	\$2,788	\$2,838	\$2,871

Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	232	92.4%	\$662,784
Bluefield State University	1	0.4%	\$3,000
Concord University	5	2.0%	\$13,500
Fairmont State University	20	8.0%	\$56,250
Marshall University	43	17.1%	\$119,954
Shepherd University	1	0.4%	\$3,000
West Liberty University	1	0.4%	\$3,000
West Virginia State University	1	0.4%	\$3,000
West Virginia University	160	63.7%	\$461,080
Two-Year Public Institutions	3	1.2%	\$8,397
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	1	0.4%	\$3,000
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	1	0.4%	\$2,397
WVU at Parkersburg	1	0.4%	\$3,000
Four-Year Private, Non-Profit Institutions	16	6.4%	\$49,500
Bethany College	2	0.8%	\$9,000
Davis & Elkins College	2	0.8%	\$6,000
University of Charleston	4	1.6%	\$10,500
West Virginia Wesleyan College	7	2.8%	\$21,000
Wheeling University	1	0.4%	\$3,000
Total	251	100.0%	\$720,681



Image courtesy of West Liberty University



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 and 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; internal medicine; obstetrics/gynecology; pediatrics; and psychiatry.

Highlights:

- ▶ Due to legislative changes in 2023-24, no funding was dispursed through the Medical Student Loan Program.
- ▶ Approximately 2.8 percent of previous award recipients were in default status during the 2023-24 academic year. That percent was lower than in the year prior, which was at 6.2 percent.



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

Medical Student Loan Program: Awards, Total Funds Disbursed, Cancellation and Default Rate, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	242	352	229	154	0*
Funds Disbursed	\$1,801,000	\$1,712,559	\$1,639,500	\$1,264,257	\$0*
Loan Deferment	300	315	314	334	311
Loan Forgiveness	11	10	19	9	25
Default Rate on Previous Awards	8.0%	4.0%	6.2%	6.2%	2.8%

*Due to legislative changes, no funding was disbursed in 2023-24.



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 \$192,129 in 2022-23 to \$238,309 in 2023-34.
- ▶ Recipients received an average award of \$34,044 in 2023-34, an increase from \$32,022 in 2022-23.



From left to right, images courtesy of Potomac State College of WVU, West Virginia University and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Choose West Virginia Practice Program: Total Recipients, Total Funds Disbursed, Average Award, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	6	6	5	6	7
Funds Disbursed	\$190,856	\$253,108	\$159,247	\$192,129	\$238,309
Average Award	\$31,809	\$42,185	\$31,849	\$32,022	\$34,044

Choose West Virginia Practice Program: Total Recipients and Awards by Institution, 2023-24

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Four-Year Public Institutions	7	100.0%	\$238,309
Marshall University	1	14.3%	\$45,748
West Virginia Osteopathic School of Medicine	3	42.9%	\$93,714
West Virginia University	3	42.9%	\$99,117
Total	7	100.0%	\$238,309



Image courtesy of Concord 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 West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program was the recipient of CARES Act funding as a part of Governor Jim Justice's Nursing Expansion Program in 2022-2023. This allowed the program to provide the statutory maximum value of awards allowed for in West Virginia state code.

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 Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Highlights:

- ▶ A total of 344 scholarships to nursing students at all levels were awarded during the 2023-24 academic year, totaling \$1,351,500 in scholarship aid.

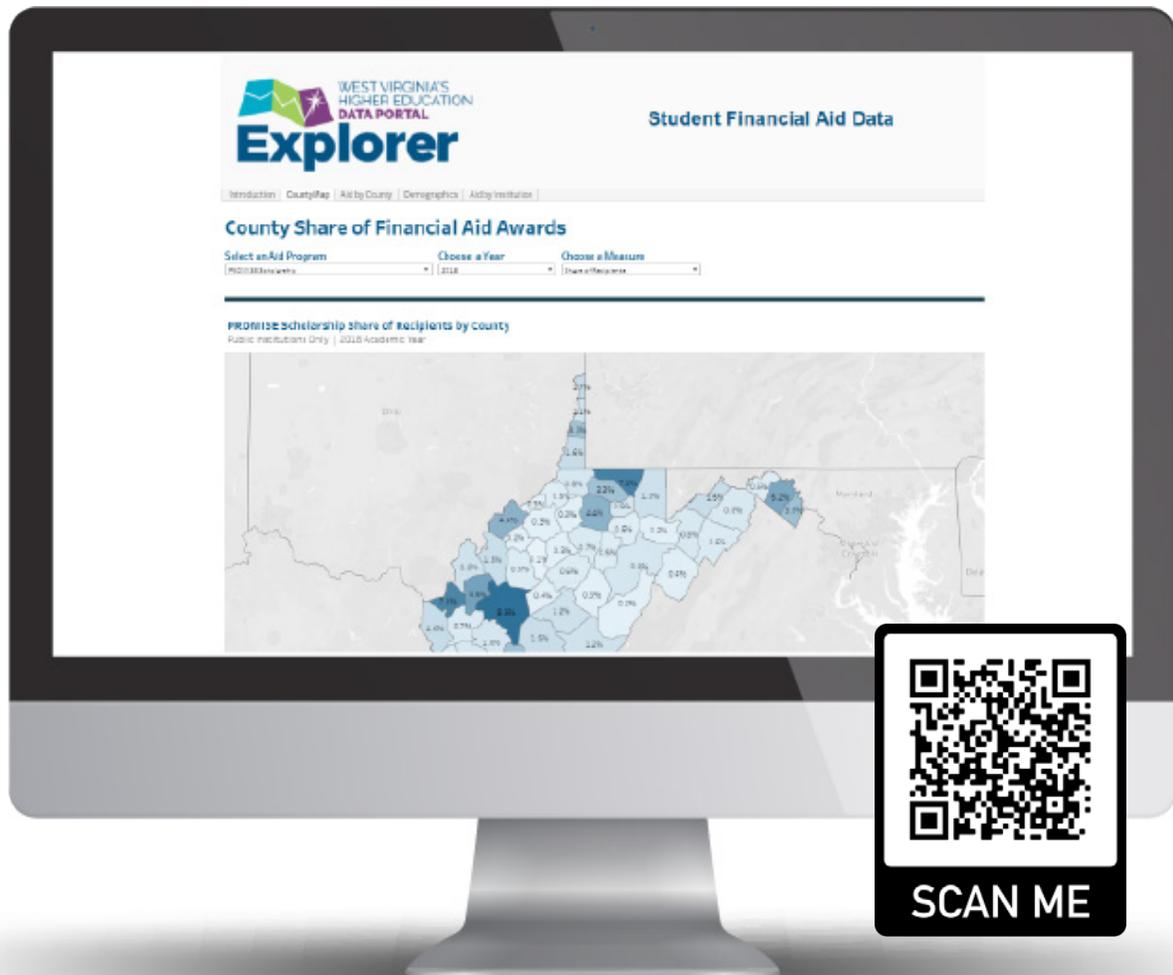
Nursing Scholarship Program: Awards and Total Funds Disbursed, 2019-20 to 2023-24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recipients	169	182	211	295	344
Funds Disbursed	\$294,172	\$343,100	\$378,350	\$1,244,750	\$1,351,500
Average Award	\$1,741	\$1,885	\$1,793	\$4,219	\$4,180

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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