

Washington College Grant (WCG) - Connect

<https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg-connect>

1. How does an EcSA participant access WA College Grant-Connect?

For Occupational Skills Training:

- a. EcSA participant needs to apply and be admitted into a WSAC approved participating institution.
 - i. Approximately 67 institutions in Washington that are WSAC approved to award the WCG, including 2 & 4-year public and private colleges and proprietary schools.
 - ii. List of approved schools is available at:
https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Participating%20Institutions_09.01.2023.pdf
- b. EcSA participant then needs to contact the financial aid office at the college or program and tell them they believe they are eligible for WCG-Connect under EcSA.
- c. Financial aid office will verify eligibility via EcSA/WSAC data share. The EcSA participant is to have their approval letter or confirmation of enrollment in the EcSA program available—it may be needed to verify eligibility in the event there is any lag in the data share update between EcSA and WSAC.

For Apprenticeships:

- d. Be employed as an Apprentice at a WSAC approved Sponsor. Work with the Program Sponsor on how to apply for Washington Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A).
 - i. Currently have 4 Program Sponsors fully approved:
 1. AJAC – Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships
 2. ERWoW – Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
 3. Spokane Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Apprenticeship Committee
 4. Atarashii Apprentice Program
 - ii. New sponsors are being approved and will be available at
<https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg-apprentices>

2. What programs/trainings qualify under the WA College Grant?

- a. **Eligible College Program** - a program at a location approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Title IV financial aid programs. The student must be enrolled in an educational program that does one of the following:
 - i. Leads to a baccalaureate, associate, or undergraduate professional degree.
 - ii. Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semester, or 24 quarter credit hours. Program completion must prepare the student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. The programs must be listed on the institution's approved Title IV Program Participation Agreement for short term programs.

- b. **Eligible Apprenticeship Program** – Apprenticeships qualifying as eligible programs must be a registered apprenticeship program approved under Chapter [49.04 RCW](#). Refer to 1 d above.

3. What schools/training providers qualify under the WA College Grant?

- a. List of approved schools in Washington is available at:
https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Participating%20Institutions_09.01.2023.pdf
- b. Current approved Sponsors can be found at: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg-apprentices>

4. How long can a student receive WCG-Connect (WCG-C)?

- a. Students are eligible to receive the Washington College Grant by qualifying under WCG-C as long as they remain eligible under EcSA.
- b. An eligible student may qualify to receive the Washington College Grant any time during the first year after they enroll in EcSA.
- c. If a student is no longer eligible under EcSA, they would not lose eligibility mid-year and would retain their eligibility through the remainder of the academic year. For example, EcSA notifies WSAC of a student's eligibility in January 2023. The student is then eligible for 12 months thru December 2023. WSAC is then notified that the student is no longer eligible for EcSA in June 2023. Because the student remains eligible through December 2023 and because that would fall in the middle of an award year, the student would retain eligibility through the end of the 2023-2024 award year which may include a summer trailer (Summer school that starts before June of any given year).
- d. After the student no longer qualifies under WCG-Connect, the student may still continue to receive the Washington College Grant if they complete a FAFSA or WASFA, meet programmatic requirements, and have quarters of eligibility remaining (QER). See 5 a i for maximum term usage.

5. Why would an EcSA participant (all of whom are automatically income-eligible) not qualify for the WA College Grant due to non-income-related issues?

- a. Exceed maximum term usage.
 - i. A WCG recipient may receive the grant for a maximum of 15 quarters, 10 semesters, or the equivalent combination of the 2 at a full-time rate of enrollment. This includes combined usage under the apprenticeship program option and academic programs.
- b. Be in unsatisfactory progress or denied status.
 - i. Per state aid policy, to be placed in unsatisfactory or denied status, a student would have not completed at least half of the credits they were enrolled in/received aid for.
 - ii. Per federal aid policy, unsatisfactory academic progress is determined by both the percentage of credits completed and the GPA. Those placed on federal unsatisfactory academic progress are not eligible for financial aid (federal, state, or institutional) until they are reinstated.
 - iii. For both state and federal policies, there is a reinstatement process that typically involves appealing. This process will need to be completed with support from the school's financial aid office.
- c. Owe a repayment to any state program.

- d. Be in default on a state student loan. Not federal student loans. Default on federal loans does not disqualify a person from WCG.
- e. Have already received a bachelor's degree or higher or its foreign equivalent.
- f. Be pursuing a degree in Theology.
- g. Does not meet the requirements to receive in-state tuition in Washington. Note: undocumented status does not directly affect this.
- h. Does not have a high school diploma or the equivalent (GED, Ability to Benefit)

6. If an EcSA participant believes they are not eligible for the WA College Grant because of past-due state loans or loan default, what are the next steps?

- a. Connect the participant directly to the school's financial aid office or financial aid counselor for an in-depth assessment. There is often a pathway to reestablish eligibility for funding but this pathway is unique to the school and will need to be arranged with support from the financial aid office.
- b. If the financial aid office cannot find a solution, you still have the option to pay for the training through a WIOA ITA or through State EcSA funding.

7. How should an EcSA Case Manager track a client receiving the Washington College Grant?

- a. The Case Manager should ensure that one of the two services are entered into ETO for the client when they start training:
 - i. For Federal EcSA, the Case Manager should enter "Training Paid by Other" from the Individualized Training and Supportive Services section of ETO.
 - ii. For State EcSA, the Case Manager should enter "State Funded Training Paid by Other" in the State Funded Services section
- b. The service entered should be linked with the EcSA program in which the client is entered. If a client is co-enrolled, a Training Paid by Other service should be entered for both programs.