

# Westfield State University Financial Information

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**Document Title:** Scholarship Opportunities and Eligibility **Document Number:** FIN005 **Effective Date:** 2023-09-01

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## 1. Overview and Purpose

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This document provides comprehensive information about the various scholarship opportunities available to students at Westfield State University. The purpose is to outline the eligibility criteria, application procedures, and renewal requirements for merit-based, need-based, departmental, and external scholarships. Our goal is to help students identify and apply for financial assistance to support their academic pursuits.

## 2. Scholarship Categories

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Westfield State University offers a wide range of scholarships to recognize academic achievement, assist with financial need, and support students in specific fields of study.

### 2.1. Merit-Based Scholarships

Merit-based scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance. These scholarships are competitive and are based on a holistic review of the student's application for admission.

Scholarship Name	Award Amount (per year)	Eligibility Criteria
Presidential Scholarship	\$10,000	Minimum 3.9 GPA, top 5% of graduating class, demonstrated leadership
Provost's Scholarship	\$7,500	Minimum 3.75 GPA, top 10% of graduating class
Dean's Scholarship	\$5,000	Minimum 3.5 GPA, top 15% of graduating class

## 2.2. Need-Based Scholarships

Need-based scholarships are available to students who demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must complete the FAFSA to be considered for these awards.

Scholarship Name	Award Amount (per year)	Eligibility Criteria
Westfield Access Grant	Up to \$8,000	Significant demonstrated financial need based on FAFSA results
Opportunity Grant	Up to \$4,000	Demonstrated financial need and strong academic potential

## 2.3. Departmental Scholarships

Various academic departments at Westfield State University offer scholarships to students majoring in their respective fields. These scholarships are funded by alumni, donors, and the university to support students in their chosen disciplines.

Department	Scholarship Example	Award Amount (per year)
College of Business	Johnson Future Business Leaders Scholarship	\$3,000
College of Engineering	STEM Innovators Scholarship	\$5,000
College of Arts & Sciences	Creative Arts Fellowship	\$2,500

## 2.4. External Scholarships

Students are encouraged to seek out and apply for external scholarships from various organizations, foundations, and corporations. The Student Financial Services Office maintains a database of external scholarship opportunities on the university website.

## 3. Application Procedures

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### 3.1. University Scholarships

1. **Apply for Admission:** All applicants for admission to Westfield State University are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships.
2. **Complete the FAFSA:** To be considered for need-based scholarships, students must complete the FAFSA by the priority deadline.
3. **Departmental Applications:** Students should contact their academic department for information on departmental scholarship applications and deadlines.

### 3.2. External Scholarships

Students are responsible for researching and applying for external scholarships. Deadlines and application requirements vary by organization.

## 4. Important Deadlines

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- **Priority FAFSA Deadline:** March 1
- **Admission Application Deadline for Scholarship Consideration:** January 15
- **Departmental Scholarship Deadlines:** Vary by department (typically February 1 - April 1)

## 5. Renewal Requirements

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Most university scholarships are renewable for up to four years, provided the student meets the renewal criteria:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA (typically 3.0 for merit scholarships).
- Maintain full-time enrollment status.
- Meet any additional requirements specific to the scholarship.

## 6. Contact Information

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### Student Financial Services Office

- **Location:** Student Services Building, Room 210
- **Phone:** (555) 123-4567
- **Email:** [financialaid@westfieldstate.edu](mailto:financialaid@westfieldstate.edu)
- **Website:** [www.westfieldstate.edu/financialaid](http://www.westfieldstate.edu/financialaid)

## 7. Related Policies and Resources

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- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy:** [[Link to SAP Policy](#)]
- **Cost of Attendance:** [[Link to Cost of Attendance Information](#)]
- **Net Price Calculator:** [[Link to Net Price Calculator](#)]

## 8. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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**Q: Can I receive more than one scholarship?** A: Yes, students may receive multiple scholarships, but the total amount of financial aid cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

**Q: Are international students eligible for scholarships?** A: Yes, international students are eligible for merit-based and departmental scholarships. They are not eligible for need-based aid from the federal government but may be eligible for institutional need-based aid.

**Q: What happens if my GPA falls below the renewal requirement?** A: Students who do not meet the renewal requirements for their scholarship will be notified by the Student Financial Services Office. An appeal process is available for students with extenuating circumstances.

## 9. Revision History

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Version	Date	Author	Summary of Changes
1.0	2023-09-01	Student Financial Services	Initial document creation
1.1	2024-02-15	Student Financial Services	Updated award amounts and deadlines for the upcoming academic year