

Athletic Financial Aid Rules Mandated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Eligibility of Student-Athlete for Athletic Financial Aid

- The student-athlete is an undergraduate with eligibility remaining (5 years of competition within a five calendar years beginning of the semester (enrolled fulltime)
- The student-athlete is a graduate student, provided the student has eligibility remaining and is participating within the five-year period.
- Within six years after initial enrollment (as long as the student has not received more than five years of athletic aid).
- The student-athlete is receiving a degree-completion award from the NCAA.

Definitions and Applications of Athletic Financial Aid

Administered By: Financial Aid is administered by the institution if the institution, through its regular committee, makes the final determination of the student-athlete who is to receive the award and its value.

Cost-of-Attendance: The amount calculated by the financial aid office, using federal regulations that includes the following components:

Tuition	Room & Board
Books	Transportation
Fees	Miscellaneous

Athletic-Grant-In-Aid: Financial Aid that consists of tuition, books, fees and room & board, note that transportation and miscellaneous are not included in this figure.

Counter: An individual who is receiving institutional financial aid that is countable against the aid limitations in a sport.

Financial Aid: Funds provided to a student-athlete from various sources to pay or assist in paying their cost of education at the institution.

Period of the Award: Timeframe when the student-athlete receives any benefits as a part of the student's grant-in-aid on the first day of classes for a term or the first day of practice, whichever is earlier, until the conclusion of the period set forth in the financial aid agreement. Note that an athletic grant-in-aid shall not be awarded in excess of one academic year.

Financial Aid from Outside Sources

A student may receive financial aid from the following sources:

- Parent and Legal Guardians;
- Prepaid College Tuition Plans;
- Outside aid awarded solely on the basis of having no relationship to athletic ability;

- Outside aid awarded where athletics participation is not a major criterion;
- Outside aid awarded where athletic participation is a major criterion, provided the value of the award or in combination with other athletically related financial aid does not exceed the value of a full grant-in-aid or the value of the award in combination with nonathletically related aid shall not exceed the student's cost of attendance. If the recipient is recruited, he/she is considered a counter and the amount is applied to the maximum award limitations for the sport in question.

Employment

Earnings are exempt and do not count in determining a student's cost-of-attendance or in the institution's financial aid limitations, provided:

- Compensation does not include remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he/she has obtained because of athletics ability;
- Compensation is only for the work actually performed by the student-athlete;
- Compensation rate is commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.

Written Statement Requirement

In all cases, recipients will receive a written statement of the amount, duration, conditions and terms of the athletic award. This award will come from the financial aid office with the director of financial aid and scholarships and athletic director's signature authorizing the award.

Hearing Opportunity

The financial aid office will notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for an appeal of aid that has been reduced or canceled during the period of the year, or is reduced or not renewed for the following academic year. Policies and procedures of the appeal process will be included with the written notification, including the deadline by which a student-athlete may request a hearing or letter of appeal.

Exception to the One-Year Award Period

The following exceptions allow for an athletic award to a student-athlete for one term:

- If the student is a midyear enrollee;
- If the student is in their final semester of their degree program;
- One time during a student-athlete's enrollment, he/she may be awarded a one term award, provided they have been enrolled fulltime for at least one regular academic term, and have not received athletic aid previously from the institution;
- If the student has exhausted eligibility or is a Medical Noncounter.

Reduction or Cancellation during Period of Award

Increase Permitted – Financial Aid can be increased for any reason prior to the commencement of the period of the award. Once the period of award begins, aid may only be increased if the institution can demonstrate that such an increase is unrelated in any manner to athletics reason.

Reduction or Cancellation Permitted – Athletic aid may be reduced or canceled during the period of the award if the recipient:

- Renders themselves ineligible for intercollegiate competition;
- Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, NLI or financial aid agreement;
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; or
- Voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons.

Reduction or Cancellation Not Permitted – Athletic aid may not be reduced or canceled during the period of the award

- On the basis of a student-athlete's athletics ability performance or contribution to the team's success;
- Because of an injury, illness, or physical or mental medical condition;
- For any other athletics reason.

Decrease Not Permitted – No increase can be made to a student-athlete's financial aid from the time they sign their Athletic Aid Agreement until the conclusion of the period set forth in the agreement, except under circumstances noted above.

Renewal and Non Renewal of Athletic Aid

A student will be notified by July 1st regarding their scholarship status for the next academic year. This is relevant to student-athletes that received an award the previous academic year and who have remaining eligibility remaining in the sport in which financial aid was awarded in the previous academic year. Notification will come from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Counters

- Counters are student-athletes who are included in the maximum award limitations of their sport if the following applies:
- The student-athlete is receiving athletically related financial aid.
- The student-athlete is a recruited, walk-on and is receiving outside financial aid for which athletics participation is a major criterion.
- In football or basketball, the student-athlete is recruited and is receiving institutional financial aid granted without regard to athletics ability, but participates in varsity competition. If the student-athlete does not compete and the institution has on record certification that the student was admitted and received financial aid without regard in any degree to athletics ability, counter status is not activated.

Academic Honor Awards

Per NCAA rules Academic Honor Awards are defined as those that are part of the institution's normal arrangements for academic scholarships, and are not countable against team limits. The following criteria apply:

- The award is based solely on the recipient's high school record and awarded independently of athletics interest;
- The award amounts are consistent with the pattern of all other such awards made by the institution;
- The recipient was ranked in the upper 10% of the high school graduating class or achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 or a minimum ACT score of 105 or minimum SAT score of 1200 (critical reading and math).

The Renewal of an academic honor award is exempt from counting against team limits provided:

- The recipient achieves a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 at the institution;
- The recipient meets all NCAA, conference and institutional progress toward degree requirements.

Examples of Academic Honor Awards at WSU:

University Achievement Award, Cougar Academic Award, Regents Scholarship Award

Honorary Academic Award

This is an award for a continuing student and must meet the following criteria:

- The award or grant is a standing scholarship or established research grant;
- The basis for the award is due to the candidate's academic record at the institution;
- The candidate is competing among other students of a particular class or college to receive the award.

Eligibility for Summer Financial Aid

The student has been in residence a minimum of one term during the regular academic year; The student is attending a summer term, summer school or summer-orientation program and financial aid is administered pursuant to the NCAA bylaws established;

A student-athlete who is eligible for institutional financial aid during summer is not required to be enrolled in a minimum of fulltime program of studies. However, the student may not receive financial aid that exceeds the cost-of-attendance in that summer term. A student-athlete may receive institutional financial aid based on athletics ability, outside financial aid for which athletics participation is a major criterion and educational expenses awarded up to the value of a full grant-in-aid, plus any other financial aid unrelated to athletics ability up to the cost-of-attendance.

After fulltime enrollment during a regular academic year, a student-athlete is only eligible to receive athletically related financial aid if they received athletic aid in the regular academic year.

Such aid is to be awarded on in proportion to the amount of athletically related financial aid received during the previous academic year at the institution. There is an exception to this rule for student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility and are able to complete their degree in the summer term.

A student-athlete who attends the institution on a full time basis for only one term during the previous academic year, may receive the same percentage of financial aid during the following summer.

How Types of Aid Count for Student-Athletes who are Counters

TYPE OF AID	INDIVIDUAL LIMIT	TEAM LIMIT
Academic Honor Award	Yes	No
Aid based on Athletic Ability	Yes	Yes
Americorps Program	No	No
Athletics Grant	Yes	Yes
Athletics participation Compens.	Yes, if still eligible	No
Dependents Education Assistance	No	No
Disabled Veterans Award	No	No
Educational Expenses USOC/NGB	Yes	Yes
Employment	No	No
Government Grants, institutionally administered	Yes	Yes
Government Grants, not institutionally administered	Yes	No
Honorary Academic Award	Yes	No
Employee Dependent Tuition Benefits (parent must be employed for five years)	Yes	No
Institutional Grant or scholarship	Yes	Yes (if a counter)
Legitimate Student Loan	No	No
Military Reserve Training Program	No	No
Montgomery G.I. Bill	No	No
Outside aid for educational purposes, unrelated to athletics ability	Yes	Yes
Outside aid, athletics participation considered a major criterion	Yes	Yes, if recruited
Outside aid, athletics participation not considered a major criterion	Yes	No
Parent/Guardian Contribution	No	No
Pell Grant	Yes	No
Postgraduate Scholarship	Yes	No
Professional Sports Stipend	Yes	No
Research Grant	Yes	No
Supplemental Educational	Yes	Yes

Opportunity Grant (SEOG)		
Tuition Waiver	Yes	Yes, if a counter
Washington State Need Grant	Yes	No
Welfare Benefits	No	No

Maximum Institutional Grant-in-Aid Limitations by Sport (per NCAA Rules)

Washington State University has the following 13 head count and equivalency sports.

Men's

SPORT	TEAM LIMIT
Baseball - Equivalency	11.7 (27 Counters)
Basketball - Head Count	13
Football - Head Count	85 (25 Initial)
Golf - Equivalency	4.5
Track - Equivalency	12.6

Women's

Basketball - Head Count	15
Golf - Equivalency	6
Rowing - Equivalency	20
Soccer - Equivalency	14
Swimming - Equivalency	14
Tennis - Head Count	8
Track - Equivalency	18
Volleyball - Head Count	12

Head count sports are defined as sports in which all student-athletes who receive any countable institutional financial aid are tallied as one against the sport-by-sport limits for financial aid, regardless of the amount of their aid. Equivalency sports also have limits on the total value of financial aid that may be provided to counters in any given academic year. In providing financial aid to student-athletes who participate in equivalency sports, the institution can award full grants-in-aid or divide the equivalency of a full grant-in-aid into partial grants-in-aid for two or more student-athletes. WSU can also award a combination of a full grant-in-aid to one student-athlete and a partial grant-in-aid to another student-athlete on the same equivalency team. Baseball must provide a minimum equivalency of .25 to each counter which can be awarded in athletically related and other countable financial aid and baseball cannot exceed a total of 27 on the total number of counters. Football cannot exceed 25 initial counters in their maximum total of 85 counters.