

## Federal Financial Aid

NWCCD is eligible to participate in Title IV programs by meeting the definition of an institution of higher education as defined by the US Department of Education. Title IV funding includes Federal financial aid that each individual student is eligible to apply for by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Federal financial aid programs at NWCCD includes the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans, as well as Parent Plus loans.

To be eligible for federal financial aid, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements, including:

- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as the HiSET/GED or completed home schooling at the secondary level
- be registered for Selective Service, if you are male (ages 18 to 25) you must register
- be enrolled in an eligible degree requirement or certificate program
- demonstrate financial need
- maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- certify that you will use federal aid for educational purposes only by signing the statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Additional information for each program is listed below, or you can visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) for additional information. To complete the FAFSA application, please visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

### Federal Grants:

**Pell Grant:** Eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant is determined by information provided on a student's current FAFSA submission. Pell Grant funds do not need to be repaid, however, failure to complete a course may result in a reduction of Pell Grant funding for the semester. The student may be responsible for repaying unearned Pell Grant funds.

The amount of Pell Grant awarded is determined on the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which is calculated with the FAFSA submittal. Award amounts may be subject to change based on the individual student's financial need, costs to attend school, enrollment status, and Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Only courses that are applicable to the student's graduation requirements for their active degree program will be calculated towards enrollment status for Pell Grant eligibility.

### Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant:

The US Department of Education approves additional grant funds annually to be awarded to students with the highest financial aid unmet need. In addition to the approved Federal funding, NWCCD contributes a twenty five percent match. The total Supplementary Educational

Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is awarded to students based on the following criteria until all funding is spent. SEOG awards vary annually and per enrollment.

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is zero, as determined by the FAFSA
- Be enrolled in a Title IV degree seeking program (associates and/or certificate)
- Students have to be Pell Grant eligible, as determined by the US Department of Education
- Priority will be given to earlier FAFSA submissions

### **Institutional Grants:**

#### **Employee/Family Grant**

The Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) offers tuition assistance to employees and their eligible family members. The award is applied to each eligible term and is based on several criteria as well as availability of funding. Employees or eligible family members wishing to review additional criteria can access the form in the Financial Aid page of the MyNWCCD portal, or stop by the Financial Aid Office. The completed application must be returned to the financial aid office.

#### **Golden Age Grant**

The Golden Age Grant is available to students who are age 60 or above. The grant is not applicable for applicable for summer courses. Students applying for the grant must be 60 year of age on or before the first day of the semester. The grant will cover 50% of tuition for those classes, fees not included. Any remaining balance is the student's responsibility and must be paid by the payment deadline. Students wishing to review additional criteria can access the form in the Financial Aid page of the MyNWCCD portal, or stop by the Financial Aid Office. The completed application must be returned to the financial aid office.

### **Federal Direct Loans:**

The William T. Ford Direct Loan Program offers students low interest loans funded by the Department of Education to assist students with paying their educational expenses. Through the Federal Direct Loan program, NWCCD offers subsidized and unsubsidized loan types as well as the Parent Plus Loan for dependent students. Unlike grants, scholarships and work-study, Federal Direct Loans must be repaid. When borrowing student loans, a student must understand the loan is a legal obligation and they are responsible for paying the loan with interest, even if the student does not complete their degree program.

#### **Benefits of Federal Direct Loans:**

- low interest rates, compared to other private loans
- don't need a credit check or cosigner
- have a six month grace period, from the time you graduate or fall below half time, before repayment begins
- if a student demonstrates financial need,

#### **Federal Direct Loan Types:**

**Subsidized:**

- Financial Aid Office will determine your subsidized eligibility based on the results of your FAFSA and your financial need.
- The government pays for the interest of the loan while you are attending school and enrolled at least half-time
- Repayment begins six months after you cease to maintain half-time enrollment
- If you are a first-time borrower on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there is a limit on the maximum period of time that you can receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans. If this limit applies to you, you may not receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of your program. For example, if you are enrolled in a two-year associate degree program, the maximum period for which you can receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans is three years (150% of two years = three years).

**Unsubsidized:**

- Interest starts accruing right away and it is the responsibility of the student to make interest payments, even when attending school and during your grace period.
- The student must understand if they do not make interest payments, the interest will accumulate and be added to the principal of the loan amount.

**Parent Plus:**

- Are available to parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for additional educational cost not covered by other financial aid. To apply, parents must log onto [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) with a parent FSA ID and click on 'Apply for a Plus Loan'.

To learn more about the Federal Direct Loan program, requirements, and maximum loan limits, you can visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>

**How to apply for a Federal Direct Loan:**

To qualify for a Federal Direct Loan, you, the student, must first complete the FAFSA and include Sheridan College (003930). You must be in an eligible degree or certificate program and enrolled in a minimum of six credits per semester. After NWCCD receives your FAFSA, you will be packaged subsidized and unsubsidized loans according to your Estimated Family Contribution and remaining unmet need.

You will be able to accept your student loan package on your MyNWCCD student account, on your Financial Aid Self-Service page. Please keep in mind, your loan amounts will be equally packaged to your account for fall, spring and summer semesters. If you qualify for subsidized loans, you must accept the maximum amount before accepting any unsubsidized loan amounts. NWCCD

**Federal Direct Loan Requirements:**

Entrance Counseling: All first-time borrowers MUST complete Federal Direct Loan Entrance Counseling online and include Sheridan College (003930). This online information session explains the details of the loans as well as loan rights and responsibilities and must be completed before a loan will be disbursed on a student's account. Click [here](#) to complete your Entrance

Counseling requirement. If Entrance Counseling has already been completed for another school, the student must log back on and add Sheridan College as a school. Once a student completes the requirement, NWCCD will receive an automatic notification within 24 to 48 hours.

Master Promissory Note: All first time borrowers MUST complete their Master Promissory Note (MPN) prior to their loan disbursement. The MPN is a legal documentation which the student is promising to repay the total borrowed loan amounts, including any interest fees. Click [here](#) to complete your MPN requirement. Once a student completes the requirement, NWCCD will receive an automatic notification within 24 to 48 hours.

#### Private Loans:

NWCCD does not currently have any preferred lender arrangements with any private education loan lenders. Students who are in need of private student loans are responsible for locating and completing the application process through the student's preferred private bank or lender.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress:** In order to maintain financial aid eligibility, students must meet the standard requirements of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) towards a degree or certificate at NWCCD. A student's academic history starts the first semester the student is enrolled at NWCCD and is monitored regardless of whether he/she has previously received financial aid at NWCCD. NWCCD's SAP standard requirements include maintaining a cumulative 2.0 GPA and completing at least 67% of credits attempted. In addition, students must complete their degree program within 150% of the program length to maintain federal financial aid eligibility. SAP is reviewed on all students by the Financial Aid Office after the end of each semester of enrollment.

**Return to Title IV Funds Calculation:** A student must earn his or her federal financial aid funds through classroom attendance/participation each term. When a student who is receiving federal financial aid fully withdraws from class(s) mid-semester, the Financial Aid Office is required to determine the percentage of federal financial aid funds that the student earned while enrolled for the semester.

After the student completes the withdraw process, a Last Day of Attendance (LDA) is reported by the instructor for each course the student was enrolled in. A Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculation is determined in the Financial Aid Office using the student's latest LDA from the semester. The R2T4 calculation determines the percentage of federal financial aid that the student earned during the period of attendance, and whether the student will have to repay a portion of the financial aid funds that they received. If the student received more financial aid funds than they were entitled to per their period of attendance, the student's account will be updated to reflect a balance owed to NWCCD.

Withdrawing from classes will potentially affect a student's financial aid eligibility, both for the current semester and for subsequent semesters, if the withdrawal results in a failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. NWCCD strongly encourages students to meet with the

Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes so that each student may make an informed decision.