

## Better FAFSA/WASFA 2024-2025

### FAQ for Financial Aid Administrators

Last updated 11/14/2023

#### Known

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**1. Will the WASFA layout be the same as the FAFSA layout?**

Yes, it will be the same layout.

**2. Will income be defined the same on the WASFA as it will be on the FAFSA and for awarding purposes?**

Yes, the WASFA will define income the same and will align with the FAFSA. Likewise, for awarding purposes. Examples: the change of child support as income to an asset or inclusion of business/farm assets.

**3. How will WSAC treat nontax filers for awarding purposes?**

WSAC will align with new FAFSA assumptions, where nontax filers are not required to report additional income and receive maximum Pell. This would be the same for qualifying for the maximum Washington College Grant.

**4. How will the use of FTI change on the WASFA?**

The WASFA does not use the FA-DDX (FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange) with the IRS, so FTI information will be added by applicants and be viewable by the applicants. This process will remain the same for WASFA applicants.

**5. Will state aid be pro-rated according to the current calculations or adapt to the enrollment intensity calculations being used for Pell Grant?**

WSAC will align with the same policy for enrollment intensity as federal guidelines state for Pell Grant. Students who are attending less than full-time, will have state grant funding (WCG/CBS) prorated according to the new guidelines.

- For example, if full-time enrollment is 12 or more credit hours and the student is enrolled in 7 credit hours, the enrollment intensity would be  $(7 \div 12) \times 100\% = 58\%$  and the student would receive 58% of a full-time award for that term versus 50% under the prior calculation.

If full-time enrollment is 12 or more credit hours and the student is enrolled in 11 credit hours, the enrollment intensity would be  $(11 \div 12) \times 100\% = 92\%$  and the student would receive 92% of a full-time award for that term versus 75% under the prior calculation.

## **6. How will enrollment intensity calculations affect QERs?**

Since WSAC will align with the same policy for enrollment intensity as federal guidelines state for Pell Grant, the way QERs are calculated will also align with enrollment intensity changes.

- For example, if full-time enrollment is 12 or more credit hours and the student is enrolled in 7 credit hours, the enrollment intensity would be  $(7 \div 12) \times 100\% = 58\%$  and the student would receive 58% of a full-time award for that term versus 50% under the prior calculation. The QER would also reflect 58% of the award or .58 QER.

## **7. With WCG being updated to reflect Pell with enrollment intensity levels, will students still be required to be enrolled in at least three credits to be eligible for WCG/CBS/Bridge?**

Yes, Per [RCW 28B.92.200 \(5\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) which states “Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at an institution of higher education in Washington as defined in [RCW 28B.92.030](#).”

## **8. Does WSAC have a plan to communicate these changes?**

Yes! WSAC will partner across teams to ensure that information is relayed to the appropriate people. The following messaging timeline is currently in place:

Date	Topic	Audience
Late August	Changes coming; please be a partner	Educators/Advocates
September	WASFA will be delayed	WASFA Filers & Parents
Early October	Changes coming Set up FSA ID/WASFA acct Check w/ colleges re: their deadlines	Students/Families
Early October	Training dates coming up (virtual & live) FAD, FA 101; one-time date adjustment Support for FSA ID/WASFA account Class of 2024 financial aid nights Have messaged students & families on this	Educators/Advocates
Early November	Repeat FSA ID/WASFA acct Don't forget to apply for admission Class of 2024 financial aid nights	Students/Families
Early November	Heads up of what we sent students Remind students about the message Resources/worksheets	Educators/Advocates
ASAP When Known	Applications opening date (Could incorporate w/ any of above)	Students/Families
ASAP When Known	Applications opening date Plan/resources for completion events Refer to big virtual completion event (Could incorporate w/ any of above)	Educators/Advocates

**9. How will the number in college be factored into MFI for 2024-25?**

The number in college will not be factored into MFI, beginning with the 2024-25 academic year. Institutions are allowed to perform professional judgment on a case-by-case basis to take into consideration a student's specific circumstances. See "2024-25 Family Size Guidance" at <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> for detailed information.

**10. How will State Work Study (SWS) be factored into awarding/SAI calculation?**

It will not be required to include State Work Study (SWS) earnings as a part of determining a student's SAI or financial aid award, beginning with the 2024-25 academic year. Institutions are allowed to perform professional judgment on a case-by-case basis to take into consideration a student's specific circumstances.

**Unknown**

**1. How will the new asset definitions affect students when it comes to state funding?**

Median family income (MFI) does not factor in assets for state aid purposes. However, it is unknown how many students will be affected due to not having need with higher SAI values due to new asset inclusions/definitions.

**2. How will enrollment intensity calculations affect SAP?**

It is currently unknown how FSA will treat SAP with enrollment intensity changes. WSAC is monitoring any changes and is in discussion with the SFA workgroup.

**Pending Guidance**

**1. When will the 2024-25 FAFSA and WASFA be released?**

Currently projected for December 2023, actual date to be determined.

***Note: More guidance to be found in the 2024-25 Program Manual.***