



GUIDE

2026-2027

GREEN RIVER COLLEGE'S MISSION

Green River College welcomes our diverse local and global communities and is committed to meeting students where they are by providing inclusive, equitable access to innovative and comprehensive educational programs, and individualized support that empowers and prepares students to achieve their personal, educational, and career goals.



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Important Dates

Below are some important dates to know for your 2026-2027 financial aid year.

	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Winter 2027	Spring 2027
Financial Aid Priority Processing Deadline	April 30	April 30	Oct 31	Jan 31
Priority Enrollment Opens	April 30	April 30	Oct 27	Feb 4
New Student Enrollment Opens	May 18	May 18	Nov 16	Feb 22
Tuition or 1st Payment Plan Due Date	Jun 9	Sept 9	Dec 9	Mar 9
SAP appeals due for response by census date	July 5	Sept 20	Jan 3	Apr 4
Quarter Begins Aid Disbursements Start	July 6	Sept 21	Jan 4	Apr 5
100% Refund Deadline (Tuition & Fees)	July 10	Sept 25	Jan 8	Apr 9
2nd Payment Plan Due Date	July 9	Oct 9	Jan 9	Apr 9
Census Date	July 16	Oct 2	Jan 15	Apr 16
40% Refund Deadline (Tuition Only)	July 20	Oct 5	Jan 18	Apr 19
Residency Reclassification Deadline	Aug 4	Oct 20	Feb 2	May 5
3rd Payment Plan Due Date	Aug 9	Nov 9	Feb 9	May 9
60% Day for Calculating Aid Repayments	Aug 6	Nov 8	Feb 20	May 21
Last day to submit SAP appeal for current term funding	July 13	Oct 30	Mar 26	May 14
Last day to change grade to P/NC Last day to withdraw from class	Aug 7	Nov 13	Feb 26	May 28
Finals	---	Dec 8 - 10	March 22 - 24	June 17, 21 - 22
Quarter Ends	Aug 27	Dec 10	March 24	June 22
Grades post online SAP status is calculated	Sep 2	Dec 16	March 30	June 26

Eligibility Requirements

All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). In general, students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for federal student aid:

- Be a regularly admitted student to Green River College (not Running Start)
- Completed a high [school](#) diploma or GED
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Not owe an overpayment on a federal grant
- Not be in default on a federal student loan
- Be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program
- Maintain [satisfactory academic progress](#)

Students who cannot complete the FAFSA due to immigration status, defaulted loans or federal grant overpayments can apply for state financial aid by completing the [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WASFA\)](#). To be eligible for state financial aid students must:

- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Not owe a repayment on a state grant
- Be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program
- Maintain [satisfactory academic progress](#)
- Be a [Washington State resident](#)

Green River will allow a student to earn up to two Associate-level degrees and one Bachelor-level degree. If a Bachelor's degree has already been earned at another institution, the student is no longer eligible for federal or state grants, but could request loans, subject to lifetime borrowing limits. There is no limit to the number of certificates a student can earn at GRC, nor is there a limit to how many Associate's degrees they can earn across schools. However, students should be aware that many types of aid have lifetime limits that cannot be exceeded, so earning more than two Associate's degrees may impact ability to complete a Bachelor's degree while still receiving grants and scholarships.

It is very important that students make sure they are completing their FAFSA or WASFA for the correct aid year. Between October 1st and the following June 30th, both applications have versions available for two different academic years. Check this chart to make sure you're completing the correct form for the term you plan on attending, because this isn't the same at every college or university:

2025-2026 Aid Year	2026-2027 Aid Year	2027-2028 Aid Year
Summer 2025	Summer 2026	Summer 2027
Fall 2025	Fall 2026	Fall 2027
Winter 2026	Winter 2027	Winter 2028
Spring 2026	Spring 2027	Spring 2028

Application Process

Students can start the annual application process as early as October 1st by completing either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) or the Washington State Application for State Financial Aid ([WASFA](#)). The FAFSA/WASFA is used to determine which types of financial aid a student may be eligible to receive. If you aren't sure which application you should do, take the [WASFA Questionnaire](#) to figure it out.

After receiving the FAFSA or WASFA, the Financial Aid Office may request additional information to complete a student's application. Information needed will be requested through the student's "To Do" list. This can be found on the Tasks on ctcLink Student Homepage. Students are encouraged to complete all required information by the [priority processing date](#) to avoid delays in receiving their financial aid offer.

Term	Priority Processing Date
Summer 2026	April 30, 2026
Fall 2026	April 30, 2026
Winter 2027	October 31, 2026
Spring 2027	January 31, 2027

Green River College’s official [Financial Aid Application Process](#) and [Financial Aid Eligibility](#) policies are available online.

Verification

Verification is a review process where the Financial Aid Office ensures the accuracy of information reported on the FAFSA. Students are selected for verification by the Department of Education at the time they complete the FAFSA. Documents required for verification may include Family Size Information form, copies of 1040 tax forms and schedules or IRS Tax Return Transcripts, W-2 forms, Verification of Non-Filing Letter from the IRS, and high school diploma or transcript or GED transcript. Students may also have to verify their identity by coming in person to the Financial Aid Office with valid government ID. Other documents may be requested as needed to resolve conflicting information found during verification. Many of these forms are available on the [GRC Financial Aid Forms site](#).

Students who are selected for verification will be notified of the documents required through their “To Do” list, which can be found on the Tasks tile on ctcLink Student Homepage. All required documents should be turned in by the priority processing date. Financial aid funds will not be processed until verification is completed.

Additional clarifying information may also be requested from students who completed the WASFA.

Financial Need

[Financial need](#) is determined using two components: Student Aid Index (SAI) and Cost of Attendance (COA).

Student Aid Index (SAI)

[Your SAI](#) is calculated using information that you (and your contributors, if required) provide on the FAFSA or WASFA form. This will determine the available funds for college expenses based on your family’s resources and living expenses.

This number is not a dollar amount of aid eligibility or what your family is expected to provide. **A negative SAI indicates the student has a higher financial need.** Learn how the SAI is calculated: [How is the Student Aid Index \(SAI\) calculated?](#)

Cost of Attendance (COA)

The cost of attendance, or budget, reflects the estimated costs associated with attending Green River College for the year. It includes allowances for estimated expenses of:

- [Tuition and fees](#) which are charged per credit
- Books, course materials, and required supplies
- Living expenses (housing, food, and utilities)
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

- Student loan fees (if you are getting federal student loans)
- Professional license, certificate, or credential costs, if required by the program for employment in the field.

The following cost components can be added to your COA upon request:

- Dependent care
- Disability-related expenses
- Study abroad expenses
- Cooperative education costs

For more information about what expenses qualify for these additional components, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

The COA includes only a portion of living expenses related to the cost of attending college. The COA is not meant to reflect every expense a student or a student's family may incur. Green River's COA, except for tuition, is set by the Washington Financial Aid Association ([WFAA](#)) every year. The cost of tuition is set by the state legislature.

Your SAI is subtracted from your COA and gives us your financial need. That tells us how much need-based aid you might be able to get:

$$COA - SAI = Financial\ Need$$

Grants, tuition waivers, work study, subsidized loans, and some scholarships are considered need-based financial aid. Unsubsidized loans, private loans and third-party funding are not considered need based. Please see the sections below that detail each type of aid for additional details. Regardless of the type of aid, your total amount of funding for the year cannot exceed the annual cost of attendance.

Cost of Attendance is calculated based on several factors including your residency status, living arrangements, program level, and number of credits taken each term. Changes to these factors may *dramatically* affect your COA. It is important that you are aware that although your COA is usually shown as a 9-month (three quarters, October through June) amount, your quarterly COA will change significantly if you enroll in less than halftime (five or fewer credits). This change will also impact your annual COA, which can reduce how much aid you can receive in a year.

Here is an example of the quarterly 3-month COA for a student who is a Washington resident living off campus who is enrolled fulltime at the Associate's level (100- and 200-level classes), as well as what their COA would be if they were only taking five credits for the term.

	Fulltime (12+ credits)	Less Than Halftime (1-5 credits)
<i>Tuition and Fees</i>	\$1,829	\$757
<i>Books and Supplies</i>	\$176	\$44
<i>Housing and Food</i>	\$6,491	\$0
<i>Transportation</i>	\$930	\$465
<i>Misc.</i>	\$636	\$0
<i>Total</i>	\$10,062	\$1,266

Because the Department of Education does not allow for the inclusion of a housing allowance into your COA if you attend less than halftime, the amount of aid you can receive if you don't take at least 6 credits each term can be significantly reduced.

Financial Aid Offer

Students are notified by email with a financial aid offer when their application is processed. The initial aid offer is based on the assumption that students will enroll in 12 or more credits each term, which is considered full-time.

Some aid amounts for less than full-time enrollment are prorated based on the number of credits the student is taking. This is called enrollment intensity. Students may still be eligible for aid at lower enrollment levels, although some grants, along with work of study and loans, require a minimum number of credits. These are detailed in each program's eligibility requirements.

Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity	Credits Enrolled	Enrollment Intensity
12 and up	100%	6	50%
11	92%	5	42%
10	83%	4	33%
9	75%	3	25%
8	67%	2	17%
7	58%	1	8%

Students who are enrolled less than full-time (12 credits) will need to email finaid@greenriver.edu before the start of the term to confirm how many credits they're taking and request to have their aid adjusted. A survey will also be sent out before the start of each quarter via Navigate360 to students who are not enrolled full-time. Responding to this survey may allow us to make the necessary adjustments to aid amounts before the start of the term. Aid will not pay out until we make this adjustment. If we do not get confirmation from students that they will attend less than full-time, we will begin adjusting aid down starting in the third week of the quarter.

Types of Financial Aid Available

Financial aid includes grants, tuition waivers, student employment, scholarships, and student loans.

- Grants and tuition waivers are need-based forms of aid that generally do not have to be repaid
- Student employment is available to help students pay for school through paid employment
- Loans are a form of aid available that must be repaid with interest upon graduation, leaving school, or dropping below six (6) credits per term

You can only get aid from one school during the same period of time. If you want to use financial aid to pay for classes at two different schools at the same time, you'll need to get an approved consortium agreement. More information about those can be found at [insert link here once created](#)

Grants, tuition waivers, and scholarships are automatically accepted on the student's behalf at the time of awarding. Work study and loans have to be accepted by the student. Unless directed otherwise by the student, if there isn't enough room in a student's COA, we will automatically cancel or reduce loans to make room for other types of aid that don't have to be repaid.

Federal Pell Grant

To receive the Federal Pell Grant, students must complete the FAFSA. Students must meet all requirements for federal student aid. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances. [Find out why](#) you might have to repay all or part of a federal grant.

The Federal Pell Grant is awarded based on financial need to undergraduate students who have not already earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. The amount you get is based on:

- your SAI,
- your COA,
- your status as a full-time or part-time student, and
- your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds you may receive over your lifetime is limited by federal law to be the equivalent of eighteen (18) quarters of full-time enrollment. The initial Pell award is based on assumed full-time enrollment (12+ credits) for all terms. If you enroll less than full-time for a quarter, your Pell will be adjusted down according to the enrollment intensity chart above. There is no minimum number of credits you have to take to be eligible for Pell in a term, as long as you are enrolled.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

FSEOG is awarded based on financial need to students with an SAI -1500 to 0 who are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant. The award is not prorated for less than full-time enrollment. However, students must enroll in a minimum of six credits per term to receive FSEOG.

Each participating school receives a certain amount of FSEOG funds each year from the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid. Once the full amount of the school's FSEOG funds has been awarded to students, no more FSEOG awards can be made for that year. This system works differently from the Federal Pell Grant Program, which provides funds to every eligible student. Green River offers FSEOG funds on a first-come, first served basis.

Washington College Grant (WCG)

To apply, students must complete either the FAFSA or the WASFA. To be eligible for state aid, students must meet all requirements for state student aid.

The Washington College Grant is awarded based on need. The award amount is based on annual income and family size, rather than based on SAI like with federal aid. Students must not have already earned a bachelor's degree in order to be eligible. You can find out more about eligibility for the Washington College Grant at [WA Grant Eligibility & Awards | WSAC](#).

The initial WCG award is based on assumed full-time enrollment (12+ credits) for all terms. The award is prorated for less than full-time enrollment, although a minimum of three credits is required to qualify for the award. Eligibility is limited to a lifetime maximum of eighteen (18) full-time terms.

College Bound Scholarship (CBS)

To apply, students must complete either the FAFSA or the WASFA. To be eligible for state aid, students must meet all requirements for state student aid. Students must have signed up for the College Bound Scholarship in the seventh or eighth grade and cannot have any felony convictions before high school graduation. Eligible students must enroll in college within one year of graduating high school. CBS is awarded in combination with WCG based on need to students in the highest eligibility range for state financial aid. More information about the College Bound Scholarship is available at [College Bound | WSAC](#).

The initial CBS award is based on assumed full-time enrollment (12+ credits) for all terms. The award is prorated for less than full-time enrollment, although a minimum of three credits is required to qualify for the award. Eligibility is limited to a lifetime maximum of eighteen (18) full-time terms.

Passport to College Promise Scholarship (PTC)

Passport to College Promise Scholarship is a state grant program available to former foster youth or students aged 18 to 24 who are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness. To qualify, students must complete the FAFSA or WASFA, meet Washington State residency requirements, and enroll in at least six (6) credits each term.

Eligibility is determined by Financial Aid staff, based on federal criteria. First time recipients of this grant cannot be older than 22. More information about PTC is available at [Passport to Careers Guide | WSAC](#).

Green River College Grant and Tuition Waiver

Green River College reserves a percentage of tuition revenue and offers these funds to students who were not eligible to complete the FAFSA. This is offered in the form of the institutional grant and tuition waiver.

The Green River Grant is offered based on need. The award is not prorated based on enrollment level, but a minimum of six (6) credits is required.

The Tuition Waiver is offered based on need. It may only be awarded to reduce the cost of tuition and cannot be applied toward fees or refunded directly to the student. The tuition waiver is not prorated based on enrollment level, but a minimum of six (6) credits is required.

Work Study

Work Study is need-based employment funding offered to students based on eligibility through [FAFSA](#), [WASFA](#), or [WorkFirst](#). Students have a set quarterly work study allocation, which is based on eligibility, need and cost of attendance. The [Cost of Attendance](#) (COA), or budget, reflects the estimated costs associated with attending Green River College for the year. Work Study allows students to earn the allocated amount by working. Once a student has earned his/her quarterly allocation, they must stop working. Students may resume work at the start of the next quarter, to earn the next quarter allocation. Work Study allocations will vary from student to student depending on eligibility, need, and COA.

Students must submit a FAFSA or WASFA application before eligibility can be determined. Students who qualify for work study based on their FAFSA application, will receive a work study offer in their Financial Aid Package. A Work Study offer does not guarantee a job. Students interested in participating should apply for jobs advertised on [Handshake](#). The job description will indicate whether the position is for work study or general on campus student employment. Once a job offer has been accepted, email workstudy@greenriver.edu for further instructions. Students will not begin working and earning their allocation until they have completed the hiring process, including hiring paperwork.

Students must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits and be in good academic standing, following the [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) policy, to participate in the Work Study program.

Visit [Student Employment - Green River College](#) for additional information.

Federal Direct Loans

Federal Direct Loans are a form of financial aid that must be repaid with interest. There are two types of Direct Loans:

- **Direct Subsidized Student Loan:** Awarded based on need. The Department of Education pays interest while students are enrolled in school in at least six (6) credits. Payments are automatically deferred while students are enrolled in at least six (6) credits.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan:** Non-need-based loan. The student is responsible for interest while in school. Payments are automatically deferred while students are enrolled in at least six (6) credits.

To apply, students must complete the FAFSA and verification (if selected). Students must meet all requirements for federal aid eligibility. The initial award amount is an offer after evaluating eligibility for need-based aid. Students who are interested in borrowing their Direct Loan offer can get started by:

- Completing the 2026-27 Federal Direct Loan Worksheet that can be found on the [Financial Aid Forms](#) page,
- Accepting your offered loans in ctcLink,
- Completing a [Master Promissory Note](#),
- Completing an [Entrance Counseling](#) (required for first-time borrowers only)

Additional information about federal loan programs can be found on the [Loans](#) page of the Federal Student Aid website.

The amount students can borrow is based on their year in school and status as independent or dependent.

For independent students who did not have to provide parent information on the FAFSA, annual limits are:

Independent	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Combined Limit
1 st Year	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
2 nd Year	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
3 rd /4 th Year (BAS)	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

For dependent students who had to provide parent information on the FAFSA, annual limits are:

Dependent	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Combined Limit
1 st Year	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
2 nd Year	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
3 rd /4 th Year (BAS)	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Interest rates and fees associated with Direct Loans for 2026-27 are:

	Subsidized	Unsubsidized
Interest Rate	6.52%	6.52%
Origination Fee	1.057%	1.057%

Please note that as a result of [The One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#) that was passed by Congress, starting with the 2026-2027 aid year, schools are required to perform a Schedule of Reductions calculation on loans any time a student enrolls less than full-time during any term in the academic year. This means that if you take fewer than 36 credits in a year, your total loan eligibility may be reduced below the amounts above.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans

The Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) may be obtained by parents to cover costs not already covered by their student's financial aid package, up to the full cost of attendance. Starting in the 2026-2027 aid year, there are new limits to how much parents can borrow in PLUS loans. For more information on these limits and more, visit [Parent PLUS Loans | Federal Student Aid](#).

Private Education Loans

[Private Education Loans](#) are offered by private lenders up to the full cost of attendance and no federal forms are required. Terms may vary from lender to lender. Though not required, it is strongly recommended students first seek financial aid which may include grants, work study, and Federal Direct Loans, prior to considering private loans.

Students who are interested in Private Education Loans can get started by:

- Contacting a lender to receive a pre-approval for a Private Education Loan
- Complete the 2026-27 Private Loan Certification Request form that can be found on the [Financial Aid Forms](#) page.

Green River College's official [Federal Direct Loan Program](#) policies are available online.

Scholarships

Funding for scholarships is made possible through the generous support of individuals and organizations. The Green River College Foundation is one of the largest community college foundations in the country and offers many scholarships to Green River College students each year.

Individual scholarships may have specific eligibility criteria such as maintaining a certain grade point average (GPA) or enrollment level to qualify for funds awarded. Students should refer to the scholarship award letter they receive from the Foundation Office for the conditions of their award. The scholarship application is separate from the application for financial aid, although some scholarships may also require you to complete the FAFSA or WASFA as well.

Generally, scholarship applications are available between January through April, and funds are awarded for the following academic year. Additional information can be found on the [GRC Foundation website](#).

Workforce Education Service

Workforce Education Service administers a variety of programs that are designed to support students who are seeking certificates and degree programs with an employment goal, as well as students enrolled in Transitional Studies programs. Eligibility, including eligible degree types, vary and are dependent on individual program requirements.

Students may receive assistance with tuition, fees, books, supplies and tools, as well as help in accessing other sources of support. Get started exploring [Workforce Education programs](#) online.

Classes Counting for Program of Study

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students can only take courses that are required for their current program of study. This means that any classes that show up in the Unused Courses section of the Academic Progress Report will not be eligible for aid, and we will have to do the necessary proration of aid based on the total number of eligible credits you are taking. The remaining aid will pay towards all the tuition and fees

you owe, including for any classes that might not count. It is possible for the adjusted amount of aid to not be enough to cover tuition and fees, which results in the student owing a balance that they have to pay out of pocket. It's important to check that the classes you're taking are ones that you need for your program.

There are two exceptions to this rule:

- Developmental-level classes – these are classes that are below 100 level that are designed to get students ready for college-level courses, mostly in Math and English. They will always show up as unused on the Academic Progress Report, but we will count them as aid-eligible credits. These do not include IBEST or Basic Skills classes like TS or ELL.
- Pre-requisite courses – similarly, we will cover courses that aren't required for a student's program but that the student must have completed before being eligible to take courses that are required.

Repeating Classes

Students can repeat courses as many times as it takes for them to earn credit, although lifetime aid limits and the 150% Timeframe rule apply to repeated credits. For more information on timeframe, see the [What is Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)?](#) section of this handbook. Once the student earns credits for the class (they receive a grade of 1.0 or higher), we can only pay for one more attempt. This applies regardless of the outcome of the second attempt. Additionally, we will not pay for another attempt if the student originally received a 3.5 or higher. These policies also apply to credits transferred from another school, as well as developmental and pre-requisite courses.

Financial Aid Disbursement and Tuition Deadlines

Tuition deadlines for each term are published on the College's [website](#). Students who have been awarded financial aid funds or who have completed their financial aid application before the [priority processing due date](#) for the quarter will have a tuition hold placed on their account to prevent a drop for non-payment until funds can be disbursed to pay charges. A completed aid application means that all required To Do items have been completed and we don't need any additional supporting documentation from you. We will also only place holds if you are currently enrolled for the upcoming term.

Financial aid funds that have been accepted will be automatically used to pay outstanding tuition and fees on the first day of classes. Students who are enrolled less than full-time (12 credits) will need to email finaid@greenriver.edu to confirm the number of credits they plan to take and request to have their aid adjusted appropriately. This needs to be done before we can release funds.

Any credit balance of eligible financial aid funds remaining after payment of tuition and fees will be refunded to students. Green River College partners with [BankMobile Disbursements](#) to deliver financial aid credit balance refunds. Funds are sent to BankMobile who in turn issues a refund according to the disbursement option selected by the student.

For questions regarding credit or debit card refunds, please contact the Student Financials Office at (253)288-3399 or by emailing cashiers@greenriver.edu.

Special Circumstances

The FAFSA and WASFA applications collect income information from two years prior to the current school year (aid applications for the 2026-27 school year are based on 2024 income information). The Financial Aid Office recognizes that financial circumstances can often change and impact a family's ability to pay for the cost of education.

Students experiencing special circumstances impacting their income may request an evaluation of the income used to establish their eligibility or adjustments to their cost of attendance. This is done by completing the 2026-27 Change of Circumstance Appeal form that can be found on the [Financial Aid Forms](#) page.

Financial Aid Census Date and Repayment Policy

The Financial Aid Office uses an “enrollment lock” date for federal grants (Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant). The “lock” date is also known as the “census date.”

The census date is the 10th business day of the term, except for summer which has a census date of the 8th business day. Through this date, college policy allows students to drop classes without a grade of “W.” Tuition refunds may also be issued for courses dropped following the [Withdrawal & Refund Rules](#).

Schedule changes made through the census date may have different impacts. Factors to consider include whether aid from the grant programs locked at census have already been disbursed, and whether classes were added or dropped. If you are thinking of dropping a class, please contact the Financial Aid Office first.

Adding Classes

Students who add classes between the start of the quarter and the census date are eligible for additional funds if their total number of credits is increased. For example, if a student is enrolled in 9 credits, then adds another 2-credit class, their aid could be adjusted up to the 11-credit amount. All classes must be required for the student’s current program of study.

After the census date, eligibility for federal and state grants will be re-evaluated for the term. If the student is determined to be eligible for additional funding, the grants will automatically be adjusted and disbursed to the student account.

Dropping Classes

Dropping some but not all classes before the census date may result in reduced grant and loan eligibility if the total number of credits is decreased.

After the census date, eligibility for all types of aid will be re-evaluated. If funds were not previously disbursed for the term, aid will be prorated to the lower enrollment level and automatically disbursed to the student account.

If funds were already disbursed at the higher enrollment level:

- **Federal grants** will be reduced to the eligible enrollment level which will result in outstanding charges owed to the college
- **Federal loans** will not be adjusted for the current quarter, but eligibility for future terms in the aid year will be recalculated according to a Schedule of Reductions
- **State grants** require students to choose:
 - To repay the overpayment amount to the college
 - To keep the full amount and have their lifetime eligibility reduced accordingly (the [Attestation for Reinstatement of Washington State Funding](#) is required for this option)
 - If no response is received from the student, all state grants will be cancelled for the next enrolled quarter

If funds were already disbursed, and the student drops all classes, they will owe a repayment subject to the Return of Title IV Policy.

State aid programs (Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholarship, and Passport to Careers) use the first day of the quarter as their lock date. Loans and institutional funds have a lock day of the day the funds were disbursed. This means that if you drop a class after the lock date, you will not have to repay any of these types of funds. More information about repayments is available in the Return of Title IV Policy section of this handbook or online for our official [SA-16 Return of Financial Aid Funds](#) policy.

Late Starting and/or Early Ending Classes

Classes that start after the census date or end before the last day of the term can be included in the financial aid enrollment level if the student was enrolled in the class by the census date.

Students who drop a late start or early ending course on or before the scheduled class start date are considered to have not commenced attendance. This will require a review of the enrollment level and possible reduction of aid already disbursed.

Return of Title IV Policy

Financial aid funds are awarded assuming students will attend Green River College for the entire term. If a student withdraws, the Financial Aid Office is required to calculate the amount of Federal Student Aid earned, also known as Title IV funds, and return the unearned part of the aid disbursed for the term.

There are two scenarios where a student is considered withdrawn which will result in a Return of Title IV calculation:

- When the student officially withdraws from all classes
- When the student earns a quarterly GPA of 0.0

Calculating the Return of Title IV Funds

The Financial Aid Office follows a federal formula approved by Congress to calculate the amount of funds earned and the amount of funds that must be returned. This includes establishing the date of withdrawal and calculating the number of days the student attended against the number of days in the term. If the student completed at least 60% of the term, they are considered to have earned all Federal funds disbursed and no return is required.

Funds are returned in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loans
3. Federal Direct PLUS Loans
4. Federal Pell Grants
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants

Returning Unearned Funds

Students who earned less than the amount disbursed will owe outstanding charges to the college. To pay the balance owing or to set up a payment plan, students will need to contact a cashier in [Student Financials](#).

Students who receive an approved Withdrawal Refund Exception Request may have their repayment amount reduced. Contact the [Office of the Registrar](#) for more information about Withdrawal Refund Exception Requests.

Students are encouraged to visit the Financial Aid Office to ask about the impact of withdrawing from classes before making changes to their schedule.

Green River College's official [Return of Financial Aid Funds](#) policy is available online.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

All students who apply for financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students must earn a 2.0 GPA each quarter (quality) and complete the number of credits they are registered for on the census date of each quarter (quantity). They must also, after six (6) quarters of attendance, maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

In addition, federal and state regulations require students to be on pace to complete their degree or certificate before reaching the maximum credit limit of 150% of the program length. For example, if you are in a program that requires 90 credits, you must finish your degree in less than 135 credits.

Determination of Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Status

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be evaluated for all financial aid applicants prior to processing aid. If a student has previous academic history at Green River College, the SAP determination will be based on the student's college transcript, regardless of whether or not financial assistance was received for the courses. Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed at the end of every term and students will be notified via their preferred email if SAP standards are not met.

Reinstatement of Financial Aid Eligibility

Financial aid eligibility may be reinstated with an approved appeal, an official change of grade, or when the student self-reinstates by paying for classes out of pocket for one term. Financial aid eligibility will be reinstated when all credits are completed in the reinstatement quarter and a GPA of 2.0 or higher is earned. Self-reinstatement requires a minimum of 5 credits enrollment.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal

Students may submit a [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) Appeal](#) when failure to maintain good academic standing was due to personal or academic circumstances beyond the student's control.

What are Green River College's Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Statuses?

Based on the criteria of quantity, quality, and pace, a student will end up with a SAP status of Meeting, Warning, Suspension, or Time Frame Exceeded.

Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress

Student earns a quarterly GPA of 2.0 or higher, has a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 after six (6) quarters, completes the number of credits registered for on the census date of each quarter, and the student is able to graduate within 150% of the credit length of the program.

Financial Aid Warning

Student earned a quarterly GPA between 1.9 and 1.0 and/or did not complete the number of credits registered for on the census date of the quarter, and student is able to graduate within 150% of their program length. A student is able to receive financial aid while on financial aid warning status but must meet SAP standards during the following term of enrollment to remain eligible for financial aid.

Financial Aid Suspension

Student withdrew from half or more credits within a quarter and/or earned less than 1.0 quarterly GPA.
Student is not eligible to receive financial aid while on Financial Aid Suspension. Suspension is also the result of the student not meeting SAP standards while in Financial Aid Warning or Financial Aid Probation status.

Financial Aid Probation

This status is only issued when approved on a Financial Aid SAP Appeal. Student may receive financial aid for one term but must meet SAP standards by the end of that term to remain eligible for financial aid.

Maximum Timeframe Exceeded

A student may be considered for financial aid beyond the maximum of 150% of the program length by filing a [Petition to Extend Financial Aid](#). Petitions are considered on a case-by-case basis and approved under exceptional circumstances only.

The complete [Satisfactory Academic Policy](#) is available online. Students are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office to ask about the impact of dropping or withdrawing from classes before making changes to their schedule.

Green River College's official [Satisfactory Progress for Financial Aid](#) policy is available online.

Washington State Aid Conditions of Award

If your award letter includes Washington State funding (Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholarship, or Passport to Careers), by accepting state financial aid, you agree to the conditions listed below. If you have questions or find that you cannot comply with these conditions, please contact your institution's financial aid office.

1. You must meet the requirement for Washington State residency.
2. You do not owe a repayment to any state grant or scholarship nor are you in default on a state student loan.
3. You must be enrolled in an eligible program and not be pursuing a degree in theology.
4. If you hold a bachelor's degree or the foreign equivalent, you are not eligible to receive state grant funds.
5. If you do not attend or if you withdraw from your classes, you may owe a repayment of all or part of any state funds you have received.
6. You must maintain the academic progress standards established by your institution in order to receive additional state aid.
7. There could be other circumstances that would require a repayment or reduction in your current award amounts.
8. You must meet all eligibility requirements for the state aid program(s) awarded.
9. The offer of this financial assistance is subject to, and conditioned upon, the availability of funds. Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and the institution through which the grant, scholarship, or work study is awarded, reserve the right to withdraw, reduce, or modify the awards due to funding limitations or due to changes in circumstances which affect your eligibility for the program(s).
10. If I fail to cash my check containing state funds or pickup any remaining funds by the close of the academic year, the funds shall be returned to the program at WSAC and treated as funds declined by me.

The State of Washington is offering you financial assistance to help support your educational expenses. Please visit [Washington State Financial Aid Programs | WSAC](#) to receive more information about financial aid, scholarships, work study, and student loans.

You may choose to voluntarily make financial contributions to WSAC in recognition of the assistance that you received. All voluntary contributions will be used to provide financial assistance to other students. Please contact finaid@wsac.wa.gov for more information.