

Financial Assistance

At Winthrop University we believe that higher education should not be a privilege reserved for those who can afford it, and the Office of Financial Aid is committed to helping Winthrop students find appropriate ways to finance their education.

Scholarships

New Freshmen

Winthrop offers a number of scholarships to students who will benefit from a quality education and will leave Winthrop a better place for having been here. Scholarships range in value from awards of several hundred dollars to full tuition, room, and meals for exceptionally high achievers.

Students who submit an application for admission by January 15 will receive priority consideration for the University's academic awards. All students who apply for freshman admission are automatically considered for academic scholarships; there is no separate application. Awards are based primarily on the student's high school record and SAT or ACT scores.

Academic scholarships are available for eight semesters of study provided the student maintains a specified grade point average. The Office of Financial Aid verifies GPA's at the end of the spring semester of each academic year. Any student who fails to meet the GPA requirement will be given one opportunity to improve the GPA by enrolling in summer school at Winthrop. If the student meets the GPA requirement at the end of the summer, the scholarship will be retained. Any summer course work taken under these circumstances will be at the student's expense.

Students with special talents also have the benefit of scholarship support. The College of Visual and Performing Arts offers scholarship consideration to talented students through audition or portfolio review. Students with outstanding athletic skills should contact the Athletic Department to determine their qualifications for scholarships which are offered in all of Winthrop's varsity programs.

Continuing Students

Scholarship support is awarded to continuing Winthrop students on the basis of their academic achievement at the University and their leadership in extracurricular activities. High-achieving students will be invited to submit a scholarship application to the Office of Financial Aid during the spring semester.

For a complete listing of scholarships, visit the Winthrop University Office of Development Website at <http://www.winthrop.edu/development/default.htm>.

Need-Based Financial Aid

Students who wish to apply for need-based financial aid should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and list Winthrop University (code # 003456) as a recipient of their financial data. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Paper FAFSA's may be obtained only by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

The Office of Financial Aid mails FAFSA application information to all admitted freshmen who indicate an interest in need-based aid on the admissions application. Continuing students should reapply using FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students will be given the option of "pre-filling" their application with certain data from their prior-year application.

Whether a student is new or continuing, the FAFSA should be filed as soon after January 1 as accurate income information is available. Although the Office of Financial Aid processes applications for financial aid throughout the course of the academic year, students who file the FAFSA by March 1 receive priority consideration for assistance.

The FAFSA is used to determine a student's eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, South Carolina Need-Based Grants, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Direct Student Loans, and Federal Work-Study. All awards of need-based financial aid are made annually, and students must reapply each year in order to be considered for assistance.

Campus Employment

Students who wish to work on campus may review the job opportunities listed on the web site of the Office of Financial Aid at www.winthrop.edu/finaid/employment/work-study.htm. The office has listings for campus positions which require Federal Work-Study eligibility and positions which do not require Work-Study.

Emergency Loans

The McFadden Loan Fund, a short-term (30 days) emergency loan program, is available to students experiencing financial emergencies. Currently enrolled students in good standing may borrow a maximum of \$200. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for details on eligibility requirements and application procedure.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirement to Receive Financial Aid

Winthrop University's academic regulations specify the minimum cumulative grade point average a student must earn in order to avoid being placed on academic probation or suspension (see page 31). Students eligible to continue enrollment at Winthrop will be eligible to receive financial assistance as long as both of the following conditions are met. First, students must earn 2/3 of all hours attempted at Winthrop. Second, a student's total hours attempted for a first baccalaureate degree may not exceed 186.

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For transfer students, hours attempted at Winthrop may not exceed 186 less the number of transfer hours accepted by the University.

Students who are eligible to continue enrollment and who have earned 24 semester hours during the most recently completed academic year will be eligible to receive aid. Students who earn at least 12 hours during the most recently completed semester and who are eligible to continue enrollment will be eligible to receive aid.

Academic progress to receive aid will be reviewed at the end of each spring semester. Students who do not meet the progress requirement will be notified in a timely manner to allow attendance of summer sessions to meet the requirement. Financial aid will not be available for summer school attendance to students who do not meet the progress requirement.

Students who successfully complete 9 semester hours in summer sessions and are allowed to continue enrollment at the University will be determined to have met the academic progress requirement to receive aid.

Students denied financial aid due to lack of academic progress may appeal to the financial aid committee. Copies of the University's academic progress policy to receive financial aid and forms to appeal the loss of aid may be obtained in the Office of Financial Aid, located in 119 Tillman Hall. Satisfactory progress information is also available online at www.winthrop.edu/finaid/forms/default.htm.

Withdrawal During an Academic Term

Students who receive federal financial assistance including Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Direct and PLUS Loans **will have their aid reduced on a pro-rata scale if they withdraw prior to the 60% point in the term.** Academic fees and room/board charges may not be reduced (see page 15 for information on fee changes upon withdrawal). Aid from other sources such as the State of South Carolina, Winthrop Scholarships, and outside programs may also be adjusted if students withdraw during the time the University adjusts its academic fees.

For the Fall 2008 semester, students who withdraw prior to November 3, 2008, will have federal aid reduced significantly. (For the Spring semester, the date is March 24, 2009.) This reduction is required by federal law if a student is receiving assistance through any of the federal financial aid programs and may result in the student owing the University.

Information

For additional information regarding financial aid programs, application procedures, or aid awards, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 803-323-2189, or by e-mail at finaid@winthrop.edu, or visit our website at www.winthrop.edu/finaid.

Veterans' Benefits

Winthrop is approved by the State Approving Section, South Carolina State Department of Education, for training of eligible veterans, children of deceased or disabled veterans, and disabled veterans. Contact the Veterans Administration Regional Office, 1801 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201, for information and necessary forms.

The Veteran or eligible person should contact Winthrop's Veterans Affairs Coordinator, 126 Tillman Hall, at least 45 days before the start of the semester in which the student plans to enter the University.

Children of disabled or deceased veterans may receive additional assistance for payment of tuition and fees. For information regarding eligibility and applications, write to the State Approving Section, South Carolina State Department of Education, Rutledge Office Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. Students who are eligible for the Free Tuition benefit administered by the SC Department of Veterans Affairs must notify the Financial Aid Office of their intent to enroll at Winthrop University prior to the beginning of each academic year.

In order to receive veterans' benefits, veterans and other eligible persons must read and sign a "Veteran's Compliance Agreement" (available in the Veterans Affairs Office), indicating their understanding of the agreement and their willingness to comply with the procedures and regulations therein. These regulations require that the Veterans Affairs Coordinator be informed without delay of the number of semester hours in which the student is enrolled each term, of any changes in that enrollment, and of any changes in the student's degree program.