

Resources for Financial Assistance

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (WCU) RESOURCES

Information from Graduate School about Tuition and Funding -
<https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/tuition-and-funding/>

WCU General Scholarships - <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/scholarships/index.aspx>

Students may complete a single application form for a variety of general scholarships via SCHOLAR CAT. In order to be considered for scholarships awarded by WCU, you submit the online scholarship application prior to February 1st for the following fall.

Financial Aid - <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/financial-aid/index.aspx>

The Office of Financial Aid can provide information about various types of loans and financial aid. Graduate students enrolled full-time or half-time are eligible for federal student loans. Students seeking loans must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Location: 118 Killian Annex. Phone: 828-227-7290.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for qualified graduate students. A student awarded an assistantship will be assigned to the physical therapy department (usually) or to another department on campus. A full-time graduate assistantship is 20 hours/week but physical therapy students are allowed a maximum of 10 hours/week because of the demands of the curriculum. The stipend is approximately \$4250 per year (\$2125 per semester for fall and spring).

In-state and Out-of-State Tuition Remissions

A limited number of tuition remissions are available (typically two out-of-state and one in-state). The in-state remission covers the cost of tuition (not fees or tuition differential) and the out-of-state remission reduces the cost of out-of state tuition to that of an in-state student (again not fees or tuition differential). Out-of-state tuition remissions are only available for one year because the expectation is that the recipient will apply for (and receive) residency status in North Carolina after the first year. Students who receive a tuition remission are required to accept a graduate assistantship (10 hours per week).

Graduate School Residential Tuition Awards

Tuition Awards of \$2000 are available for full-time graduate students. The application deadline is typically mid-April each year with notification in mid-May. A requirement for continuing students to apply is a 4.0 WCU graduate grade point average. Additional details about the application process are available on the Graduate School website:

Veterans Assistance

The university is approved for the training of Veterans Affairs benefit recipients. Various resources, including tuition assistance can be found through Military Student Services:

<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-services/military-student-services/>

NORTH CAROLINA-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

North Carolina Physical Therapy Association (NCPTA) Scholarship and Loan

Scholarships, long term loans, and short term emergency loans are available to applicable physical therapy and physical therapist assistant students. Awards are available to eligible second-year physical therapy students with a strong academic record and a desire to practice in North Carolina. The amount varies based on availability of funds. Awards are presented at both the fall and spring NCPTA meetings. Scholarship winner must practice in North Carolina for at least one year following graduation. Application materials: <http://www.ncpt.org/scholarship-and-loan>

College Foundation of North Carolina

A public resource designed to help students at all points of their high education careers, the CFNC website (www.cfnc.org) is a clearinghouse with information on both scholarships and loans.

Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS): Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2011, the Forgivable Education Loans for Service provides financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in an approved education program and committed to working in critical employment shortage professions in North Carolina. The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority provides administration for the program. Information can be found at: www.cfnc.org

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Mary McMillan Award for Academic Excellence

The intent of the award is to recognize those students who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. Awards are made on a competitive basis. Recipients will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: superior scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy, and service to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

<http://www.apta.org/HonorsAwards/Scholarships/McMillanScholarship/>

The APTA awards one scholarship each year for a minority student in the final year of his/her entry-level physical therapy education. More information:

<http://www.apta.org/HonorsandAwards/Scholarships/MinorityScholarship/>

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions Scholarship of Excellence

The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize outstanding students in the allied health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. The selected student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Starting in 2014, an additional scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and the title of Elwood Scholar is to be awarded to the most outstanding Scholarship of Excellence recipient. More information:

<http://www.asahp.org/members-section/scholarship-of-excellence/>