

INFORMATION
January 26, 2024

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD
BOARD REPORT #24-06
WISCONSIN GRANT PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION

WISCONSIN HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT (WHEG)

Introduction

HEAB administers three Wisconsin Grant programs for the following sectors; Wisconsin Technical College System, Wisconsin Tribal Colleges, and University of Wisconsin System. The general structure for the Wisconsin Grant (WG) formulas is outlined in the State Statutes. The Higher Educational Aids Board reviews and approves the formulas for the upcoming school year at its fall meeting held in October or November. There are three components in the formula:

$$\text{(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award}$$

Student Budget: The cost of education for the student. It can include tuition, room, board, and other expenses. It is different for all three WG programs. However, within each sector, the student budget is the same for all students. The Student Budgets are set by the HEAB board as part of the formula approval process.

Student Aid Index (SAI): Is an eligibility index number that a college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid the student would receive if the student attended the school. The SAI is calculated by the Federal Government when the student applies for Financial Aid using the FAFSA¹ form. It is an individually calculated amount based on the financial information provided by each student during the application process.

Student Award Percentage: Percent of **student budget** (less **SAI**) used to calculate individual financial aid awards. It is also used to determine the maximum grant that can be awarded to any student. It is different for all three WG programs. However, within each program (Tribal Colleges, Wisconsin Technical Colleges and University of Wisconsin Institutions) the Student Award Percentage is the same for all students. The Student Award Percentage is set by the HEAB board as part of the formula approval process. The Board also sets the minimum award which, by statute, cannot be less than \$250.

To calculate individual financial aid awards:

$$\text{(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award}$$

To calculate the maximum award in any of the WG programs:

$$\text{Student Budget x Student Award Percentage = Maximum Award}$$

Factors That Affect the WG Programs

Appropriation: There are three separate appropriations for each of the WG programs: (1) Tribal Colleges; (2) Wisconsin Technical College System and (3) University of Wisconsin System. These appropriations are set by the legislature and the Governor during the state's biennial budget process. The appropriations are not sum sufficient meaning that when all funds are obligated, the remaining eligible students do not receive awards. The date the student application is received by HEAB determines which eligible students will or will not receive awards.

Changing the Formula: If a sector wishes to change the formula after the initial formula is approved by the board; the proposed formula needs to be submitted to Joint Finance for their approval.

¹ Students apply for financial aid on-line through the Federal Government's Webpage or complete a paper copy. A copy of this application, called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.