



# 2020-2021 Financial Aid & Student Account Billing & Payment Guide

Investing in a high-quality private education at Wilmington College (WC) may be perceived as an expensive undertaking. However, Wilmington stands committed to providing access and helping you and your family identify options to pay for your bachelor degree program. Our office works with the U.S. Department of Education, state financial aid programs, and scholarship donors to assist you in achieving your degree. We have calculated the best possible financial aid offer for you. This Financial Aid Offer & Student Account Billing/Payment Guide is a tool designed to assist you in understanding your financial aid Offer, your rights and responsibilities as a financial aid recipient, and your available payment options. We urge you to take a few minutes to carefully read the information we have provided to ensure you do not relinquish any of your funding. Please keep this guide for future reference.

## AWARDING FINANCIAL AID

The Student One Stop Center prepares and emails notification that a Financial Aid Offer is available online once your financial need (cost of education minus expected family contribution) is determined. Your financial aid offer may include a combination of federal, state and/or Wilmington College resources. It is important to understand not all funding resources are available to all students. **Contrary to what you may have heard, most schools do not "negotiate" financial aid offers. All of the financial aid funding for which you qualified is listed on your Financial Aid Offer.** It is Wilmington College's policy to provide similar types and amounts of financial aid throughout your educational career. Please understand that your financial aid offer is based upon the most recent financial circumstances and information from you and your family. Your financial aid offer may change from year to year depending on your and your family's financial circumstances. Your financial aid may also be affected by other factors, such as a change in your enrollment status, your academic progress, the number of children in your family attending college, housing status, federal and/or state program funding levels, and failure to meet priority deadlines.

If you were Offered a Wilmington College Grant as part of your financial aid offer, you may be notified during the academic year that your grant has been replaced by a Wilmington College Endowed Scholarship fund. The total institutional grant amount will remain the same. Endowed funds are provided through the generosity of individuals and corporations. Without the generosity of donors, Wilmington College would not be able to offer institutional grant money at amounts currently being offered. You may be asked to write a letter of appreciation to the contact person of the endowed scholarship fund which will be a condition of the fund being disbursed to your student account.

## ESTIMATED FINANCIAL AID OFFER

If your FAFSA is selected for "verification", you must promptly provide all requested documentation before your financial aid offer is confirmed. Your financial aid Offer cannot be credited to your student account, nor can any federal financial aid be processed, until this documentation is received. Your financial aid offer may be cancelled if you do not submit the required documentation by the due date indicated. Loans that you have been offered will require additional steps before they will be credited to your student account. Step-by-step instructions are included within the Financial Aid Offer email notification.

## VERIFICATION AND FILE COMPLETION

Once Wilmington College downloads your FAFSA data, your file is reviewed. If any additional documents are needed to determine your financial aid offer, an email will be sent to your WC email address (so be sure to check your WC email account often; even during breaks like summer break, Christmas break, Spring break, etc.) prompting you to view your Financial Aid Document Tracking link in WCportal.

**Financial Aid files must be completed by September 15th for fall semester and January 15th for spring semester. If you do not complete your file by this date, any institutional aid, such as WC General Grant, that was offered to you may be cancelled and Offered to another needy student.**

## DETERMINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Your financial aid eligibility is determined by the information you provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The process of determining your eligibility is referred to as the **needs analysis formula**, and it is legislated by the U.S. Congress. The needs analysis formula is in place to ensure students are treated in a consistent manner. **REMEMBER:** Your Financial Aid Offer might change if your FAFSA data changes.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)} \\ - & \text{EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)} \\ = & \text{FINANCIAL NEED} \end{aligned}$$

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** – A standardized set of budgets are used as the basis for determining the cost of attendance. Budgets vary based on a student’s tuition costs and living arrangements while attending school (living on campus, living with parents, or living off-campus). In addition, each budget factors in other non-Wilmington College charged educational expenses like books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Estimated costs of attendance budgets for the 2020–2021 Offer year are listed below. Due to differences in individual choices, your costs may vary from the estimated cost of attendance budgets we have established.

<u>On Campus (ONCAMP9)</u>	<u>With Parents (HOME9)</u>
Tuition & Fees *\$ 27,525	Tuition & Fees *\$27,400
Room & Board† *\$ 10,100	Room & Board \$ 1,600
Books/Supplies \$ 1,100	Books/Supplies \$ 1,000
Transportation \$ 1,400	Transportation \$ 2,000
Miscellaneous \$ 1,400	Miscellaneous \$ 1,400
<b>Total \$ 41,525</b>	<b>Total \$ 33,400</b>

Based on double room rate.

<u>Off Campus (OFCAMP9)</u>	<u>Cin State (CINST9)</u>
Tuition & Fees *\$ 27,400	Tuition & Fees *\$ 7,320
Room & Board \$ 2,650	Room & Board \$ 2,808
Books/Supplies \$ 1,300	Books/Supplies \$ 1,052
Transportation \$ 1,500	Transportation \$ 1,700
Miscellaneous \$ 1,600	Miscellaneous \$ 2,052
<b>Total \$ 34,450</b>	<b>Total \$ 14,932</b>

\* This is a direct cost that will be charged on your student account. The other costs are estimated indirect costs that you may incur while attending Wilmington College. This does not represent your official bill. In June, a Billing Statement will be made available to you via your online student account WILpay located within your WCportal account.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** – Your expected family contribution is based on the data you provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your EFC is calculated by the U.S. Department of Education using a federally mandated formula that considers your (and your parents’ or your spouse’s, if applicable) taxable and nontaxable income, taxes paid, assets, household size, and number of family members in college. Your EFC is displayed on the Student Aid Report (SAR) you received from the federal processor.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The EFC figure is not the amount you will be billed or have to pay. It is instead, a measure of financial ability created by the U.S. Department of Education that allows Wilmington College to effectively Offer various finite sources of financial assistance (grants, scholarships, loans, employment consideration) towards your projected educational costs for the academic year.*

**Financial Need** – Need-based financial aid programs are based on the philosophy that the primary responsibility for a student’s educational expenses belongs to the student and the student’s family. When your EFC is less than the cost of education, you are considered to have financial need. If your EFC is higher than the cost of education, you are not eligible for need-based aid but will likely qualify for federal student loans.

## CHANGES TO YOUR OFFER

The College reserves the right to discontinue or decrease all scholarships & grants that are associated with changes in full-time enrollment status, academic standing, on-campus residency, student conduct, availability of financial aid resources, or decisions that will reset tuition. When a situation warrants a change in your aid, you will receive a revised Financial Aid Offer. These changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

**A. FAFSA Changes** – If you make a correction to your FAFSA or we make a change to your FAFSA as a result of requesting additional information for income or household size verification that changes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

**B. Grade Level** – If the grade level you report on your FAFSA differs from that shown by the Registrar, your loan eligibility changes.

**C. Extenuating Circumstances** – An unexpected change in family income can have a direct impact on your ability to attend WC. If you feel you have **involuntary** extenuating circumstances that could affect your or your family’s ability to pay for your education, contact us to discuss the situation. If it is determined that a review of your file is warranted, a “Special Circumstance Form” must be submitted with supporting documentation.

**D. Financial Aid for 2020 Summer Enrollment** – Wilmington College’s standard academic year consists of fall and spring semesters. Generally, summer session attendance is optional (especially for Main Campus students). Because summer semester begins our academic year, aid funds used during the summer semester will greatly impact funds available for spring semester. If you are interested in receiving financial aid for the 2020 summer session, please contact us before you enroll in summer classes.

**E. Enrollment Requirements** – Your financial aid offer is based on the number of credits for which you are expected to enroll. It is important to remember that **financial aid can only**

**be used to help pay for courses needed to meet your degree requirements.** Funds cannot be used to cover courses not needed for your degree program, so be sure to select your courses carefully to avoid such a situation. You are expected to participate in the classes in which you enroll and to complete all course requirements. If you do not, your aid may be reduced or cancelled and you may be required to repay funds provided to you. We are required by Federal regulations to review the enrollment activity of federal financial aid recipients at several points in the enrollment period. Enrollment activity is reviewed at three points in the enrollment period: 1) when aid is disbursed, 2) after the "Census Date", and 3) at the end of the semester enrollment period. Most financial aid programs require full-time enrollment, so changes to your class schedule can have a dramatic impact on your aid eligibility. It is crucial that you meet with your academic advisor and consult with us to consider all implications before changing your class schedule or withdrawing from all of your classes. If you are receiving financial aid, dropping classes or withdrawing from all classes may also affect your "satisfactory academic progress" standing. This could result in an adjustment or cancellation of your financial aid offer for future periods of enrollment. If it is necessary for you to cancel or discontinue your enrollment in a course(s), it is your responsibility to follow all official procedures. Consult with your academic advisor for specific instructions.

**F. Census Date** – At the close of business on the census date, a "snap shot" will be taken of your course enrollment. In most cases, the census date snap shot represents the enrollment status that will be used to determine your financial aid eligibility for the enrollment period. If your aid was disbursed to your student account prior to the census date, but your enrollment has changed when the census date snap shot occurs, your financial aid for the enrollment period will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. If a reduction in your financial aid is required, you may be required to repay all or a portion of the aid you received, including cash payments (refunds). If your financial aid has not disbursed to your student account when the census date snap shot occurs, we will review and adjust your aid accordingly. Your actual disbursement will be based upon your hours enrolled at the time of the "snap shot" assuming you still meet all other disbursement requirements.

**G. Enrollment Review at the End of the Academic Period** – We will review and adjust your aid if it is determined that you did not participate in the course(s) or you ceased participation in all of your courses. This review could result in a student repaying financial aid funds.

**H. Withdrawing from WC** – If you reduce your enrollment to zero credit hours, you have withdrawn from Wilmington College. If you withdraw, federal regulations require us to determine if any portion of the financial aid funds applied to your student account are to be returned to the aid program(s). Please consult your WC Catalog for further details.

**I. Changing Housing Arrangements** – The financial aid

offer you received is based on charges incurred as a resident, commuter (residing with parents), or off-campus student. If you change your housing status, your financial aid will also change. If you have an offer based on resident status, then make a change to off-campus, **you will automatically lose a percentage of your WC funding as stated in the Housing Contract.** This is because some of your on campus living expenses are covered by WC funds (grants, scholarships, and/or loans). It is advised that you contact us before changing your housing arrangements.

**J. Outside Scholarships** – Scholarships, tuition reimbursement from an employer, AmeriCorps, or loans provided by sources other than Wilmington College must be reported to the Student One Stop Center. Once received, we will then add any outside scholarships, benefits, or loans to your financial aid offer and split them equally between all attended semesters unless otherwise designated by the donor. While Wilmington College tries to completely meet your financial need, it is not always possible. If we have not met your full need, an outside scholarship can fill the gap between your need and financial aid. If federal or state need-based aid has been offered, the offer may need to be adjusted so as not to exceed your federally determined eligibility for financial assistance. If your need has been met, then the outside scholarship reduces the self-help portion of your financial aid offer, which includes loans and work-study, before any free dollars (grants or scholarships) are reduced. It is possible that your Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan (need-based) could change to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan (non-need-based). Scholarship checks should be sent to the Student One Stop Center for processing and disbursement to your student account.

## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL AID SUMMARY**

All three of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards listed below must be met at the end of each academic semester (including summer), in order to remain eligible for financial aid.

1. **Qualitative Standard** (Cumulative GPA):

Financial aid recipients must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 (3.00 for graduate students) for all classes attempted each semester.

2. **Quantitative Standard** (Completion Rate):

The pace of progression towards a degree cannot be less than 67%. The completion rate is calculated by dividing cumulative hours earned by cumulative hours attempted.

- **Courses dropped after the 100% drop/add period** (generally the first five days of a semester) will be counted as hours attempted, but not completed.
- **Incomplete courses** will be counted as hours attempted, but not completed.
- **Repeated courses** will be considered as both attempted and completed hours; however, any successfully completed course cannot be repeated

with assistance from financial aid funds

**3. Maximum Timeframe Standard:**

Students must complete their program of study within 150% of the standard timeframe required to earn the degree.

- **Undergraduate students** must complete their degree program within 186 attempted credit hours. Once a student reaches 186 attempted credit hours, financial aid eligibility stops.

**WITHDRAW/LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY**

There are two ways to withdraw or take a leave of absence from Wilmington College: Official Withdraw/Leave of Absence or Unofficial Withdraw/Leave of Absence. Students wanting to withdraw or take a leave of absence must complete a Withdrawal or Leave of Absence Form. This form can be obtained from the Office of Academic Affairs.

Non-attendance DOES NOT constitute withdrawal, nor is it the responsibility of a professor to drop a student from a class for non-attendance. If a student stops attending a class, the student remains liable for all applicable tuition and fees and will receive a failing grade.

• **Official Withdraw or Leave of Absence**

Official withdrawals/leave of absences from the college are processed through the Office of Academic Affairs which will provide details about procedures, deadlines, and other critical information.

If you received financial aid, but never began attending classes, Wilmington College must return all disbursed funds to the respective federal, state and institutional aid programs.

If you withdraw or take a leave of absence from the college during a semester or summer session after attending class, Wilmington College will calculate how much financial aid was unearned based on the amount of days you attended. The unearned aid will appear on your bill. If you are owed a refund of tuition, fees, or housing it will be applied to your bill before you receive any money back.

If you withdraw or take a leave of absence before the 60% period of time you will have a percentage of your financial aid returned by the school and possibly by you, to the appropriate program(s). The amount of Title IV aid (other than Federal Work Study) to be returned is equal to the total Title IV aid that was disbursed for the semester multiplied by the percentage of the term not attended.

Wilmington College will refund the following amount of tuition, room, and board. Fees other than tuition, room, and board are non-refundable. Meal plans will be pro-rated based on the number of weeks the meal plan was used.

<b>Period of Time</b>	<b>Tuition Refund</b>	<b>Rm &amp; Board Refund</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> day of class up to & including the 5 <sup>th</sup> day of class	100%	100%
After Drop/Add – 10% of Term	90%	90%
After 10% and up to 20% of Term	80%	80%
After 20% and up to 30% of Term	70%	70%
After 30% and up to 40% of Term	60%	60%
After 40% and up to 50% of Term	50%	50%
After 50% and up to 60% of Term	40%	40%
After 60% of Term	0%	0%

If you complete 60% of the semester, you will earn 100% of your financial aid. If a portion of a refund remains after returning funds to the appropriate program(s) from which you received assistance or if you owe a repayment of non-institutional funds and if there are unpaid charges owed to Wilmington College, the college will automatically credit your student account with this remaining refund amount. Any unearned aid will be returned in the following order:

**Title IV (Federal Aid)**

- Unsubsidized Stafford Direct Loan
- Subsidized Stafford Direct Loan
- Federal Parent or Graduate PLUS Loan
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Other Federal Aid

**Institutional, State, and Other Aid**

The amount returned to the sponsoring agency will be determined by the refund period percentage.

Examples of the refund policy are available by contacting the Student One Stop Center.

• **Unofficial Withdraw or Leave of Absence**

If you stop attending all classes during a semester without officially withdrawing from the college, you may receive all F's on your academic transcript. At the end of each semester, Wilmington College will review all students who received financial aid and failed all of their courses. We will verify with instructors the last day you attended class and then calculate how much financial aid was earned. Unofficial withdrawals may also impact your completion rate under the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

**POSSESSION OR SALE OF DRUGS CONVICTION**

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify you from receiving federal student aid funds. Convictions only count against you for aid eligibility purposes if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which you are receiving federal student aid. They do not count if the offense was not during such a period, unless you were denied federal benefits for drug trafficking by a federal or state judge. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from your record does not count, nor does one received when you were a juvenile, unless you were tried as an adult. If you were convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, you will be ineligible for the longer period.

You regain eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when you successfully complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program or pass two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make you ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing a rehabilitation program, passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is your responsibility to inform Wilmington College that you have successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

## STUDY ABROAD

Wilmington College offers study abroad programs in over 15 countries to allow students to expand their educational options. Your enrollment in an approved study abroad program for credit by Wilmington College ensures that you will be considered for financial aid as a WC student who just happens to be taking courses in another country. Financial eligibility for these programs varies, so contact the Student One Stop Center to ensure that your plans are financially feasible.

## FERPA

When you was in elementary and high school, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gave you and your parents' rights to access your educational records. Now that you are in college, these same laws transfer ownership of the records directly to you. The Office of Academic Affairs is responsible for administering the FERPA guidelines at Wilmington College.

If you provide a written consent via the FERPA Release Form your parents or other designated third parties may have access to some elements of your financial aid record. If we determine the third party has been authorized by you, we can then release information in our file to that third party.

In the case of divorced/remarried parents, we sometimes are asked for information on file that is personal to the other parent. Although a student may have authorized multiple parents to have access to the financial aid record, we will not release information that belongs to the other parent. Our office is committed to serving our students and families efficiently while protecting the privacy of all parties involved.

## FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Federal regulations prohibit Wilmington College from disbursing financial aid funds to your student account until 10 days prior to the first day of class or until your financial aid file is complete whichever ever comes last. Any financial aid not disbursed to the student account after this date will no longer appear on subsequent billing statements. **Therefore, it is imperative that all financial aid paperwork be completed and submitted to us no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.** In addition,

your financial aid file must be complete, which includes accepting your Financial Aid Offer, completing the verification process (if selected), completing the online Entrance Loan Counseling Session, Master Promissory Note, and Informed Borrower Tool. Listed below are descriptions and conditions of the most commonly offered financial aid funds. **Only those aid programs for which you qualified will appear on your Financial Aid Offer.** Financial aid program descriptions with an asterisk (\*) denote WC has limited funding for these offers. Applicants who submitted their FAFSA by our priority filing deadline of March 15 received primary consideration for these funds although funds may be depleted prior to this date.

**Federal Pell Grant** – A federal need-based offer for undergraduates who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree and who possess exceptional financial need. The amount of this need-based offer depends on your COA, EFC, and whether you are attending WC full-time or part-time. Students may receive Pell Grants for up to 12 semesters.

**Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)** – A state-funded, need-based grant offered to residents of Ohio with an EFC of 2190 or less AND a maximum household income of \$96,000. Students may receive OCOG funds for a maximum of ten semesters.

**\*Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** – A federal need-based grant offered to Pell-eligible students.

**\*WC General Grant** – A need-based grant offered to full-time Main Campus undergraduate students to attend a private college. This grant is based on financial need and academic performance. It does not require repayment.

**WC Academic Scholarships/Offers** – Offered to incoming Main Campus undergraduate students by the Office of Admission. They are based on academic performance, residency, and ACT/SAT scores. Recipients must maintain full-time enrollment, the required grade point average, residency requirements, and other conditions noted. In addition, an Offer Intent Form must be signed and submitted to the Office of Admission before funds can be credited to your student account.

**\*Federal Work-Study (FWS)** – This program provides part-time employment opportunities to full-time Main Campus undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need. On-campus jobs and a limited number of off-campus community service positions are available. The salary is at least the current federal minimum wage. You will work approximately 8-10 hours per week and will be paid bi-weekly. **An offer of FWS eligibility does not guarantee**

**employment. It is your responsibility to secure a job.** Information regarding FWS and other employment opportunities is available at the Career Center webpage on WHOLElink. Please note that FWS funds are paid directly to students as wages based on hours worked, and **cannot be applied as an estimate of aid to reduce the amount owed on your student account.** You must complete proper paperwork with the Office of Human Resources before you can begin employment.

**\*Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**

- To receive a Federal Direct **Subsidized** Stafford Loan, you must have financial need and be an undergraduate student. Your maximum loan eligibility is indicated on your Financial Aid Offer. Under this program, the federal government pays the interest on the loan during the time you are considered in-school at least half-time. Repayment begins six months after you stop attending college at least half-time (six credit hours for undergraduate students, three credit hours for graduate students) and is based on a standard ten year repayment plan. Under the Federal Direct **Unsubsidized** Stafford Loan, interest accumulates while you are in school. You are responsible for paying the interest accrued on the loan. You may pay the interest as it comes due, or defer payment of the interest, which will be capitalized; causing your total loan debt to increase. The Stafford Loan currently has a 4.53% fixed interest rate.

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan currently has a 1.059% origination fee that is deducted from the loan proceeds at disbursement. (Direct Loan interest rates are subject to change effective 7/1/20 and fees effective 10/1/20)

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan maximum amount you may borrow each academic year depends on your financial need, class rank, and dependency status. The "Federal Direct Stafford Loan Eligibility Chart" (below) indicates how class rank and dependency status determine annual borrowing limits. Funds will not appear on your billing statement as a direct credit until you have completed an online Entrance Loan Counseling Session, Master Promissory Note and the Informed Borrower Tool.

**Counseling Requirements** - Schools are required to ensure

<b>FEDERAL DIRECT STAFFORD LOAN ELIGIBILITY CHART</b>				
Grade Level	Loan Limits			Interest Rate
Undergraduate	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Combined	Unsubsidized
Freshman	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500	4.53% 2020-2021 rates TBA 7/1/20
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500	
Junior & Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500	
<b>Maximum Aggregate Limits</b>				
Undergraduate	\$23,000	\$8,000	\$31,000	
Undergraduate (independent & dependent with PLUS Loan Denial)	\$23,000	\$34,500	\$57,500	

students understand their rights and responsibilities as a loan borrower.

- **Entrance Counseling**

*Before you receive your loan funds, you will be required to complete entrance counseling, a tool to ensure you understand your obligation to repay the loan; sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN), agreeing to the terms of the loan and confirming total debt via the Informed Borrower Tool.*

The goal of *entrance counseling* is to help you understand what it means to take out a *federal student loan*. During entrance counseling, you will learn about the following: What a **Direct Loan** is and how the loan process works, managing your education expenses, other financial resources to consider to help pay for your education, and other important information.

You will need to complete a Master Promissory Note and Informed Borrower Tool before you receive your loan funds. The Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s); for instance, it will include information on how interest is calculated and what deferment and cancellation provisions are available to you. To complete an MPN online, you will need your *Federal Student Aid ID*.

It's important to understand what you're signing. For instance, the MPN states the following:

- ⇒ You must repay your loan even if you don't complete your education.
- ⇒ You must repay your loan even if you can't get a job after you leave school.
- ⇒ You must repay your loan even if you didn't like the education you received.

These requirements are to be completed online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

- **Exit Counseling**

At any point you cease being enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours), you are required to complete exit loan counseling.

Exit Counseling is a tool to ensure you understand your obligation to repay the loan. Understanding the repayment process for your federal student loans can go a long way toward building a solid financial foundation. Remember, federal student loans are real loans, just like car loans or mortgages. You must repay a student loan even if your financial circumstances become difficult. Your student loans cannot be canceled because you didn't get the education or job you expected, or because you didn't complete your education (unless you couldn't complete your education because your school closed).

The goal of *exit counseling* is to help you understand options you have as a student loan borrower such as making payments, loan servicers, repayment plans, loan consolidation, deferment and forbearance, forgiveness, cancellation, and discharge, understanding default, and resolving disputes.

Wilmington College will provide you with information on how to complete your Exit Loan Counseling when you cease being enrolled at least half-time.

**Loan Disbursements** – Federal Direct Stafford Loans, Federal Direct PLUS Loans, and Private Education Loans are disbursed to the school through electronic funds transfer (EFT) after your enrollment has been verified (generally the third week of the semester). All other aid funds are disbursed to your student account ten (10) days prior to the start of the semester provided you have completed verification and your financial aid file is considered complete. Private scholarships are disbursed to your student account once the funds are received by Wilmington College.

**Refunds** – If you have a credit balance on your student account after financial aid funds are credited, a refund will be prepared provided you have set up your refund account. All students are instructed to complete the eRefund process authorizing direct deposit of excess financial aid funds into their bank account. If you do not opt into eRefunds, you will need to complete a check request form in the Student One Stop Center. A check request will take up to 10 days longer to receive the refund than choosing the eRefund process. In addition, credit balances can be returned to the lender with a written request submitted to the Student One Stop Center from the loan borrower each semester.

## **YOUR BILLING ESTIMATE**

It is important to plan your budget before the semester begins. That's why we provided you with the Cost of Attendance (COA) breakdown in this guide. **If you have a balance after financial aid, you next need to determine how much of the balance will be met with savings, current earnings from work, contributions from relatives, benefit programs, etc.** After all available funds have been subtracted, you must next determine which payment option(s) best fit your and your family's needs.

By taking the COA and subtracting the financial aid (except Federal Work-Study), you will have an estimated balance due. **This estimate does not include deposits, books, preferred housing/meal plans, lab fees, parking permit fee, fines you may incur, or other elective charges.** WC will send an email notification when your student billing statement is available in your WILpay account. Your fall billing statement will be available before July 1st. The statement will list all applicable tuition, standard room and board (meal plan), and other charges, and deposits that you have paid, as well as any financial aid that has been offered and accepted by you. **WC has a pay up front policy, which means your balance due must be paid in full by**

**the semester due date or acceptable payment arrangements are on file.**

You should also notice that the billing estimate does not include out-of-pocket expenses that you may incur. Expenses may include such items as travel to and from campus, books and supplies, food (for commuters or alternative housing), and other personal living expenses. **It is important for you to understand WC does not own the Bookstore on campus. Follett Company leases space from us. You must be prepared to pay for books out of pocket. Books are NOT part of your financial aid offer.** Books may be purchased online and shipped to the WC Bookstore. If you are interested in purchasing your books before you arrive, you may do so at [www.efollett.com](http://www.efollett.com). You will need a copy of your class schedule when placing your order. It is important for you to determine how you will pay for these expenses. **We highly encourage you to save your summer earnings to cover your book costs.** You should budget \$600 – \$750 per semester for books.

If your parents borrowed excess loan funds that created a credit on your student account, you may request a Bookstore Voucher to charge books and supplies to your student account. Your financial aid file must be complete before a Bookstore Voucher will be authorized. Keep in mind that the amount you charge in the WC Bookstore against your student account will reduce the amount of any credit balance refund your parents may be expecting. Keep in mind that the Bookstore Voucher can only be used in person at the WC Bookstore for a limited time. You cannot use the voucher for online purchases. WC does not recommend borrowing additional loan funds to purchase books.

To learn more about the cost of books or book rental options, visit the bookstore's website at: [www.efollett.com](http://www.efollett.com).

## **BILLING INFORMATION**

Your billing information will be sent to you electronically through your WILpay account. You will receive an email notification in your WC email account that will provide you with the link to your electronic billing statement. Fall semester bills are generated by July 1st and spring semester bills are generated in November. Students were provided with their WILpay login and password in their acceptance letter.

With the exception of Federal Work Study, financial aid offered by WC is automatically disbursed to your student account, provided that your application is complete and you meet the requirements for each aid fund. Prior to the beginning of fall and spring semesters, approved financial aid will be listed as pending or estimated aid on your Student Billing Statement. If your financial aid is not enough to cover all charges, you must pay the full balance due or enroll in the online installment payment plan (IPP) by July 20<sup>th</sup> for fall semester and December 20<sup>th</sup> for spring semester.

***IMPORTANT: If your financial aid is not in place on the billing due date, you must be prepared to use your personal funds to cover your balance due until your***

*financial aid is available. Arrive with sufficient funds to buy books, supplies, and any other items necessary to begin the semester.*

Due to limited resources, it is not uncommon for most students to have a remaining balance due. After you have reviewed your Financial Aid Offer, there are several ways to address any remaining balance. You may choose just one or any combination of the payment options listed. Families considering using a loan option are highly encouraged to obtain a copy of both the student and parent's and/or co-signer's credit report before applying for a loan. It is critical the report is reviewed for any discrepancies. One negative hit on the credit report can cause a 20 point credit rate difference, which greatly affects the loan interest rate. It can take up to 90 days to resolve any negative issues, so families should act quickly. You can obtain a free copy of your credit report online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). To determine which resource or combination of resources best suits your needs, we recommend considering additional options in the following order:

1. **Semester Payment Plan** – Pay semester charges in full by the established deadlines. Fall semester payment is due by July 20, 2020 and spring semester payment is due by December 20, 2020. Payments should be made through the student's WILpay account. There is no fee to make payments using ACH transfer from a checking or savings account. Visa MasterCard, Discover or American Express may be used; however, there is a 2.75% convenience fee to use debit or credit cards. Cash, check or cashiers check is acceptable by mail or in person at the Student One Stop. Balances not paid by the established due date are subject to a 1.5% monthly interest charge on the unpaid balance.
2. **Installment Payment Plan (IPP)** – This payment option allows you to spread your semester balance over five months. There is no interest charged on this plan. You have access to your account information 24/7 via the internet. There are a variety of payment methods accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit card payment with a convenience fee of 2.75% and ACH for automated payments from your checking or savings account) are available with no fee. If you determine that the payment amount is greater than what you are able to pay, you may want to consider longer term financing options.
3. **Employer Deferred Payment Plan (EDpay)** – If you are eligible to receive tuition reimbursement from your employer at the end of a semester, you may enroll in EDpay. This interest-free plan allows you to defer payment of your balance due until 40 days after the last day of the semester. If your reimbursement payment is not received by the established due date or does not cover your entire balance due, the credit card (**debit card not accepted**) information you supply on the EDpay form will

be charged for the amount of the tuition due plus a \$75 late payment fee. If EDpay is your preferred payment option, you must complete an "Employer Deferred Payment Form".

4. **Third Party Billing** – At your request, Wilmington College will bill outside agencies (such as the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Veteran's Affairs, trust funds, scholarships, etc.) which pay for all or just a portion of your charges. This does not include family members who pay on your behalf. You must submit documentation of the third party's intent to pay to us by the established payment due date.
5. **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan** – A long-term finance option. The Federal Direct PLUS Loan is a credit-based educational loan **available to parents** of dependent undergraduate students. The PLUS Loan is in the parent's name for a dependent student enrolled at least half-time in a degree seeking program. It is a non-need based loan with the benefit of having a fixed interest rate of 7.08% that begins to accrue on the date of disbursement. Parents may borrow up to the Cost of Attendance less other financial aid. The PLUS loan has a 4.236% origination fee, which is deducted from the loan proceeds. PLUS Loans are available regardless of income/assets, and no collateral is required. While the parent borrower does not have to prove financial need, a credit check is required. (Direct Loan interest rates are subject to change effective 7/1/20 and fees effective 10/1/20)

The credit check scans for adverse credit only. It does not look at credit worthiness, FICO score, income-to-debt ratio, or the amount being borrowed. Absence of credit history does not mean adverse credit. The Federal government defines adverse credit for financial aid purposes as "having one or more debts with a total combined outstanding balance greater than \$2,085 that are 90 or more days delinquent as of the date of the credit report, or that have been placed in collections or charged off during the two years preceding the date of the credit report". Unless the borrower meets the definition, the Parent Plus Loan Application will be approved.

Students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and exhaust all Federal Direct Stafford Loan options before the parent applies for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Parents must complete a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application, sign a Master Promissory Note, and complete an online loan counseling session before these funds can be credited to their student's account.

6. **Private Education Loan** – A Private Education Loan is a non-federal education loan, through a private lending institution, typically issued in the student's name and requiring a cosigner. Each lender has different eligibility requirements (e.g., degree status, enrollment status, and U.S. citizenship), loan rates, repayment terms, and

conditions. Some lenders may also require payment of interest while students are in school.

7. **A Combination Strategy** – The best option for most families is to limit debt. Combining the Installment Payment Plan option with a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, a Federal Direct Stafford Loan and/or Private Education Loan permits you to reduce debt while allowing for reasonable monthly payments.

## **CHOOSING A LENDER**

Federal regulations require colleges to certify Private Education Loans from any lender or credit union chosen by a family. Choosing a lender is an important decision. That's why we encourage you and your family to carefully review the information contained in this packet and only borrow the amount you need to cover your net costs. Remember, the decisions you and your family make today will affect your finances in the future. As the saying goes *"if you live like a lawyer when you are a student, you will live like a student when you are a lawyer"*.

Families choose lenders based on a variety of reasons, like borrower benefits provided, quality of customer service, prior business dealings with family and friends, and reputation and stability of the lender, to name a few. To assist families who do not have a lender in mind or don't know where to begin the education loan process, we have created an online list of lenders.

Wilmington College is not endorsing any of these lenders. The online list will allow you to compare lender benefits to help you choose which lender best meets your family's needs. Families should take the time to do some research on lenders rather than blindly choosing the first lender on a list. Visit lender websites to compare their discounts, services, and other features that are important to your family.

Research your options but limit the number of applications. Several applications over 14+ days may have a negative impact on your credit score. Please Note: If you apply for more than one private education loan, notify the Student One Stop Center of which loan you would prefer to borrow.

Private Education Loan interest rates vary and can be as high as 215. Some lenders use PRIME, while others use the LIBOR. The PRIME Lending Rate is the interest rate lenders give to their best credit customers, while LIBOR is the interest rate at which lenders can borrow money from other banks. Traditionally, a loan linked to LIBOR will grow more slowly than loans linked to PRIME. Be sure to ask the lender how often the interest rate is calculated. Many lenders offer interest rate reductions, electronic debiting incentives, co-signer release and origination fee rebates to borrowers who meet certain criteria. These discounts can save borrowers hundreds of dollars. Keep in mind that not all borrowers will qualify for these repayment benefits.

**Be sure to ask lenders what percentage of their borrowers qualify for each of their borrower benefit programs.**

It is not necessary for you to have a banking relationship with the lender you choose unless a credit union is chosen. **If you opt to utilize a credit union, you must make sure that you have an active membership.** Loan funds will not be disbursed if the borrower is not an active member of the credit union. Our website is established to provide the most efficient and simplified process for you. We encourage you to take advantage of your right to choose a lender. If you have previously borrowed a Private Education Loan, we suggest that you continue with your current lender if at all possible.

Education loans can be a valuable source of funding to cover the cost of attendance, but your total loan debt can add up quickly! Students and families should only borrow the minimum amount of loans needed to meet your educational costs. This is called borrowing conservatively. Don't get carried away! Remember that you have to repay an education loan, just like a car loan or a mortgage. When determining the amount of loan money to accept, consider how much debt you will have to repay after you graduate. Ask yourself the following questions before you decide how much loan money you need to borrow:

- ⇒ How much are you borrowing to get through school?
- ⇒ How long will it take you to pay off your student loans?
- ⇒ Will you be able to realistically handle your debt when you get a job in your field of study?

Families who are thinking of borrowing for school expenses should review the chart on the next page to determine the level of debt they might reasonably be able to handle.

Remember to keep track of all of your Federal Student Loans with the National Student Loan Data System at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) and your Private Education Loans via your credit report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

### Sample Perkins Loan Repayment Chart

*\*Based on a standard 10 year repayment plan (for borrowers prior to 9/30/17)*

Amount Borrowed	Number of Payments	Monthly Payment at 5.0%	Total Repayment w/Interest
\$ 5,000	120	\$ 53	\$ 6,363
\$10,000	120	\$106	\$12,728
\$15,000	120	\$159	\$19,092
\$20,000	120	\$212	\$25,455
\$25,000	120	\$265	\$31,819
\$30,000	120	\$318	\$38,184

### Sample PLUS Loan Repayment Chart

*\*Based on a standard 10 year repayment plan.*

Amount Borrowed	Number of Payments	Monthly Payment at 7.08%	Total Repayment w/Interest
\$ 5,000	120	\$ 58	\$ 6,997
\$10,000	120	\$117	\$13,995
\$15,000	120	\$175	\$20,992
\$20,000	120	\$233	\$27,990
\$25,000	120	\$292	\$34,987
\$30,000	120	\$350	\$41,985

### Sample Stafford Loan Repayment Chart

*\*Based on a standard 10 year repayment plan.*

Amount Borrowed	Number of Payments	Monthly Payment at 4.53%	Total Repayment w/Interest
\$ 5,000	120	\$ 52	\$ 6,218
\$10,000	120	\$104	\$12,437
\$15,000	120	\$155	\$18,655
\$20,000	120	\$207	\$24,873
\$25,000	120	\$259	\$31,092
\$30,000	120	\$319	\$37,310

### Sample Private Loan Repayment Chart

*\*Based on a standard 20 year repayment plan.*

Amount Borrowed	Number of Payments	Monthly Payment at 10.0%	Total Repayment w/Interest
\$ 5,000	240	\$ 48	\$11,580
\$10,000	240	\$ 96	\$23,160
\$15,000	240	\$144	\$34,740
\$20,000	240	\$193	\$46,320
\$25,000	240	\$241	\$57,902
\$30,000	240	\$289	\$69,482