

What it means to be a Community Scholar at Wheaton

As a Community Scholar, you were selected from among the top applicants who applied to Wheaton. It is indeed a meritorious distinction! Following are some frequently asked questions about the Community Scholarship program, its administration and the benefits to which you are entitled.

How was I selected to be a Community Scholar?

The admission committee selected you based on your academic achievements and demonstrated extracurricular commitment.

How does Wheaton recognize Community Scholars?

Community Scholars receive a scholarship each year, provided a 3.0 cumulative grade point average is maintained. A stipend is also awarded for the purpose of undertaking an unpaid out-of-class learning experience the summer after your sophomore or junior year. This experience may be an internship, research project, student-faculty collaboration, professional development opportunity or community service endeavor.

How does the Community Scholarship fit into my financial aid package?

If you receive need-based aid, your scholarship (in part or completely) will be credited against the grant portion of your financial aid package.

How is my Community Scholarship treated if I do not receive financial aid?

Regardless of a family's financial need, Community Scholars receive the scholarship toward their Wheaton tuition charges. Fifty percent of your annual merit scholarship is applied to your billing statement prior to the beginning of each semester.

I am planning to study abroad on a Wheaton-approved program at another institution for a semester (or a year). Will my Community Scholarship be applicable toward a study-away program?

The Community Scholarship, like all merit scholarships at Wheaton, may be used toward study-away programs that are *affiliated* with the college (i.e., where fees are paid directly to Wheaton). Contact Wheaton's Center for Global Education or visit www.wheatoncollege.edu/global/studyaway/programs for a complete list. If you choose to attend a *non-affiliated* domestic or study-abroad program, you will forfeit your merit award for that period.

What happens if I earn less than the required GPA?

Your cumulative GPA is reviewed annually. If you earn less than a 3.0 but more than a 2.67, you will be awarded the scholarship on a probationary status for the following academic year; Wheaton expects you to improve your GPA in order to renew the scholarship after your probation. If you earn below a 2.67 GPA, your scholarship and stipend will be cancelled. Extraordinary circumstances are always considered.

How can I use my stipend?

You may use your stipend during the summer at the end of your sophomore or junior year at Wheaton. You can work with the Filene Center for Work and Learning to obtain an unpaid out-of-class learning experience (and use your stipend as payment), or even discover and create a position of your own that would otherwise not have been a paid opportunity.

What if I don't use my stipend?

If you have not applied for your one-time stipend by spring of your junior year, your stipend will revert back to Wheaton College.

What happens if I am on an approved leave of absence?

Students who take an official leave of absence to attend college elsewhere forfeit their merit award(s) for that period of enrollment.

How is my merit scholarship credited to my account?

Fifty percent of your annual merit scholarship award is applied each semester you are in residence at Wheaton or participating in a Wheaton affiliated program abroad.

Wheaton

I am considering one of the dual-degree programs Wheaton offers. How would my participation affect my award?

You are eligible to apply your award to a maximum of 8 semesters of study at Wheaton. If you are accepted to a dual-degree program, your award applies *only* to those semesters in which you are studying on campus. If the dual-degree program involves fewer than 8 semesters at Wheaton, your award applies only to those semesters in which you are studying at the college.

I have AP, IB and/or college credits earned while in high school that I want to transfer to Wheaton. Will this affect my eligibility for a merit award?

No. Any credits acquired while still in high school may be transferred and will not impact your award. However, if you accelerate your graduation and complete your degree requirements in fewer than 8 semesters, your award will only apply to the semesters in which you are enrolled at Wheaton.

Since graduating high school, I earned college credits but was not officially matriculated at a college. Will this affect my eligibility for a merit award?

You may transfer up to one semester of Wheaton credits and still be considered a first year student, therefore eligible for a merit scholarship. Only students enrolling in college full time for the first time are eligible. *Please note:* your merit award is credited by semester and applies only to the semesters in which you are enrolled. If you accelerate your graduation and complete your degree requirements in fewer than 8 semesters, your award will only apply to the semesters in which you are enrolled at Wheaton.

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