



# 2020-2021

## FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

### ***Six easy steps to applying for financial aid:***

1. Complete the Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID application online at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. The FSA ID serves as your electronic signature for the FAFSA application. If you are a dependent student, both you and your parent need to apply for an FSA ID.
2. Complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) or Washington Application for Student Financial Aid (WASFA) if you are a DREAMer student (see the DREAMer section of this wrap). **Centralia College's federal school code is 003772 for FAFSA filers.** Computers and assistance are available at the Financial Aid Office.
3. Complete a 20-21 Centralia College Financial Aid Form. The electronic form is available on the Financial Aid forms page from the following link <http://www.centralia.edu/funding/forms.aspx>
4. Apply for admission. If you are a new student OR did not attend Centralia College for a while you can apply for admission online at [www.centralia.edu](http://www.centralia.edu). You are considered a returning student if you have not been in attendance for the last three quarters.
5. Submit academic transcripts for all of the schools you have attended within the last five years.
6. One in three FAFSA applications are selected for verification. The verification process requires our office to verify the income and demographic information reported on your FAFSA. Verification is customized, meaning that items required to be verified are different for each applicant. You will receive an email or regular mail (if no email) notification, informing you of what additional forms will need to be filled out. You may also be required to verify your family's taxable income and/or status.

### **What is a priority deadline?**

As most funds are available on a limited basis, we encourage you to apply early. For maximum consideration of all available funds, you must have a complete financial aid file (Centralia College Financial Aid Form, FAFSA, Application for Admissions, etc.) by **March 2, 2020**. The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) has a quarterly priority deadline, see the Financial Aid Office for more information.

If your file is complete after **March 2, 2020** and you are planning on attending fall quarter 2020, funding will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Files completed after the priority deadline will be reviewed in an on-going process but we **cannot** guarantee they will be reviewed by the fall tuition deadline (summer if attending).

### **Am I eligible for financial aid?**

Grants and jobs are available to help offset the cost of college for students who apply for and demonstrate financial need. The financial aid process can take one to three months to complete. Federal and state laws regulate the distribution of financial aid funds; therefore, your eligibility cannot be determined unless you complete the application process.

At a minimum, in order to be considered for financial aid, you must submit a Centralia College Financial Aid Form, a FAFSA, and be admitted into the institution.

You must also:

1. be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
2. have a high school diploma or GED
3. not owe a repayment on grants or be in default on a student loan
4. if male, be registered with the Selective Service (applicable to most males)
5. be able to sign a statement of educational purpose
6. be enrolled in an eligible college certificate or degree program

# What if I am a DREAMer?

As of February 26, 2014, undocumented US citizens may qualify for state financial aid funding. In order to apply for funds, DREAMer students should complete a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) form online at [www.readyssetgrad.org/WASFA](http://www.readyssetgrad.org/WASFA). State funding eligibility has been expanded to include HB 1079 affidavit and DACA individuals who qualify for in-state residency charges. In addition to the WASFA application, DREAMer students will also need to apply for admission to the college and complete an 20-21 Centralia College Financial Aid Form. Additional income verification may be required on a case-by-case basis.

## What if I am selected for verification?

One in three Financial Aid Applications are selected for a process called verification. This requires the Financial Aid Office to verify information that was reported on the FAFSA. Verification is customized and items required to be verified are different for each applicant. Verification groups are how students are identified by the processor and there are three groups. Depending on what group a student is assigned will determine what documents are needed to meet the verification requirements. Additional verification requirements may be needed if corrections are made to an application. The three verification groups are:

- V1 Standard Verification Group
- V4 Custom Verification
- V5 Aggregate Verification Group

To ensure you complete the correct verification worksheet(s), check your financial aid information on the student web portal. Notification of verification requirements are sent via email or regular mail (if no working email). You may be required to verify your reported income information. Verification rules require taxable income to be verified by either linking your IRS information directly into the application or providing a copy of your IRS tax return transcript or signed copy of your tax return. All wage earners that do not file taxes are required to provide copies of their W2 form(s) and individuals who do not file taxes are required to provide a nonfiler status letter from the IRS. If you filed taxes and are unable to link the IRS data into your FAFSA, you can obtain the IRS tax return transcript by visiting [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by calling the IRS at 1.800.908.9943. Nonfiler status letters must be obtained by submitting the IRS 4506-T form by fax or regular mail, which can be obtained from our office or from the IRS website. See our office for help filling out the form.

## Additional sources of financial aid funding

### Scholarships

Centralia College offers on average more than 175 scholarships each year, and you may be eligible to have all or part of your tuition paid for by a scholarship. Even if you are not sure whether you are eligible, you are strongly encouraged to apply. Scholarship application is available on Centralia College Scholarship home page beginning in December for the following academic year and the deadline is **March 1, 2020**.

**\*\*\*** *Also, check out Washington State's scholarship search engine at [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)* **\*\*\***

### Worker Retraining

The Worker Retraining program can assist with tuition, fees, books, and supplies for those who qualify. Generally, students would be considered dislocated workers if they are receiving Washington State unemployment insurance benefits or have exhausted benefits within the previous forty eight months, or are on Commissioner Approved Training. Please contact the Worker Retraining Intake Center at 360.623.8496 for more information.

### WorkFirst

The WorkFirst program helps cover the cost of tuition and books for eligible students. To be eligible, you must be on TANF. The WorkFirst program covers vocational/technical classes and certificates/degrees, high school completion, asset/compass testing, GED testing, and some continuing education courses. WorkFirst Work-Study is also available to students who are receiving TANF and need to work. Please contact Lisa Welch at 360.623.8649 for more information.

## BFET

The Basic Food Employment and Training program is a partnership between Centralia College and the Department of Social Health Services (DSHS). Individuals must currently be receiving or are qualified to receive basic food assistance and must be enrolled in a vocational/technical degree program, or in ESL, ABE, or GED program courses. The BFET program may assist with tuition, books, some required supplies and testing fees. BFET students may also qualify for a childcare referral to Working Connections through DSHS. BFET students cannot be receiving DSHS TANF cash assistance. Please contact Lisa Welch at 360.623.8649 for more information.

## Opportunity Grant

The Opportunity Grant program can assist with tuition, fees, books, and some supplies for low income Washington State residents over 18 years old. The grant may pay for up to a total of 45 credits over a period of three years.

To qualify for the program, you must be working toward a degree in the following fields:

Accounting	Business Office Technology	Early Childhood Education	Electronics
Welding	Energy Technology	Medical Careers (Nursing, Phlebotomy, MA)	

Please contact Lisa Welch at 360.623.8649 for more information.

## Employment

There are both on campus and off campus employment opportunities available:

On-campus work programs include: Federal Work-Study On-Campus, State Work-Study On-Campus, and Institutional (non work-study) employment. Most on-campus jobs pay state minimum wage.

Off-campus jobs include: State Work-Study Off-Campus, Federal Work-Study Off-Campus, and Cooperative Education. Off campus jobs are paid by the employer and generally must be related to the student's program of study.

For additional information contact Monica Brummer in the Student Job Center at 360.623.8974.

## **Can I get student loans at Centralia College?**

Centralia College does not participate in any of the federal student loan programs. This means you cannot receive a Federal Direct Loan (formerly known as a Stafford Loan) or Federal Parent Loan while attending Centralia College. If you are still interested in accessing a student loan while attending Centralia College, an alternative loan may be a good option for you. Alternative loans are loans that are given by a private lender, whether it be a bank or another type of guaranteeing agency. In order to acquire an alternative loan you must be credit worthy and have an income source for repayment of the loan or a co-signer. You will need to find the lending agency that can provide you with the best interest rate. Since alternative loans are considered to be educational resources our office must certify the amount of loan you are eligible for. Eligibility is tied to your cost of attendance and how much financial need you have in your budget. For additional information contact the Financial Aid Office.

## **How much does it cost to attend Centralia College?**

	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Not At Home</u>	<u>Non Resident</u>
Tuition* and fees (3 quarters)	\$4,440	\$4,440	\$4,875
Books & Supplies	900	900	900
Transportation	1,200	1,200	1,200
Personal	1,920	2,400	**
Room & Board	3,360	10,770	**

\*The above listed tuition amount is the 2019-2020 amount for 15 credits

\*\*Non-residents, use Personal and Room & Board from "At Home" or "Not at Home"

## **What happens after I apply?**

Watch your e-mail/mailbox. You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Federal Processor. Be sure to verify that Centralia College is listed. If Centralia College is not listed, go back to [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) to make corrections and add our school code (003772). Once we receive your application, it will be reviewed by a financial aid advisor for completion and accuracy. The Financial Aid Office will notify students of needed documents and/or awards through their Centralia College e-mail account, in addition you can always check the status of your file on the Financial Aid Student Portal located on the financial aid webpage. Carefully read all attached documents. You will be awarded funds in an accepted status. Once awarded you will need to sign and submit your Conditions of Award form to the Financial Aid Office.

## **What are my responsibilities while receiving aid?**

Students are **required** to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards. Students who complete all credits with at least a current and cumulative 2.00 GPA are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress. There are also timeframe limits. Generally, a student will be funded for the number of credits needed for their certificate/degree, as published in the Centralia College catalog. Students with prior college credits may have their timeframe reduced. Federal regulations state that prior attendance **MUST** be considered. Timeframe may be extended up to 45 credits for college prep (below 100 level) and/or some pre-requisite classes. Specific requirements are listed in the Financial Aid Handbook which is available online at

<http://www.centralia.edu/admissions/finaid/forms.html>.

## **What if my income has changed?**

The FAFSA/WASFA application uses prior-prior year income. This means you are required to provide income information for yourself and your family from the 2018 year. If you have special or unusual circumstances (such as a change in income due to divorce, loss of job/wages or a death in the family) that will affect your ability to pay for school, you may qualify for an income adjustment. Special Conditions Application (SCA) forms must be submitted in order to be considered for an income adjustment. Our SCA forms are not available until June 1, 2020. The documentation required for your SCA will depend on when your (or your families) income change occurred and what type of change your family has experienced.

## **I still have questions, who can I contact?**

The Financial Aid Office staff is here to help answer your questions. Questions are generally answered more quickly via e-mail at [financialaid@centralia.edu](mailto:financialaid@centralia.edu). We are also available via telephone at 360.623.8975. Our office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Trans Alta Commons. Our office hours are:

**Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Summer hours are:  
Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**