



Financial Aid Office
 PO Box 9000 CPO 6342
 Asheville, NC 28815-9000
 828.771.2082 Fax 828.771.2030

2016-2017 Merit Scholarship Renewal Policy

Warren Wilson College honor/merit scholarships are awarded by the admission office to new incoming freshmen and transfers only. These scholarships are available for renewal for up to four years. Students who exceed an undergraduate degree timeframe of four years should speak with the Financial Aid Office regarding possible renewal until degree is completed. Guidelines for renewal are established by the admission office. These guidelines are outlined from the admission office and are explained at the time of your admission to the college. Honor/merit scholarships are renewed as long as the student maintains Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) **AND** your required minimum cumulative GPA for renewal. Students who receive honor/merit award(s) are reviewed at the end of each academic year unless the student is currently on financial aid probation. Honor/merit scholarships are not usually terminated mid-year (January) unless a student loses his/her entire financial aid package.

Students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00, 2.75, or 2.50 to renew certain honor/merit scholarships awarded to them at the time of admission. Students who fall below their required GPA will have options to regain their scholarship after they have **completely** lost their scholarship. Only students who lose their total merit scholarship are eligible for appeal. All other students with a reduction in their merit scholarship may request a recalculation of the GPA at the end of their next completed semester at Warren Wilson College.

The Financial Aid Office will monitor all honor/merit scholarships awarded to students by the admission office at a 3.00, 2.75, or 2.50 GPA renewal. New students are notified by the admission office of the criteria they are required to meet for renewal of their scholarship. ***Please note, new students will not be formally evaluated on their cumulative GPA performance until after their first four (4) semesters have passed. This means that a student in their first four semesters at WWC will have their GPA monitored, but if they fall below their required GPA, their merit will NOT be reduced. These students will continue to receive communications from Financial Aid and Academic Support so that they will get “back on track” to meet their requirements by the end of their first four (4) semesters.***

The renewal criteria is listed below:

If you are required to have a 3.00

required	3.00 cum GPA
renew at 100%	2.90 and up
renew at 75%	2.89 - 2.75
renew at 50%	2.74 - 2.50
do not renew	2.49 and below

If you are required to have a 2.75

required	2.75 cum GPA
renew at 100%	2.65 and up
renew at 50%	2.64 - 2.35
do not renew	2.34 and below

If you are required to have a 2.50

required	2.50 cum GPA
renew at 100%	2.40 and up
renew at 50%	2.39 - 2.25
do not renew	2.24 and below

**If a readmitted student was academically suspended in their previous semester at Warren Wilson College, we will reinstate their institutional need based grants (if eligible) at 50%, they are NOT eligible for merit or merit renewal.*

Revision of a Honor/Merit Scholarship:

Failure to maintain the minimum renewal requirements (minimum cumulative GPA **and** maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress) at the end of the academic year for the honor/merit scholarships will result in a reduction of the scholarship based on the above chart(s). **This only applies to sophomore, juniors, and seniors; as first year students are given four (4) semesters before a formal evaluation of the cumulative GPA occurs.**

The scholarship can be “*earned back*” at the end of the semester with a written academic plan with The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs **and GPA that reflects progress.** The student will have the following academic year to regain the scholarship. For consideration of renewal within an academic year, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the Financial Aid Office if their GPA increases after the fall semester.

The Financial Aid Office will review the student's grades during the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) process at the end of each semester. During this mid-year evaluation, honor/merit scholarships will also be *reviewed* for *possible* issues before the end of the academic year. This will allow the student time to seek academic support to insure they meet their required GPA at the end of the academic year as to not affect the renewal of their scholarship. These students will be informed by email of their low GPA and reminded of the required standards. These students will also be referred to the Academic Support Office for consultation.

There is one exception to the scholarship renewal policy.

Exception: "Leave of Absence": LOA's approved by the Registrar and who have pre-paid their deposit will be able to participate in pre-registration with their class and can have their honor/merit scholarship renewed (if eligible) based upon their cumulative GPA in their last semester at WWC. (i.e. Student applies for a LOA in the spring, the student must successfully complete that semester meeting all eligibility requirements for renewal of their honor/merit scholarship.)

This exception must originate and be finalized prior to the last day of classes of the academic year of the LOA. The student must return to WWC after no more than two consecutive semesters in order for WWC to honor the renewal process.

Appeal Process

Only students who lose their total merit scholarship are eligible for appeal. Please note that even if an appeal is granted, the student may only be awarded at 50% of merit amount until your GPA is raised to your requirement. Students with approved appeals will not be granted their full amount. The full amount will be reinstated when your GPA is at the required level. Students may request to appeal the reduction of the honor/merit by visiting the Financial Aid Office and completing the appeal process. To appeal the student will be required to submit the following items for consideration. You may request these forms by visiting the Financial Aid Office.

- *Merit Scholarship Appeal Form with appropriate documentation attached*
- *Academic Plan to be attached to the Appeal Form (must be signed and developed with The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and/or Academic Support)*

What is an Academic Plan for the Merit Scholarship Appeal?

The minimum requirements for an "academic plan" will include the following. Students may set additional conditions for themselves but must remember that a failure to meet the "plan", including the conditions set for yourself, could result in a loss of aid after the first semester. Failure to meet the plan combined with a failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and or any Academic Standing issues by the end of the second semester will result in a loss of aid with no further options for appeal. We encourage students to use any and all resources available to them on campus; tutoring, writing center, etc.

The minimum requirements to appeal with an academic plan are:

- Students must fully and legibly complete the Merit Scholarship Appeal Form. Please attach any and all documentation to support the circumstances of the appeal. This form is to be turned in to the Financial Aid Office.
- Provide a written plan for their academic success for their next semester(s) and academic year and attach it to their appeal form. *This academic plan must be signed and developed with The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and/or Academic Support.*
- Students must pass a minimum of 12 credits each semester in courses that are required for your degree **only**.
- A student's cumulative GPA must show improvement by the end of the first semester, showing that they are moving toward their required cumulative GPA at the end of the second semester.
- List of any additional goals that students can set for themselves.

A probationary period (with an academic plan) may be given, but is null and void if a student is suspended for any reason in the next semester. The process of completing the Merit Scholarship Appeal Form and signing the Academic Plan Form contract does not guarantee approval of an appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office. The student's academic transcript and any pending class schedule will also be reviewed during this process.