

**INFORMATION**  
**November 8, 2024**

**HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD**

**BOARD REPORT #25-08**

**25-26 WI Grant Program Description**

## WISCONSIN GRANT (WG)

### INTRODUCTION

HEAB administers three WG programs: Wisconsin Technical College System, Wisconsin Tribal Colleges, and University of Wisconsin System. The general structure for the 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. There are three components in the formula:

**(Student Budget – Student Aid Index (SAI) 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 program, 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):** The SAI is an index number that represents a student's family's financial strength and ability to pay for college. It's calculated using information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The SAI is based on a family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits received. The calculation includes adjusted gross income; deductible payments to retirement accounts; tax-exempt interest; untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions; foreign income exclusion; assets and benefits received, like Social Security or unemployment.

**Student Award Percentage:** Percentage of student budget (less SAI) used to calculate individual financial aid awards. It is used to determine the maximum grant that can be awarded to any student. The award is different for all three WG programs. Within each program (Tribal Colleges, WI Technical Colleges, and University of WI system) 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.

***To calculate individual financial aid awards:***

(Student budget – Student Aid Index) x Student award Percentage = Award

***To calculate the maximum award for any of the WG (Tribal, Technical Colleges & University System) programs:***

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. The appropriations are set by the legislature and 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 Student Budget or the Student Award Percentage:** If either is increased, the amount awarded to each student increases. These figures are changed only with Board approval.

**SAI:** The SAI is determined by the Federal Government for each individual student and cannot be set or changed by the Board.

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Students apply for financial aid online 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).