



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2024/2025

Annual REPORT

Investing in today's student

to facilitate success in tomorrow's world

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🌐 wichita.edu/financialaid



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DEAR *COLLEAGUES*,



Sheelu Surender

Assistant Vice Provost, Financial Aid & Scholarships

On behalf of the **Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships**, I am honored to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report. Guided by our mission of access, affordability, and student success, this year has reaffirmed our commitment to supporting students from the moment they first consider Wichita State University through each stage of their academic journey.

Despite continued uncertainty, especially delays in the FAFSA process, we achieved **record levels of support**. More aid was disbursed to more students than ever before in WSU's history. This achievement would not have been possible without the persistent, compassionate work of our team, who helped students and families navigate complex policies and processes to ensure that our service was always centered on those we serve.

This year, our programs have focused on **ensuring that financial aid opens doors**: providing need-based aid for students with true financial barriers; **awarding merit-based scholarships** to recruit and retain academically outstanding students; and **coordinating with all university partners to maximize impact**. Together with University leadership, Academic Colleges, the WSU Foundation, and Financial Operations, we strengthened collaborations to ensure equitable, timely disbursement, reconciliation of aid funds, and robust accountability.

Key highlights from the year include **awarding over \$128 million in aid to more than 12,000 students, processing upwards of 33,000 financial aid applications, and refining our internal policies and systems to better serve students**. As we share this report, I invite you to reflect on how each number represents a student's dream, a family's perseverance, and a community's shared investment in higher education.

Looking ahead, we will build on this momentum - continuing to enhance policy clarity, streamline technology, strengthen partnerships, and remain responsive to legislative and regulatory changes. Our focus remains resolute: **to make WSU a place where potential is not limited by circumstance**.

Thank you to all who partnered with us - students, staff, faculty, community stakeholders, & policy makers - for your trust and collaboration. Together, we will continue to move forward.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



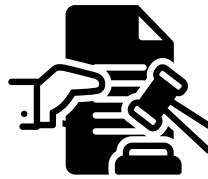
\$128 million awarded
to **12,556** students



5,533 First Gen Students
receiving financial aid &
scholarships



Received **19,010** individual
financial aid applications



Reviewed **478** Financial Aid
Satisfactory Academic
Progress appeals



Disbursed **\$4,391,418** in
outside scholarships to
1,387 students



Verified **544** student files



71% of degree-seeking students at Wichita State University
used financial aid resources.



Financial aid disbursed into **31% scholarship, 41% loan,**
27% grant, and 1% work study.



More than 880 students attended Shocker Financial
Wellness workshops.



Hosted the **third Shocker Promise Academy**, an exclusive
program for our Shocker Promise Scholars.



Various staff members attended **five** financial aid
conferences and training seminars.



Advised **5,515** students on regarding scholarships, FAFSA
completion, withdraw impact, loans, and more.



Doubled the amount of gift aid (scholarships & grants)
disbursed since 2014-15.





ABOUT THE OFA

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (OFA) follows students throughout their entire college life cycle. From recruitment, matriculation, and retention, through graduation and even loan repayment, we're here to help.

With college costs on the rise everywhere, we know that paying for college can be complex, overwhelming, and at times, intimidating. That's why our well-trained staff regularly build long-lasting relationships with students and families as they navigate the path to paying for college. The OFA is open Monday through Friday in 203 Jardine Hall or virtually to assist students with financial aid questions and resources.

Because federal, state, and institutional dollars are at stake, awarding and disbursing financial aid accurately and efficiently are central to our mission. Experienced and well-trained financial aid staff are mission-critical to ensuring that Wichita State maintains its eligibility to participate in the Title IV financial aid programs. The office has more than 250 years of combined experience with 20 staff members and nine student employees.

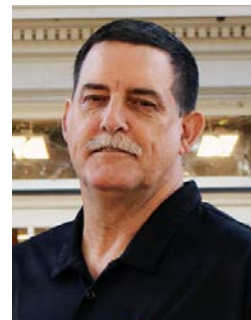
Meet the Team



SHEELU SURENDER
Asst. Vice Provost



DONNA CARTER
Director of Operations



JEFF BEVER
Director of Systems



WILL FULLS
Compliance Officer



JULIE SCOTT
Business Technology
& Data Analyst



ANGIE LINDER
Office Manager



MARISSA KOUNS
Associate Director,
Post-Award



CHRISTINA COVEY
Associate Director,
Pre-Award



ANGIE ZEORLIN
Associate Director,
Scholarships



TRANG BUI-TIEU
Manager, Advising
Student Impact



ANTONIO HERNANDEZ
Financial Aid
Advisor



JANET HARTLEY
Financial Aid &
Wellness Advisor



HEATHER HILL
Financial Aid
Advisor



AMANDA DUFFY
Financial Aid
Advisor



ARLENE THOMSEN
Senior Program
Specialist, Post-Award



JESSICA CASPER
Senior Program
Specialist, Post-Award



TRANG TRINH
Program Specialist,
Post-Award



KRISTEN LAVOIE
Senior Program Specialist,
Scholarships



RYAN HERBEL
Eligibility Specialist,
Pre-Award



**MICHELLE PAGE-
BRADFORD**
Eligibility Specialist,
Pre-Award



**AINSLEY GALLAGHER
ALEX GARLOW
CALLEIGH HERNANDEZ
CINDY MIJARES
ELLIOTT COPP
LANCE DAVIS
LENA SIMONO
MYAH WALIYAYA
NEYMARA FREEMAN**

FINANCIAL AID
Federal Work
Study Students

Staff Development & Training

Financial aid processing is a highly regulated and compliance-driven industry; thus, a well-trained staff is vital to being able to award and disburse aid year after year. To that end, our staff regularly participate in a variety of industry-specific professional development trainings.

Conferences & Training

- April 2024:** Coalition of State University Aid Administrators (COSUUA)
- April 2024:** Ellucian LIVE
- June 2024:** Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Summer Institute, *hosted by Wichita State*
- Oct 2024:** Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Annual Conference
- Nov 2024:** Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA) Training



Attending the **2025 RMASFAA Summer Institute through the Leadership Institute** scholarship was an incredible opportunity that allowed me to grow both professionally and personally. I was honored to receive one of KASFAA'S Summer Institute 2025 Scholarships, which is a nationally recognized week of training for financial aid administrators, and this scholarship covered my attendance to the Institute.

Thanks to this support, I was able to connect with passionate financial aid professionals from across the region, deepen my knowledge of federal regulations, and build lasting relationships with mentors and peers. As part of the scholarship, I also had the privilege of joining the Association of News & Publicity Committee where we continue to spread news, fun, and inspiration through the association. This experience has truly inspired me to become more involved in the financial aid world and continue developing as a leader in this field. - **Antonio Hernandez, Financial Aid Advisor**

What is Financial Aid?



Financial aid is any grant, scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help students meet their college expenses.

Aid is usually provided by various sources such as federal and state agencies, colleges, foundations, private donors, and corporations.

HOW AID IS DISTRIBUTED



LOAN



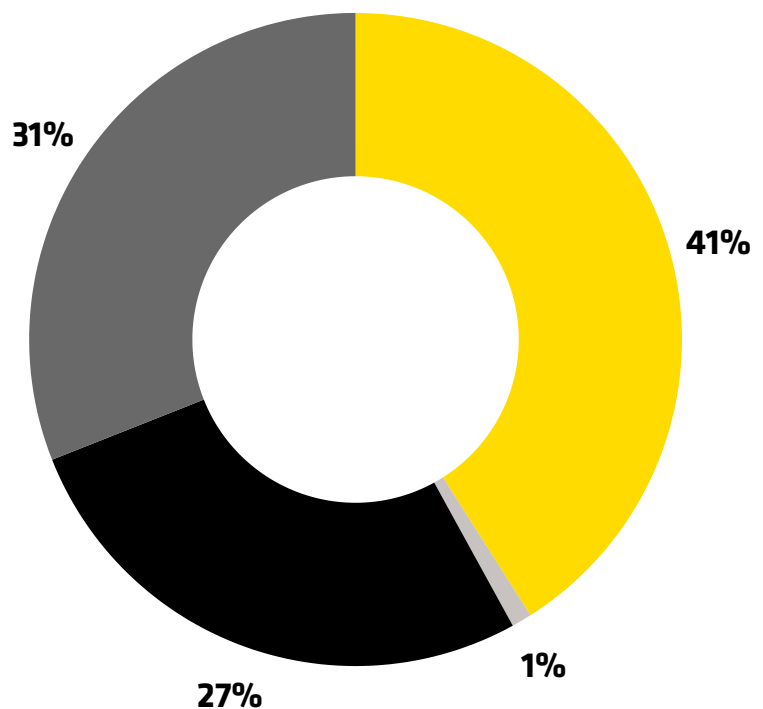
SCHOLARSHIP



GRANT

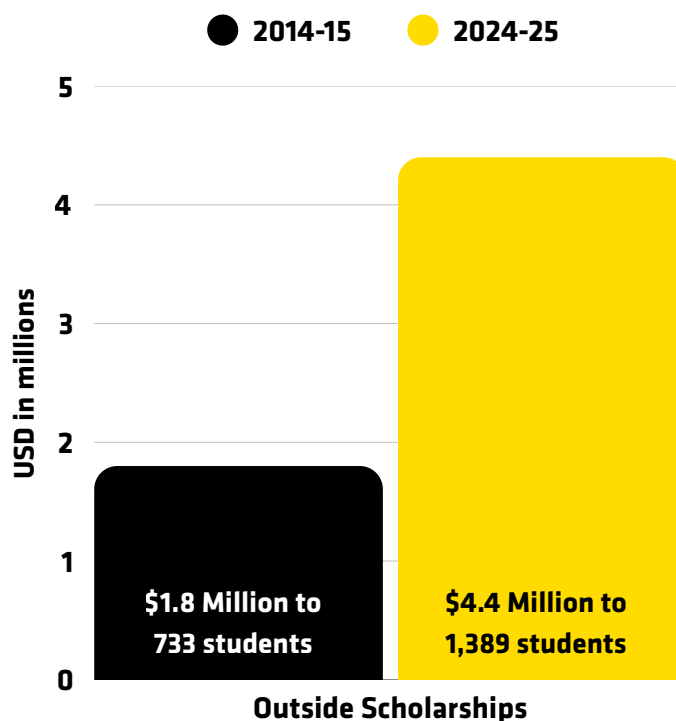
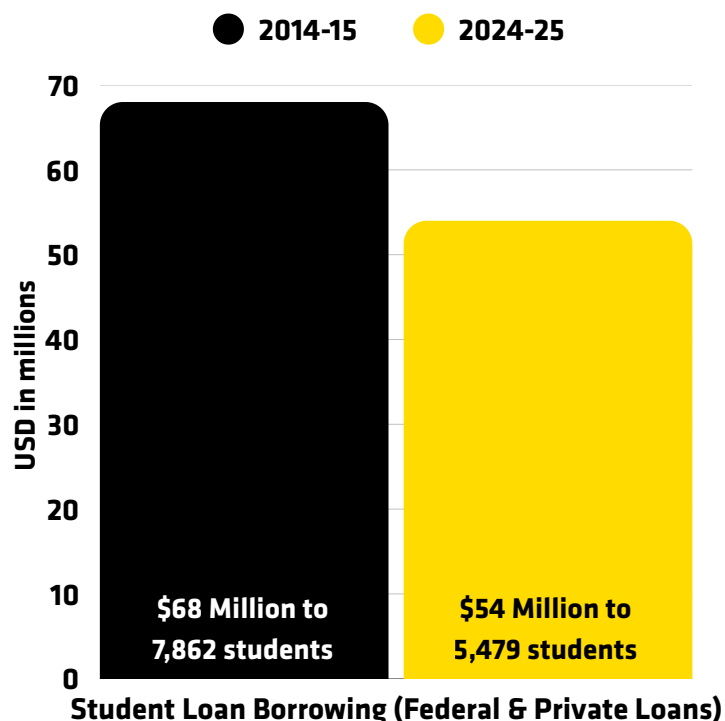
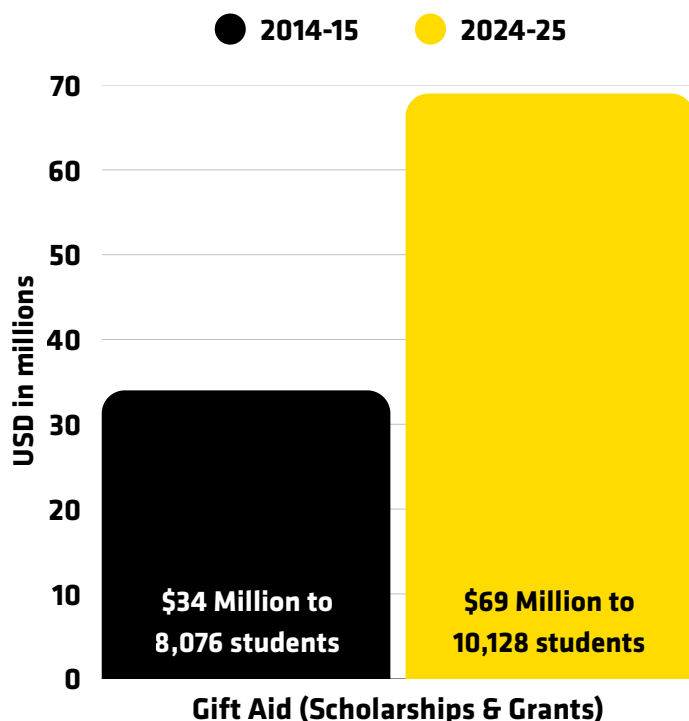


WORK STUDY





Financial Aid Trends



Beyond the *Dollars*

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While compliance drives the rules behind financial aid policy, at its heart, the OFA is a student-oriented service office.

Besides disbursing financial aid funds, the OFA strives to assist and educate students - offering them the information, resources, and understanding necessary to become fiscally responsible and successful citizens of the world economy and work force.

Towards this end, the OFA offers financial aid advising services throughout the year and a robust outreach/events presence on campus and in the surrounding Wichita community.

Towards this end, the OFA offers financial aid advising services throughout the year and a robust outreach/events presence on campus and in the surrounding Wichita community.



5,023

Visitors to the OFA



5,515

Advising meeting with students



179

Presentations and events



2,758

Emails answered from the general account



292,192

Outbound emails and letters



36,691

Outbound phone calls



1,651

OneStop cases answered



174

Social media posts



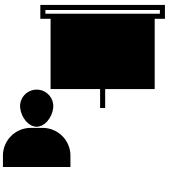
SHOCKER FINANCIAL WELLNESS



Over **215** students received
Peer Coaching



Over **880** students attended
workshops



Hosted over **30** workshops,
organization, scholar, & seminar
presentations



Partnered with **8** campus offices
(OFA, SGA, Student Health,
Clothes Closet, Career Accelerator,
Library, Housing & Residency Life)



Received **1,356** interactions on
social media



Shocker Financial Wellness helps students gain awareness and confidence about personal finances so that they can make smart financial decisions during and after college. We offer free support through workshops, tabling, peer advising, and classroom presentations. These resources are intended to connect students with tools and skills to learn about budgeting, money management, responsible borrowing, credit, and more.

Having control over one's finances can help students reach their financial goals and reduce stress or anxiety, while also positively impacting their academic performance. With resources to maintain healthy finances, students can focus on continuing to pursue their degree.



Shocker Promise Academy

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships hosted our third Shocker Promise Academy, an exclusive program for our Shocker Promise Scholars. This program took place Aug. 5th to 9th.

The Shocker Promise Scholarship was established in 2021 as a last payee award exclusively for our Shocker Neighborhood students. As of today, the scholarship program has expanded to include all Kansas residents who qualify. Eligible students must be Kansas residents, have a minimum unweighted 2.5 high school GPA, and an annual family income of less than \$60,000.

Students who are awarded the Shocker Promise scholarship have an opportunity to attend Shocker Promise Academy, a week long retreat, prior to the start of fall classes. Shocker Promise Academy focuses on introducing students to on-campus resources/opportunities, connecting with other Promise Scholars, and take a free 3-credit-hour course that introduces students to core skills needed to be a successful college student.





Meet the *Shocker Promise Scholars*

“**Shocker Promise** helped me get involved with the **Study Abroad program**; it pointed me in the right direction of who to contact to do the things that I wanted to do. It also took off some of my financial burden by paying the tuition, which was a lifesaver.

I would highly recommend the **Study Abroad program** if you want to grow as a person. You get put in uncomfortable situations, but it feels amazing figuring everything out and having control of your life. I feel like I have matured and learned to do with things more responsibly.”



Diana Ursita, a Shocker Promise scholar and a Junior majoring in International Business. Seen here with her study abroad cohort in Japan.



Damien Esparza-Aranda, a Shocker Promise scholar, mentor, and a Senior majoring in History Education.

“Thanks to the **Shocker Promise Scholarship**, I’ve been given the invaluable gift of a debt-free education, but more importantly, the opportunity to grow as a mentor, connecting with incoming freshmen and fostering relationships with university staff on a personal level.

This program has not only empowered me to pursue my dream of becoming an educator, but it has also allowed me to contribute to a vibrant campus community and shape the next generation of students.”

Scholarships

Recognizing excellence in and outside the classroom.

Definition

Scholarships are gift aid (no repayment required) based on academic or other merit-worthy achievement, but in some cases, financial need may also be considered.

Source	Amount	Recipients
Institutional	\$29,591,731	7,712
Private	\$4,391,418	1,387
Athletic	\$4,949,862	382
State	\$5,739,447	2,504

General Scholarships

Incoming/new students are awarded through Merit Scholarships, the Distinguished Scholarship Invitational (DSI), and other programs and specific scholarship applications.

Continuing/current students are awarded through renewals and recommendations from each academic college or a scholarship organization.

Academic College Scholarships

Colleges award over \$5 million annually and are coordinated with the OFA to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Athletic

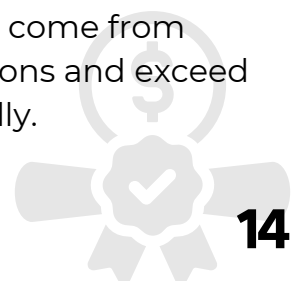
The Athletic Department awards over \$4 million in grant-in-aid and coordinates awards with the OFA to ensure compliance with NCAA regulations.

Dept. & Campus Organizations

These scholarships are awarded through departmental funds, student fee allocations, and/or grants.

Outside Scholarships

These scholarships come from external organizations and exceed \$4.4 million annually.



Grants

Need-based aid to help limited income students.

Definition

Grants are gift aid (no repayment required) and are generally awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate significant financial need based on filing the FAFSA.

Source	Amount	Recipients
Federal Pell Grant	\$28,680,171	5,148
SEOG	\$835,032	529
TEACH Grant	\$107,126	41
KS Comprehensive	\$4,086,039	2,288
Other State Grants	\$296,861	65

Types of Grants

While the Federal Pell Grant is the most common program, the OFA also manages the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the Federal TEACH Grant, the Kansas Comprehensive Grant, and Wichita State's institutional grant program: Shocker Promise..

Pell Grants

To remain eligible for their grants, students must begin academically related activity in all of their courses, must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress, and for the Pell, SEOG, IASG, or Kansas Comprehensive Grant, cannot have previously earned a bachelor's degree.

The amount of their award is based on their Student Aid Index (SAI) from the FAFSA, as well as their eligible, enrolled credit hours on the Financial Aid Recalculation Date (often corresponds with each semester's last day for 100% tuition refund).

Need-Based Programs

Shocker Opportunity Fund

Designed to help qualifying students through small, unexpected financial emergencies.

Shocker Completion Grant

Designed to help students with necessary educational expenses who are in their final 24 credit hours and who have exhausted other forms of financial aid - including loans.

Shocker Book Scholarships

Designed to help students with the purchase of required textbooks once they have exhausted other forms of financial aid.

Loans



Self-help aid that must be repaid over time.

Definition

Loans are considered self-help aid, as the funds must be repaid. When used responsibly, they can be an effective option for students and families to meet educational costs.

Source	Amount	Recipients
Direct	\$50,516,180	5,368
Subsidized	\$13,536,435	3,425
Unsubsidized	\$30,003,177	4,368
Parent PLUS	\$3,928,480	278
Graduate PLUS	\$2,313,733	149
Private	\$4,408,908	354

Types of Loans

The OFA Post-Award team administers the Federal Direct Loan programs, which includes Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS Loans, and also certifies alternative educational (private) loans.

Subsidized

Awarded based on financial need. Students are not responsible for the interest while they are enrolled at least half-time.

Unsubsidized

Not based on financial need and will begin to accrue interest once the loans are disbursed.

Parent PLUS

Credit-based, fixed-interest-rate loans available to parents of dependent students.

Grad PLUS

Credit-based, fixed-interest-rate loans available to graduate students after they have used their annual unsubsidized loans.

Federal Direct Loan Program

Wichita State participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) acts as both lender and guarantor for Direct Loans, so only two agencies are involved: the federal government and the university. The university originates loans and disburses students' loan funds when they have been approved. Repayments are made to an ED Federal Direct Loan Servicer.

Work Study

Earning a paycheck and valuable work experience.

Definition

Work study, which is considered self-aid aid because students work for the financial aid funds, enables students to work alongside university professionals to gain valuable work experience in an environment that cultivates their professional skills, but also recognizes that first and foremost, they are students.

Student Employees

While participation in the Federal Work Study program requires financial need, departmental employment is available to students regardless of financial need, and in those hiring cases, the student's wages are paid entirely by the hiring department.

Where Does the Funding Come From?

Federal Work Study is funded 75% by the federal government, and 25% by the institution.

Awards to students are based on financial need.

Federal Work Study Student Profile

“When I began attending Wichita State University, I was concerned that I would be lost after graduating when it came to the professional world. I’m a busy student, so getting acclimated to such a scene before graduating didn’t seem like a possibility for me. Since I started working at the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships as a federal work study student, I’ve had the opportunity to grow professionally while while working towards my degree.

I feel very lucky to work in an environment where being a student comes first. It allows me to build my work schedule around my academic and personal needs and have supervisors who are dedicated to helping me understand what it’s like to work in an office environment. Thanks to the Federal Work Study program, breaking out into the workforce after I earn my degree is much less daunting now that I have skills and experience that I can bring with me to future careers.”



Lance Davis, a participant in the federal work study program and a Junior majoring in History and French, and minoring in Anthropology.



How **YOU** Can Help



Costs have long been identified as a factor in student retention, and we know it takes a village to graduate.

Here's how you can help us spread the word about financial aid resources:

**The FAFSA is
now OPEN!**

STUDENTAID.GOV

Encourage Your Students To...

- ➔ Complete the FAFSA by the WSU priority date - December 1st (it becomes available annually on October 1st).
- ➔ Apply for scholarships from Wichita State and outside agencies:
 - wichita.edu/collegescholarships
- ➔ Visit with our friendly financial aid advisors when they are experiencing financial hardships or have a change in their family's financial situation.
- ➔ Talk with a financial aid advisor before dropping a course. While dropping may be in the student's best academic interest, it can have an impact on their current and future financial aid.

Our Future *Focus*

01

Enhancing Communication Around Federal Aid Changes

With significant updates to federal financial aid policies – our office will prioritize proactive, transparent communication with students and families. This includes updating digital resources, hosting informational sessions, and collaborating with campus partners to ensure timely and accurate guidance.

02

Expanding Shocker Promise for Greater Access & Affordability

Building on the success of the Shocker Promise Scholarship, we aim to broaden eligibility and outreach to underserved communities across Kansas. Our goal is to reduce financial barriers for more students, particularly first-generation and low-income applicants, by increasing awareness and streamlining the application process.

03

Leveraging Data to Improve Student Support & Retention

We will invest in data-driven strategies to identify students at risk of financial hardship and intervene early. This includes refining our scholarship awarding models, tracking unmet need, and integrating financial aid insights into campus-wide student success initiatives.





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**FINANCIAL AID
& SCHOLARSHIPS**

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For more information, visit wichita.edu/policy

Visit us on Social Media

 @wichitastatefinaid

 Wichita State Financial Aid