
NSHE FEE WAIVERS

JUNE 20, 2024

For Presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education

FEE WAIVER CONCEPTS

- A fee waiver is a full or partial release from the requirement of payment of a fee, typically the base registration fee, but may include other fees, including special course fees (e.g., lab fees)
- A fee waiver covers the portion of the cost of higher education normally paid by the student
- A fee waiver may result in foregone revenue that would otherwise be collected by an institution



FEE WAIVER CHARACTERISTICS



NATIONAL GUARD FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2003)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Nevada Legislature ([NRS 396.544](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - Nevada National Guard members
 - Child or spouse of a member killed in the line of duty (w/time limitations)
 - Child or spouse upon each term of reenlistment (one person per each reenlistment term)
- **Courses covered**
 - State-supported undergraduate and graduate level programs (except law, medical, and dental professional schools)
- **Fees waived**
 - Base registration fee and certain laboratory fees

POW/MIA FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2009)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Nevada Legislature ([NRS 396.5445](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - Children or widower of an individual identified as a Prisoner-of-War or Missing-in-Action
 - Child or spouse of a member killed in the line of duty (w/time limitations)
 - Child or spouse upon each term of reenlistment (one person per each reenlistment term)
- **Courses covered**
 - State-supported undergraduate and graduate level programs (except law, medical, and dental professional schools)
- **Fees waived**
 - Base registration fee and certain laboratory fees

ACTIVE-DUTY FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2014)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Board of Regents ([Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 17](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - Members of the Armed Forces on active duty who are permanently stationed in Nevada or at the Marine Corp Mountain Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California
- **Courses covered**
 - State-supported undergraduate and graduate level programs (except law, medical, and dental professional schools)
- **Fees Waived**
 - Special course fees, student fees and other mandatory fees except the base per-credit registration fee

FOSTER YOUTH FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2018)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Board of Regents ([Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 13](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - A student who was in the custody of a child welfare agency in Nevada after the student was 13 years of age
- **Courses covered**
 - State-supported undergraduate and graduate level programs (except law, medical, and dental professional schools)
- **Fees Waived**
 - Base registration and certain laboratory fees

PURPLE HEART FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2019)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Nevada Legislature ([NRS 396.5443](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - A student who is a veteran of the Armed Forces who has been awarded the Purple Heart, or a child of such a veteran with certain restrictions
 - Not limited to veterans who were permanently stationed in Nevada – thus may come from any where in the U.S.
- **Courses covered**
 - State-supported undergraduate and graduate level programs
 - First fee waiver that includes law, medical, and dental professional schools
- **Fees Waived**
 - The balance of base registration and other mandatory fees after other federal benefits have been applied

NATIVE AMERICAN FEE WAIVER (ADOPTED 2021)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Nevada Legislature ([NRS 396.5449](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - Enrolled members or descendants of an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe or nation and meets one of the following criteria:
 - Classified by an NSHE institution as an in-state resident for tuition purposes;
 - A member or descendant of an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe or nation all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada; or
 - A resident on tribal land all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada, whether the student's actual residence was located within or outside of the boundaries of Nevada and has been a resident for not less than one year.
- **Courses Covered**
 - All state-supported and self-supporting courses including but not limited to degree-eligible and non-degree eligible courses and professional programs including medical school, law school, etc.
- **Fees waived**
 - Base registration and all other mandatory fees

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR (ADOPTED 2023)

- **Establishing Authority**
 - Board of Regents ([Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 15](#))
- **Who is Eligible**
 - A member or veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor or a child of such a member or veteran
- **Courses Covered**
 - Program leading to a certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's, or professional degree
- **Fees Waived**
 - The balance of base registration and other mandatory fees after other federal benefits have been applied



FEE WAIVER STATISTICS



FEE WAIVER PROGRAMS: NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

Fee Waiver Program	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*
Active-Duty Military FW	270	200	211	191	203
Foster Youth FW	78	89	121	124	136
Native American FW			140	174	452
Nevada National Guard FW	739	780	719	758	805
Purple Heart Recipients FW	2	0	1	2	6
Grand Total	1,089	1,069	1,192	1,249	1,602

*Preliminary Data

Note: MIA/POW and Congressional medal of Honor Fee Waivers did not have fees waived during these periods

Source: NSHE Student Data Warehouse

FEE WAIVER PROGRAMS: AMOUNTS WAIVED

Fee Waiver Program	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*
Active-Duty Military FW	\$79,534	\$76,582	\$80,410	\$78,959	\$69,614
Foster Youth FW	\$237,443	\$331,099	\$426,478	\$506,339	\$566,040
Native American FW			\$470,459	\$702,212	\$2,128,012
Nevada National Guard FW	\$2,421,796	\$2,802,671	\$2,707,003	\$2,817,561	\$3,333,376
Purple Heart Recipients FW	\$1,410	\$0	\$2,481	\$7,648	\$17,429
Grand Total	\$2,740,183	\$3,210,353	\$3,686,831	\$4,112,720	\$6,114,470

*Preliminary Data

Note: MIA/POW and Congressional medal of Honor Fee Waivers did not have fees waived during these periods

Source: NSHE Student Data Warehouse

FEE WAIVER PROGRAMS: 2022-23 RECIPIENT RACE/ETHNICITY

Fee Waiver Program	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White, Non-Hispanic	Not Reported
Active-Duty Military FW	1%	11%	21%	27%	2%	10%	22%	6%
Foster Youth FW	2%	5%	14%	27%	1%	12%	38%	2%
Native American FW	61%	0%	0%	11%	1%	24%	1%	1%
Nevada National Guard FW	0%	11%	4%	36%	1%	9%	35%	4%
Purple Heart Recipients FW	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	0%

Source: NSHE Student Data Warehouse

FEE WAIVER PROGRAMS: 2022-23 RECIPIENT PERSISTENCE

Institution	Active-Duty Military FW	Foster Youth FW	Native American FW	Nevada National Guard FW	Purple Heart Recipients FW
UNLV	51%	83%	89%	86%	100%
UNR	N/A	71%	85%	85%	N/A
NSU	N/A	100%	N/A	82%	N/A
CSN	42%	47%	33%	67%	0%
GBC	N/A	0%	70%	100%	N/A
TMCC	N/A	50%	49%	57%	N/A
WNC	N/A	50%	52%	50%	N/A

Note: persistence defined as students who received the fee waiver in Fall 2022 and enrolled in Fall 2023 at an NSHE institution or graduated with a certificate or degree

Source: NSHE Student Data Warehouse



FEE WAIVERS & AFFORDABILITY



FEE WAIVERS AND AFFORDABILITY

Fee Waivers can play an important role in financing a student's higher education. The impact the fee waiver has on affordability depends on how the waiver is structured.

Impacts

- Directly paying for student tuition and fees
- Combining with other student aid to pay for indirect costs (housing, meals, transportation, etc)
- Encouraging FAFSA completion
- Encouraging degree completion

Last Dollar vs First Dollar

- “Last Dollar” waivers only pay toward the balance of tuition and fees after other aid has applied
- “First Dollar” waivers pay toward tuition and fees regardless of other aid, thus a student's financial assistance may pay toward other educational costs

UNDERGRADUATE COST OF ATTENDANCE 2023-24 (OFF-CAMPUS)

In 2023-24 NSHE institutions' average cost of tuition and fees ranked in top 5 most affordable within western states for undergraduate, graduate, and community college students.* However, other costs such as housing and food must be taken into consideration for a full understanding of affordability.

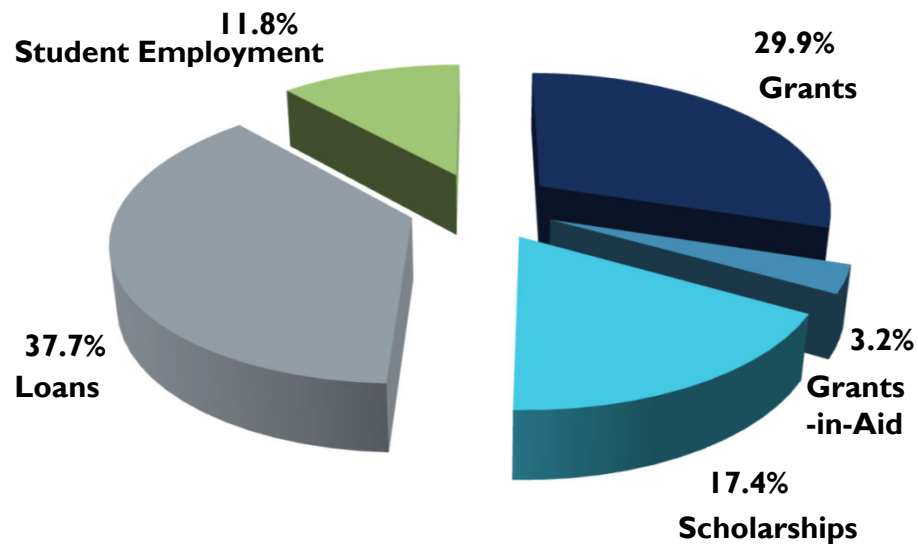
Institution	Tuition & Fees	Books & Supplies	Room & Board	Transportation	Personal	Total COA
UNLV	\$9,143	\$1,240	\$13,200	\$2,540	\$2,908	\$29,031
UNR	\$8,994	\$1,200	\$13,700	\$2,550	\$2,820	\$29,264
NSU	\$6,368	\$1,625	\$10,979	\$3,000	\$3,771	\$25,743
CSN	\$4,110	\$1,324	\$10,944	\$1,986	\$2,968	\$21,332
GBC	\$3,690	\$1,670	\$14,500	\$2,400	\$1,500	\$23,760
TMCC	\$4,230	\$856	\$16,812	\$3,360	\$2,006	\$27,264
WNC	\$3,920	\$840	\$14,156	\$3,310	\$2,894	\$25,120

* According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Tuition & Fees in Public Higher Education in the West*, 2023-24.

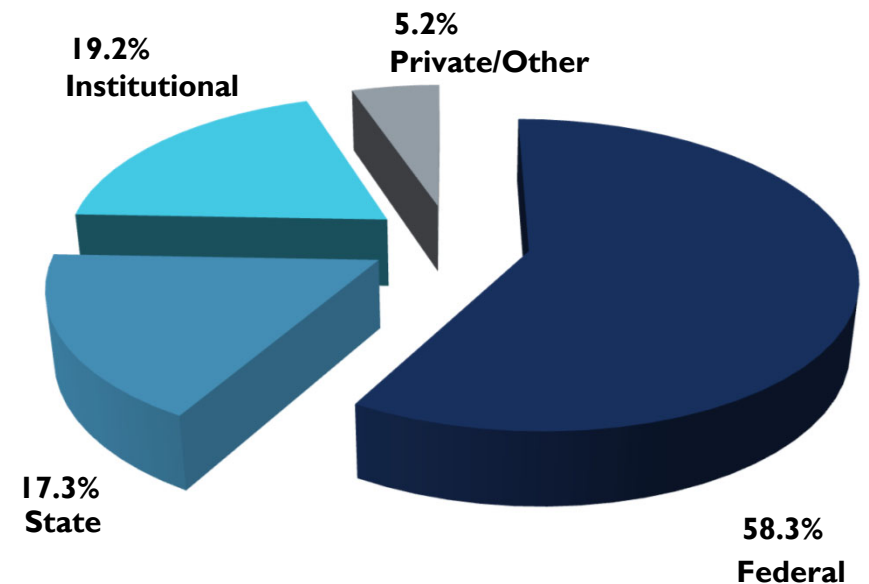
FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED 2022-23

In the 2022-23 school year \$683.2 million in student aid were disbursed to NSHE students.

By Category



By Source



Source: NSHE Data Warehouse, [2022-23 Financial Aid Report](#)



FEE WAIVER RECOMMENDATIONS



STANDARDIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Challenges

- Not all fee waivers require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Fee waivers have disparate continuing eligibility requirements, some of which are not in line with federal and state aid requirements

Recommendations

- Require all waiver applicants eligible to complete the FAFSA a condition of eligibility
- Adopt Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as the continuing eligibility requirement for all waivers

Results

- The FAFSA requirement encourages students to apply for federal financial assistance to supplement the fee waiver
- The SAP requirement leads to a standard methodology of continuing eligibility which is in line with federal student aid requirements

STANDARDIZE COURSES COVERED

Challenges

- Courses covered by fee waivers currently vary, which causes issues of fairness between waivers and is confusing to students
- A relatively small number of students using a fee-waiver in a self-supported program can make the program unsustainable; this is also true for professional programs with smaller class sizes

Recommendations

- Standardize covered courses to be state-funded courses applying toward an undergraduate or graduate degree and exclude professional programs

Results

- Fairness across fee waivers
- Easy to understand list of courses covered by fee waivers
- The most generous waivers that currently include non-credit and professional programs would have a reduction in eligible programs. However, this can help the financial sustainability of the waivers while ensuring that benefits are spread out among more students

STANDARDIZE FEES WAIVED

Challenges

- Waiver programs include differing fees waived, and some being “last dollar” waivers that only cover the balance of student fees after other aid has applied

Recommendations

- Standardize the fees covered by waivers

Results

- Fairness across fee waivers
- Easy to understand list of fees covered by waivers

ESTABLISH A LONG-TERM FUNDING SOURCE

Challenges

- Fees waived have increased from \$2.7 million in 2018-19 to \$6.1 million in 2023-24, and are expected to continue increasing

Recommendation

- For state-mandated fee waivers, create a state appropriation and fee waiver account in the state general fund (similar to Nevada Promise Scholarship)
 - Base appropriation on projected costs for the following biennium
 - Appropriated funds carry forward to next fiscal year

Results

- Ensures long-term feasibility of programs and fee waivers

QUESTIONS?