



Project Gateway

FAQs

Do I need to be full-time to receive Gateway funding?

Yes, you do have to be full-time unless otherwise approved by this office.

How long can I receive Gateway funding?

Frosh: As with all College grant funds, your eligibility is restricted to eight semesters. If you need a ninth or tenth term, you will be awarded only loans, and, if you are eligible, a Pell Grant.

Transfers: Generally a Gateway eligible student can receive 8 semesters of funding. Your previous academic credits are counted in the total number of semesters of eligibility. For example, if you enter with the equivalent of two semesters, you will have six semesters of Gateway funding. If you are a Virginia Community College Graduate, you will enter as a junior and have four semesters of grant eligibility. If you need additional terms beyond this schedule, you can receive federal loans and, if you are eligible, a Pell Grant for up to two more semesters.

How do I retain this award for future years?

We base Project Gateway eligibility on your having a family income, including taxable and nontaxable money, of less than \$40,000 and meeting our March 15 FAFSA filing deadline for returning students.

What if my income goes over \$40,000?

We understand that you will have increases in earnings from year to year and may go over this level. As long as the rise is fairly small and in line with inflationary changes, i.e. 3-4% per year currently, you will continue to receive the Project Gateway award. If the increase is larger than this amount, your aid will be the same as other needy Virginians, who receive some of their aid in loan rather than all grants.

What if my domicile (residency) status changes to non-Virginian?

You must be a Virginia resident to be eligible for the Gateway program.

If all of my need is met with grant, why do I have any loan eligibility listed?

In many cases, Gateway students will have a very low expected contribution and will not have any loan eligibility. In a few cases, however, your expected contribution will result in an unsubsidized Stafford Loan or PLUS (Parent Loan) being part of your offer. You may, if you wish, borrow that amount through the offered loans so that your **total cost**, not only your demonstrated financial need, can be met. Please look at the Financial Aid Guide at www.wm.edu/financialaid for further information on student loans. If you want us to send you a copy, please email us at finaid@wm.edu or give us a call.

How is my refund handled?

In most cases, you will be eligible for a refund to help with your books and living expenses. When you arrive on campus, you should contact Student Accounts to move up to \$500 of your refund to your debit card. The remaining refund will be provided at the end of add-drop, which is about a week into the semester. Please contact us if you need a refund before then.

What happens if I receive outside scholarship money?

Your full financial need has been met through the Gateway program. Any additional outside money will reduce your Gateway Grant dollar for dollar.

What if I have to withdraw during a semester?

You need to contact us before you make the decision. If you have received a refund, some of it may have to be repaid.

Is Gateway funding available for summer school?

No, we do not provide any grant money during the summer. Student loans or PLUS (Parent Loans) will be available for you.

Can I receive Gateway funding if I study abroad?

Yes, you can receive grant money up to the amount it would cost you to attend WM for that semester. If the abroad program costs more, you could borrow the additional expense through student loans or PLUS.

Am I eligible to work on campus?

Absolutely! Please contact this office close to the start of the semester if you are having trouble finding employment on campus. Please make sure that your total employment hours do not exceed 10-15 hours per week. For further information about employment, please visit <http://www.wm.edu/financialaid/studentjobs.php>

I need a laptop; how can I cover that cost?

All full time Gateway students taking 12 credits or more will automatically be provided the College's standard Dell laptop. Further details will be provided later. We regret that we are unable to provide the Macbook as part of this program.