Even before you are admitted to Western.....

- Begin Your Financial Aid Paperwork and Scholarship Search Now
  - Review Washington State Financial Aid Resources: wsac.wa.gov/apply
  - Create your profile on the Washington Student Achievement Council’s (WSAC) online scholarship search website: www.thewashboard.org and search for unique Washington State scholarships
  - Search Western’s website for scholarships: www.finaid.wwu.edu/scholarships
  - Search Woodring’s website for scholarships: wce.wwu.edu/scholarships
  - Search local organizations and businesses (including banks and credit unions) for scholarships
  - See WEA Magnuson Grant ($1500) / Priority for BIPOC / WA State - any ESP is eligible / comes out in the Spring:
    - forms.washingtoneaa.org/Forms/MagnusonScholarship
  - Western provides support for undocumented and DACA-eligible students: www.finaid.wwu.edu/scholarships/pages/undocumented_students.php
  - Undocumented students who are ineligible to complete the FAFSA due to immigration status may instead complete the Washington Application for Student Financial Aid (WASFA) at wsac.wa.gov/wasfa
  - Western offers a wide variety of unique scholarships, so be organized and start searching
  - Be aware of scholarship application deadlines, as these do vary

Washington State and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) offer some unique incentives that are specific to teacher education students that plan to teach in Washington K-12 public schools. Conditional Loans (i.e. forgivable loans) are offered for some PESB approved teacher preparation programs: wsac.wa.gov/teachers

- Review Western’s Tips for Completing the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid:
  - www.finaid.wwu.edu/client_services/pages/apply/apply_fafsa.php
  - http://www.finaid.wwu.edu/client_services/pages/general_info/fin_aid_checklist.php Create an FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification), if you don’t already have one: studentaid.gov/
  - File the FAFSA at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid. Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible to assure timely processing. Be sure you include the WWU federal school code on the FAFSA: 003802. You can apply for aid after the priority deadline (Jan 31st), but applying before offers the best level of priority consideration for financial aid opportunities. NOTE: In order to have financial aid begin at the start of your program (Summer 2023), you must submit two FAFSA applications. Submit both a 2022-2023 FAFSA Application AND a 2023-2024 FAFSA Application.
  - Review Your Student Aid Report (SAR) at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid; respond to any messages re: your application.
  - If Your FAFSA is Selected for Verification
    You will be provided with instructions and documents to complete and return to Western. Provide your documents promptly as FAFSA verification must be completed before financial aid can be awarded.
  - Check Your Application Status Online
    After applying for admission to Western Washington University, you will be sent instructions on how to set up a WWU account. After that you will be able to view your current admission and aid application status with WWU’s online access.
After you are admitted and confirmed to attend Western.....

□ Complete an Electronic Promissory Note Online (first time student loan borrowers)
If you have not borrowed through the Federal Direct Student Loan Program before, complete an electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) at studentaid.gov/mpn/. You can take this step now even if you have not yet received a financial aid award notice indicating you are eligible for a federal student loan. Parents using the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) must also complete a master promissory note.

□ Complete Loan Entrance Counseling Online (first time student loan borrowers)
Students who are considering taking out their first federal direct student loan must complete an Entrance Loan Counseling session. A quick and easy interactive loan counseling tool is available from the federal student aid website at studentaid.gov/h/manage-loans. You can take this step now even if you have not yet received a financial aid award notice indicating that you are eligible for a federal student loan. Parents borrowing through the PLUS program are not required to receive entrance loan counseling. Be sure to note Western Washington University (FAFSA: 003802) when prompted to include a school; this allows Western to receive notification that you completed the counseling session.

□ Manage Your Western Student Account
- Your financial aid should disburse into your Western student account if you are registered for full-time credits and all financial aid requirements are satisfied.
- Check your billing statement at Western to ensure that your financial aid is properly credited, or to make a payment on your student account. More details are available on the web at www.wwu.edu/sbo
- Students are responsible for paying their student account by the posted deadlines regardless of financial aid.
- Western offers a structured tuition payment plan – three installments per quarter if you sign up in advance: sbo.wwu.edu/announcements/39

□ Refund Process
All student account refunds will be by ACH Direct Deposit to your personal checking or savings account; there are steps necessary to ensure that the auto-deposit process works: sbo.wwu.edu/refunding
If you have a credit union/bank account then this is likely the best option. Alternatively, Western offers the opportunity to open a basic bank account with BankMobile for students who may not currently have a banking account – but be aware of additional fees.

□ Monitor Your Web4U Financial Aid & Scholarships Account & Western Student Email Account
Regularly monitor your Web4U Financial Aid & Scholarships Account in order to track requirements (Eligibility), read active messages (Financial Aid Status), accept your awards (Award), etc... Also make sure to monitor your WWU email account for any messages they may send directly there.

□ Keep Your Contact Information Current
Once admitted, make sure you receive important messages from Western by notifying us of address changes promptly in your Web4U Personal Information account.

Your best resource for Financial Aid questions is the Financial Aid Department www.finaid.wwu.edu/.
- Schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor: Schedule your appointment online
- Or call (360) 650-3470
- Or email financialaid@wwu.edu. (Include your student number and use a WWU e-mail address, if you have one.)