

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Sciences
Department of Physical Therapy

Resources for Financial Assistance

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (WCU) RESOURCES

Information from Graduate School about Tuition and Funding - <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/tuition-and-funding/>

WCU General Scholarships - <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/scholarships/index.aspx>

Students may complete a single application form for a variety of general scholarships via myWCU. In order to be considered for scholarships awarded by WCU, you submit the online scholarship application prior to February 1st for the following fall. *Some scholarships may have earlier or later deadlines.* You must first complete the general scholarship application. You will then be shown any additional scholarships and requirements if you matched with ones that require additional materials.

Financial Aid - <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/financial-aid/index.aspx>

The Office of Financial Aid can provide information about various types of loans and financial aid. Graduate students enrolled full-time or half-time are eligible for federal student loans. Students seeking loans must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Location: 105 Cordelia Camp. Phone: 828-227-7290.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for qualified graduate students. A student awarded an assistantship will be assigned to the physical therapy department (usually) or to another department on campus. A full-time graduate assistantship is 20 hours/week but physical therapy students are allowed a maximum of 10 hours/week because of the demands of the curriculum. The stipend is approximately \$4250 per year (\$2125 per semester for fall and spring).

In-state and Out-of-State Tuition Remissions

A limited number of tuition remissions are available (typically two out-of-state and one in-state). The in-state remission covers the cost of tuition (not fees or tuition differential) and the out-of-state remission reduces the cost of out-of state tuition to that of an in-state student (again not fees or tuition differential). Out-of-state tuition remissions are only available for one year because the expectation is that the recipient will apply for (and receive) residency status in North Carolina after the first year. Students who receive a tuition remission are required to accept a graduate assistantship (10 hours per week).

Veterans Assistance

The university is approved for the training of Veterans Affairs benefit recipients. Various resources, including tuition assistance can be found through Military Student Services:

<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-services/military-student-services/>

Graduate Student Travel Awards

The WCU Graduate Student Association will provide up to \$16,000 in funding during the academic year to graduate students who will represent Western Carolina University at regional and national/international conferences, professional organization meetings, etc. See complete list below. GSA travel funds support WCU graduate students' scholarly/artistic/professional development by assisting with costs related to travel to regional and national/international events. [Western Carolina University - Graduate Student Travel Award \(wcu.edu\)](#)

NORTH CAROLINA-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

North Carolina Physical Therapy Association (NCPTA) Scholarship and Loan

Scholarships, long term loans, and short term emergency loans are available to applicable physical therapy and physical therapist assistant students. Awards are available to eligible second-year physical therapy students with a strong academic record and a desire to practice in North Carolina. The amount varies based on availability of funds. Awards are presented at both the fall and spring NCPTA meetings. Scholarship winner must practice in North Carolina for at least one year following graduation. Application materials: https://www.canva.com/design/DAE-Wa-mvD0/l_CS0BYX-9PwUx3cs61Ouw/view?website#2

College Foundation of North Carolina

A public resource designed to help students at all points of their higher education careers, the CFNC website (www.cfnc.org) is a clearinghouse with information on both scholarships and loans.

Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS): Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2011, the Forgivable Education Loans for Service provides financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in an approved education program and committed to working in critical employment shortage professions in North Carolina. The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority provides administration for the program. Information can be found at: www.cfnc.org

Credit Union Scholarships

Membership of a list of several credit unions across North Carolina opens the door to several different scholarships. The list and applications can be found here:

<https://carolinasfoundation.org/credit-union-scholarship-resource-center/#:~:text=You%20must%20be%20a%20member%20in%20good%20standing,in%20at%20a%20community%20college.%20Scholarship%20Eligibility%20Criteria>

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Mary McMillan Award for Academic Excellence

The intent of the award is to recognize those students who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. Awards are made on a competitive basis. Recipients will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: superior scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy, and service to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). <https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/honors-awards/mary-mcmillan-scholarship-award>

Outstanding PT Student and PTA Student Awards

This award identifies a student physical therapist and student physical therapist assistant member with exceptional overall accomplishments and contributions to APTA and the physical therapy profession. <https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/honors-awards/outstanding-student>

APTA Section Awards

These awards are offered by the various sections of the APTA and have varying requirements. There are awards for travel to conferences and other continuing education opportunities.

APTA Pelvic Health Course Scholarships

The Academy is sponsoring 24 scholarships (12 for SPTs, 12 for PTs/PTAs) toward Academy CAPP-Pelvic and CAPP-OB courses each year. This scholarship opportunity is open to APTA Pelvic Health PT, PTA, and SPT members. Please check the application form for eligibility requirements and available scholarships! <https://aptapelvichealth.org/scholarships/>

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions Scholarship of Excellence

The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize outstanding students in the allied health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. The selected student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Starting in 2014, an additional scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and the title of Elwood Scholar is to be awarded to the most outstanding Scholarship of Excellence recipient. More information: <http://www.asahp.org/scholarship/>

Daughters of the American Revolution Occupational/Physical Therapy Scholarship

The Occupational/Physical Therapy Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, is awarded to two students who are in financial need and have been accepted or are attending an accredited school of occupational therapy (including art, music, or physical therapy). <https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships/nursing-medical-scholarships>

NSCA Scholarships

Variety of scholarships are available. You must be a member of NSCA and be pursuing a career in the strength and conditioning field, along with meeting any other specific scholarship requirements. <https://www.nasca.com/scholarships/>

AMBUCS Scholarship

Awards are based on financial need, commitment to local community, character for compassion and integrity, and career objectives. Awards range from \$600 to \$1500. There is one two-year award of \$6000 annually. <https://ambucs.org/therapists/scholarship-program/>

Med Travelers Scholarship

We recognize the vital role that SLPs, PTs, OTs, and School Psychologists play in making our communities happier and healthier. We also understand the financial burden that comes with pursuing these advanced degrees, so helping lessen this burden is our way of saying, ‘Thank You.’ Two \$5000 scholarships offered annually. <https://www.medtravelers.com/new-grad/scholarship/#:~:text=As%20a%20part%20of%20Med%20Travelers%E2%80%99%20commitment%20to,Pathology%2C%20Physical%20Therapy%20and%20Occupational%20Therapy%20graduate%20students.>

HIE Help Center Scholarship for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Students

The HIE Help Center will award one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to an undergraduate or graduate student who plans to pursue a career in physical, occupational, or speech therapy. <https://hiehelpcenter.org/hie-help-center-scholarship/>

MINORITY SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Minority Scholarship Award

The APTA awards one scholarship each year for a minority student in the final year of his/her entry-level physical therapy education. More information: <https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/honors-awards/minority-scholarship-award>

IHS Scholarship Program

The IHS Scholarship Program provides qualified American Indian and Alaska Native health professions students an opportunity to establish an educational foundation for each stage of your pre-professional careers. The scholarship program provides financial support in exchange for a minimum two-year service commitment within an Indian health program in your chosen health professional discipline. <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>

NABPT Scholarships

\$500 prospective student (for use on application fees) and \$1000 current student (for clinical rotation costs) scholarships. Must be NABPT member. Submission of short YouTube video required.

<https://nabpt.org/scholarships/>

Crest Scholarship

Rizing Tide will annually award the Crest scholarship to DPT students from underrepresented racial or ethnic backgrounds who are entering their first or second year of DPT school. Three \$14,000 and two \$5000 scholarships available, and may be renewed up to twice.

<https://rizing-tide.com/scholarships/crest/>

Surge Scholarship

Rizing Tide will annually award the Surge scholarship to graduating physical therapy students or licensed physical therapists from underrepresented racial or ethnic backgrounds who are entering an accredited residency program. Award is \$10,000 and not renewable.

<https://rizing-tide.com/scholarships/surge/>

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TIPS

There are many scholarships out there! Using search terms specific to your situation will get you the best results for scholarships that you qualify for and have the best chance of being selected for. There are scholarships specific to minority status, DACA status, scholarships for women, scholarships for first generation students, scholarships for parents of children, scholarships for adult learners returning to pursuit of higher education after a gap of time, scholarships for those with demonstrated (via FAFSA) financial need, etc. Anything that makes your situation unique is a valid search term to use with ‘scholarship’ or ‘DPT scholarship’ or ‘physical therapy scholarship’. The more you match a scholarship’s criteria, the better chance you have of winning that scholarship!