

Change in your Cost of Attendance Budget

Every MUW Student is assigned a yearly Cost of Attendance Budget. The budget is divided in half to determine your semester budget, half for fall and half for spring. The amount of financial aid, (grants, scholarships, and loans) that a student receives can not exceed their cost of attendance budget because of federal regulation.

Example: A student's Cost of Attendance Budget is \$12,000 for the year and receives \$12,000 in financial aid for the year in grants, scholarships and loans. This particular student met their budget and does not have any room in their budget to receive additional aid because they received enough aid to cover their cost of attendance.

Sometimes students in this situation incur additional educational expenses above their budget such as expenses for a Study Abroad (<http://www.muw.edu/studyabroad/>) program. Since there is no room left in this student's budget for additional funding, this student's budget could possible be increased to include the study abroad charges. This would allow the student to seek additional funding such as a Alternative Loan for their education expense. If you believe your Cost of Attendance Budget should be increased because of educational expenses not included in your budget and you have no room in your budget for those expenses please contact a Financial Aid Counselor to discuss your options.

Consortium/Study Abroad Agreements

A Consortium/Study Abroad agreement is a written agreement between two schools. For financial aid purposes, it is done so that the two schools, the home school in this case Columbia, and the host school the abroad or visited school, agree on which school will process and receive financial aid for a particular student. This is important because only one school at a time can receive federal financial aid for a student. This agreement allows students completing a dual enrollment or study abroad program to receive their full aid eligibility.

Example: A student taking 9 hours at MUW would receive part-time aid and if they where simultaneously taking 3 hrs at another school they would not receive aid for those three hours. Under a consortium agreement, a student taking 9 hours at MUW the home school and 3 hours at a host school the student's financial aid eligibility would be determined by the 12 combined hours. A student studying abroad and not enrolled at their home school for any hours also has the option of receiving aid under an agreement.

In order to set up a consortium agreement a form must be filled out. After the Financial Aid office at MUW receives the completed form and documentation, MUW Financial Aid office will process, receive and distribute a student's aid after deducting any fees that student may have at MUW. It is the student's responsibility to pay the host institution with the refund check received by MUW.

For more information please contact a Counselor.