

Financial Aid

2025-2026

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The Dean's Medical Excellence Scholarship is a renewable scholarship awarded to outstanding PA applicants.

Basics of Financing PA School

PA students are strongly encouraged to understand the financial impact of full-time study in this particular program. The Office of Financial Aid provides workshops, financial literacy programs, as well as one on one meetings with students to maximize creative borrowing and help with a loan repayment strategy after graduation.

Wake Forest School of Medicine adheres to a cost of attendance that will vary during each of your two years in PA school. You will receive an award notification from our office each April that details Cost of Attendance, your suggested budget, and your loan and scholarship offer for the year. Personal resources should be used whenever possible to delay borrowing. Even small contributions out of pocket can make a tremendous difference in accruing interest on federal loans - especially in the early years. Always delay borrowing as long as possible.

Knowing your monthly expenses can make or break your budget, so start planning for those costs early. Reduce consumer debt as much as possible before matriculation so you are not using borrowed funds to pay old debt.

Remember, you are making an investment of a lifetime!

WFSM Scholarships

WFSM Dean's Medical Excellence Scholarship:

The Wake Forest School of Medicine Dean's Medical Excellence Scholarship recognizes the academic achievement and potential of students who, through sharing their varied perspectives, will enhance the education of all WFSM students and the excellence of the School of Medicine. All accepted students are considered for the Dean's Medical Excellence Scholarship with the submission of their PA School application. There are no separate application requirements.

Student Loans

Federal loans - As a graduate student, you are eligible for federal loans totaling Cost of Attendance by simply submitting a FAFSA each year. Your loan eligibility is not contingent on your parental dependency status. Unsubsidized Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans are available to graduate students.

An Unsubsidized Stafford loan has a lower interest rate and origination fee than the Graduate PLUS loan. Our office will ensure you maximize this loan before using the Graduate PLUS loan. The Stafford loan currently has an interest rate of 8.08% and has a 1.057% origination fee. The Graduate PLUS loan has a current interest rate of 9.08% with a 4.228% origination fee.

Federal loans have fixed interest rates. Once set, each individual loan's rate will never change. Interest rates are evaluated by the Department of Education each year. If they are adjusted, only new loans disbursed after July 1st are affected.

Benefits of federal loans include:

- Six-month grace period before beginning repayment
- Flexible, easy to manage repayment plans
- PSLF eligibility

Private Loans: Private loans can be beneficial to some students; however, we encourage you to review the pros and cons before deciding between federal and private funding.

Drawbacks to private loans include the fact that they cannot be consolidated with federal loans and they are not eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Private loans could be a viable option if you become ineligible to borrow federal loans. They have the potential to offer lower interest rates for borrowers with established credit history. Private loans are good options for students who are managing cash flow, as opposed to those who are living solely on financing. If you are in a position to repay your loans quickly after graduation, this option could save you interest expense over time. Please speak with a financial aid officer for more information on federal vs. private loans.

North Carolina FELS

NC FELS (Forgivable Education Loan for Service) is a loan forgiveness program that provides \$10,000 a year to PA students from North Carolina in exchange for a service obligation following the completion of their training. The service obligation requires recipients to work in NC as a full-time PA for each year the loan was awarded. You may work in any geographic area of NC and pursue any medical specialty (private practice included). If you fail to stay in NC after training, you must repay the loan at an interest rate of 7% (interest accrues from the date of disbursement).

For more information on
Federal Student Loans, visit
www.studentaid.gov



NC FELS Applications can be
found at www.CFNC.org

National Health Service Corps

The **NHSC** provides a scholarship that pays tuition, fees, other educational costs, and a living stipend in return for a commitment to work at least two years at an NHSC-approved primary care site in a medically underserved community.

NHSC Loan Repayment Program provides up to \$50,000 to licensed PAs for a commitment to work at an NHSC-approved primary care site in a medically underserved community.



NHSC information can be found at
<http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) was created by Congress to encourage individuals to enter into and continue to work full-time in public service employment. Under PSLF, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their federal student loans after they have made 120 monthly payments while employed full-time by certain public service employers.

Program Requirements:

BORROW – Have eligible loans (Direct Loans Only).

WORK – Maintain a full-time employment status while working for a qualifying public service organization.

REPAY – Make 120 qualifying payments under an eligible Repayment Plan.

Military Health Professions Scholarship Program

The Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) offers prospective military Physician Assistants a paid medical education in exchange for service as a commissioned medical officer. Programs are available in the United States United States Air Force and the National Guard.

While on this scholarship, the financial burden of tuition, fees, and mandatory books and equipment are paid by the student's sponsoring service. Students will also receive a monthly stipend for living expenses.

The incurred service obligation is generally one-for-one for every service-paid year of schooling, with a minimum of two years for Physician Assistants.

Contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information.



Financial Aid Staff

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Medical Education

Please let us know how we can be of assistance!

**Wake Forest University
School of Medicine**

Important 1st Year Information

- Find economical ways to move. Moving expenses are not included in Cost of Attendance.
- Check your credit report! Grad Plus loans are credit based. Be aware of any credit report mistakes.
- Your 1st disbursement will be May 2025. Your second disbursement will be in August of 2025, and your third disbursement will be in January 2026. Budget accordingly!
- Read your Financial Aid emails and use the Financial Aid Canvas course to your advantage!
- Explore ways to save money and cut borrowing.
- Review your financial aid award letter that will be emailed to you in April. Submit your acceptance within 14 days of receipt.
- Sign up for direct deposit to receive your living expense funds.

Budgeting Information

PA Student 12-Month Budget		PA Student Budget		Your Monthly Estimates
2025-2026		2025-2026		
<u>First Year</u>		Monthly Living Expenses		
Tuition/Fees	\$52,363	<u>First Year</u>		
Books/Supplies				
&Equipment	\$1,600	Lodging	\$1,800	
Laptop Allowance	\$1,222	Utilities	\$295	
Lodging	\$21,600	Food	\$480	
Utilities	\$3,540	Transportation	\$475	
Food	\$5,760	Misc.	\$192	
Transportation	\$5,700			
Misc.	\$2,304	Total Monthly Budget:	\$3,242	
Health Insurance	\$5,029			
Loan Fees	\$3,540 (\$3,590-WS)			
Boone Allowance	\$1,012			
Total Budget:	\$103,720 (\$102,658-WS)			

***subtract Boone Allowance and use WS loan fees if you are attending the Winston Salem campus.**