



# **Policy Manual**

## **2025-2026**

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education  
and Future Skills**

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## Introduction

### About StudentAid BC

StudentAid BC delivers provincial financial assistance programs to eligible students undertaking post-secondary education and administers the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program on behalf of the Government of Canada. This consists of a combination of repayable loans, non-repayable grants, scholarships and bursaries, and debt reduction measures intended to support the success of post-secondary students and graduates.

StudentAid BC also provides student financial assistance under separate programs and criteria for low- and middle-income students, students with a disability (permanent disability or persistent or prolonged disability), part-time students, current and former children or youth in care, and students in Adult Upgrading Programs (Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, or Accessible Education and Training).

The purpose of StudentAid BC is to provide and administer programs that support a student's ability to access post-secondary education and future employment opportunities. At the same time, StudentAid BC has a responsibility to protect the investment of British Columbia taxpayers by operating a financially sustainable student financial assistance program. The StudentAid BC program is administered following the guidelines described in this StudentAid BC Policy Manual.

**StudentAid BC funding exists to supplement, not replace, funds available to students through individual and family financial resources, savings, and income.**

Consequently, StudentAid BC may not cover all academic or living costs. The program evaluates a student's income and other financial resources against the costs of post-secondary study, including educational costs and typical living costs associated with a moderate standard of living. Since StudentAid BC funding is intended to supplement other available financial resources, both the federal and provincial student financial assistance programs have weekly and lifetime funding maximums (see [Chapter 8.1](#)).

Students in high-tuition programs or with significant financial commitments in addition to direct educational expenses may need to seek alternate sources of funding to support their education choices.

Financial planning is recommended before deciding to pursue post-secondary studies to ensure that sufficient resources are available to cover all costs. Students should review their financial situation on an ongoing basis to ensure they can meet their obligation to repay their accumulated debt once they are no longer in full-time studies.

Students, parents and spouses must provide accurate information on StudentAid BC applications and appendices. All information is subject to verification. Additional information about StudentAid BC, as well as forms and applications, are available [online](#).

In the case of conflicting information involving guidelines outlined in the StudentAid BC Policy Manual and any other StudentAid BC application form, administration manual, or any other source of information on the StudentAid BC program, the language found in the current year's StudentAid BC Policy Manual(s) is to be considered accurate and comprehensive. The StudentAid BC Policy Manual is updated as required.

The Canada Student Financial Assistance Program Policy Manual is the authoritative source on information regarding the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program.

## **StudentAid BC Programs**

StudentAid BC partners with federal and provincial organizations to administer a wide variety of support programs for students. Eligible students can access these programs either through the online StudentAid BC application (full-time and part-time), a specialized program application, auto-assessments, or by working with Financial Aid Officers and/or Accessibility Coordinators at a B.C. public post-secondary institution.

The following is a list of student support programs administered by StudentAid BC.

### **Programs assessed through the full-time and/or part-time application**

- Non-repayable financial assistance
  - B.C. Access Grant for Low- and Middle-Income Students
    - Full-Time Students
    - Part-Time Students
  - B.C. Access Grant - Students with Disabilities
  - B.C. Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities
  - Canada Student Grants
    - Full-Time Students
    - Full-Time Students with Dependants
    - Part-Time Students
    - Part-Time Students with Dependants
    - Students with Disabilities
  - Nurses Education Bursary
- Repayable Student Loan
  - Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan (Full-Time)
  - Canada Student Loan (Part-Time)

### **Programs assessed through program-specific applications**

- Loan forgiveness/repayment assistance
  - B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program
  - B.C. Repayment Assistance Plan
  - B.C. Severe Permanent Disability Benefit

- Canada Repayment Assistance Plan
  - Canada Severe Permanent Disability Benefit
  - Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for Family Doctors & Nurses
  - Pacific Leaders Loan Forgiveness Program
- Non-repayable financial assistance
  - B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students
  - B.C. Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities
  - Canada Student Grant - Services & Equipment for Students with Disabilities
  - Learning Disability Assessment Bursary
  - Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Children of Public Servants
  - Youth Educational Assistance Fund (Legacy Program)

## **Programs delivered in collaboration with public B.C. post-secondary institutions**

- Academic Communication Equity (formerly Post-Secondary Communication Access Services)
- Adult Upgrading Grant
- Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities
- Centre for Accessible Post-Secondary Education Resources
- Learning Disability Assessment Bursary
- Lieutenant Governor's Medal Program
- Part-Time Student Assistance Fund
- Program for Institutional Loan of Adaptive technology
- Student Services Emergency Assistance Fund
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (for Former Youth in Care)
- Learning for Future Grant (for Former Youth in Care eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program)
- Targeted institution funding to provide on-campus supports to former Youth in Care eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program



## Key Updates for Program Year 2025-26

### StudentAid BC Key Updates:

- All British Columbia authorized and regulated online programs offered by British Columbia public and private post-secondary institutions that meet StudentAid BC basic program eligibility requirements will continue to be eligible for student financial assistance for Program Year 2025-26.

**Note:** A one-year moratorium is in effect restricting student financial assistance eligibility for new 100% online programs, not previously approved by StudentAid BC, offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions. An exception to the moratorium may be considered at the discretion of StudentAid BC. To request a review of exceptional circumstances, please contact [Designat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Designat@gov.bc.ca).

- Post-secondary institutions located outside of British Columbia must continue to meet basic and specific StudentAid BC program eligibility requirements to be eligible for student financial assistance for online, blended or distance learning programs.
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program policy has been updated to clarify eligibility for domestic tuition and eligible fees under the program.
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program exception policy has been updated to remove the location of study category, as it is no longer eligible for a review of exceptional circumstances.
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program students are eligible to receive two Learning for Future Grants (one per program year) if the program or course duration is a minimum of six weeks, or 35 tuition hours, in each of the two program years.

**Canada Student Financial Assistance Program Key Updates:**

- The interest free Canada Student Loan maximum amount, increased from \$210 to \$300 per week of study, or \$15,600 a year for a 52-week study period, is continued for Program Year 2025-26.
- Canada Student Grant maximum amounts increased by 40% above pre-pandemic levels are continued for Program Year 2025-26.
  - **Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students** (from \$375 to \$525 per month of study)
  - **Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants** (from \$200 to \$280 per month of study)
  - **Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities** (from \$2,000 to \$2,800 for the academic year)
  - **Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies** (from \$1,800 to \$2,520 for the academic year)
  - **Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants** (from \$1,920 to \$2,688 for the academic year)
- Students who are married or in a common-law relationship, and are experiencing intimate partner violence, where it is unreasonable for the student to provide partner income/information, may submit their application under a new student category requesting a review of their exceptional circumstances. Upon approval, the student will then be assessed for eligibility as an independent single student or as a single parent. Based on the re-categorization, all associated policies such as eligibility, the calculation of financial need, and disbursement of loans and grants will apply.
- A new repayment assistance policy allows borrowers having difficulty repaying their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan to make temporary minimum payments of no less than \$20 per month (\$10 per loan type), in intervals of up to six months or less, to a maximum of twelve months over the course of their current loan repayment period.
- A new rehabilitation of Canada-B.C. integrated student loans policy allows a maximum lifetime limit of two times a borrower can rehabilitate their B.C. student loan after default. Borrowers who default again after rehabilitating twice, are not eligible to rehabilitate their loan again. Borrowers can submit an appeal request to rehabilitate their B.C. student loan.
- Students who receive their permanent social insurance number card/letter must scan and upload their document to their StudentAid BC Dashboard or notify StudentAid BC by email at [StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca) so that their student file can be updated. Additionally, students who are issued a new social insurance number while having a loan associated to an old social insurance number are required to report the change to the National Student Loan Service Centre.

# Chapter 1: Institution Designation for Student Financial Assistance

## [1.1 Purpose](#)

## [1.2 Background](#)

## [1.3 How to Become a Designated Institution](#)

## [1.4 Designation Eligibility Criteria](#)

## [1.5 Policy: Designated Institution Responsibilities](#)

## [1.6 Maintaining Designation](#)

## [1.7 Termination of Designation](#)

## [1.8 Institution Closure](#)

### Institution designation

is the formal process by which post-secondary institutions are deemed eligible to administer federal and provincial student financial assistance.

## 1.1 Purpose

To ensure that post-secondary institutions meet the requirements to effectively administer federal and provincial student financial assistance.

## 1.2 Background

On behalf of the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, the B.C. Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry) designates post-secondary institutions to be eligible to administer federal and provincial student financial assistance. The Ministry is guided by the [pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework on Student Financial Assistance](#) (the Framework) in developing, implementing and maintaining its institution designation policy. Under the Framework, designated institutions are expected to focus on the retention, success, and overall employability of students so they can repay their student loans.



## 1.3 How to Become a Designated Institution

To be eligible to administer student financial assistance, an institution must be designated. To be designated, institutions must meet the [designation eligibility criteria](#) set out by StudentAid BC.

Institutions must comply with StudentAid BC policy and administrative procedures to demonstrate they are capable of appropriate administration of student financial assistance, are accountable and provide students with adequate consumer protection and information to make an informed choice.

Institutions become designated by submitting an Institution Designation Application Request available on the [StudentAid BC's website](#), in addition to the following as applicable:

- **B.C. public post-secondary institutions** become designated through a Memorandum of Understanding.
- **B.C. private post-secondary institutions** become designated by submitting an Institution Designation Application and entering into an annual Designation Agreement. Each campus must meet designation criteria assessed through a formal application. Designation

Applications are adjudicated by StudentAid BC and decisions are communicated to institutions in writing. When granted, designation is effective for a single program year (August 1 to July 31).

- **All other post-secondary institutions** become designated by submitting an Institution Designation Application. Designation Applications are adjudicated by StudentAid BC, and decisions are communicated to institutions in writing.

If an Institution Designation Request is denied, the institution may submit a new application that clearly demonstrates how the institution meets StudentAid BC designation eligibility criteria. .

### Business BCeID Requirement

Institutions must have a Business BCeID account to access the StudentAid BC Partner Portal and to complete and submit an Institution Designation Application.

To obtain a Business BCeID, visit [www.bceid.ca](http://www.bceid.ca).

Institutions that have applied and been denied a Business BCeID, may contact StudentAid BC by email at [Designat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Designat@gov.bc.ca)



## 1.4 Designation Eligibility Criteria

Institutions are evaluated for designation based on the following eligibility criteria.

**Note:** For institutions with multiple locations, each location must meet StudentAid BC's designation criteria. The institution's legal authority is responsible for adhering to the terms and conditions of StudentAid BC designation for all locations.

All institutions must meet the following three criteria:	
1.	Institutions regulated by a B.C. regulator must offer and deliver at least one program that fully meets the program eligibility requirements. Institutions regulated outside of B.C. may be eligible if they offer and deliver on-site at least one program that fully meets the program eligibility requirements.
2.	Grant a formal citation, certificate, diploma, or degree recognizing successful completion of a post-secondary program of study at the institution.
3.	Be in continuous operation for a minimum of two years immediately prior to designation, or 10 years for a medical institution located outside of North America and be in good standing with the appropriate educational accrediting, regulatory, or government body in the jurisdiction where it is located. <b>Note:</b> Institutions operating in B.C. with ministerial consent under the <i>Degree Authorization Act</i> , or that have a valid Designation Certificate issued under the <i>Private Training Act</i> , are exempt from the two-year requirement.

Private, out-of-province and international institutions offering programs in B.C.:

- **Career training institutions** offering training at the certificate and diploma level must first provide proof of a Private Training Institutions Regulatory Unit (PTIRU) Designation Certification.
- **Institutions offering driver training** must be licensed and in compliance with the *Motor Vehicle Act* and ICBC regulations.
- **Degree-granting institutions** must comply with the *Degree Authorization Act*, have their degree programs reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board and receive consent from the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.
- **Theological institutions** must have a Private Act of the Legislature and offer programs within their legislative authority. If an institution offers programs outside its legislative authority, it must meet the three eligibility criteria listed above, which apply to all institutions.

Institutions located and offering programs outside of B.C.:

- **Canadian institutions that participate in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program** must be designated by their home province.
- **Canadian institutions that do not participate in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program** must be designated for student financial assistance by an appropriate body recognized by a government agency within its jurisdiction.
- **U.S. institutions** must be approved for Title IV funding by the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Other international institutions** must be designated by the home country's government for student financial assistance and must also meet one of the following criteria:
  - Be approved for [Title IV funding by the U.S. Department of Education](#);
  - Be listed in the current [Europa World of Learning: The International Guide to the Academic World](#);
  - Be listed on the [Association of Commonwealth Universities](#) website; or
  - Be listed on the [International Association of Universities](#) website.
- **Institutions located outside of North America delivering medical programs** must meet the relevant criteria listed above under 'Other international institutions' in addition to each of the following criteria:
  - Be listed in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#) maintained by the [World Federation for Medical Education](#) (WFME) and the [Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research](#) (FAIMER); and
  - Be approved by a member of the [Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada](#).

**Note:** Additional information about the designation process can be found in the [StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#). If you have outstanding questions, please email [Designat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Designat@gov.bc.ca).

## StudentAid BC Institution Designation Criteria Summary

	B.C. public institutions	Private career training institutions offering programs in B.C.	Institutions offering driver training in B.C.	Private degree-granting institutions offering programs in B.C.	Theological institutions offering programs in B.C.	Out-of-province Canadian institutions that participates in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program	Out-of-province Canadian institutions that does not participate in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program	U.S. institutions	Other international institutions	International institutions outside of North America delivering medical programs
Offer and deliver on-site at least one program that fully meets the program eligibility requirements.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grant a formal citation, certificate, diploma or degree recognizing successful completion of a post-secondary program of study at the institution.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Be in continuous operation for a minimum of two years immediately prior to designation. <sup>1</sup>			•			•	•	•	•	
Be in continuous operation for a minimum of 10 years immediately prior to designation.										•
Be in good standing with the appropriate accrediting body in the jurisdiction where it is located.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Have proof of PTIRU Designation Certification.		•								
Be licensed and in compliance with the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> and ICBC regulations.			•							
Comply with the <i>Degree Authorization Act</i> , have their degree programs reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board and receive consent from the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.	•			•	•					
Have a Private Act of the Legislature and be offering programs within their legislative authority.					•					
Be designated by the home province.						•				
Be designated for student financial assistance by an appropriate body recognized by a government agency within its jurisdiction.							•			
Be approved for Title IV funding by the U.S. Department of Education. <sup>2</sup>								•		
Be recognized by the home country's government for student financial assistance.									•	•
Meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria: 1) be approved for Title IV funding by the U.S. Department of Education, 2) be listed in the current Europa World of Learning: The International Guide to the Academic World, 3) be listed on the Association of Commonwealth Universities website, or 4) be listed on the International Association of Universities website.									•	
Be listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools maintained by the World Federation for Medical Education and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research.										•
Be approved by a member of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada.										•

<sup>1</sup> Institutions operating in B.C. with ministerial consent under the *Degree Authorization Act* or that have a valid Designation Certificate issued under the *Private Training Act* are exempt from the two-year requirement.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. institutions operating in B.C. must meet B.C. legislative requirements.



## 1.5 Policy: Designated Institution Responsibilities

All designated institutions must adhere to the following responsibilities on an ongoing basis:

### 1.5.1 Organizational Responsibilities

1. Actively monitor all students receiving financial assistance. For each borrower, the institution must keep a file containing the required student information as detailed in the [StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#). These records must be available for inspection upon request by the Ministry.  
**Note** for B.C. Private Post-Secondary Institutions: while the Designation Agreement is in effect, and for a period of two years following its termination, the Ministry will have the right to inspect operations of the institution, including inspection of individual student borrowers' records.
2. Act at the earliest opportunity to prevent overawards and fraud. The institution must immediately report to the Ministry the withdrawal date for each student who ceases to meet student financial assistance eligibility criteria. See [Chapter 9](#).
3. Notify and provide the Ministry with documentation at least 14 days in advance of any proposed substantive changes (e.g., changes in institution name, legal identity, location, ownership, general education focus or other significant changes in operation or administration of the institution). Any such changes may impact continued institution designation.
4. Ensure that recruiting tools and advertising media do not make statements that could be interpreted to suggest that students are guaranteed to receive StudentAid BC funding or make statements that are otherwise untrue or misleading.
5. Establish and publish tuition and fee policies and refund policies. Institutions must ensure that the refund policies are fair and equitable to the student's date of withdrawal as it relates to their full course of study for which tuition and fees have been paid.
6. Continuously comply with the requirements of the institution's designation and [the StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#). The Ministry may request B.C. Private Post-Secondary Institutions provide information such as attendance records, withdrawals, and tuition deducted from student financial assistance (for more examples see [the StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#)).

### 1.5.2 Administrative Responsibilities

Institutions must access the StudentAid BC Partner Portal to fulfill the requirements for administering student financial assistance. A Business BCeID is required to access the StudentAid BC Partner Portal. See [1.3 How to Become a Designated Institution](#) for further information.

1. For B.C. private post-secondary institutions delivering StudentAid BC eligible programs at multiple locations, the institution's legal authority must renew the Designation Agreement annually.
2. Ensure that institution officials who are signing officers are familiar with the information in the StudentAid BC Policy Manual and the [StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#), and that

this information is used in providing financial assistance information and counselling to students, in supervising and administering the institution's role in student financial assistance, and in completing and signing all documents for student financial assistance.

3. **Note:** Institution officials must not complete StudentAid BC applications on behalf of students. Students must complete their own applications, and any relevant supporting documentation as required. Appropriately assign authority for administrative tasks to B.C. private post-secondary institution officials by:
  1. Designating one or more institution officials as Enrolment Signing Officer(s) who will have responsibility for registering the student and completing Institution and Program Information of the student financial assistance application.
  2. Designating one or more institution officials as Eligibility Signing Officer(s) who will have responsibility for confirming student enrolment and attendance; completing the Confirmation of Enrolment; accepting and documenting tuition payments; reporting changes to a student's scholastic standing; and reporting changes to course load.
  3. Providing the Ministry with the names of all institution officials responsible for confirming enrolment/attendance or signing loan documents and informing the Ministry within 14 days if the authorized official(s) change and the effective date of any changes through the submission of an updated Designation Agreement.

The functions described above (Enrolment Signing Officer and Eligibility Signing Officer) must be effectively segregated such that no employee is appointed to perform both duties. If a designated institution has fewer than 10 student borrowers who received a combined total of under \$50,000 in student financial assistance in the previous program year, an exemption may be granted upon written request and subject to Ministry approval.



## 1.6 Maintaining Designation

To maintain designation, an institution must continue to meet the designation eligibility criteria and adhere to the institution responsibilities. To assess if an institution is meeting its responsibilities, StudentAid BC conducts:

- Performance monitoring
- Enforcement activities

Non-compliance with StudentAid BC's policies and procedures may be addressed through measures at all or one of an institution's locations.

### 1.6.1 Performance monitoring

The Ministry monitors several performance measures to assess an institution's ability to effectively administer student financial assistance and its level of financial risk. These measures include student loan portfolio performance, institution performance and student performance.

- Student Loan Portfolio Performance factors include:
  - Student loan default/repayment rates
  - The amount of delinquent principal and/or defaulted loans



Institution risk is defined according to the following three risk zones:

Risk Zone	Repayment Rate
<b>Green (good)</b>	Above the national average
<b>Yellow (average)</b>	Within one standard deviation below the national average
<b>Red (poor)</b>	Below one standard deviation from the national average

- Institution Performance factors include:
  - Continued compliance with StudentAid BC policy and administrative procedures
  - Ensuring student financial assistance information and counselling is provided
  - Findings of on-site inspections
  - Length of time an institution has been designated
  - Substantive changes that may impact institution risk (e.g., number of borrowers)
- Student Performance factors include:
  - Student withdrawal rates
  - Completion rates
  - Employment rates

### 1.6.2 Enforcement Activities

If an institution has been assessed and is determined to be non-compliant with StudentAid BC policy and administrative procedures and/or to be of high financial risk to the StudentAid BC program, the Ministry will:

- Send formal notification to the institution, including information on areas where its performance is not acceptable.
- Request that the institution provide evidence of remediation of the compliance issue, or provide a plan outlining how the issue will be addressed within a specified period of time
- Outline the potential consequences of continued non-compliance.
- Monitor the institution to ensure the implementation of corrective actions as directed by the Ministry.
- Increase monitoring of the institution for compliance.

In the event of an institution's failure to comply and/or improve, the Ministry may:

- Suspend the institution's StudentAid BC designation status pending a demonstration that the specific issues have been addressed. Applications for student financial assistance will not be accepted if the institution's designation status is suspended.
- Place an institution's designation status into a period of probation: an institution's designation may be placed into probation status for a specified period. Probation status may include conditions placed on the institution's participation in the StudentAid BC

program as well as increased monitoring of institutional performance. The outcomes of a probation period may include:

- A return to full designation with no conditions
  - A new probation period subject to similar or increased conditions
  - De-designation of the institution
- Terminate the institution's StudentAid BC designation status if the institution's legal authority loses regulatory approval from the body(ies) responsible for post-secondary education oversight in the jurisdiction where it operates.

Institutions that have their StudentAid BC designation terminated are not eligible to re-apply for designation for a period of 12 months.



## 1.7 Termination of Designation

The Ministry will terminate designation if:

- The institution does not meet StudentAid BC policy requirements
- The institution ceases operation
- The institution has no students receiving student financial assistance for two consecutive years for Canadian institutions, or five consecutive years for institutions outside of Canada

StudentAid BC will provide the institution with a Notification of Termination.

### 1.7.1 Appeals

If an institution's designation is terminated due to non-compliance with StudentAid BC policy requirements, the institution may appeal the decision to the Executive Director of StudentAid BC by submitting an appeal request to [Designat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Designat@gov.bc.ca) within 30 calendar days of the date within the Notification of Termination. Appeals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

Institutions appealing termination of designation must provide the following within the appeal request:



- Date of the Notification of Termination,
- Rationale for the appeal, and
- Supporting documentation and information to be considered in the appeal.

StudentAid BC will advise the institution in writing of the appeal decision.

## 1.8 Institution Closure

Institutions must notify StudentAid BC at the earliest opportunity of any impending disruption to the institution's operations. Enrolled students will have options regarding continuation of studies. See [Chapter 9](#).

## Chapter 2: Program Eligibility for Student Financial Assistance

[2.1 Purpose](#)

[2.2 Background](#)

[2.3 Program Eligibility](#)

[2.4 Program Costs](#)

### What is program eligibility?

Program eligibility is an essential requirement to administer federal and provincial student financial assistance.

### 2.1 Purpose

To evaluate whether a program is eligible for student financial assistance.

### 2.2 Background

StudentAid BC reviews programs to assess whether they meet eligibility requirements as guided by the pan-Canadian Designation Framework. A program is a course or series of courses leading to a credential.

### 2.3 Program Eligibility

There are eligibility criteria that all programs must meet and additional criteria that specific types of programs must meet to be eligible for student financial assistance. This chapter outlines these requirements.

Institutions must advise StudentAid BC if any changes are made to existing programs during the program year to ensure the program continues to meet StudentAid BC criteria. This includes changes to tuition amounts, start and/or end dates, break duration, etc.

#### 2.3.1 Basic Program Eligibility Criteria

##### The following program eligibility criteria must be met by all institutions:

1.	The program must lead to a formal credential (degree, diploma, certificate or citation) issued by the governing body of the institution and be recognized by the appropriate authority that designated the institution. Institutions must also comply with all requirements of their regulating body. Please see <a href="#">Chapter 1, Section 1.4</a> .
2.	The institution must offer and deliver the program on a full-time basis at 100% of a full course load. For more information, see <a href="#">Full-time course load</a> .
3.	The program must be at least 12 weeks in duration within a time frame of 15 weeks.

4.	The full-time program may have breaks in study so long as they do not exceed 10% of the total study period for the program. In addition, no break can be longer than two consecutive weeks, with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Calendar year-end break, which can be up to three weeks in length; and</li> <li>b. Breaks immediately before or after a period of work-integrated learning during academic credit-based programs (funding will only be provided for the period the student is in work-integrated learning plus up to two weeks of break).</li> </ul>
5.	The institution must establish entrance requirements for the program. For more information, see <a href="#">Entrance requirements</a> .

### Full-time course load

The following criteria apply to the full-time course load policy:

- a. For academic programs, the program must have sufficient required credits per quarter/semester/term/academic year to meet the definition of a full-time course load as defined by the institution. Note that not all institutions use the same credit system.
- b. Full-time status for non-credit career training programs of study is determined by the number of instructional hours per week as established by the institution. The absolute minimum number of hours of study for a full-time program in a post-secondary institution is 20 instructional hours per week and 15 instructional hours per week for aviation programs.

For example:

100% course load = 20 instructional hours per week

80% course load = 16 instructional hours per week

60% course load = 12 instructional hours per week

- c. Institutions offering either credit- or hours-based programs must determine the institution standard for full-time. This standard must be used when evaluating program eligibility for full-time status.
- d. In accordance with federal criteria, course load averaging is not permitted over an academic year or term but is permitted over a four-month semester for academic programs.

### Entrance requirements

The institution must include the following entrance requirements:

- a. For post-secondary level academic credit-based programs, the post-secondary institution must determine entrance requirements that enable the completion of the program of study.
- b. For programs approved by SkilledTradesBC, students must meet the entrance requirements set by that organization.

- c. All other hours-based, non-academic programs (e.g., career training, technical, vocational) must have published minimum entrance requirements that meet **one** of the following criteria:
  1. The student has graduated from grade 12 or equivalent (B.C. high school diploma, B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma, General Educational Development) or an equivalent secondary school completion from another jurisdiction; or
  2. The student is 19 years of age or older before the start of classes and has demonstrated evidence at the appropriate level of literacy, numeracy, comprehension and/or written skills to enable successful completion of the program.
- d. Vocational/trade programs of study at a public institution with an approved entrance requirement of grade 10 or age 17 and which have been funded through StudentAid BC prior to August 1, 1998, will continue to be funded. However, all new programs must meet the above-noted criteria.

### 2.3.2 Specific Program Eligibility Criteria

The program eligibility criteria below are specific to the type of program and must be met in addition to the relevant criteria listed above.

1. [Aviation programs](#)
2. [Partnerships and contracting programs](#)
3. [Online programs or blended learning](#)
4. [Work-integrated learning](#)
5. [Field trips, field placements, and travel as part of a program](#)
6. [International exchange](#)

#### 1. Aviation programs

Students enrolled in and attending aviation programs, including those for commercial pilot, endorsements (multi-engine, instrument flight training and float) and instructors are eligible for a maximum of:

- 17 weeks of funding for a commercial pilot program
- 13 weeks of funding for the instructor's rating
- 13 weeks of funding for endorsements

Applications for a 13-week endorsement program must include the multi-engine and instrument flight rules as a minimum. Costs for other endorsements may also be included. No extension of the 13-week timeframe is permitted.

Repeat funding or extensions are not permitted for any of these programs. Students must apply for each program separately and may take breaks between programs.

## 2. Partnerships and contracting programs

Programs of study delivered through an agreement are eligible for StudentAid BC funding if students are:

- Only registered with one of the institutions,
- Paying all required fees to the institution, and
- Receive their formal credential from that same institution

All the participating institutions must have an agreement and be StudentAid BC designated.

Programs of study that are brokered (the institution provides a formal credential while another agency or institution provides the actual program of study) are not eligible for StudentAid BC funding.

### ***Joint programs (B.C. Public institutions only)***

Joint programs refer to B.C. institutions' programs where a student is enrolled in one program that is delivered by two or more institutions, either concurrently or in sequence. In order to be considered a joint program, the participating institutions must have an agreement in place defining the academic and administrative details of the joint program, and students must receive a single credential with all of the participating institutions listed on that credential.

When B.C. Institutions offer joint programs, they must meet the following criteria:

- All collaborating institutions will be listed on the awarded credential.
- One institution has agreed to assume responsibility for the following administrative processes for all students enrolled in the joint program:
  - Submitting program information to the Ministry using the Institutional Appendix,
  - Confirming student enrolment,
  - Reporting scholastic standing, and
  - Reporting withdrawals.

## 3. Online programs or blended learning

Online programs, blended learning, distance education, or other programs with a non-traditional form of delivery, or a combination of traditional and non-traditional delivery, may be eligible for student financial assistance.

**For Program Year 2025/26**, B.C. authorized and regulated online programs offered by B.C. public and private post-secondary institutions are eligible for StudentAid BC funding if they meet basic StudentAid BC program requirements.

**Note:** A one-year moratorium is in effect restricting student financial assistance eligibility for new, 100% online programs, not previously approved by StudentAid BC, offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions. An exception to the moratorium may be considered at the discretion of StudentAid BC. To request a review of exceptional circumstances, please contact [Designat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Designat@gov.bc.ca).

Institutions located outside of B.C. delivering online, blended and distance learning programs must meet all basic StudentAid BC program requirements. In addition, a program meets StudentAid BC eligibility criteria if any of the following are true:

- The academic or career training program with the same study period length is offered and delivered at 100% course load on site; or
- A similar program where a student will earn the same number of academic credits in the same time period as a student in other StudentAid BC-eligible programs is delivered on site at the same institution; or
- A student will earn academic credits for 100% of the program at the undergraduate level for a program that is recognized as equivalent at another designated institution listed in the BC Transfer Guide, Alberta's transfer guide or other comparable articulation agreements from other jurisdictions.

**Note:** All programs must also meet all other required StudentAid BC program eligibility criteria.

These criteria are intended to enable the non-traditional program to be compared with the traditional form of delivery both in terms of content and length of study, thus ensuring the full-time requirement is met.

Students in academic programs delivered online must complete a minimum of nine credits in four months (that is, 60% of a full course load) to qualify for StudentAid BC funding, as outlined in their current contract with the institution. Institutions may contact StudentAid BC for further clarification.

#### **4. Work-integrated learning**

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is a model and process of curricular experiential education which formally and intentionally integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting.

WIL includes practicums, clinical placements, preceptorships, co-operative education placements and work terms outside the co-operative education model. A WIL experience component is part of a program in which a student applies, and practices skills and knowledge learned in the program in a workplace or practice setting. It is provided by a host organization in a formal agreement with the institution. The work performed by the student must be relevant to the learning objectives of the program. The student must be supervised by a person who is employed or retained by the host organization and who is qualified in a career occupation relevant to the program the student is taking.

For the WIL experience to qualify for student financial assistance it must be:

1. Required for graduation (in the case of a co-op education placement it must either be required for graduation and/or result in a credential with a co-op designation); and
2. Linked to the curriculum; and
3. No more than 50% of the program (or no more than 20% for practicums and 10% for preceptorships) **unless otherwise regulated as a requirement by an oversight body** (e.g., [Early Childhood Educators \(ECE\) Registry](#)).

If a pre-degree internship is required before a certificate, diploma or degree is issued, the period of internship is an eligible period for StudentAid BC funding. Recognition of the internship is conditional upon the institution recognizing students in this situation as their own full-time students.

Post-degree internships, practicums or articling as part of the licensing requirements to practice in British Columbia (e.g., law or medicine) are not eligible for StudentAid BC funding. Students engaging in post-degree internships are not considered to be enrolled in post-secondary studies.

### 5. Field trips, field placements, and travel as part of a program

For the field trip, field placement or travel as part of a program to qualify for student financial assistance it must:

1. Be an essential element of the program,
2. Be mandatory for all students, and
3. Count towards credit.

### 6. International exchange

To be eligible for StudentAid BC funding, the following criteria must be met:

- The international exchange course credit(s) must be a part of an eligible program at the home post-secondary institution.
- Students on an international exchange must maintain full-time status at the home post-secondary institution during the exchange study period.
- The student's home post-secondary institution must have a partnership agreement or international exchange policy with the international institution.
- The international institution must be accredited as verified by one of the five accrediting bodies approved by StudentAid BC (see [Chapter 1](#)) to be eligible for student financial assistance.
- Transferability of all course credit(s) from the international institution must be approved and confirmed by the home post-secondary institution in advance of StudentAid BC funding and must be transferable (at a full-time equivalent) to the home post-secondary institution.



- After the student completes the exchange, the home post-secondary institution must review the credits obtained, confirm transferability and promptly report any withdrawal and/or unsuccessful term as per standard StudentAid BC policy.

Tuition fees for the exchange are paid to the home post-secondary institution. See [Chapter 2](#) for a definition of tuition fees.

Students in study abroad or other international programs where registration and fees are paid to the international institution must apply for student financial assistance through the international institution. If the international institution is not designated, the process for designation outlined in [Chapter 1](#) must be followed before consideration will be given to eligibility for student financial assistance.

**Note:** StudentAid BC recognizes that reporting of credit from the international post-secondary institution may take longer than the standard StudentAid BC policy that requires post-secondary institutions to report withdrawals and unsuccessful terms within six weeks.

### **Allowed costs**

The Moderate Standard of Living will be used for all living-cost allowance calculations (as outlined in this Policy Manual) for all international exchange programs. Students on international exchange are eligible for return transportation allowances as outlined in [Chapter 14](#). Any additional costs are the responsibility of the student and cannot be claimed as exceptional expenses.

### **Period of study**

Exam periods are included in the period of study for the purpose of assessment. Breaks in full-time study are permitted as long as the combined break time does not exceed 10% of the study period weeks. No break can be longer than two consecutive weeks, with the exception of the year-end break, which can be up to three weeks in length. This is to ensure students maintain full-time studies throughout their period of studies. Mandatory orientation periods for international exchange programs are included in the period of study for the purpose of assessment. However, optional orientation periods are not included.

### **2.3.3 Ineligible Programs**

The following programs are not eligible for StudentAid BC funding:

- Programs of study such as executive programs that are designed specifically to meet the needs of full-time members of the labour force (under review).
- Adult Basic Education, and high school level programs (the Adult Upgrading Grant is available for eligible students in these programs, see [Chapter 3, 3.3 Section 5](#)).
- Brokered courses
- English as an additional language program, unless taken concurrently with post-secondary studies and representing no more than 20% of program.
- Periods of training required for professional licensing or accreditation after the granting of a formal credential (internship, articling, etc.).

- Prior learning assessments.
- Apprenticeship programs.
- Dual credit programs with high schools (these programs are funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and are part of the K-12 curriculum).

## 2.4 Program Costs

Post-secondary institutions must report their program costs to the Ministry and confirm that the program is eligible in accordance with StudentAid BC Policy. The program costs reported by the institution are used to determine what the institution is charging the student.

Institutions determine the program year-eligible costs for tuition, books, supplies and fees. These include:

- [Tuition](#)
- [Mandatory fees](#)
- [Program related costs](#)
- [Exceptional expenses](#)

### 2.4.1 Tuition

Tuition is the fee payable for the teaching and instruction students receive from the post-secondary institution. Tuition fees may be based on the course weight (e.g., full or half-credit), the number of courses in which a student is enrolled or the length of the program.

#### Tuition refunds

If a student is eligible for a tuition refund and tuition was paid from StudentAid BC funding, the institution must direct the full tuition refund amount to the National Student Loans Service Centre, so that the refund can be applied to the student's outstanding debt.

### 2.4.2 Mandatory fees

Mandatory fees are costs associated with attending a post-secondary institution, or enrolment in certain programs (such as registration fee, student license, student association or Alma Mater Society fees, membership fees for overseeing bodies) and are required to be paid by all students in the institution/program.

License exam fees (whether included in tuition or not) can be included in tuition if the license exam is mandatory and it is completed within the study period.

Optional fees, fees that do not apply to all students and fees already included in the moderate standard of living allowance are not to be included.

### 2.4.3 Program related costs

Program related costs are costs that relate directly to the program of study.

These costs may include:

- Books
- Computer costs
- Notebooks, binders, folders
- Paper
- Pens, pencils, erasers and related items
- Fine art supplies such as paint, clay and film

Books, computer costs and supply costs are subject to maximums (see [Table 2, Chapter 14](#)).

### 2.4.4 Exceptional expenses

Exceptional expenses are those that are not normally associated with attending school but are required for certain programs.

Items or equipment that would reasonably be expected to be in the student's possession prior to beginning post-secondary level studies and items that are of a self-interest or hobby nature are not to be included.

Parking costs are not considered an exceptional cost.

Students attending institutions outside Canada will be allowed foreign exchange rates for tuition and books. These costs must be converted to Canadian currency.

A request for transportation costs, other than for a practicum or clinical placement, may be made through an additional transportation allowance appeal.

**Costs relating directly to the program of study are allowable, including:**

- Uniforms required for health care programs
- Medical bags for health care programs
- Rental equipment
- Tools required for trades programs
- Basic first aid kit for outdoor recreation programs
- Hard hat/steel-toed boots for trades programs

**Costs related to work-integrated learning, field trips, field placements and travel as part of a program**

The actual cost of field trips, field placements, travel as part of a program, practicums and clinical placements is allowable, provided they are an essential element of the program. For students who are required to travel as a mandatory part of the program, travel expenses are allowable. Airfare is only permitted if no other means of transportation is possible, and travel is a mandatory part of the program of studies. See the Transportation Allowance and Travel Expense maximums in [Chapter 14](#). Students who select optional courses that involve travel are not eligible to claim travel expenses under StudentAid BC.

Students who require the use of a motor vehicle, and who are listed as a driver of the motor vehicle within the Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle License, may complete and submit an appeal for an additional transportation allowance to StudentAid BC. This appeal request should only be made if public transportation is not available, the student must commute more than one hour each way to and from school, additional transportation for a work-integrated learning placement is required, or if the student has special circumstances that require additional travel.

If the student must live away from home in a different city for a period of two months or less, a weekly allowance can be claimed in recognition of the necessity of maintaining two residences (see [Table 3, Chapter 14](#)).

For more information on program costs and on how to complete the Institutional Appendix and Program Eligibility Declaration, please see the [StudentAid BC Administration Manual](#).

## Chapter 3: Student Eligibility for Student Financial Assistance

[3.1 Purpose](#)

[3.2 Background](#)

[3.3 Policy: Student Eligibility Criteria](#)

[3.4 Policy: Ineligible Students](#)

Student eligibility is the criteria students must meet to be eligible for federal and provincial student financial assistance.

### 3.1 Purpose

This chapter explains the eligibility criteria that students must meet to qualify for funding from StudentAid BC.

### 3.2 Background

Each province is responsible for determining and monitoring student eligibility in accordance with the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act* and Regulations. Students must be eligible for Canada Student Financial Assistance Program to be eligible for StudentAid BC funding.



### 3.3 Policy: Student Eligibility Criteria

There are eligibility criteria that all students must meet and additional criteria that students in specific types of situations must meet to be eligible for student financial assistance. This chapter outlines these requirements.



#### Basic Student Eligibility Criteria

**All students** must meet all the following criteria. Distinct eligibility criteria may apply for specific StudentAid BC programs.

1. Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a protected person.  
The student's identity will be verified by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) before the student's application is processed. The student's name and social insurance number, together with their date of birth, must correspond to ESDC records. If the information cannot be verified, the application will not be processed. For more information, see [Citizenship and Status in Canada](#).
2. Have a valid Canadian social insurance number (SIN).
3. Be a resident of British Columbia. For more information, see [Residency Requirements](#).
4. Not be in default of previous student loans or restricted from receiving student financial assistance due to verification or other reasons. See [Chapter 11, Section 6.1](#) for more details on bankruptcy and bankruptcy-related events. For information on how to rehabilitate your student loan after default, please refer [Chapter 11, Section 5.3](#). See [Chapter 12](#) for part-time details.

5. Be able to demonstrate financial need as determined by StudentAid BC criteria.  
For more information, see [Chapter 7, Section 5](#). See [Chapter 12](#) for part-time details.
6. Maintain full-time student status for the entire study period. For more information, see [Full-time Course Load](#). See [Chapter 12](#) for part-time details.
7. Attain satisfactory scholastic standing in each period of post-secondary study. For more information on maintaining satisfactory scholastic standing, see [Chapter 9, Maintaining Eligibility](#).
8. Attend a StudentAid BC designated institution and be enrolled in an eligible program of study as defined by StudentAid BC. The institution must be designated before the student's study start date.

### **Citizenship and Status in Canada**

To be eligible for consideration for student financial assistance under StudentAid BC, and as specified by the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*, a student must be:

- A Canadian citizen (as defined in the *Citizenship Act*); or
- A Permanent Resident (as defined by the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*); or
- A Protected Person (as defined in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*).

If the applicant is a permanent resident, or has a 900 series Social Insurance Number (SIN), they must include the following documentation:

- A copy of a valid permanent residency card or a landing document, specifically the Confirmation of Permanent Residency (COPR) (IMM 5292 or IMM 5688); or
- An expired (no more than five years) permanent residency card; or
- A Verification of Status (VOS) providing information confirming one's valid permanent residency status.

Students who attain citizenship or permanent resident status partway through a semester or a study period are not eligible to receive student financial assistance until the beginning of the next semester or study period.

Students living in Canada on temporary visas are not eligible for student financial assistance and cannot apply until they have obtained permanent resident status.

### **Protected Persons**

Protected persons and/or convention refugees are eligible for StudentAid BC funding provided they supply the required documentation demonstrating their status.

To apply for StudentAid BC funding, protected persons can apply online and scan and upload through their StudentAid BC Dashboard the following documentation along with their application for student financial assistance:

1. A copy of their Protected Persons Status Document. The document must be valid for the entire study period. StudentAid BC will accept a copy of the student's Permanent Resident card or Letter of Decision issued by the Refugee Protection Division as acceptable proof of status.
2. A copy of the student's temporary social insurance number card/letter or confirmation of social insurance number letter, showing a 900-series social insurance number. All temporary social insurance number cards/letters must be valid for the entire period of study. For example, if the school year ends in April 2025, the expiry date on the temporary social insurance number card/letter must be no earlier than the end of April 2025.

Once the student receives their permanent social insurance number card/letter, they must scan and upload their document to the StudentAid BC Dashboard or notify StudentAid BC by email at [StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca) so that their student file can be updated. Additionally, students who are issued a new social insurance number while having a loan associated to an old social insurance number are required to report the change to the National Student Loan Service Centre. If the student does not have a valid social insurance number card/letter or has a temporary social insurance number card/letter that is due to expire during the period of study, the student must contact Service Canada to obtain a temporary social insurance number or renew an existing social insurance number card/letter.

Students who require assistance may contact their local Service Canada centre in person or call the Social Insurance Registration office.

### Residency Requirements

To be eligible for student financial assistance from StudentAid BC, the student must have established residency in B.C. according to StudentAid BC criteria for each student group category. See [Chapter 7, Section 2](#) for definitions of dependent/independent student category.

Students may only receive student financial assistance from one province or territory at a time. Attempts to obtain student financial assistance from two or more provinces/territories simultaneously may be considered an offence under the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*.

#### Note:

- Residency criteria for StudentAid BC eligibility may differ from other provincial programs.
- Student eligibility is based on the province of residency. Students who began their part-time studies prior to 2015/16 continue to be eligible for funding through the province in which their institution is located based on the residency policy at the time they initially applied. Residency for part-time students is determined based on the independent student criteria.

## Dependent Students

The official residence of dependent students is determined by the residence of their parent(s) or by their sponsor if the student is under sponsorship. B.C. is considered the province of residence if it is the last province in which the parent(s) or sponsor lived for 12 consecutive months, as of the start of the student's study period.

A student who is a permanent resident and lives in B.C. while their sponsor lives in another province is considered to be a resident of the province where their sponsor lives.

A dependent student who is also a Permanent Resident that is sponsored by an individual (other than a parent or spouse) is considered to be a dependent upon the sponsor and will have residency determined based on sponsor.

If the student was previously funded under StudentAid BC while under sponsorship and the student's parents live in B.C., but their sponsor lives in another province, the student will be exempt from the B.C. residency requirement if the student's situation has not changed from the previous year.

If the student's parent(s) have resided in another province for 12 consecutive months, but the student remains in B.C. to begin or continue post-secondary education, then the province may accept the student as having B.C. residency for purposes of student financial assistance, even though the new province in which the parent(s) resides would normally be the true province of residence. If the student is accepted as a B.C. resident, StudentAid BC will notify the student financial assistance authority in the parent(s)' new province of residence that B.C. has accepted the student as a resident.

Appeals will be considered for the student to be classified as a resident of B.C. if any of the following apply:

- The student's parent(s) reside in or maintain a family home in B.C., even if one parent works in another province.
- The student's parent (s) live in B.C., but their sponsor lives in another province.
- The student's parent (s) are separated or divorced and the parent with whom the student normally resides or from whom the principal financial support is received is not a resident of B.C.
- The student's parent (s) are not living in Canada, and the student is studying in B.C.

Students may be required to provide proof of residency. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Copies of the student's parent(s) lease, rental or tenancy agreement and utility receipts.
- A student financial aid denial letter from the student's previous province of residency.
- Canada Revenue Agency documentation showing proof of residency.



## Independent Students

Independent students are considered to be residents of B.C. if they have resided in B.C. for 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the start of their study period, excluding time spent as a full-time student at a post-secondary institution.

If a student has been required by government agencies (e.g. armed forces) to live in B.C., that period of residence is counted in determining official provincial residency. However, any periods of incarceration in B.C. will not be counted towards residency eligibility.

A student who is an independent permanent resident or protected person and is living in B.C. at the time of application and will spend the study period in B.C. but has not lived in any one province for at least 12 continuous months, will be considered a B.C. resident. For example, if an independent student arrived in Canada as a permanent resident less than 12 months before the start date of classes, and intends to study in B.C., the student will be considered a resident of B.C. for student financial assistance purposes.

An independent student may also be considered a B.C. resident on appeal if any of the following apply:

- The student is married and both the student and their spouse originally received student financial assistance from a province other than B.C. but are now both studying in B.C. and B.C. is the province of residency for one of them,
- If married students are both attending a post-secondary institution in a province in which neither is a resident, each student will then be considered a resident of their home province, unless mutual agreement among provinces is reached,
- A married student from another province is attending a B.C. post-secondary institution and the student's spouse is employed in B.C. The working spouse must provide documentation of employment (e.g., pay stubs, letter from employer, etc.) in B.C. for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes in the study period, or
- A student who is considered a resident of another province but has completed four years of full-time study in B.C. prior to the start date of classes for which student financial assistance is being requested.

When a student does not qualify under any of the standard criteria, residency will be considered to be the province or territory in which the student will attend full-time studies.

**Note:** The criteria outlined above for determining B.C. residency are similar to those used by other provinces. Students who do not qualify for StudentAid BC funding under the criteria above are advised to contact the province for which they can meet these criteria.

Students may be required to provide additional information as proof of residency.

## Protected Persons

A student who is a protected person and who has a valid Protected Person's Status Document will be considered a resident of B.C. for the period of time outlined on the Protected Person's Status Document.

This policy applies even if the student landed and temporarily resided in another province. For the purposes of student financial assistance, it is assumed that the province in which the protected person attends post-secondary education is the same province they choose to reside in after completing their studies.

## Full-time Course Load

A full-time course load is defined as being enrolled in and attending at least 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability) in an eligible program (see [Chapter 2](#)). Students must submit an Appendix 3 - Institution and Program Information form showing that they are enrolled in at least 60% of a full-time course load to be considered eligible for full-time student financial assistance.



## Specific Student Eligibility Criteria

The student eligibility criteria below are specific to the student category or program type and must be met in addition to the relevant criteria listed above.

1. [Split Enrolment](#)
2. [Unclassified Studies and Qualifying Years](#)
3. [Work-Integrated Learning](#)
4. [International Exchange](#)
5. [Adult Upgrading Programs](#)
6. [Aviation Program Students](#)
7. [Course Load Averaging](#)

### 1. Split Enrolment

When students are enrolled at more than one post-secondary institution during the same study period, students can attain split enrolment status to accommodate situations where they are unable to obtain the necessary courses at one post-secondary institution and as a result are studying at more than one post-secondary institution during the same study period.

Split enrolment students must fulfill the following requirements to maintain their full-time status with StudentAid BC:

- The course(s) are taken through a StudentAid BC designated institution and are an essential element of the program of study and count for credit toward the student's certificate, diploma or degree at the 'home' post-secondary institution.

- Students must complete 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability) in four months. The study period start and end dates will be based on the start date of the earliest course and the end date of the latest course, provided the overall length does not exceed four months.

Each post-secondary institution decides whether it wishes to participate in the split enrolment process; however, requirements for post-secondary institutions vary based on type and location.

The post-secondary requirements for split enrolment are as follows:

- **In-province public post-secondary institution and in-province public post-secondary institution:** Fully Eligible.
- **In-province private post-secondary institution and in-province private academic post-secondary institution:** Fully Eligible.
- **In-province public post-secondary institution and in-province private post-secondary institution:** Permitted, providing the credits from the second post-secondary institution are recognized, and are an essential element of the program at the home post-secondary institution and are fully transferable.
- **In-province public post-secondary institution and out-of-province public post-secondary institution:** Permitted, providing the credits from the second post-secondary institution are recognized, are an essential element of the program at the home post-secondary institution and are fully transferable. The provincial student financial assistance eligibility will not be pro-rated if the home post-secondary institution is in the Province of B.C.
- **Out-of-province public post-secondary institution and out-of-province public post-secondary institution:** Permitted, if both post-secondary institutions are willing to report any reduction in the student's course load. The second post-secondary institution must send the home post-secondary institution a letter confirming the course load for each disbursement, to enable the home post-secondary institution to confirm the full-time requirement with StudentAid BC.
- **Out-of-province public post-secondary institution and out-of-province private post-secondary institution:** Permitted, if both post-secondary institutions are willing to report any reduction in the student's course load. The second post-secondary institution must send the home post-secondary institution a letter confirming the course load for each disbursement, to enable the home post-secondary institution to confirm the full-time requirement with StudentAid BC.
- **Out-of-province private post-secondary institution and out-of-province private post-secondary institution:** Permitted, if both post-secondary institutions are willing to report any reduction in the student's course load. The second post-secondary institution must send the home post-secondary institution a letter confirming the course load for each disbursement, to enable the home post-secondary institution to confirm the full-time requirement with StudentAid BC.

The 'home' institution is the post-secondary institution from which the student will receive their credential. The home post-secondary institution must approve and agree to the split enrolment and take responsibility for verifying that the student is maintaining a course load for credit that is sufficient to constitute the 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability) requirement. The home institution is expected to report withdrawals and unsuccessful completions to StudentAid BC for students involved in split enrolments.

Post-secondary institutions may contact StudentAid BC for clarification regarding individual student cases.

### **Home post-secondary institution**

The student must identify the program code of the home post-secondary institution on line 19 of the application form.

If required, the home post-secondary institution can complete an Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information) showing the student's combined educational expenses. These expenses include the total cost of tuition and books payable by the student for both post-secondary institutions.

### **Ineligible split enrolment situations**

The following situations are not eligible for StudentAid BC funding:

- Split enrolments involving private vocational/trade post-secondary institutions are not permitted; or
- Split enrolments between three postsecondary institutions. However, the financial aid office may use discretion, providing the home post-secondary institution is willing to follow the procedures outlined above in this section.

Students taking courses at two campuses of the same post-secondary institution are not considered to be in a split enrolment situation.

## **2. Unclassified Studies and Qualifying Years**

Students enrolled in unclassified studies, or a qualifying year may be eligible for student financial assistance under StudentAid BC for up to one year (52 weeks) in their lifetime, provided the student:

- Has completed an undergraduate degree and is enrolled in the unclassified studies or qualifying year to satisfy prerequisite requirements for a specific graduate program; or
- Cannot enter into an undergraduate major without first completing courses necessary to meet the entrance requirements for the undergraduate major.

The post-secondary institution where the student is enrolled in unclassified studies or a qualifying year must identify the program on their Institutional Appendix.

### **3. Work-Integrated Learning (Co-op Placements and Paid Work Terms)**

StudentAid BC recognizes Work-integrated Learning (WIL) as an integral part of the student's academic program. WIL students are eligible to apply for student financial assistance for the mandatory number of co-op term(s), plus one optional term, providing the work term(s) constitute, or are equivalent to, an essential element of the program of study.

It is recommended that students in WIL terms apply for student financial assistance one semester at a time. Students who apply for two semesters of funding (e.g., September to April) and subsequently qualify for a work placement in their first semester, and do not wish to be considered for student financial assistance in that semester, must submit Appendix 7 (Request for Reassessment) to change the original start date to the beginning of the second semester.

### **4. International Exchange**

Students classified by their post-secondary institution as being on an international exchange may be eligible for student financial assistance. For more information about the types of programs that are eligible, please see [Chapter 2](#).

### **5. Adult Upgrading Programs**

Students who are enrolled in an adult upgrading program, or programs, also enrolled in full- or part-time post-secondary level programs are eligible to receive both Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG) funding and StudentAid BC funding concurrently. However, Adult Upgrading Programs will not count towards a full-time or part-time course-load for StudentAid BC funding.

For further information, see the [AUG Policy and Procedures Manual](#).

### **6. Aviation program students**

StudentAid BC does not fund private pilot license training. All students are required to have a private pilot license before applying for StudentAid BC funding to pursue commercial, fixed-wing flight training. Students enrolled in helicopter flight training are not required to hold a private pilot license.

### **7. Course load averaging**

Students are permitted to 'average' the course load to equal 60% (or 40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability), provided the study period is no longer than four months.

Appeals may be considered for exceptional circumstances. For more information, please refer to [Chapter 13, Appeals](#).



### 3.4 Policy: Ineligible Students

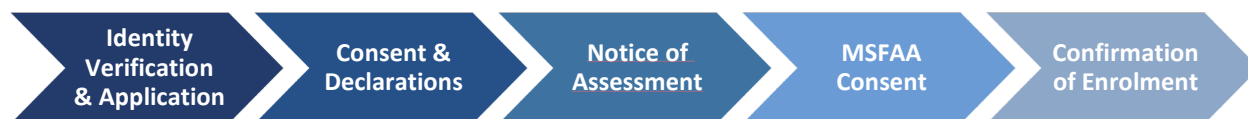
#### **Apprenticeship students**

Apprenticeship students are not eligible for StudentAid BC student financial assistance, as apprenticeship training does not constitute a program of study. Apprentices may be eligible for student financial assistance through Employment Insurance and the [Canada Apprentice Loan Program](#) and apprenticeship grants through [SkilledTradesBC](#).

#### **Incarcerated students**

Students who are incarcerated are not eligible for StudentAid BC student financial assistance. Funding for educational costs is available to incarcerated students through other government resources.

## Chapter 4: Application Requirements



### [4.1 Purpose](#)

### [4.2 Policy: Student Financial Assistance](#)

### [4.3 Background](#)

### [4.4 Identity Verification & Application](#)

### [4.5 Consent and Declarations](#)

### [4.6 Notice of Assessment](#)

### [4.7 MSFAA Consent](#)

### [4.8 Confirmation of Enrolment](#)

#### What happens when a student is approved for full-time funding?

Students must then complete and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA).

## 4.1 Purpose

To ensure that British Columbia post-secondary students who anticipate the need for full-time student financial assistance have their financial need assessed in a fair, consistent, and timely manner.

This chapter summarizes:

- The application requirements
- The process by which students are informed of their student financial assistance
- The responsibilities of the student and their post-secondary institution when an application is submitted to StudentAid BC

**Note:** For information related to financial assistance for part-time students, please refer to [Chapter 12](#).



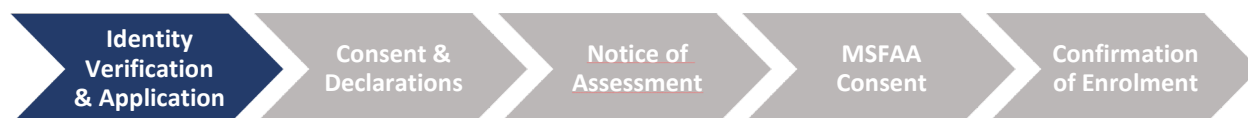
## 4.2 Policy: Student Financial Assistance

An individual must apply through the online StudentAid BC application form to be eligible to obtain full-time or part-time student financial assistance. Eligibility and resulting funding will be determined based on the information supplied in the StudentAid BC application form and related appendices.

## 4.3 Background

StudentAid BC assesses a student's financial need considering allowable costs and resources and determines financial assistance through the application.

## 4.4 Identity Verification & Application



### Requirements

1. All applicants for full-time student financial assistance must have their identity verified before they can access an application. The identity verification process for accessing the secure StudentAid BC student account happens through the use of a student's BC Services Card. Students who are ineligible for a BC Services Card may can contact [StudentAid BC](#) for more information.
2. Students submit one online application for each study period.
3. A student's study period must be a minimum of 12 weeks and cannot exceed 52 consecutive weeks.

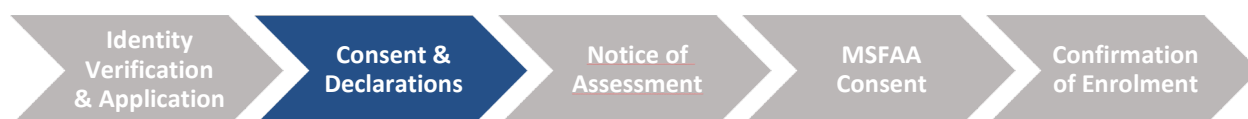
### Application deadlines

The final deadline for completed applications to be received by StudentAid BC (including appeals, reassessments, and transfers) is six weeks before the study period end date.

For more information on institution transfers, see [Chapter 10, Section 2](#).

Applications received after the deadline will not be processed and are not eligible for student financial assistance, unless approved on appeal. For more information on StudentAid BC's appeal policy, see [Chapter 13](#).

## 4.5 Consent and Declarations



### StudentAid BC Declaration and Canada Revenue Agency Income Verification Consent

Upon submitting each application, the student applicant and parent or spouse (as applicable), must consent to the terms and conditions of the StudentAid BC Declaration and Canada Revenue Agency Income Verification.



The student financial assistance application will not be processed until such a time as consent has been received and processed by StudentAid BC.

Consent is required for both online and paper-based student financial assistance applications.

### **Power of Attorney Consent**

A power of attorney is not permitted to consent to the StudentAid BC Declaration and Canada Revenue Agency Consent on behalf of a student, parent or spouse (as applicable), unless the individual is physically unable to provide consent on their own.

Both the student assigning power of attorney and the attorney must be 19 years of age or older.

For students who wish to have another person act as their representative for their student loan interactions with the National Student Loans Service Centre, refer to [Chapter 11](#) for more information.

### **Student identification and passwords**

Students must not share their StudentAid BC user ID, password, or BC Services Card passcode with anyone, including their parents, spouse, financial assistance officers or other post-secondary institution officials.

### **Release of information to a third party**

The StudentAid BC application contains a 'Release of Information' section where students can consent to the disclosure of information related to their application to a named third party.

If students complete this section of the application form, they permit the release of information related to the application, any appendices, forms and assessment to the person they have identified in this section.

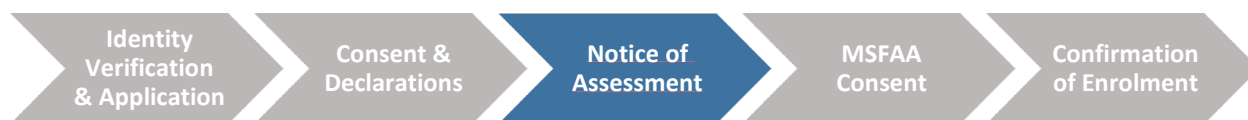
### **Cancelling an application for student financial assistance**

Students can cancel their application for full-time student financial assistance by notifying StudentAid BC in writing or via email, provided the funds have not been disbursed.

Students who change their decision to cancel the application must submit a new application if the original application has been cancelled. If the original application has not been cancelled, the student must advise StudentAid BC in writing to cease the cancellation process.

**Note:** For more detailed information regarding how to cancel an application, please visit the [StudentAid BC website](#).

## 4.6 Notice of Assessment

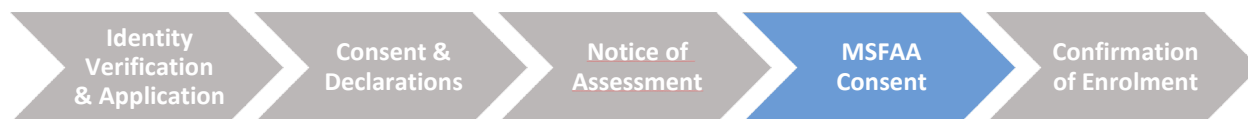


Once StudentAid BC has processed the student's application for student financial assistance, the student will receive a Notice of Assessment (NoA) on their StudentAid BC Dashboard. For students who must complete and submit an electronic Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA), the Notice of Assessment will include a 10-digit MSFAA number.

The Notice of Assessment describes:

- The type of funding the student is eligible to receive
- The amount of funding approved
- When the student will receive the funding
- Where the funding will be sent

## 4.7 Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) Consent



When a student is approved for full-time funding, the Province of British Columbia and the student enter into a legal agreement that provides the legal framework for the funds to be disbursed to the student.

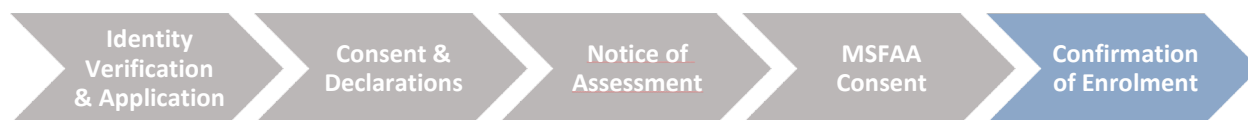
For the Province of British Columbia loan portion of student financial assistance, this legally binding agreement is either:

- The Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) for loans issued on or after August 1, 2011; or
- The Master Student Loan Agreement and the Consolidation Agreement for loans issued prior to August 1, 2011, if an MSFAA has not been signed.

### Student completes the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA)

The MSFAA outlines the terms and conditions of the student's Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada student financial assistance. The student must carefully review the MSFAA before agreeing to the terms and conditions. The terms and conditions outline the requirements for borrowing and repayment of outstanding loan balances. Please refer to [Chapter 11, Section 2.1](#) for more information on the MSFAA.

## 4.8 Confirmation of Enrolment



### Post-secondary institution confirms student's enrolment

Funding will only be released after the post-secondary institution has confirmed that the student is enrolled in an eligible, full-time post-secondary educational program for the entire study period for which the student has applied.

The post-secondary institution can ask that some or all of the funds be paid directly to the post-secondary institution to cover the student's academic fees.

- The cumulative total of all funds directed to the post-secondary institution must not exceed the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and books and supplies as reported to StudentAid BC.

The post-secondary institution must ensure that the student is in agreement with any request to release all or a portion of the loan funding directly to the post-secondary institution.

Post-secondary institutions must **not** confirm a student's enrolment if:

- The student has withdrawn from full-time study or dropped below 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a permanent disability or persistence or prolonged disability); or
- The student's study start or end date differ by more than two weeks from the dates shown on the Confirmation of Enrolment.

### Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment

StudentAid BC will accept Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment up to 26 days prior to the disbursement date.

1. Up to 26 days prior to the disbursement date, StudentAid BC electronically transmits a file to each post-secondary institution participating in the Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment program, identifying their upcoming disbursements.
2. The post-secondary institution confirms that the student is full-time and provides instructions on the amount of StudentAid BC funding to be sent to the post-secondary institution, if any.
3. Files are transmitted daily to and from StudentAid BC and the participating post-secondary institutions.
4. StudentAid BC sends an electronic funds transfer file to the National Student Loans Service Centre. The National Student Loans Service Centre deposits the funds into a student's account within seven business days.

**Non-electronic Confirmation of Enrolment**

Post-secondary institutions that do not confirm enrolment electronically can confirm a student's enrolment on or after the disbursement date listed on the student's paper Confirmation of Enrolment form.

If the post-secondary institution requires paper Confirmation of Enrolment, StudentAid BC will post the Confirmation of Enrolment form to the student's StudentAid BC dashboard.

A post-secondary institution official confirms a student's full-time enrolment by submitting a completed Confirmation of Enrolment Form to StudentAid BC.

Post-secondary institutions must ensure the following criteria are met before they sign the paper Confirmation of Enrolment form:

- The student is registered full-time on or after the first day of classes for the study period for which the funding is given;
- The document is not signed until the student is enrolled full-time;
- The student is in agreement with any request to release all or a portion of the loan funding directly to the post-secondary institution and signs accordingly; and
- The cumulative total of all funds directed to the post-secondary institution does not exceed the cost of tuition, books and fees as indicated on the Appendix 3 form.

## Chapter 5: Non-Repayable Financial Assistance

### Federal Programs

### Provincial Programs

#### [5.1 Purpose](#)

#### [5.2 Background](#)

#### [5.3 Federal Programs](#)

##### [5.3.1 Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students](#)

##### [5.3.2 Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependents](#)

##### [5.3.3 Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for Family Doctors and Nurses](#)

#### [5.4 Provincial Programs](#)

##### [5.4.1 Adult Upgrading Grant](#)

##### [5.4.2 B.C. Access Grant for Full Time Students](#)

##### [5.4.3 B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

##### [5.4.4 Lieutenant Governor's Medal Program](#)

##### [5.4.5 Nurses Education Bursary](#)

##### [5.4.6 Pacific Leaders B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

##### [5.4.7 Pacific Leaders Scholarship for Children of Public Servants](#)

##### [5.4.8 Pacific Leaders Scholarship for Public Servants](#)

##### [5.4.9 Provincial Tuition Waiver Program for Former Youth in Care](#)

##### [5.4.10 Learning for Future Grant](#)

##### [5.4.11 Youth Educational Assistance Fund](#)

### 5.1 Purpose

This chapter describes the non-repayable scholarships, bursaries, grants, awards and targeted funding available to full-time students.

The programs described in this chapter are funded by the Government of Canada (for Canada Student Grants), or the Province of British Columbia (for British Columbia grants).

Please refer to [Chapter 6](#) for information on student financial assistance for students with disabilities, and [Chapter 12](#) for information on student financial assistance for part-time students.

### 5.2 Background

Students are considered for most student financial assistance programs described in this chapter based on the information provided on their StudentAid BC application, while some programs require a separate application or are determined by institutions. Each student's application is











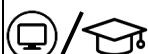


subject to both a Government of Canada eligibility assessment calculation based on Canada Student Financial Assistance Program costs and resources, and a Province of British Columbia eligibility assessment calculation based on StudentAid BC costs and resources. As a result, a federal assessed need and a provincial assessed need will be calculated and will be used to determine eligibility for financial assistance programs.

The Canada Revenue Agency requires the issuance of a T4A for specific non-repayable financial assistance provided to students, such as grants, bursaries and scholarships (see the Program Funding Overview Table below). Non-repayable student financial assistance may or may not be taxable, depending on a student's individual circumstances and taxation rules described in the Income Tax Act.




A T4A is issued for the calendar year in which the non-repayable financial assistance was received. T4As are issued to students in February for the previous calendar (tax) year.

For a list of T4A issuers for each non-repayable financial assistance program, refer to the Program Funding Overview Table below.

## Program Funding Overview Table

Federal Programs	Funding available	How is this assessed?	T4A Issuer
<b>Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$525 per month of study</li> </ul>		NSLSC
<b>Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$280 per month of study per dependant</li> </ul>		NSLSC
<b>Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for Family Doctors and Nurses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to a maximum of \$60,000 over five years for a doctor (\$8,000 for year 1, \$10,000 for year 2, \$12,000 for year 3, \$14,000 for year 4, and \$16,000 for year 5)</li> <li>Up to a maximum of \$30,000 over five years for a nurse or nurse practitioner (\$4,000 for year 1, \$5,000 for year 2, \$6,000 for year 3, \$7,000 for year 4 and \$8,000 for year 5)</li> </ul>		N/A
<b>Provincial Programs</b>			
<b>Adult Upgrading Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding provided for adults enrolled in Adult Education Programs</li> </ul>		PSI
<b>B.C. Access Grant for Full-Time Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$4,000 a year for students enrolled in programs less than 2 years in length</li> <li>Up to \$1,000 a year for students enrolled in programs 2 or more years in length</li> </ul>		SABC
<b>B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 20% of the outstanding British Columbia portion of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan per year for up to five years</li> </ul>		N/A
<b>Nurses Education Bursary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,000 per year</li> </ul>		SABC
<b>Pacific Leaders B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to one-third of the outstanding British Columbia portion of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan per year over three years</li> </ul>		N/A
<b>Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Children of Public Servants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,500 (one-time)</li> </ul>		SABC
<b>Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Public Servants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5,000 per year for undergraduate degree, diploma, and certificate programs</li> <li>\$7,500 per year for master's or PhD programs</li> </ul>		Min.
<b>Provincial Tuition Waiver Program For Current and Former Children or Youth in Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition and eligible fee waivers</li> </ul>		PSI
<b>Learning for Future Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3,500 per year</li> </ul>		PSI/SABC
<b>Youth Educational Assistance Fund*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5,500 per year up to a maximum of four grants over lifetime</li> </ul>		Vic. Fdn.

\*Institutions or students may complete this application

Icon	Assessed via:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StudentAid BC application</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate application</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application available from a B.C. Public post-secondary institution</li> </ul>

Abbreviation	Issuer
NSLSC	National Student Loans Service Centre
SABC	StudentAid BC
PSI	Post-Secondary Institution
Min.	Ministry – funding provided by the public servant's ministry/organization
Vic. Fdn	The Victoria Foundation

## 5.3 Federal Programs

### Overview

Canada Student Grants are the federal government's family of grants to help targeted groups of students. This section describes the following Canada Student Grants (CSG):

- Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students (CSG-FT)
- Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants (CSG-FTDEP)

Students are automatically assessed for their eligibility for these grants when they submit their StudentAid BC application. Students can receive the grant in each year of their studies if they continue to meet the grant criteria.

### Award configuration

Canada Student Grants are fixed amounts and may exceed a student's assessed need.

For example, if a low-income student demonstrates \$1,400 of federal assessed need, the student could still receive a CSG-FT grant of \$4,200 assuming a study period of eight months. In this case, the student does not require a loan.

A student's federal assessed need is determined when they apply for full-time student financial assistance. The CSG-FT is applied as follows:

1. The grant is applied to the Government of Canada portion of the student's assessed need.
2. If there is any grant remaining (for example, where the total of grants received is greater than the Government of Canada portion of a student's assessed need), the unused grant(s) are applied to the B.C. portion of the student's Province of British Columbia assessed need.

If a student has a high Government of Canada assessed need, the student may receive the maximum Canada Student Loan of \$10,200 in addition to the grant.

See [Chapter 8](#) for other examples of Canada Student Grant award configurations.

### Release of funding

The Canada Student Grants are distributed through the National Student Loans Service Centre via electronic funds transfer using the direct deposit information provided by the student.

If the study period is greater than 17 weeks, the grants are disbursed in two instalments: once at the beginning and once at the midpoint of the study period. If the study period is 17 weeks or less, the grants are distributed in one instalment at the start of the study period.



## Overawards

For information on Canada Student Grant overawards see [Chapter 10](#).

### 5.3.1 Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students



#### Policy

The Canada Student Grant for full-time students (CSG-FT) provides non-repayable financial assistance to students from low and middle-income families. Students are automatically eligible for the CSG-FT if they apply for full-time student financial assistance and meet all the following criteria:

- Have total family income for the previous calendar year that is equal to or less than the before-tax low-income thresholds established by the Government of Canada for the CSG-FT grant. See [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#);
- Have a federal assessed financial need of at least \$1; and
- Are pursuing full-time post-secondary studies leading to an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma, in a program of at least two years (60 weeks) duration at a designated institution.

Eligible students may receive up to a maximum of \$525 per month of study, based on their previous year's annual income and their family size. The CSG-FT amount is determined according to a single progressive threshold; as the total family income increases, the amount of the grant gradually decreases, to a minimum disbursement of \$100 per study period.

The grant is a fixed amount that shall not be further reduced based on student need and may exceed a borrower's assessed need.

Students are eligible for the CSG-FT grant for each year of undergraduate post-secondary studies as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

### 5.3.2 Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants



#### Policy

The Canada Student Grant for full-time students with dependants (CSG-FTDEP) provides up to a maximum of \$280 per dependant for each month of full-time post-secondary study. This non-repayable financial assistance helps students from low- and middle-income families with the costs of caring for their dependants while pursuing post-secondary studies. The amount of CSG-FTDEP is calculated on a single progressive threshold resulting in the grant amount gradually decreasing as income increases, with the rate of reduction varying by family size. The grant amount awarded may exceed a student's assessed need.

Students are automatically eligible for the CSG-FTDEP if they apply for full-time student financial assistance, have a dependant under the age of 12 at the start of the study period and meet all the following criteria:

- Have a Government of Canada assessed financial need of at least \$1;
- Are pursuing full-time post-secondary studies leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma at a StudentAid BC designated educational institution, including studies beyond the undergraduate level; and
- Have total family income for the previous calendar year (January 1 – December 31) that is less than the income cut-off amount listed in [Chapter 14, Table 7b](#).

Students with a permanently disabled dependant who is 12 years of age or older at the start of the study period may also be eligible for the CSG-FTDEP, if they meet the above criteria. To be considered for receipt of the CSG-FTDEP, students must submit an appeal with proof of the dependant's age and proof of the dependant's permanent disability (i.e., a medical certificate or documentation proving receipt of federal or provincial disability assistance).

Students are eligible for this grant for each year of their post-secondary studies (including undergraduate and graduate levels), as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

### **5.3.3 Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for Family Doctors and Nurses**

For information on the program, please visit the [Government of Canada's website](#).

## 5.4 Provincial Programs

### 5.4.1 Adult Upgrading Grant

The Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG) program is a needs-based financial assistance program. It provides a non-repayable grant to students at participating B.C. public post-secondary institutions who are enrolled in any of the following adult upgrading programs:

- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language
- Accessible Education and Training

Financial aid officers at the participating B.C. public post-secondary institutions determine students' eligibility based on policy set out by the Province of British Columbia.

See the [Adult Upgrading Grant Policy and Procedures Manual](#) for more information.

### 5.4.2 B.C. Access Grant for Full-Time Students



#### Policy

The B.C. Access Grant for Full-Time Students (BCAG- FT) provides up-front, needs-based, non-repayable financial assistance to low- and middle-income students studying full-time in eligible programs at B.C. public post-secondary institutions.

Part-time students may be eligible for the B.C. Access Grant for Part-Time Students. See [Chapter 12, section 2](#) for more information.



#### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the BCAG-FT, students must:

- Meet basic StudentAid BC eligibility criteria for full-time students ([Chapter 3](#));
- Attend a B.C. public post-secondary institution;
- Be enrolled in an eligible program leading to a certificate, diploma or undergraduate degree (master's and PhD programs are not eligible); and
- Demonstrate at least \$1 of provincial assessed need ([Chapter 7](#)).

#### Assessment

Students are automatically assessed for BCAG-FT eligibility when they submit a StudentAid BC application for full-time student financial assistance.

## Award Calculation

Calculation of the BCAG-FT award is based on three considerations:

### 1. Length of program

A weekly grant maximum is determined based on the length of the program the student is attending:

- 2 years or more: \$29.41 weekly grant maximum
- Less than 2 years: \$117.65 weekly grant maximum

### 2. Student's total prior year annual family income and family size

Once a weekly grant maximum is determined, based on program length, a student's total family income and family size is compared to the income thresholds listed in Tables 10a and 10b in [Chapter 14](#), to determine their weekly grant amount.

Students are eligible to receive the maximum BCAG-FT award if their total family income is equal to or less than the income threshold for their family size. If their total family income is greater than the income threshold for their family size but less than the income cap for minimum grant eligibility, a progressive slope formula is applied to the award calculation; as the total family income increases, the BCAG-FT gradually decreases, to a minimum disbursement of \$100 per study period. Students whose total family income exceeds the income cap for minimum grant eligibility do not qualify to receive the BCAG-FT.

### 3. Length of the study period

The weekly grant amount a student is eligible for is multiplied by the number of weeks in the student's study period.

**Example 1:** A single independent student with a prior year income of \$30,000 is studying full-time in an eligible program that is two or more years in length. Their weekly grant amount is the maximum: \$29.41. This weekly amount is then multiplied by the student's study period of 34 weeks. Their BCAG-FT award is \$1,000.00.

**Example 2:** An independent student with a family size of four and a prior year total family income of \$62,000 is studying full-time in a certificate program that is less than two years in length. They are eligible for the maximum weekly grant amount of \$117.65. This weekly amount is multiplied by the student's study period of 34 weeks. Their BCAG-FT award is \$4,000.00.

## Conversion of B.C. Student Grant to Loan

A BCAG-FT award will be converted to a loan if:

- The student is no longer qualified for enrolment or is no longer enrolled as a full-time student within 30 days after the first day of classes;

- The student received the grant as a result of providing inaccurate information or of failing to provide relevant information; or,
- The appropriate authority determines that the student is not entitled to the grant based on reassessment.

A BCAG-FT award will not be converted to a loan if a student withdraws from full-time studies after 30 calendar days of the study period start date. Future grant disbursements (if any) will be cancelled.

Withdrawal from full-time studies does not reduce future entitlement to BCAG-FT. However, BCAG-FT recipients are subject to StudentAid BC's withdrawal policy, as outlined in [Chapter 9](#).

Students may appeal and have their grant-to-loan conversion reversed if they can demonstrate that their withdrawal was caused by an exceptional circumstance. See [Chapter 13](#) for more information on StudentAid BC's appeals policy.

### **Grant-to-Loan Interaction**

The BCAG-FT is a fixed amount and replaces B.C. student loan funding up to the weekly loan maximum. See [Chapter 8, Section 2](#) for more information. The BCAG-FT may exceed a student's provincial assessed need.

### **Program Year Limit**

The program year limit for the BCAG-FT is 52 weeks of grant eligibility.

### **Reassessment**

If a student is reassessed based on new information (e.g., updated income) and is found to have received BCAG-FT in excess of their entitlement, the equivalent amount is converted to a provincial loan which they must pay back.

### **Release of funding**

The BCAG-FT is distributed by an electronic funds transfer via the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC). If the study period is greater than 17 weeks, the grant is disbursed in two instalments: one at the start of the study period and a second at the midpoint. If the study period is 17 weeks or less, the grant is distributed in one instalment at the start of the study period.

## **5.4.3 B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program**



### **Policy**

Provide a financial incentive to eligible workers by forgiving the B.C. portion of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan debt. This applies to graduates who are either:

- Working in a publicly funded facility in select in-demand occupations in underserved communities where access to health care is limited. A publicly funded facility is defined as any public health facility or health program funded primarily through a public agency; or
- Working with children 18 years of age and younger in occupations where there is an identified shortage.



### Criteria

Individuals may submit an application to the B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program (BC-LFP) and may receive benefits under the program if they meet the following eligibility criteria. To be eligible for registration in the BC-LFP, applicants must:

- Be in repayment of an outstanding Canada-B.C. integrated student loan;
- Have graduated from a designated institution;
- Be employed at a publicly funded facility in British Columbia;
- Be working in an eligible occupation, either with children or in an eligible underserved community;
- Not be restricted or in default, delinquent or in bankruptcy, and have no provincial or federal overaward restrictions with Canada-B.C. integrated student loans; and
- Not be enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies.

To maintain eligibility for loan forgiveness, registered BC-LFP participants must:

- Demonstrate employment during the previous 12-month period, in an eligible occupation, working either with children or in an eligible underserved community;
- Demonstrate provision of a minimum of 100 hours of in-person services over a 12-month period, in an eligible occupation working either with children or in an eligible underserved community;
- Not be restricted or in default, delinquent or in bankruptcy, and have no provincial or federal overaward restrictions with Canada-B.C. integrated student loans; and
- Not be enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies.

### Eligible occupations

The listing of occupations eligible for the BC-LFP, working either with children or in an eligible underserved community, will be published on the StudentAid BC website on August 1 of each year. The occupations deemed eligible for the BC-LFP will reflect labour market needs in B.C. and are determined through a consultative process between the Ministries of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Health, Education and Child Care, and Children and Family Development.

Participants may only claim in-person service in an occupation working either with children or in an eligible underserved community, for dates that occur after the occupation is identified as eligible and is published on the [StudentAid BC website](#).

Participants working in an occupation that is deemed eligible at the time of their successful registration in the BC-LFP will remain eligible for program benefits for up to five years if they perform in-person service in the occupation, either working with children or in an eligible underserved community, even if the occupation is subsequently removed from the list of eligible occupations published on the StudentAid BC website.

### **Eligible underserved communities**

The listing of underserved communities eligible for the BC-LFP will be provided each year by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. In order to provide applicants with timely information, any changes to the underserved communities list will be published on the StudentAid BC website by May 1 of each year, becoming effective August 1 of that same year. The list will be drawn from communities identified through the [Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement](#), supplied by the MoH, and will consist of both A and B designated communities.

Participants may only claim in-person service in an eligible underserved community for dates that occur after their successful registration in the BC-LFP.

Participants working in an underserved community that is deemed eligible at the time of their successful registration in the BC-LFP will remain eligible for program benefits for up to five years if they perform in-person service in that community, even if the community is subsequently removed from the list of eligible underserved communities.

### **Professionals working with children**

Participants working in eligible professions in a publicly funded facility with children can have up to 20% of the outstanding British Columbia portion of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan forgiven per year, if they meet the in-person service requirements over a 12-month period. Participants can remain eligible for loan forgiveness for up to five years if all eligibility criteria are met each year.

### **Health professionals**

Successful applicants working in eligible professions in a publicly funded health facility in an eligible underserved community can have up to 20% of the outstanding British Columbia portion of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan forgiven per year if they meet the in-person service requirements over a 12-month period. Participants can remain eligible for loan forgiveness for up to five years if all eligibility criteria are met each year.

### **Minimum hours of in-person service**

To be eligible to receive maximum loan forgiveness (20% per year) of the British Columbia portion of their outstanding Canada-B.C. integrated student loan debt, participants must provide a

minimum of 400 hours of in-person service over a 12-month period of employment. Only hours served after successful registration will be considered.

Those participants who do not perform at least 400 hours of in-person service will receive a pro-rated percentage of loan forgiveness if they perform between 100 and 399 hours of in-person service (Table I). Those participants who do not provide at least 100 hours of in-person service will be removed from the program and will be responsible for repayment of their loans.

**Table I**

Hours of Service	Percentage Debt Forgiveness
0 to 99	0%
100 to 249	10%
250 to 399	15%
400+	20%

### **Forgiveness amount**

At the time of registration in the BC-LFP, the British Columbia portion of the participant's outstanding Canada-B.C. integrated student loan debt will be divided into five equal amounts (20% each). This amount of outstanding debt will be forgiven for each of five years of employment if 400+ hours of in-person service is provided each year. Participants reporting less than 400 hours of in-person service in any of the five years of employment will receive a pro-rated percentage of loan forgiveness based on the number of hours of in-person service reported each year, consistent with Table 5.I. Participants who do not meet the required minimum 100 hours of in-person service will be removed from the program and will be responsible for repayment of their loans. A participant whose service hours have fallen below 100 and who is on approved leave will not be required to make payments on their B.C. student loans for the duration of their approved leave.

### **Application requirements**

To apply for the BC Loan Forgiveness Program, applicants must complete and submit the BC-LFP application form, along with the required supporting documents outlined in the application instructions, prior to or after the beginning of their eligible employment period. Only in-person service hours completed after successful registration in the BC-LFP will be considered towards the annual in-person service requirement. The BC-LFP does not provide retroactive program benefits. The BC-LFP application is available the [StudentAid BC website](#).

At the end of each 12 months of employment, within four weeks of the participant's program anniversary date, the participant must submit a letter from their employer which confirms that they have completed 12 months of employment and provides the total number of in-person service



hours worked during the 12-month period. StudentAid BC will send the participant a reminder letter one month before the anniversary date.

Participants who do not submit the letter from their employer confirming completion of the employment period and/or who have not completed the minimum hours of in-person service required to receive program benefits will be removed from the program.

**Note:** If a participant's file is under audit, their application will be held pending completion of the audit.

### **Approved leave**

BC-LFP participants who subsequently go on approved leave can remain enrolled in the program and receive benefits based on their previously established levels of in-person service hours for the duration of their approved leave.

BC-LFP participants who are placed on maternity/parental, long term disability, or short-term illness and injury plan leave will be required to provide StudentAid BC with documentation confirming the type of approved leave. Documentation must include the type of leave, confirmation that it has been approved by the employer, and the period that the employee has been on leave. Documentation must be submitted at the end of their BC-LFP 12-month anniversary period, along with the confirmation of employment letter from the participant's employer.

Upon validation of documentation, StudentAid BC will use previous in-person service hours from the participant's current BC-LFP annual term, or hours from a previous BC-LFP annual term, to calculate the total in-person service hours the participant would have otherwise been expected to achieve during the period of approved leave.

Participants will be required to submit documentation for each year of ongoing documented leave while in the BC-LFP, to continue to receive program benefits based on their expected in-person service hours, until such a time as the BC-LFP 5-year term concludes.

#### **5.4.4 Lieutenant Governor's Medal Program**

The Lieutenant Governor's Medal is awarded by public post-secondary institutions who nominate students that have promoted inclusion, democracy and/or reconciliation. Recipients receive a commemorative medal by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Students are eligible if they are enrolled in one of the following:

- A vocational or career program less than two years in length
- A two-year diploma program, or
- A four-year undergraduate degree

For more information about the Lieutenant Governor's Medal Program for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation, please visit the [StudentAid BC website](#).

### 5.4.5 Nurses Education Bursary



#### Policy

The annual Nurses Education Bursary (NEB) budget is allocated proportionately to students attending B.C. public and private post-secondary institutions, based on the number of full-time StudentAid BC loan-eligible applicants in nursing programs in the bursary period.

Awards are disbursed based on a fixed budget and not all applicants demonstrating financial need will receive a bursary award. StudentAid BC ranks applicants in the bursary period from highest to lowest financial need, based on their need assessment. Only approved applicants will be notified by StudentAid BC.

The bursary award amount is \$2,000 per recipient. Recipients can only receive one bursary award in a 12-month period.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time in an eligible nursing program at a StudentAid BC designated post-secondary institution, with the program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree recognized for nursing practice in the Province of British Columbia.

Students in eligible nursing programs are automatically considered for the NEB based on provincial financial need on their StudentAid BC loan application for each of the following three bursary periods:

- May to August
- September to December
- January to April

Students are not eligible for a NEB if they:

- Are in default on a B.C. student loan;
- Are in bankruptcy or a bankruptcy-related event;
- Are under audit at StudentAid BC;
- Are a part-time student; or
- Withdrew from studies prior to completion and have not met the "Reinstatement after a withdrawal" policy requirements, described below.

#### Withdrawal

All NEB awards are reviewed annually to determine study period completion rates. If a recipient does not complete the bursary period or program of study for which they have been awarded funds, they will be deemed to have withdrawn. The recipient will not be eligible for future funding from the NEB.

**Reinstatement after a withdrawal**

If a NEB recipient is deemed to have withdrawn from their program and the student wishes to be reinstated for consideration for a future NEB, the student must repay the bursary, or a pro-rated portion depending on the date of withdrawal.

**Appeals**

If a NEB recipient has withdrawn from their program due to exceptional circumstances, the student may appeal to be reinstated as eligible for NEB funding in a subsequent study period without having to repay the bursary in whole or in part. The student must provide proof to StudentAid BC for consideration of the exceptional circumstances that led them to withdraw from the program.

**5.4.6 Pacific Leaders B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program**

Post-secondary graduates who work for the B.C. Public Service as regular full- or part-time employees, have completed their probation period and have B.C. Student Loans in good standing, may apply to have their B.C. Student Loan forgiven at the rate of one-third of the total per year.

For eligibility criteria and other information about the Pacific Leaders B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program, please visit the [Pacific Leaders website](#).

**5.4.7 Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Children of Public Servants**

Every year, up to 60 scholarships of \$2,500 are available to children of B.C. public servants. Applicants must be under 25 and accepted (or conditionally accepted) for admission as a full-time student in a bachelor's degree program or in trade, technical, or vocational training at a StudentAid BC designated public or private post-secondary institution in British Columbia.

Qualified students with a parent who has been an employee of the B.C. Public Service for the last three years may apply.

For eligibility criteria and other information about the Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Children of Public Servants Program, please visit the [Pacific Leaders website](#).

**5.4.8 Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Public Servants**

Employees of the BC Public Service may be eligible for scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and books for post-secondary programs in areas that align with the Province of British Columbia's current and future skill needs. Students can access scholarships up to a maximum of:

- \$5,000 per year for undergraduate degree, diploma and certificate programs
- \$7,500 per year for master's or PhD programs

For eligibility criteria and other information about the Pacific Leaders Scholarships for Public Servants Program, please visit the [Pacific Leaders website](#).

### 5.4.9 Provincial Tuition Waiver Program for Current and Former Children or Youth in Care



#### Policy

To improve access to education and training, the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program waives domestic tuition and eligible fees for B.C. students who are current and former children or youth in care.

To be eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, students must be studying full- or part-time, below the graduate level, at a B.C. public post-secondary institution, the Native Education College, or an approved union-based trades training provider (for more information on eligible courses and programs, eligible fees, and a full list of eligible institutions, please visit the [StudentAid BC website](#)), and must be:

- Adopted through the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA); or
- Formerly in the B.C. Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Child in Home of Relative program; or
- Currently or formerly in any of the below B.C. MCFD or ICFSA Legal Statuses (either while living in B.C. or while placed by MCFD or an ICFSA, on an Interprovincial Placement Agreement) at the time they turn(ed) 19, or for at least 24 months (730 days) (consecutive or accumulated in any combination).

MCFD and ICFSA Legal Statuses, regarding student eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, include the following, consecutive or accumulated, in any combination, pursuant to *the B.C. Child, Family and Community Service Act* (the Act):

- Extended Family Plan pursuant to section 8 of the Act
- Interim Custody Order with a Director pursuant to section 35(2)(a) of the Act (or equivalent)
- Interim Custody Order with person other than a parent pursuant to section 35(2)(d) of the Act
- Temporary Custody Order with a Director pursuant to section 41(1) of the Act (or equivalent)
- Temporary Custody Order with a person other than a parent pursuant to section 41(1)(b) of the Act (or equivalent)
- Permanent Transfer of Custody Order with person other than a parent pursuant to section 54.01 or 54.1 of the Act
- Youth Agreement pursuant to section 12.2 of the Act
- Voluntary Care Agreement pursuant to section 6 of the Act
- Special Needs Agreement pursuant to section 7 of the Act;
- A Continuing Custody Order with a Director pursuant to sections 41(1)(d), 42.2(4)(d), 42.2 (7), 49(4), 49(5) or 49(10) of the Act
- Under the Personal Guardianship of a Director pursuant to the B.C. *Infants Act*
- Under the Personal Guardianship of a Director of adoption under the B.C. *Adoption Act*.

**Note:** Once approved for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, students may continue to access the program for eligible future studies with no requirement for reapplication. Newly approved students may claim reimbursement for domestic tuition and fees paid, from the date they meet the PTWP eligibility, at any time during the same fiscal year (April 1 - March 31).

StudentAid BC has discretion on a case-by-case basis to approve exceptions to standard Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria related to time in care, legal status, or in a comparable agreement under Indigenous Law through a review of exceptional circumstances.

To be considered for a review of exceptional circumstances, an individual must either submit their Provincial Tuition Waiver application through an eligible educational institute, or submit an application for an eligibility check to [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca). Once the application outcome is received, a request for a review of exceptional circumstances may be submitted to [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca).

For more information on review categories, please visit the [StudentAid BC](#) website.

#### 5.4.10 Learning for Future Grant



##### Policy

The Learning for Future Grant provides an annual grant of \$3,500 per program year (August 1 – July 31) to assist with additional education related costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (e.g., textbooks, computers and supplies).

To be eligible for the Learning for Future Grant, students must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program; and
- Be enrolled in a course or program of study, below the graduate level, which leads or will lead to a credential (certificate, diploma or degree), where each study period is a minimum duration of six weeks, or 35 tuition hours. This includes:
  - Unclassified/qualifying studies
  - Continuing education courses and programs that
    - Lead or will lead to a credential (certificate, diploma or degree)
    - Support entry to the labour market, or transition to a credentialed program, at an eligible post-secondary institution.

Single/standalone courses that do not lead to a credential are not eligible, regardless of whether they will support a student's entry to the labour market.

For courses or programs spanning two program years, a student is eligible to receive two Learning for Future Grants (one per program year) if the course or program duration is a minimum of six weeks, or 35 tuition hours, in each of the two program years.

For more information on the Learning for Future Grant, please visit the [StudentAid BC](#) website.

#### 5.4.11 Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF)

The Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF) provides an annual grant of \$5,500 to former B.C. youth in continuing custody who were either:

- In the continuing custody of a director designated under section 91 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) pursuant to that act;
- Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to section 51(1)(a) of the *Infants Act*; or;
- Under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the *Adoption Act* until they turned 19 years of age or for at least five years immediately prior to their adoption or permanent transfer of custody to a person other than a parent under s.54.1 of the CFCSA.

Students who meet the eligibility for the YEOF legacy policy below can receive a maximum of four grants over their lifetime. Students are not required to apply for either full-time or part-time student financial assistance to be eligible for YEOF.

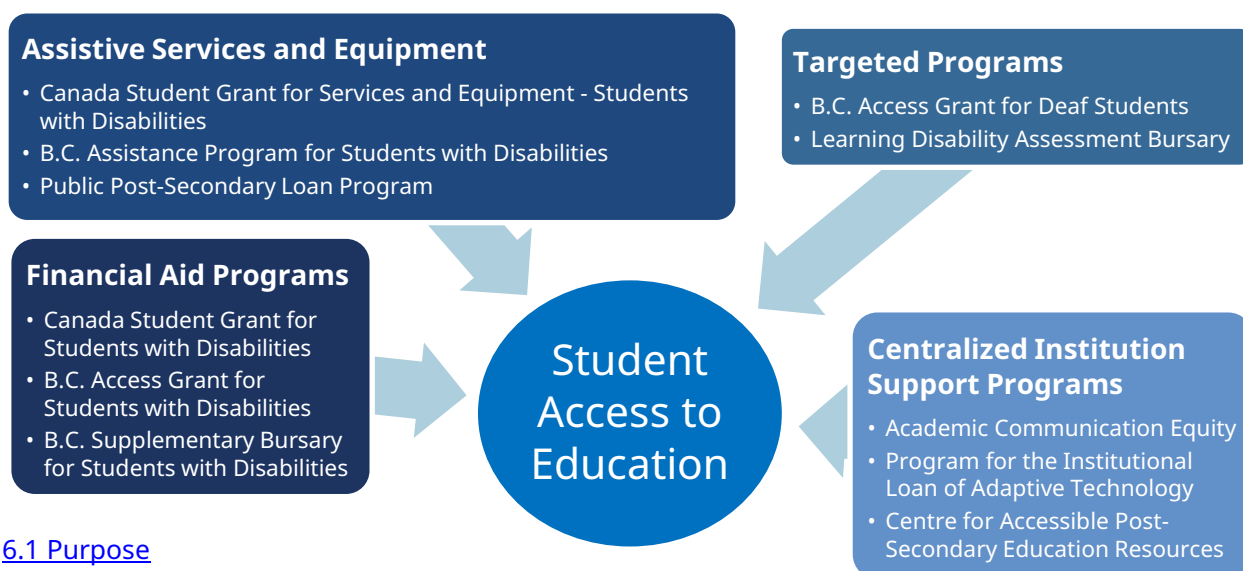
#### YEOF Legacy Policy

Effective August 1, 2023, the YEOF began to be phased out following the implementation of the Learning for Future Grant. Students who applied and were approved for YEOF prior to July 31, 2023, may continue to receive the YEOF grant amount for the duration of their initial program of study, the four-year lifetime maximum, or until they turn 25, whichever comes first. This includes students who were previously approved for YEOF in a program or institution that is not eligible for the Learning for Future Grant. Students who are eligible for both YEOF and the Learning for Future Grant may not receive YEOF and the Learning for Future Grant concurrently for the same program year.

To be eligible for YEOF, students must be:

- Between the ages of 19 and 24,
- Taking at least 60% of a full course load at a designated post-secondary institution (40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability) in an eligible program at least 12 weeks in length that leads to a certificate, diploma or degree, and
- Applied prior to July 31, 2023.

## Chapter 6: Accessibility Supports Framework



### [6.1 Purpose](#)

### [6.2 Accessibility Supports Framework Overview](#)

### [6.3 Eligibility Criteria](#)

### [6.4 Financial Assistance Programs](#)

#### [6.4.1 Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities \(CSG-D\)](#)

#### [6.4.2 B.C. Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities \(SBSD\)](#)

#### [6.4.3 B.C. Access Grant for Full-Time Students with Disabilities \(BCAG-D\)](#)

### [6.5 Assistive Services and Equipment Programs](#)

#### [6.5.1 Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities \(CSG-DSE\)](#)

#### [6.5.2 CSG-DSE Disability Assessment Reimbursement](#)

#### [6.5.3 Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities \(APSD\)](#)

#### [6.5.4 Public Post-Secondary Loan Program \(PPL\)](#)

### [6.6 Targeted Programs](#)

#### [6.6.1 B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students \(BCAG-DS\)](#)

#### [6.6.2 Learning Disability Assessment Bursary \(LDAB\)](#)

### [6.7 Centralized Institution Support Programs](#)

#### [6.7.1 Accessibility and Interpreting Services](#)

#### [6.7.2 Centre for Accessible Post-Secondary Education Resources \(CAPER\)](#)

#### [6.7.3 Academic Communication Equity \(ACE\)](#)

#### [6.7.4 Program for Institutional Loans of Adaptive Technology \(PILAT\)](#)

### [6.8 Debt Management](#)

#### [6.8.1 Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities \(RAP-D\)](#)

### [6.9 Severe Permanent Disability Loan Forgiveness Programs](#)

#### [6.9.1 Canada Student Loans Program Severe Permanent Disability Benefit \(SPDB\)](#)

#### [6.9.2 BC Provision for Students with Severe Disabilities \(PSSD\)](#)

## 6.1 Purpose

Chapter 6 describes programs administered by StudentAid BC as part of the Accessibility Supports Framework (ASF), a student-centred suite of similarly focused programs intended to address functional limitations (disability) related accessibility barriers to post-secondary education.
















The ASF is composed of Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia programs administered by StudentAid BC that provide financial assistance, assistive services and equipment, as well as targeted and centralized institution support programs.

## 6.2 Accessibility Supports Framework (ASF) Overview




Eligible ASF students currently studying or planning to study at a StudentAid BC designated post-secondary institution may qualify for one or more of the ASF programs outlined in Table 6.2 - Accessibility Supports Framework Overview.



**Table 6.2 – Accessibility Supports Framework Overview**

Federal Programs	Funding available	How is this accessed?	T4A Issuer
Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities	\$2,800 per program year		NSLSC
Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities	Up to \$20,000 per program year		SABC
Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities – Disability Assessment Reimbursement	100% of the cost of a Disability Assessment (up to \$3,500) per year		NSLSC
Canada Repayment Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities	Reduced loan repayment based on income and disability related costs		N/A
Canada Severe Permanent Disability Benefit	Forgiveness of federal student loan debt		NSLSC
<b>Provincial Programs</b>			
BC Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities	\$800 and \$400 for full-time and part-time students respectively per program year		SABC
B.C. Access Grant for Students with Disabilities	Up to \$1,560 per program year		SABC
Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities	Up to \$12,000 per program year		SABC/PSI*
B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students	Up to \$30,000 per program year		SABC
Learning Disability Assessment Bursary	One-time award up to \$3,500 per year		PSI
Provision for Students with Severe Disabilities	Reduced loan repayment based on income and disability related costs		N/A
Accessible Communication Equity	Accessibility services provided to institutions based on student need		N/A
Public Post-Secondary Loan Program	Assistive technology provided to students based on need		N/A
Program for the Institutional Loan of Adaptive Technology	Accessibility services provided to institutions based on student need		N/A
Centre for Accessible Post-Secondary Education Resources	Accessibility services provided to institutions based on student need		N/A

\*T4As issued by SABC only for direct payments to students. Post-secondary institutions issue T4As to students who receive payments from their post-secondary institution.

Icon	Assessed via:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StudentAid BC application</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate application</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary application through a B.C. Public post-secondary institution Accessibility Office</li> </ul>

Abbreviation	Meaning
NSLSC	National Student Loans Service Centre
SABC	StudentAid BC
PSI	Post-Secondary Institution

Eligibility for ASF programs covers all years of post-secondary studies, including those beyond the undergraduate level, if students continue to meet all other student financial assistance eligibility criteria.

## 6.3 Eligibility Criteria



### Policy

Most StudentAid BC Accessibility Supports Framework (ASF) programs are subject to the eligibility criteria applicable to all StudentAid BC financial assistance programs outlined in this manual. The exceptions are services under the Centralized Institution Support Programs, available to students with a disability, through the Accessibility Office at their post-secondary institution.

In addition to the general eligibility criteria for student financial assistance, students seeking access to ASF programs must have their disability verified as either a Permanent Disability (PD) or Persistent or Prolonged Disability (PPD), as defined in the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations*.

Permanent Disability (PD) is defined as:

“Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and that is expected to remain with the person for the person’s expected life.”

Prolonged or Persistent Disability (PPD) is defined as:

“Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment - or a functional limitation - that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and has lasted, or is expected to last, for a period of at least 12 months but is not expected to remain with the person for the person’s expected life.”

Students applying for ASF programs must submit an [Appendix 8 - Disability Programs Application](#). In addition to the Appendix 8 form, students may also be required to provide documentation from a qualified medical assessor. The documentation must be signed and dated within the last three years (unless it is a psycho-educational assessment which must be dated within the last five years) or conducted after the age of 18.

The documentation can be in the form of a:

- Medical documentation from a qualified assessor;
- Psycho-educational Assessment (to verify a Learning Disability); or,
- Documentation proving receipt of federal or provincial disability assistance.

The documentation must:

- Describe the disability (providing the specific diagnosis is optional);
- Confirm the applicant's functional limitation(s) are expected to be permanent, or persistent or prolonged; and
- Explain how the applicant's functional limitations restrict their ability to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in studies at a post-secondary level or the labour force.

Students with a verified persistent or prolonged disability will be required to attest on each subsequent student financial assistance application that their disability remains. This is not required for students with a verified permanent disability. All students who successfully verify their disability, either a permanent, or a persistent or prolonged disability, and remain in continuous study, will not be required to reverify their disability in subsequent years.

A student with a verified persistent or prolonged disability will be required to reverify their disability status when they enter loan repayment or experience a break in study that extends greater than 5 years from their original disability assessment.

StudentAid BC reserves the right to request updated or additional documentation as determined necessary to establish or re-establish eligibility if documentation is dated or insufficient.

### **Financial need assessment**

To be eligible for most ASF programs (and general student financial assistance), students must demonstrate at least \$1 of financial need.

Each student's application is subject to both a federal eligibility assessment calculation based on Canada Student Financial Assistance Program costs and resources, and a provincial eligibility assessment calculation based on StudentAid BC program costs and resources.

## **6.4 Financial Assistance Programs**

Financial assistance programs are intended to provide students with accessibility challenges with additional financial resources to address related costs associated with post-secondary education including education and living-related expenses.

Students who have successfully submitted an Appendix 8 document will be assessed automatically for these programs on subsequent Student Loan applications if they identify as a student with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged).

### **6.4.1 Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities (CSG-D)**

The CSG-D provides funding of \$2,800 per program year (August 1 to July 31). To be eligible for this grant, students must:

- Be pursuing post-secondary studies on a full-time or part-time basis at a designated post-secondary institution; and

- Meet the criteria for students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) as defined in the [Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations](#).

### Release of funding for full-time students

The CSG-D is disbursed via electronic funds transfer using the direct deposit information provided by the student through the National Student Loans Service Centre in one of two ways:

1. If StudentAid BC verifies a student's eligibility before the initial disbursement – either with the application, from previous applications or under separate cover to StudentAid BC – the grant will be paid as part of the initial Canada Student Loan disbursement; or
2. If there is not sufficient information on file documenting the eligibility, an entry on the Notice of Assessment will request the documentation from the student and the grant award will be held back. Once sufficient information is received, the grant award will be released. If sufficient documentation is not approved two weeks before the study period end date, the student will not receive grant funding, and any remaining award will be issued as loan.

### Part-time students

The CSG-D allows part-time students to receive additional grant funding before taking out part-time Canada Student Loans. Students are automatically assessed for this grant when they complete the part-time studies application.

### Overawards

For information on Canada Student Grant overawards, see [Chapter 10](#).

#### 6.4.2 B.C. Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities (SBSD)

The SBSD is available to full-time students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) who qualify for provincial student financial assistance, and part-time students who qualify for the federal part-time student loan program and are studying at a post-secondary level at a StudentAid BC designated public or private institution.

An \$800 bursary per program year is available to full-time or part-time students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) who are enrolled in a course load of 40% or greater.

A \$400 bursary per program year is available to part-time students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) enrolled in a course load of 20-39%.

**Note:** If a part-time student with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) studies at 20-39% of a course load in their first semester and receives \$400 and subsequently enrolls in a course load of 40% or greater in the next semester within the same program year, the student will be eligible for an additional \$400 in SBSD funding. Maximum funding for full or part-time students must not exceed \$800 per program year.

Students do not need to apply for this bursary. They will be automatically assessed for the bursary if they qualify for student financial assistance and have submitted verification of their disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged).

#### **6.4.3 B.C. Access Grant for Full-Time Students with Disabilities (BCAG-D)**

The BCAG-D will replace up to \$1,560 (\$30 per week of study) per academic year in B.C. Student Loan funding with a non-repayable grant. To be eligible for the BCAG-D, students must:

- Qualify for federal and provincial student financial assistance;
- Be enrolled in a full-time program at a StudentAid BC designated public or private post-secondary institution; and
- Have disability status (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) verified.

### **6.5 Assistive Services and Equipment Programs**

Assistive services and equipment programs are intended to provide students with accessibility challenges with access to exceptional education-related services and/or technology required to address accessibility-related barriers to post-secondary education.

#### **6.5.1 Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities (CSG-DSE)**

The CSG-DSE provides up to \$20,000 in non-repayable student financial assistance per loan year for full- or part-time students with a verified disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) who require services and equipment resources to address accessibility related barriers to post-secondary education. A student may be eligible for the CSG-DSE in addition to receiving the CSG-D.

The grant is intended to cover exceptional education-related services or equipment not accounted for by the need assessment process and not provided by the post-secondary institution. Assistance provided under this grant may exceed a student's Government of Canada assessed need.

The CSG-DSE cannot be issued after a student's study period end date.

#### **Eligible exceptional education-related services and equipment**

Where equipment and services are not already provided by the post-secondary institution or other agencies, CSG-DSE grant funding can be used for the purchase of assistive services and equipment. A listing of eligible equipment and services can be found in the [StudentAid BC Accessibility Program User Guide](#).

StudentAid BC has discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to consider exceptions to the standard costs and frequency of entitlement of CSG-DSE eligible assistive equipment and services. In cases where students request exceptions, additional information may be required.

Students who obtain funding for assistive services or reimbursement for previously purchased assistive services, must provide receipts verifying service delivery no later than 30 days after their end of studies date. The CSG-DSE cannot be issued after a student's period of studies end date.

Applications for CSG-DSE funding for equipment during the last semester of a student's program of studies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Note:** If a student who applies for ASF programs has an initial need assessment of less than \$1 of demonstrated financial need, the estimated costs for the recommended equipment and/or services can be included in the need assessment. If the financial need is calculated at \$1 or more, the student is eligible for CSG-DSE funding only.

Capital costs are not eligible, such as:

- Vehicle modifications
- Physical alterations to an educational institution
- Physical alterations to a student residence

### Overawards

On a case-by-case basis, StudentAid BC may request full or partial repayment of a CSG-DSE or the return of equipment, when:

- The grant was issued in error
- The student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria for the grant during the period of studies
- The student withdraws early from full or part-time study
- The grant was not used for the intended purposes

Failure to comply with a StudentAid BC request to return funding or equipment may result in the denial of future Canada Student Grants.

### 6.5.2 CSG-DSE Disability Assessment Reimbursement

Students may be eligible for reimbursement of up to 100% of the cost of a disability assessment that results in the verification of a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged). The reimbursement applies to costs incurred by students for medical assessment and/or documentation used to verify disability status as permanent, or persistent or prolonged. The reimbursement maximum amount is \$3,500. The maximum amount of \$3,500 is included in the maximum entitlement of \$20,000 per program year under the CSG-DSE.

- Eligibility for reimbursement applies to costs incurred by students for medical assessments and/or documentation used to verify their disability status (permanent, or persistent or prolonged).
- There is no limit to the number of verifications for multiple, unique disabilities. Applicants being verified for multiple disabilities can apply for reimbursement of assessment costs associated with each disability.
- Applicants cannot apply for reimbursement for a previously verified condition within the same loan year. Applicants can apply for reimbursement for verifications for previously

verified conditions in different loan years if there are material and relevant changes in functional limitations associated with that condition.

- Applicants seeking reimbursement for assessment costs must have their assessment conducted during their pre-study or in-study period, up until the end of their study period.
- A Disability Assessment Reimbursement cannot be issued after a student's study end date.
- If an application for verification of disability is unsuccessful, assessment costs are not eligible for reimbursement; however, if additional information is submitted and a student's disability is subsequently verified, previously rejected documentation may be eligible for reimbursement if it was included as part of the successful verification.
- Assessments must be conducted by an assessor qualified by the applicable governing body within the jurisdiction where the assessment was conducted.

### **6.5.3 Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities (APSD)**

The APSD helps students with disabilities cover the costs of exceptional education-related services and equipment. A student may receive up to \$10,000 in APSD funding per program year (August 1 to July 31), and up to \$12,000 if attendant care is required.

This program is designed to help students who are:

- Enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) courses (High School Diploma Upgrading, English as a Second Language or Accessible Education and Training) and are therefore not eligible for CSG-DSE; or,
- Enrolled in a post-secondary level program and have exhausted their available CSG-DSE funding.

### **Allowable assistive services and equipment**

Where equipment and services are not already provided by the post-secondary institution or other agencies, APSD funding can be used for the purchase of education-related assistive services and equipment. A listing of eligible services and equipment can be found in the [StudentAid BC Accessibility Program User Guide](#).

### **Student eligibility**

Students eligible for the APSD must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in a post-secondary program at a StudentAid BC designated public or private post-secondary institution in B.C.; or
- Be enrolled in an ABE program at a Student Aid BC designated public or private post-secondary institution in B.C.

Students in a post-secondary program must access and exhaust their CSG-DSE funds before accessing the APSD. Students in a mixed program which includes ABE courses and post-secondary education courses are considered to be in a post-secondary program, and as such are eligible for CSG-DSE funding for all enrolled courses.

**Demonstrated financial need**

Students studying at the ABE level must demonstrate financial need by completing the income section of the [B.C. Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities application form](#). Eligibility for funding is assessed using a standard income threshold table (see [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#)) based on the student's family size.

Students enrolled in post-secondary programs will have demonstrated financial need through the StudentAid BC student loan application process. Eligibility for the CSG-DSE demonstrates eligibility for the APSD.

**Ongoing APSD funding**

Students who have previously received APSD funds and are applying for additional assistance must have successfully completed their previous course(s).

Students who withdraw from course(s) are not eligible for APSD funding again unless they can supply medical documentation confirming they withdrew for medical reasons. Other exceptional circumstances may be accepted at the discretion of the Accessibility Coordinator at B.C. public post-secondary institutions or StudentAid BC for B.C. private post-secondary institutions.

**APSD institutional funding**

B.C. public post-secondary institutions are block-funded with an annual budget allocation to administer the program on behalf of the Ministry.

The annual program funding allocation will be determined based on previous years APSD utilization and available Ministry budget.

An allowance of 8% of the institution's APSD program budget may be used to cover administrative costs associated with this program.

**6.5.4 Assistive Technology Public Post-Secondary Loan Program**

The Public Post-Secondary Loan Program (PPL) provides for the loan of assistive technology to students with accessibility challenges who are either not eligible for Assistive Services and Equipment Programs or who are not accommodated by their institution. Equipment may also be loaned in situations where a student's specific technological needs are being determined, or to allow a student to try different assistive equipment and fine-tune their equipment needs prior to purchase. More information on the PPL can be accessed through the [Assistive Technology British Columbia](#).



## 6.6 Targeted Programs

### 6.6.1 B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students (BCAG-DS)



#### Policy

The purpose of the B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students (BCAG-DS) is to provide funding to deaf or hard-of-hearing students so they can attend specialized post-secondary institutions outside of Canada where the curriculum is delivered primarily in American Sign Language. The grant offsets the student's Province of British Columbia-assessed unmet need of up to \$30,000 per program year for allowable education-related costs.

#### Guidelines

##### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the B.C. Access Grant for Deaf Students (BCAG-DS), students must:

- Have a level of hearing loss that meets the criteria for disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) as outlined by the definitions in the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations*;
- Be attending a StudentAid BC designated institution in a program where the curriculum is delivered primarily in American Sign Language; and
- Be enrolled in a full-time course load (60% or greater). The 40% course load policy for students with disability status to be considered as studying at a full-time level does not apply to the BCAG-DS.

##### Grant amount

The grant amount is up to \$30,000 per academic year (September 1 to April 30).

##### Application process

1. The student must submit an [Appendix 8](#) with supporting medical documentation (if the eligibility has not already been verified) six weeks before the study period end date.
2. An official from the post-secondary institution (financial aid or registrar's office only) must provide StudentAid BC with a Confirmation of Enrolment form to initiate payment of funds.

##### Disbursement of funds

The BCAG-DS is distributed via cheque by StudentAid BC at the beginning and midpoint of the study period in one of two ways:

1. If StudentAid BC receives documented medical proof of eligibility that meets BCAG-DS criteria before the initial disbursement (with the application, from previous applications or under separate cover to StudentAid BC) the grant will be issued in the applicant's name.

2. If there is insufficient medical information on file, a Missing Information Request notification form for further documentation will be sent to the student and the grant award will be held back. Once sufficient medical information is received, the grant award will be released. If sufficient medical documentation is not received two weeks before the study period end date, the applicant will not receive grant funding for the study period for which they are applying.

### Withdrawal

If recipients do not complete the grant period or program of study for which they have been awarded grant funding, they will be deemed to have withdrawn. The recipient will not be required to repay the grant; however, the recipient will not be eligible for future funding under the BCAG-DS. Students who are deemed to have withdrawn are required to return any unused tuition that is refunded by their respective institutions to StudentAid BC.

### Review of funding

Recipients of the BCAG-DS who have withdrawn from their program due to extenuating circumstances may request further grant funding if they return to full-time studies. The student must provide proof to StudentAid BC for consideration of the extenuating circumstances that led them to withdraw from the program.

## 6.6.2 Learning Disability Assessment Bursary (LDAB)



### Policy

The Learning Disability Assessment Bursary (LDAB) is a Province of British Columbia financial needs-based bursary to help students with the upfront costs of a learning disability (psycho-educational) assessment. A learning disability assessment is required to verify a learning disability as meeting the criteria for a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) as outlined by the definitions in the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulation*. Learning Disability Assessments must be less than 5 years old or conducted after the student was 18 years of age to be considered valid.

This grant program is available to full-time or part-time students attending B.C. public post-secondary institutions, studying at the post-secondary level, and who demonstrate eligibility for StudentAid BC funding. Eligibility for the LDAB will be assessed based on the StudentAid BC learning disability screening tool and the recommendation of the Accessibility Coordinator at the post-secondary institution.

The LDAB is intended to cover the costs of the learning disability assessment only. A student may receive up to \$3,500 once in a lifetime.

## 6.7 Centralized Institution Support Programs

The intent of centralized institution support programs is to provide shared accessibility services across institutions to:

- Facilitate cost savings
- Provide quality assurance in accessibility services across institutions
- Support academic success for students

### 6.7.1 Accessibility and Interpreting Services

Accessibility and Interpreting Services offices at post-secondary institutions work in conjunction with the Ministry to facilitate access by students to Accessibility Supports Framework (ASF) programs, increase participation and success. Accessibility and Interpreting Services provide direct supports and services for students, including:

- Transition services (orientation, instructor-student liaison, exit planning)
- Provision and support of assistive services (tutors, interpreters, academic planning)
- Accommodation services (exam writing)
- Access to and administration of student financial assistance (grants, bursaries)

### 6.7.2 Centre for Accessible Post-Secondary Education Resources (CAPER)

CAPER fosters increased rates of participation in and completion of post-secondary education for students requiring alternate course and resource material formats by;

- Sourcing alternate learning formats, such as digital audio books, large print texts, electronic texts and other suitable formats from other sources
- Producing new material in alternate formats to address student requests
- Increasing access to alternate formats to ensure equity of access and promote institutional effectiveness
- Delivering training tools and workshops to inform service providers, institution staff and students about alternate formats, CAPER services and accessible online learning
- Continuing to research accessible electronic resources and make them available

### 6.7.3 Academic Communication Equity (ACE)

ACE coordinates and assists institutions with the delivery of communication, interpreting and captioning services to students with communication challenges to ensure consistency and quality of service delivery. To achieve these objectives ACE provides:

- Advice to colleges, universities, institutes and agencies on providing services for students with communication challenges
- Outreach and communication to students with communication challenges transitioning from high school to post-secondary
- Training and information for accessibility services coordinators at public post-secondary institutions to help them determine appropriate accommodations for communication equity needs

- Training to service providers at post-secondary institutions in the use and implementation of TypeWell and other communication access technology

#### **6.7.4 Program for Institutional Loans of Adaptive Technology (PILAT)**

PILAT supports institution level access to assistive technology to students by loaning adaptive equipment to institutions to use onsite to supplement existing institutional resources as accessibility issues arise. This can include:

- Providing adaptive technology loans when:
  - An institution seeks funding for needed technology
  - Existing equipment is under repair
  - Ordered equipment has not been received
  - Equipment needs to be tested for suitability before purchase
- Providing adaptive technology loans for situations when this technology is rarely required at the institution (making the purchase of it a questionable use of institutional funding)

PILAT also Provides technical assistance and training supports to institutions in the purchase and configuring of assistive technology.

### **6.8 Debt Management**

#### **6.8.1 Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities (RAP-D)**

RAP-D is available to borrowers who have a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan and have verified a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged). The RAP-D program helps borrowers manage their integrated loan by allowing them to pay back what they can reasonably afford.

RAP-D is administered by the Government of Canada and the National Student Loans Service Centre on behalf of and under the direction of the Province of British Columbia.

For details about RAP, eligibility, and how to apply, please see [Chapter 11, Section 4.3](#).

### **6.9 Severe Permanent Disability Forgiveness Programs**

#### **6.9.1 Canada Student Loans Program Severe Permanent Disability Benefit (SPDB)**

For information on this program, please visit the Government of Canada's [website](#).

#### **6.9.2 BC Provision for Students with Severe Disabilities (PSSD)**

In the event that a borrower is approved for the Government of Canada Severe Permanent Disability Benefit under the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program, the Province of British Columbia will forgive all outstanding B.C. Student Loan and B.C. grant overaward debt.

A borrower may be eligible for the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit if they have:

Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that prevents a person from performing the daily activities necessary to participate in the labour force in a manner that is substantially gainful, as defined in section 68.1 of the Canada Pension Plan Regulations, and is expected to remain with the person for their expected life.

Section 68.1 of the [Canada Pension Plan Regulations](#) sets out a formula for employment that is considered to be substantially gainful.

Borrowers do not need to submit an application for this benefit. The Canada Student Financial Assistance Program will advise StudentAid BC of those borrowers who have been approved for the Government of Canada Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.

Borrowers who have a zero balance on their Canada Student Loan must still apply through the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program for the B.C. Provision for Students with Severe Disabilities (PSSD). The Canada Student Financial Assistance Program will adjudicate the file and notify the Province of B.C. of the outcome.

Recipients of the B.C. PSSD are not eligible to receive any future student financial assistance from StudentAid BC.

## Chapter 7: Financial Need Assessment Process for Full-Time Students

This chapter explains how StudentAid BC assesses student financial need by using information provided through a student's StudentAid BC application. For the part-time financial need assessment process, please see [Chapter 12](#). The amount of Canada-B.C. integrated student loan and grant funding students are eligible to receive is based on their assessed financial need, which is calculated as follows:



### [7.1 Overview](#)

### [7.2 Step 1: Identify the Student's Category](#)

### [7.3 Step 2: Assess the Student's Costs](#)

### [7.4 Step 3: Assess the Student's Resources](#)

### [7.5 Step 4: Calculate the Student's Assessed Need](#)

### [7.6 Students with Disabilities in the Employment Program of B.C.](#)

## 7.1 Overview

### Purpose

To describe the process of assessing financial need for full-time students applying for student financial assistance through StudentAid BC.

### Policy

StudentAid BC assesses a student's financial need based on information provided through a student's StudentAid BC application. The assessment of need process evaluates the student's allowable costs and the student and/or family's available resources to determine the student's assessed financial need.

Some financial information provided in the application may be verified against the applicant's Income Tax Return Notice of Assessment.

Applicants are considered for student financial assistance through both federal and provincial loan and grant programs. Each student's application is subject to both a federal financial need assessment calculation based on Canada Student Financial Assistance Program policy, and a provincial financial need assessment calculation based on StudentAid BC policy. As a result, each StudentAid BC application will result in both a federal assessed need and a provincial assessed need.

### Overview of the financial need assessment process

The financial need assessment process consists of 4 steps:

STEP 1: Identify the student's category

STEP 2: Assess the student's allowable costs

STEP 3: Assess the student's resources to determine expected contributions:

STEP 4: Calculate the student's assessed financial need

Several tables are referred to in this chapter. These tables are found in [Chapter 14](#) of this manual.

The table below shows the Costs (items 1-8) and Resources (items 9-13) that are considered in the financial need assessment.

### Need Assessment Costs and Resources

COSTS	
1.	Tuition & compulsory fees
2.	Books & supplies (includes computer & computer-related costs)
3.	Exceptional educational costs
4.	Student living allowance
5.	Return transportation
6.	Child care
7.	Other allowable costs
8.	Discretionary costs
RESOURCES	
9.	Fixed student contribution
10.	Targeted resources
11.	Scholarships and bursaries
12.	Spousal contribution
13.	Parental contribution
ASSESSED NEED: Total costs less total resources	

## 7.2 Step 1 – Identify the Student's Category

### Purpose

To differentiate between those students considered to be dependent on a financial sponsor (e.g., parents or guardians) and those considered to be independent of a financial sponsor.

### Policy

A student's category will be determined based on information provided in the student loan application. A student will fall into one of two categories: dependent or independent. The student's category will influence a number of calculations within the financial need assessment, which will have an impact on the type of costs and resources that are considered, as well as amounts (\$) considered.

### Criteria

#### Dependent student

Students are considered to be dependent on a financial sponsor, such as their parent(s), unless they meet at least one of the criteria for independent student status as defined below.

#### Independent student

Students are considered independent students if they meet at least **one** of the following criteria:

- Are married students on the first day of classes, or are separated, divorced, widowed, a parent or a single-parent student;
- Have been out of secondary school for four years (48 months) as of the first day of classes;
- Have spent two periods of 12 consecutive months each in the full-time labour force while not concurrently being a full-time student receiving funding through the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program;
- The student's parents are deceased, or abandonment has occurred (e.g., parent(s) are incarcerated, have left the student voluntarily, or are unable to act in a parental capacity);
- Were in the continuing care of a director of child welfare in B.C. at the time of their 19th birthday; and/or
- Have cohabited with a person, in a marriage-like relationship, for a period of at least 12 consecutive months as of the first day of classes.
- Are applying for part-time funding.

Depending on which of the criteria above are met, an independent student will be categorized as either: independent single; married/common-law; or single parent.



**Additional Considerations:**

- If the student has cohabited with a person in a marriage-like relationship for a period of at least one year (12 months) as of the study period start date, that student is deemed to be in a common-law relationship and is considered to be married.
- If the student has cohabited with a person in a marriage-like relationship for a period of less than one year (12 months) as of the study period start date, the student is not considered to be in a common-law relationship and is considered to be single.
- If the student has cohabited with a person in a marriage-like relationship for a period of less than one year (12 months) as of the study period start date and there is a child of the union, the student is not considered to be in a common-law relationship and is considered a single-parent.
- If both the student and common-law partner are full-time students and there is a child of the union, they are both considered to be single-parents.
- Income assistance recipients who have been cohabiting for less than 12 months are not eligible to apply as common-law under StudentAid BC;
- If a student was common-law prior to submitting an application for student financial assistance but is no longer common-law and would otherwise be considered a dependent student, the student should contact StudentAid BC for assistance to determine their correct student category.
- Students may appeal for single-parent student status if they are a guardian of a child or children in accordance with the *Family Law Act* and have parenting time with their child or children for an average of eight days per month. Students may submit an appeal, and they must provide copies of the agreement or order respecting guardianship, parenting arrangements or contact with the child or children to support their appeal.
- If the student is a married student or in a common-law relationship and the spouse is not a Permanent Resident or Canadian citizen, remains in another country and will not be in Canada at the study period start date, the student is considered an independent single student or single-parent student if dependent children are in the student's care in Canada.
- If the spouse has arrived in Canada as a Permanent Resident and does not yet have a valid social insurance number, the student and spouse will be assessed as if they were married students. StudentAid BC will use a temporary social insurance number for the spouse. Once the spouse receives his/her valid social insurance number, the student must submit a Request for Reassessment form (Appendix 7).
- Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEP) is not considered to be post-secondary study for the purpose of StudentAid BC. The four-year count for independent student status eligibility begins at completion of CEGEP. The age of the student at the time of leaving school has no bearing on the four-year count.
- The labour force participation standard for independent students is not intended to exclude individuals who were employed full-time while at the same time enrolled in full-time post-secondary study.

- Periods on Employment Insurance in between periods of full-time employment are eligible to be considered as 'full-time labour force.'
- Periods on social assistance are not considered as 'full-time labour force' unless, while in receipt of benefits, students were seeking employment.

### Modified independent status

A student who would normally be considered a dependent student may be considered a 'modified independent' student on an appeal basis. See [Chapter 13](#) for information on appeals. To be eligible for modified independent status, the student must provide satisfactory evidence of a severe and permanent breakdown in the relationship with the parent(s).

The student will normally be expected to have maintained an independent residence outside the parent(s)' home for at least one year before the start of the study period. Exceptions will be considered when it can be documented that a recent incident with the parent(s) was sudden and violent, placing the student in physical jeopardy or causing extreme mental stress, resulting in the need to move out of the family home. Students who usually live with their parents during the summer months cannot be considered for modified independent status.

The following documentation is required before StudentAid BC will consider assigning a modified independent status to the student:

- A statement from the student outlining, in specific detail, the nature of and reasons for the family rift.
- A letter from a responsible third party testifying as to the truthfulness of the student's explanation and providing an independent assessment of the situation. The 'third party' could be any of the following: counselor, psychologist, religious advisor, doctor, teacher, and/or mature relative outside the immediate family or family friend (the status of the third party and their relationship to the student must be identified in the letter).
- A letter from the parent(s) confirming the irreconcilable breakdown in family relations and their refusal to support the student. If the family rift is so serious that a parental letter cannot be obtained, a letter from a professional third party having first-hand knowledge of the situation may be substituted.

If the student was a youth under the guardianship or in an agreement with a provincial or territorial child welfare agency on their 19th birthday, relevant documentation confirming their status is required.

**Note:** A disagreement on the part of the parent(s) with StudentAid BC criteria is not sufficient cause to award independent student status. Applications for modified independent status will be rejected unless the above documentation is submitted.

**Married/Common-law and unable to provide partner income due to domestic abuse**

Students who are married or in a common-law relationship and are unable to provide partner income due to experiencing domestic abuse (intimate partner violence), may select this marital status option within their application for student financial assistance. The student will then be assessed for eligibility to be classified as an independent single student or single parent, with the applicable policies and exemptions as described later in this chapter (see [Chapter 7, Section 7.3](#) and [7.4](#)).

Domestic abuse includes, but is not limited to, circumstances pertaining to physical, financial, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. To be eligible, the student must provide satisfactory evidence of their circumstances that would make it unreasonable for the student to provide their partner's income.

The following documentation is required before StudentAid BC will consider a married or common-law student to be assessed as an independent single student or single parent:

- A written attestation from the student outlining the nature of the circumstances; and
- A letter from a professional third party confirming the student's circumstances. A professional third party includes, but is not limited to: counselor, psychologist, religious advisor, doctor, teacher, police, and/or staff at a social service agency such as an organization supporting those experiencing abuse or violence.

**7.3 Step 2 – Assess the Student's Costs****Purpose**

To identify the allowable costs assessed by StudentAid BC when calculating a student's total financial need assessment.

**Policy**

StudentAid BC considers specific allowable costs that will have a direct impact on the student during their study period. Many of the allowable costs include maximums (caps) set in federal and provincial policy. Details on allowable cost calculations are provided in [Chapter 14](#).

**Overview of allowable costs****1. Tuition and compulsory fees**

The actual amount of tuition and compulsory fees as per the approved Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3.

**2. Books and supplies (including computer and computer-related costs)**

The actual amount for mandatory books and supplies (includes computer and computer-related costs) as per the approved Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3, subject to the limits identified in [Table 2 in Chapter 14](#).

**3. Exceptional education costs**

The actual amount for field trips, practicums and clinical placements (provided they are an essential element of the program) as per the approved Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3.

For students who are required to travel to a different location as a mandatory part of their program, the Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3 may allow travel expenses. See [Chapter 2](#).

**4. Student living allowance****A. Standard allowance for living costs**

Standard allowances for living costs are established each year by the federal government for each category of student and are used in both the federal and provincial portions of the financial need assessment. These allowances depend on the student's living situation, the province in which the student is studying, and the number of dependants the student has (if applicable). The Standard Monthly Allowances are intended to cover the costs incurred by the student for shelter, food, local transportation and miscellaneous expenses based on a Moderate Standard of Living and can be found in [Table 3 in Chapter 14](#).

Living costs for students who are studying outside Canada are assessed based on the Province of British Columbia rate. The living costs for students studying in another province will be based on costs for that province and may differ from the Province of British Columbia rate. See [Table 3 in Chapter 14](#).

**B. Students living in self-contained suites**

A student may be assessed as 'living away from home' if:

- They are living in a self-contained suite in the home of their parent(s), step-parent, sponsor or legal guardian;
- The suite has a separate entrance, kitchen, bathroom and living area/bedroom; and
- The student is paying fair market rent and is responsible for his/her share of the utilities (hydro, telephone, cable, etc. if not included in rent).

The appropriate living allowances would be considered in the assessment. This may be done on the original application. In such instances, the student should mark the "No" box for Question 46 on the application.

**C. Common-law and married students**

If the applicant's spouse or common-law partner will also be a full-time student for at least 12 weeks during the applicant's study period, the sum of the student living allowance and dependent's living allowance will be divided in half.

If a married student or common-law student and spouse are maintaining separate residences during the student's study period, the student is eligible to receive a separate residence allowance.

**Note:** If the student is a Permanent Resident of Canada and the spouse and children are not, and do not live with the student, the student is assessed as a single student.

#### **D. Students with dependant(s)**

For students with a dependant(s), a dependant(s) allowance from [Table 3 in Chapter 14](#) is added to the student living allowance described above.

The age of the dependent child or children is calculated as of the study period start date in the year in which the study period begins. Students with dependent children aged 18 or under are eligible for the dependant allowance consideration.

If a student also has dependent children in post-secondary study, the student's children will be considered in the need assessment up to the age of 22. If the dependent children are over the age of 22, the student must submit an appeal.

Foster children may also be included as dependants.

### **5. Return transportation**

The following students are eligible for a return transportation allowance (one return trip to their permanent home), provided they are not taking studies by distance education, blended learning or an online program:

- Dependent students who must leave their home community to attend post-secondary studies;
- Married students or common-law students who must live separately in another community from their spouse; or
- Independent single or single-parent students whose permanent place of residence is normally their parent's home, and they are living away from home in another community solely for purposes of full-time study during the study period (start and end dates are indicated in Questions 21 and 22 of the application).

If the student falls into one of the three situations above, the student's indication of the cost of return transportation from Question 49 of the application is assessed subject to the limits indicated in [Table 9 in Chapter 14](#).

### **6. Child care**

Child care costs are available to married/common-law and single-parent students with dependent children aged 11 years and under as of the class start date. These costs are assessed subject to a maximum of \$268 per week per child for each week of the study period as per [Table 4 in Chapter 14](#).

Only one parent can claim child care costs.

If the student's spouse will also be a full-time student for at least 12 weeks during the applicant's study period, the child care costs will be divided in half.

### **7. Other allowable costs**

In addition to the standard assessment items described above, StudentAid BC may assess other allowable costs during the study period that may include:

- Separate residence allowance for married students or common-law applicants;
- Regular student loan payments for the spouse of a married student or common-law applicant; and/or
- Child support/spousal support payments.

**Note:** An additional transportation allowance will be considered on a Request for Appeal basis only. See [Chapter 13](#).

### **Separate residence allowance for married students and common-law students**

In addition to the married student/common-law student living allowance, married students or common-law students who need to live away from the usual family home (in a different city) to pursue their studies may be assessed an additional weekly allowance to assist with the costs of maintaining a separate residence. This allowance is equal to the weekly shelter allowance for single students living away from home as established by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program. See [Chapter 14, Table 3](#).

### **Regular student loan payments for spouse**

If the spouse of a married student or common-law applicant is making regular student loan payments during the study period, these costs can be included.

### **Child support/spousal support payments**

Child support and spousal support payments may be included as a cost to the student. These costs are subject to a weekly maximum amount equal to the weekly dependent child/relative allowance as established by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program. See [Chapter 14, Table 3](#).

For married students or common-law students, if the spouse will also be a full-time student for at least 12 weeks during the applicant's study period, this amount will be divided in half.

### **8. Discretionary costs**

In addition to the standard assessment items and the other allowable costs described above, StudentAid BC has the discretion to include other costs and/or to adjust resource assessments to reflect individual situations, during an appeal.

The adjustments to student financial assistance are subject to the standard calculation process with respect to assessed need and the weekly maximums set out in [Chapter 8](#). These requests will be reviewed according to the policy and process described in [Chapter 13](#).

## 7.4 Step 3 – Assess the Student’s Resources

### Purpose

To describe the various student and/or family resources that are included in the financial need assessment to determine an expected student, spousal and/or parental contribution(s) to meet the assessed costs of post-secondary study.

Each student’s application is subject to both a federal need assessment calculation based on Canada Student Financial Assistance Program policies regarding income and other resources, and a provincial need assessment calculation based on Student Aid BC policies regarding income and other resources.

The need assessment calculation considers three main types of resources:

- A. Student expected contribution;
- B. Spousal/common-law partner expected contribution; and
- C. Parental/step-parent/legal guardian/sponsor expected contribution.

Each type of resource is described in the following sections.

### A. Student expected contribution

The expected student contribution is composed of:

1. Fixed student contribution.
2. Merit-based scholarships and/or needs-based bursaries.
3. Targeted resources (government, institution, or private funding).

These resources will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

#### 1. Fixed student contribution

Students are expected to contribute a fixed amount towards their education costs each year. StudentAid BC assesses a federal and a provincial Fixed Student Contribution amount for each applicant. The amount a student will be expected to contribute is based on their previous year’s total family income, family size, and length of study period.

For both the federal and the provincial need assessment:

- Students with previous year’s total family income **at or below** the income threshold set by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program (CSFA Program) (see [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#)) will be expected to contribute \$43.27 per week of study, to a maximum of \$1,500 per program year, towards the costs of their education.
- In the student’s federal need assessment, the expected contribution from students with previous year’s family income **above** the CSFA Program income threshold will be \$1,500, plus an additional 15% of their income above the threshold, prorated weekly and applied

based on the number of weeks in the study period and capped at a maximum of \$3,000 per program year.

- In the student's provincial need assessment, the expected contribution from students with previous year's family income **above** the CSFA Program income threshold will be \$1,500 plus an additional 15% of their income above the threshold, prorated weekly and applied based on the number of weeks in the study period, with no cap on the student's expected contribution per program year.

The number of study weeks used to determine the federal fixed student contribution is capped at 34 2/3 weeks (i.e. an 8-month academic year) for each loan year; no student contribution will be calculated beyond this period. The number of study weeks used to determine the provincial fixed student contribution is capped at 52 weeks.

### Definition of family income

For the purposes of the fixed student contribution, previous year's total family income is defined by the student's category, as follows:

- **Independent single students and single-parent students:** family income is defined by the student's income (as reported on line 15000 [total income] of the student's previous year's T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return), or international equivalent.
- **Dependent students:** family income is defined as the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/sponsor(s) income (as reported on line 15000 [total income] of each parent(s)/guardian(s)/sponsor(s) previous year's T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return), or international equivalent.
- **Common-law/married students:** family income is defined as the sum of student's income and spouse's/common-law partner's income (as reported on both the student's and spouse's/common-law partner's line 15000 [total income] of their respective previous year's T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return), or international equivalent.

The amount of previous year's total family income (line 15000 on a T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return) indicated on a student's application form will be verified against Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) records as part of the application review process. In the case of a discrepancy between what is provided to StudentAid BC by the student/family and the CRA verification, the CRA income and tax data will be used in the StudentAid BC need assessment. StudentAid BC applications that include one or more individuals who have not filed income tax with the CRA for the previous year will be flagged for potential verification of the total annual taxable income reported on the application.

### Exemptions from the fixed student contribution

The following students are not expected to make a fixed contribution to their education costs and will be assessed a \$0 fixed student contribution for the study period:



- Students who self-identify as Indigenous learners
- Students with a disability (see [Chapter 6](#))
- Students with dependants
- Students who are current or former youth in care

**Note:** For the purposes of exempting students with dependants from making a fixed student contribution, a dependant is defined as a wholly dependent person who resides with the borrower (or is in a healthcare facility) and is either under 18 years of age; or 18 and over and dependent by reason of a mental or physical infirmity and has been claimed and approved by the Canada Revenue Agency as wholly dependent for tax purposes.

## **2. Merit-based scholarships and/or needs-based bursaries**

In addition to the fixed student contribution, students are expected to make contributions from these additional resources as applicable:

- Merit-based scholarships; and/or
- Need-based bursaries, where the eligibility criteria are based on need, but the funding is not targeted for a specific element of the costs of living or education.

The expected contribution from these additional student resources is equivalent to the assessed actual amount, less an exemption of \$1,800 per program year for both merit-based scholarships and need-based bursaries combined. Any amount of scholarship/bursary funding above \$1,800 is considered income and is assessed at 100%.

**Note:** To be assessed as income, the bursary's eligibility criteria must not depend on the amount of unmet need that remains following the provision of federal and provincial loans.

## **3. Targeted resources**

Along with the fixed student contribution and a contribution based on scholarship/bursary funding, other targeted resources are assessed as resources at 100%.

Targeted resources are those provided to help with specific educational costs, and may include funds received from municipal, provincial or federal governments, and/or the private sector. The funds could be paid directly to the educational institution (for instance, to cover tuition), or they could be paid directly to the student.

### **Government-funded (e.g., municipal, provincial and/or federal) targeted resources**

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Training allowances from the skills development portion of Employment Insurance benefits
- Social assistance payments intended to cover education-related costs

**Note:** Funding provided to eligible First Nations students by the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and the Métis Nation and Inuit Post-Secondary Education strategies, as well as other forms of band funding, are exempt from consideration in the assessment of need process. In addition, funding received through the Canada Learning Bond and the Global Skills Opportunity are exempt.

### **Privately funded targeted resources**

These include all sources of funding received by a student for the specific purpose of helping with the costs of post-secondary study that are not provided by any level of government or through a merit-based scholarship or need-based bursary.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Sponsorship or training allowances provided by an employer to attend post-secondary studies
- Room and board provided by an employer while a full-time student
- Subsidy or bursary for child care received only because the parent is a full-time student

### **Voluntary contributions**

These include all sources of funding for the specific purpose of helping with the costs of post-secondary study that are provided to a student by their parent(s), step-parent, sponsor, or legal guardian.

### **Reporting scholarships, bursaries and/or targeted resources**

It is the student's responsibility, as detailed in their signed declaration, to report any changes in their financial situation during the study period to StudentAid BC, including the receipt of bursaries and/or scholarships and/or targeted resources of any amount by submitting an Appendix 7: Request for Reassessment. Financial aid officers and post-secondary institution owners/operators are not required to advise StudentAid BC of bursaries and/or scholarships awarded to students.

### **B. Spousal/common-law partner expected contribution**

The spouses and partners of married and common-law students are also expected to make a contribution to the student's education costs. The spousal contribution in both the federal and provincial assessment of need is calculated as follows:

- If the prior year total annual family income is equal to or below the CSFA Program income threshold amounts in [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#), then the expected spousal contribution is zero.
- If the prior year total annual family income is above the CSFA Program income threshold, a spousal contribution amount is calculated as 10% of the total family income above the CSFA Program income threshold, pro-rated weekly and applied for each week of the student's study period. If the student is enrolled in more than 34 2/3 weeks of study (i.e., an 8-month academic year), the number of weeks of study will be capped at 34 2/3 weeks when calculating the spouse's expected contribution.

**Exemptions from the spousal/common-law partner expected contribution**

In the following situations, an applicant's spouse or common-law partner is not expected to make a fixed contribution to the applicant's education costs:

- The spouse or common-law partner has previous year's total annual family income at or below the CSFA Program income threshold (see [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#));
- The spouse or common-law partner will also be a full-time student during the applicant's study period. If the spouse will be a full-time student for only part of the applicant's study period, the expected spousal contribution will be pro-rated based on the number of weeks during the applicant's study period in which the spouse or common-law partner is not in full-time studies; or
- The spouse or common-law partner is, at the time of the student's application, in receipt of:
  - Employment Insurance benefits;
  - Social assistance benefits; and/or
  - Federal or provincial disability benefits.

**C. Parent/step-parent/legal guardian/sponsor expected contribution**

Parents, step-parents, sponsors or legal guardians of single dependent students are expected to contribute to the student's education based on their assessed financial ability. The parental expected contribution is based on a portion of the parent(s) discretionary income after deductions for taxes, Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, and a Moderate Standard of Living. Parental expected contributions vary by family income, assets and family size but do not depend on the living situation of the student. See [Table 6 in Chapter 14](#).

The Universal Child Care Benefit, Canada Child Tax Benefit, National Child Benefit Supplement and B.C. Early Childhood Tax Benefit are not assessed as resources for StudentAid BC purposes.

**Note:** Step-parents are not exempt from the assessment process. Waiving a contribution from a step-parent may be considered on an appeal basis. See [Chapter 13](#).

**Parent(s) liability**

Parent(s) are required to provide financial information in Appendix 1 (Parent(s)/Step-Parent/Sponsor/Legal Guardian Information) in the StudentAid BC application. Completion of Appendix 1 does not hold the parent(s) liable for the student's outstanding award repayment.

**Sponsors of Permanent Residents**

A sponsor is the individual identified on the Record of Landing immigration form (letter of decision, IMM 1000 or IMM 5292) issued by the federal government.

- If the sponsor is a **parent**, the student is assessed according to the criteria for single dependent students, with the calculation of parental expected contribution based on the sponsor's income and assets.

- If the sponsor is a **spouse**, the student is assessed according to the criteria for married students or common-law students, with the calculation of spousal expected contribution based on spousal income.
- If the sponsor is an **individual other than a parent or spouse**, the sponsoring individual's income and assets are assessed in the calculation of parental contribution. The student is considered dependent on the sponsor and is assessed parental expected contributions from the sponsor until such time as the student meets StudentAid BC criteria for independent status.
- If the sponsor is an **organization**, the need assessment is calculated without a contribution from parental income and assets. Any resources provided to the student by the sponsoring organization are included in the student's resources.

If the student is a Permanent Resident and has a sponsor, the student's sponsor completes Appendix 1. This includes instances where both the parent and sponsor are residents of the Province of British Columbia. If a church or organization sponsors the student, the parent completes Appendix 1.

### **Parent(s) living outside Canada**

Parent(s) living outside Canada are expected to complete Appendix 1 by indicating their income as reported on their previous year's Canadian T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return, and all out-of-country income from all sources as well as all Canadian and foreign assets.

If the student's parent(s) are living outside Canada and have not filed a Canadian T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return for the previous year, the parents are expected to indicate their total income from all sources both inside and outside Canada. Total income includes, but is not limited to employment, pension investment, rental, RRSP, foster parent, net professional income, workers' compensation, employment insurance and disability assistance as well as all Canadian and foreign assets.

Income may be verified by the income tax returns and assessments issued for the same period by the jurisdiction in which the parent(s) is a deemed resident for tax purposes.

### **Family size**

The family size consists of the parent(s), the applicant as well as other dependent(s). Parents must list other dependents on line 14 of Appendix 1, including:

- All children 18 years of age and under
- All children aged 19 and over who are full-time dependent students
- Children with disabilities aged 19 and over
- Elderly relatives who are fully supported by the parent(s) and declared on the T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return
- Foster children, where foster parent income is claimed on Appendix 1

**Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL)**

The MSOL amount is calculated for the parent(s) of dependent students based on Statistics Canada's Family Expenditure Survey. Parent(s)' MSOL by family size is provided in [Table 5 in Chapter 14](#).

When listing dependents on line 14 of Appendix 1, parent(s) must indicate if their dependents will also be attending post-secondary studies and whether or not the dependents are claimed on their previous year's income tax return.

**Parental discretionary income**

Parental discretionary income is determined using information provided by the parent(s) on Appendix 1. Parental discretionary income is calculated using total family income (as reported on line 15000 of the previous year's T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return), less taxes payable, Canada Pension Plan /Quebec Pension Plan up to the Canada Revenue Agency maximum, Employment Insurance up to the Canada Revenue Agency maximum and the MSOL based on family size from [Table 3 in Chapter 14](#).

**Parental expected contribution from income**

The parents' weekly expected contribution from income is calculated using [Table 6 in Chapter 14](#) and the parents' discretionary income. This amount is divided by the number of the parents' dependents who are attending post-secondary studies and multiplied by the number of weeks in the applicant's study period.

**Parental expected contribution from assets**

Parent(s) who have valuable assets may be expected to make an additional contribution in excess of that required from income.

The total net value of parental Canadian and foreign assets, excluding RRSPs, principal residence or business, is reported on Appendix 1.

Parental expected contribution from assets is calculated as one percent of the total net value of all eligible assets (excluding RRSPs, motor vehicles, principal residence and business/farm), in excess of a standard exemption of \$150,000. Divide this by the number of the parents' dependants who are attending post-secondary studies.

**Note:** Only in the exceptional circumstances outlined in [Chapter 13](#) will StudentAid BC consider reducing the expected contribution of the student, parent or spouse.

**7.5 Step 4 – Calculate the Student's Assessed Need**

Assessed need is used to determine the amount of federal and provincial student financial assistance that a student is eligible to receive from StudentAid BC.

Each student's application will be assessed for a federal and provincial assessed need amount based on reported costs and resources. To calculate the federal and provincial assessed need,

federally and provincially assessed resources are subtracted from the assessed costs, resulting in a federal calculated need and a provincial calculated need.

If both the federal and provincial assessed need calculations are negative, the student is considered to have sufficient resources to finance their education and does not qualify for either federal or provincial student financial assistance.

If either the federal or provincial assessed need calculation is positive the student is considered eligible to receive a student financial assistance award up to this calculated need, subject to annual limits and allocation rules.

Before calculating the award, outstanding overawards will be taken into consideration and may be deducted from the student's new entitlement.

For award configuration, please see [Chapter 8](#).

## 7.6 Students with Disabilities in the WorkBC Employment Services Program

Students receiving assistance from the WorkBC Employment Services Program (ES) may also be eligible to receive student financial assistance through StudentAid BC.

Students receiving WorkBC Employment Services support for educational costs (tuition, books and supplies) may apply to StudentAid BC for living costs. Students receiving WorkBC Employment Services support for a training allowance and/or a transportation allowance may apply to StudentAid BC for living and educational costs. The amount of WorkBC Employment Services support must be declared on the StudentAid BC application.

**Note:** Students who are receiving WorkBC Employment Services funds for full educational costs and Disability Assistance funds for living costs under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* are not eligible for StudentAid BC funding unless students can demonstrate they have eligible education-related costs not covered through WorkBC Employment Services or Disability Assistance.

### Students receiving B.C. Income Assistance

Under the *B.C. Employment and Assistance Act*, Income Assistance recipients who enroll in full-time post-secondary studies are expected to apply for student financial assistance under StudentAid BC. StudentAid BC financial assistance is individually calculated based on a student's financial need and considers the standard cost of living and educational expenses.

### Students receiving assistance under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act

Students who are receiving Disability Assistance from the B.C. Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* and their dependents are, with the approval of their Employment and Assistance Worker, eligible to

apply for StudentAid BC student financial assistance to support their basic educational costs as detailed in the Interface Policy in the following section. These recipients will continue to be eligible for assistance with support and shelter costs through Disability Assistance.

### Interface Policy

All students receiving Disability Assistance under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation* and their dependents under the [BC Employment and Assistance \(BCEA\) Program](#) (Disability Assistance) are eligible to receive student financial assistance towards educational costs only. Students receiving student financial assistance from StudentAid BC must report this to their Employment and Assistance Worker.

The Interface Policy is automatically applied when the student and/or spouse of a student indicates receipt of Disability Assistance under the BC Employment and Assistance Program of \$1,500 or more during the student's study period.

**Note:** The Interface Policy does not automatically apply when the student is a dependent child whose family is receiving Disability Assistance. StudentAid BC funding for the dependent child (student) must be reported to the family's Employment and Assistance Worker. StudentAid BC amounts used for education-related costs may be exempted as income.

### Purpose

To help people with disabilities and their dependents who are receiving student financial assistance and pursuing a full-time program of study. The funding is designed to help with basic educational costs, subject to certain limitations established under this inter-ministry (interface) policy.

### Process

1. Advise the student to inform their local Employment and Assistance Worker at a BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) Program office that they are receiving StudentAid BC funding.
2. StudentAid BC considers the following educational expenses when assessing need:
  - **Tuition:** Actual cost of tuition and compulsory fees.
  - **Books/supplies:** Allowable cost as per the Institutional Appendix.
  - **Transportation and/or miscellaneous allowance:** \$23 per each week of study for the student only (covers miscellaneous education-related costs).
  - **Child care costs** (for children 11 or under): Actual child care costs incurred by the applicant, up to a maximum of \$268 per child per week less subsidy, if any.
  - **Extra transportation:** Students receiving Disability Assistance must first apply through the [BC Bus Pass Program](#) for an annual bus pass or transportation supplement if eligible and where available. Costs in excess of the transportation

supplement amounts provided will be considered during the study period, up to a maximum of \$94 per week. Students must submit an Appeal Request Form stating why the extra costs are needed.

3. The level of student financial assistance issued will reflect the student's assessed need, the maximum award allowable based on the number of weeks in the study period or the total BC Employment and Assistance Program allowable educational costs, whichever is less.



## Chapter 8: Award Composition and Disbursement

This chapter describes the minimum and maximum limits of student financial assistance available to students, the composition of student financial awards and the disbursement process.

[8.1 Limits of Allowable Student Financial Assistance](#)

[8.2 Award Configuration](#)

[8.3 Award Disbursement](#)

### 8.1 Limits of Allowable Student Financial Assistance

#### Purpose

To ensure that the minimum amount of student financial assistance awarded to a student justifies the cost to government of issuing the student financial assistance and to establish maximum limits that consider the total amount of student financial assistance debt incurred by a student.

#### Policy

The amount of student financial assistance available to a student is limited by the minimum and maximum interest free loan award amounts set by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program and by StudentAid BC. The student's award is based on the federal and provincial need assessments and eligibility for non-repayable federal and provincial grants and bursaries.

#### Guidelines

##### Minimum award (per study period)

The minimum award amount that can be disbursed, inclusive of Canada Student Loan, B.C. Student Loan and federal and provincial grants and bursaries, is \$100 per study period.

##### Maximum awards

The maximum funding a student may receive depends on:

- The student's federal and provincial assessed financial needs (which are calculated independently);
- Whether the student has dependent children or other wholly dependent relatives;
- The length of the study period; and
- The student's grant and/or bursary eligibility.

The maximum amount of Canada Student Loan is \$300 per week of study.

The maximum amount of B.C. Student Loan varies depending on whether a student has dependents:

- Students without dependents: maximum of \$220 per week of study
- Students with dependents: maximum of \$280 per week of study

The total combined maximum amount for Canada Student Loan, B.C. Student Loan and Canada Student Grant funding varies depending on a student's federal and provincial assessed need and whether the student has dependent children as outlined below:

- Students without dependents: maximum of \$520 per week of study.
- Students with dependents: maximum of \$740 per week of study.

To determine the length of the study period in weeks for study periods greater than 12 weeks, multiply the number of months in an academic term by 4.3. To be included in the calculation, a calendar month must have 16 or more days of study including weekends. Thus, if a term ends April 17, the month of April would be included in the calculation.

### Examples

**Study period September 20 to April 12:** The study period would be seven months. September and April have fewer than 16 study days. If the first month of the study period start date and last month of the study period end date both have fewer than 16 days, the days in the starting month will be borrowed and added to the days in the last month. If the total is more than 16 days, an additional month of funding can be given.

**Study period September 8 to April 12:** The study period would be seven months. April has fewer than 16 days, the days from the beginning of the month to the study end date.

**Study period September 8 to April 16:** The study period would be eight months. Both September and April have 16 or more study days.

### Lifetime maximum funding limits (weeks and dollars)

#### Week limits

The following maximum number of weeks apply for Canada-B.C. integrated student financial assistance eligibility including loans and/or grants:

- 340 weeks for students in non-doctoral programs;
- 520 weeks for students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged); and
- 400 weeks (including all weeks accumulated during bachelor and master's studies) for students in doctoral (PhD-level) studies.

Full-time students are not entitled to receive further student financial assistance (loans or grants) once they complete a period of studies in which they reach/exceed their maximum weeks over the entire course of their post-secondary studies. This includes all weeks of full-time study for which a loan, grant or in-study payment-free status was granted. If a student reaches/exceeds their maximum weeks of full-time study, this affects their eligibility for part-time financial assistance. See [Chapter 12, Section 4](#) for more information.

If a student reaches the lifetime maximum weeks during their study period, student financial assistance will be continued to the end of the study period in which the student is currently enrolled.

Once the lifetime maximum weeks is reached, the student enters a six-month non-repayment period at the end of their current study period. If the student remains in continuous full-time studies and they are not otherwise restricted, they are eligible for payment deferral in-study payment-free status (formerly in-study interest-free). See [Chapter 11](#) for more information.

### **Lifetime maximum award for B.C. Student Loans**

The lifetime maximum dollar limit for B.C. Student Loans is \$50,000 (regardless of program length). This maximum includes all B.C. loan funding provided in the form of Canada-B.C. integrated student loans and, prior to August 1, 2011, any B.C. Risk-Sharing and Guaranteed student loans issued to students.

When students reach the lifetime limit of \$50,000 during their study period, no additional B.C. Student Loan funding will be provided.

Students may appeal the lifetime maximum if they have exceptional circumstances. For more information, please refer to [Chapter 13](#) for more information.

### **Lifetime maximum award for Canada Student Loans**

Students are no longer entitled to receive further full-time Canada Student Loan financial assistance (loans or grants) once they complete a period of studies in which they reach/exceed their maximum of 340 weeks of financial assistance over the entire course of their post-secondary studies. This maximum includes all weeks of full-time study for which a loan, grant, or interest-free status (prior to April 1, 2023), or payment-free status was granted.

The maximum amount of Canada Student Loan is \$300 per week of study or \$15,600 a year for a 52-week study period.

## **8.2 Award Configuration**

### **Purpose**

To determine the amount and type of funding for eligible students who have demonstrated financial need to pursue their post-secondary studies.

### **Policy**

StudentAid BC will make student financial assistance available to eligible students who have an assessed federal and provincial financial need greater than zero.

Award disbursements are determined based on:

- The type of award funding the student is eligible to receive; and
- The length of the study period for which funding has been approved.

### Guidelines

The composition of the award is based on a student's total assessed federal and provincial needs. It combines Canada Student Loan, B.C. Student Loan, and federal and provincial grants and bursaries:

1. Canada Student Loan funding, up to the weekly maximum of \$300, is applied to 60% of the federal assessed need.
2. B.C. Student Loan Funding, up to the weekly maximums of \$220, is applied to 40% of the provincial assessed need for students without dependants. B.C. Student Loan funding, up to a weekly maximum of \$280 per week, is applied to 40% of the provincial need for students with dependents.
3. Canada Student Grant funding is then applied, first towards any federal assessed need not met by Canada Student Loan funding and then replacing the Canada Student Loan. Any remaining Canada Student Grant funding is then applied to the provincial unmet need before replacing B.C. Student Loan funding.

For students with dependents, if the total award does not meet total provincial assessed need, additional B.C. Student Loan funding will be provided to increase the award to the lesser of total provincial assessed need or the \$740 weekly maximum.

In addition, awards can be assessed using the Interface Policy ([Chapter 7, Section 6](#)) for students receiving Disability Assistance under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act*.

For information on eligibility for Canada Student Grants and the B.C. Access Grant, see [Chapter 5, Section 3](#), and [Chapter 5, Section 4.2](#), respectively.

## 8.3 Award Disbursement

StudentAid BC must receive confirmation of a student's enrolment from the post-secondary institution before funding will be released to the student.

The date of disbursement for loan and grant funding is calculated based on the study period start date and midpoint date.

The date of disbursement may be affected by post-secondary institution closure dates (e.g., over the winter holidays).

If the student's program length is equal to or less than 17 weeks:

- At the start date of the study period, 100% of the total award will be disbursed.

If the student's program length is greater than 17 weeks:

- At the start date of the study period, all Canada Student Loan, 50% of Canada Student Grant, and 50% of B.C. Access Grant funding will be disbursed; and
- At the midpoint of the study period, all B.C. Student Loan and the remaining portion of Canada Student Grant, and B.C. Access Grant funding will be disbursed.

If the total disbursement at the start date of the study period is less than 50% of the total award, a portion of the B.C. Student Loan will be released to ensure the student receives a minimum of 50% of the total award at the study period start date. The remainder of the award will be disbursed at the midpoint of the program.

## Chapter 9: Maintaining Eligibility

In accordance with the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*, students must attain a satisfactory scholastic standard to be eligible for student financial assistance. This chapter outlines the policy requirements for maintaining eligibility. It also outlines the policy for withdrawals and interruption of study.

[9.1 Scholastic Standard for Full-time Students](#)

[9.2 Withdrawals](#)

[9.3 Change in Institution/Program Status \(Training Out\)](#)

[9.4 Interruption of Study](#)

[9.5 Verification](#)

### 9.1 Scholastic Standard for Full-time Students

#### Purpose

To ensure students remain eligible for student financial assistance, reasonable progress toward completing their post-secondary educational program is required.

#### Policy

##### Satisfactory Scholastic Standard

Students must maintain a satisfactory scholastic standard to be eligible for Canada Student Loans. This is defined as the successful completion of at least 60% of a full course load at the post-secondary level (40% of a full course load for students with a disability [permanent, or persistent or prolonged]). All courses must lead to a degree, diploma, or certificate.

StudentAid BC follows the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program policy in determining satisfactory scholastic standing. Under section 12 (1) (a) of the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act* (the Act), students must achieve satisfactory scholastic standing to be eligible for student financial assistance.

Students who withdraw on two separate occasions and/or fail to successfully achieve a satisfactory scholastic standing in 68 weeks of post-secondary studies while receiving student financial assistance through StudentAid BC, are deemed to have failed to meet this provision of the Act and are no longer eligible for additional student financial assistance.

Students may have their eligibility for future student financial assistance assessed by one of the two following ways.

1. Submitting an appeal to have the requirement waived due to:
  - medical illness or injury;
  - family emergency (e.g. death, injury, etc.) or a natural disaster; or

- other exceptional circumstances.
- 2. Completing two terms/semesters (or one academic year) of full-time study at a post-secondary designated institution without the assistance of student loans and by requesting reinstatement to StudentAid BC.

Students who are successful in reinstatement or appeal may continue to receive student financial assistance unless they withdraw one more time or are unsuccessful in their term/semester.

For information on satisfactory scholastic standing for the purposes of part-time student financial assistance eligibility, see [Chapter 12](#).

### Procedure

1. A student has met the scholastic standing requirement if the post-secondary institution indicates the student has maintained a satisfactory scholastic standard based on the standards and expectations of that institution and/or if a course credit was granted. This is not dependent on the student meeting the post-secondary institution's grade point average.
2. A financial aid officer/post-secondary institution official must report to StudentAid BC within six weeks when a student who is receiving student financial assistance has:
  - Failed to successfully complete a semester, term or study period;
  - Registered for the minimum course load and it has been verified the student is not attending classes on a regular basis and is considered as withdrawn (where possible, a record of attendance should be submitted); or
  - Not completed the program due to missed instruction days/hours by the end of the study period and must be reported as withdrawn.

Post-secondary institutions must report unsuccessful completions by entering the information on the UC\_100 screen of the Student Financial Assistance System. If the post-secondary institution does not have access to the Student Financial Assistance System, they must submit the Unsuccessful Completion Notification form. Forms and mailing address information may be found on the [StudentAid BC website](#).

## 9.2 Withdrawals

### Purpose

To ensure that situations in which a student fails to meet StudentAid BC attendance criteria for full-time studies prior to the study period end date are reported to StudentAid BC immediately.

## Policy

Students who withdraw from their post-secondary studies two times while receiving student financial assistance will be denied further student financial assistance. Students can appeal this decision.

Any student who receives funding and does not maintain full-time student status or fails to maintain the minimum number of weekly instructional hours for non-academic (career training) programs, for the entire length of their study period, will be considered to have withdrawn.

Withdrawal will result in the cancellation or pro-rating of student financial assistance.

Post-secondary institutions must immediately report a withdrawal to StudentAid BC as well as any student who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Misses two consecutive calendar weeks of study (with the exception of the year-end break when post-secondary institutions are permitted to close for up to three weeks at the end of the calendar year);
- Drops below 60% (40% for students with a disability [permanent, or persistent or prolonged]) attendance for three consecutive calendar weeks of study; and/or
- Misses too many days/hours to successfully complete the program.

A withdrawal will be considered as failing to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing and may impact a student's future funding eligibility.

## Procedure

### 1. Identify a student withdrawal

#### **Credit programs (excluding distance education, blended learning or online learning)**

When a student drops below 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a disability [permanent, or persistent or prolonged]), the withdrawal date is:

- The date the student's course load dropped below 60% (or 40% for students with a disability [permanent, or persistent or prolonged]); or
- The date the student stopped attending the course.

Students are also considered to have withdrawn if they transfer to a new post-secondary institution and there is a gap of more than two weeks between the last date of attendance at the first post-secondary institution and the first date of attendance at the second post-secondary institution.

#### **Distance education, blended learning or online learning**

**Semester-by-semester funding:** The withdrawal date is the start of classes if no assignments or exams have been completed.



**Assignment-by-assignment basis:** The withdrawal date is dependent on missed deadlines. The withdrawal date is the start of classes if the first assignment or exam deadline was missed or the first assignment deadline date if the second assignment or exam was missed, etc.

### **Non-credit programs**

Full-time student status for non-credit career training programs is determined by the number of instructional hours per week as established by the post-secondary institution.

The minimum number of hours of study a post-secondary institution can offer in a full-time program is 20 instructional hours per week (or 15 instructional hours for aviation institutions). A student is expected to attend the course load indicated on Appendix 3 of the StudentAid BC application. The post-secondary institution will indicate on Appendix 3 that the student intends to attend between 60% and 100% of a full-time studies course load (between 40% and 100% of a full-time studies course load for students with disability status). If the student is enrolled in 100% of a full-time studies course load, the student is expected to attend 100% of a course load, at a minimum of 20 instructional hours per week.

If a post-secondary institution defines full-time attendance in a program as 20 hours per week, the student must be reported to StudentAid BC as a withdrawal if any of the following scenarios apply:

- The student does not attend any instructional hours for two consecutive calendar weeks (Sunday to Saturday);
- The student attends less than 12 hours per week (60% of 20 hours) or, for students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged), the student attends less than 8 hours per week (40% of 20 hours), for three consecutive calendar weeks (Sunday to Saturday); and/or
- The student is absent for sufficient hours/days that the post-secondary institution determines that the student cannot successfully complete the program.

## **2. Report the withdrawal date**

The post-secondary institution must report the date of withdrawal to StudentAid BC as the date the student last attended full-time studies, if known, and not the date that the registrar's office may use as the date of withdrawal.

The date the student last attended full-time studies is used for overaward calculation purposes.

When reporting a withdrawal, the financial aid office, or post-secondary institution owner/operator must submit a withdrawal form to StudentAid BC or enter the withdrawal date the student ceased to maintain full-time studies in the Student Financial Assistance System. This must be completed within six weeks of the withdrawal date.

Once a student has withdrawn, no further funding will be released or made available to the student for that study period.

StudentAid BC will pro-rate the student's award using the withdrawal date reported by the post-secondary institution.

### 3. Calculate and apply the withdrawal overaward

The overaward is the difference between the original assessment and a pro-rated assessment based on the number of weeks a student attended. The pro-rated award is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Pro-rated assessment} = \text{total award} \times (\text{weeks attended} / \text{total weeks originally assessed})$$

When the withdrawal notification is received, StudentAid BC will:

1. Pro-rate the award;
2. Place the student's name on the Restricted List for an overaward;
3. Notify the student; and
4. Notify the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) of the new end date.

If a student is not transferring to another post-secondary institution, and is withdrawing entirely or never started, any tuition refunds must be returned to the NSLSC. The student is responsible for repaying any overawards.

See [Chapter 10](#) for more information on withdrawal overawards.

### 4. Report withdrawals of students on in-study payment-free status on Canada-B.C. integrated student loans

Students who withdraw and do not have current student loans but are on in-study payment-free status for previous Canada-B.C. integrated student loans must be reported to StudentAid BC by the post-secondary institution. Students who are on in-study payment-free status are considered in a funded term. Withdrawals and unsuccessful completion terms are counted during this time.

1. The post-secondary institution must submit a withdrawal form indicating the date on which the student ceased to maintain full-time studies to StudentAid BC. Public post-secondary institutions must enter the student's withdrawal into the Student Financial Assistance System.
2. StudentAid BC will notify the National Student Loans Service Centre so it can adjust the payment-free period on the Canada-B.C. integrated student's loan(s).

### Non-punitive withdrawals

A non-punitive withdrawal is not counted towards the student's eligibility for further StudentAid BC funding. A non-punitive withdrawal occurs when one of the following four conditions applies:

1. The student is withdrawn due to a post-secondary institution closure as outlined in [Section 9.4: Interruption of Study](#);
2. The student did not attend classes at all and repaid the disbursement in full within 30 days;
3. The student attended classes for 10 days or less and repaid the disbursement in full within 30 days; or

4. The student received funding for two semesters, completed their first term/semester, including exams (if applicable), and either did not return to full-time studies or attended 10 days or less in the next term/semester. The second disbursement was not issued or was repaid in full within 30 days.

Post-secondary institutions must submit a Non-Punitive Withdrawal from Study Period form to report non-punitive withdrawals to StudentAid BC. Overawards may occur in non-punitive withdrawals.

### **Procedure**

1. The post-secondary institution must submit withdrawal information to StudentAid BC.
2. Once the student has repaid the funds in full they must provide documentation from the National Student Loans Service Centre to StudentAid BC advising that the payment has been made.
3. StudentAid BC will confirm the payment has been made and change the withdrawal to non-punitive.

In situations where repayment within the first 30 days is not possible/beyond the student's control, a student may appeal with documentation up to 45 days from the start of classes.

### **Withdrawal versus early completion of studies**

If a student fully completes their studies before the assessed study period end date, a reassessment will be conducted to adjust the original end date.

School officials are expected to advise StudentAid BC of the new end date by submitting an Early Completion of Studies Notification form.

A student who submits documentation for an early completion will be reassessed. Therefore, an overaward assessed due to a withdrawal will differ from an overaward assessed as a result of an early completion.

If a student originally submitted a student financial assistance application for two semesters, but does not attend the second semester, the student must submit an Early Completion of Studies Notification form to change the study end date. The student should also include an Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information) if the new study period end date is not reflected in the Institutional Appendix.

### **Withdrawal and re-entry**

Students who originally applied for a two-semester period, withdrew in the first semester (either before or after being issued funding) and wish to re-enter the same post-secondary institution and program for the start of the second semester, must submit a new student financial assistance application for the second semester.

StudentAid BC will process the student's withdrawal to determine any overaward and process the new application for student financial assistance for the second semester, provided the overaward(s) does not affect eligibility for further student financial assistance.

**Further funding following a withdrawal**

Students will be eligible to receive student financial assistance in the year following a withdrawal if they are repeating courses from which they withdrew or did not successfully complete. This applies to only one additional attempt at the course. Any more than one additional attempt is subject to approval through the submission of an appeal.

**9.3 Change in Institution/Program Status (Training Out)**

Students who are enrolled in programs at B.C. post-secondary institutions where designation status is suspended may be allowed to maintain their StudentAid BC funding to complete their program. New applications for StudentAid will not be accepted until the post-secondary institution's designation status is reinstated.

Applications for student financial assistance will not be accepted from students attending institutions outside of British Columbia if the institution or program designation is suspended.

**9.4 Interruption of Study****Policy**

StudentAid BC recipients should not be disadvantaged due to interruption of study caused by strike action, natural disasters or other similar events. The following policy is designed for short-term situations of 2-4 weeks. In the event of a longer-term closure, StudentAid BC will consider policy on a case-by-case basis. For students who need to take a temporary leave from their post-secondary education for parental or medical reasons, please refer to [Chapter 11, Section 3.3](#).

**Interruption to education program/study period**

The period of time that students are unable to attend classes will be considered part of education program/study period and will, therefore, have no impact on eligibility or disbursement of awards if students recommence classes at the end of the institution closure.

**Possible extensions to length of study period**

If programs are extended to 'make up' class time missed due to closure, resulting in students having to attend classes beyond the original study period end date, students may request a reassessment and be eligible for additional funds for the study period extension.

**Cancellation of semester/term**

If it becomes necessary in any program to cancel the semester/term, the student will not be penalized for non-completion of this semester. As a result, overawards will not be calculated.

**Institution closure**

If a British Columbia designated institution ceases operations, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills will contact students currently receiving StudentAid BC funding to discuss their options, including:

- Processing a non-punitive withdrawal; or
- Transfer to another institution with up to a three-week break in studies.

If an overaward is calculated as a result of an institution closure, an appeal will be required to have the overaward waived. Appeals are considered on a case-by-case basis.

A withdrawal resulting from an institution closure will be considered a non-punitive withdrawal.

Institutions must notify StudentAid BC at the earliest opportunity of any impending disruption to the institution's operations.

**9.5 Verification****Purpose**

The goal of the verification process is to improve the accuracy of assessments, ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of student financial assistance, and to identify and act to prevent abuse.

**Policy**

As outlined and consented to in the declaration sections for applicants, parents and spouses, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills verifies and/or investigates information pertaining to the student financial assistance application, related documents and repayment of loans.

Overawards created by a change to factual information discovered in a verification are not subject to appeal.

The information collected through the verification process will be used to reassess the application, which may result in changes to the amount of funding awarded to the applicant.

**Process**

1. Applications that are being reviewed for verification are placed under provincial restriction and remain in that status until the verification is complete.
2. Additional or missing information required to complete a verification must be submitted to StudentAid BC.
3. Any verifications that result in reason to believe that an act of fraud has occurred may be referred to the police or RCMP for possible charges under the Criminal Code. Financial aid officers or post-secondary institution owners/operators who feel that a fraudulent act may

have occurred, must submit all available information and evidence to the fraud investigator at the Ministry along with a statement outlining the concern. Financial aid officers and post-secondary institution owners/operators must co-operate fully if they are contacted by the Ministry regarding a fraud investigation.

4. StudentAid BC will not process applications for loan remission or loan forgiveness programs if there is an outstanding verification on a student loan application.

## Chapter 10: Changes to Student Circumstances

StudentAid BC assesses each student's financial need and determines a student's eligibility for student financial assistance based on established criteria.

Students are responsible for informing StudentAid BC of any changes to their circumstances that affect their financial need. StudentAid BC will review the new information to determine if it has an impact on the original assessment of financial need. In some cases, this reassessment may create an overaward situation, where the student receives more student financial assistance than they are eligible to receive.

This chapter explains the responsibilities of the student, the post-secondary institution and StudentAid BC when a reassessment is required. It also explains the student's responsibilities for repaying overawards.

[10.1 Reassessment](#)

[10.2 Transferring between Post-Secondary Institutions](#)

[10.3 Overawards \(Loans and Grants\)](#)

### 10.1 Reassessment

#### Purpose

To ensure students receive the appropriate amount of student financial assistance as a result of a change to the information submitted on their original StudentAid BC application.

#### Policy

Students whose financial circumstances have changed since the assessment of their original application must immediately advise StudentAid BC by submitting an Appendix 7 (Request for Reassessment). StudentAid BC will reassess the student's financial need over the study period.

StudentAid BC will only pro-rate the reassessment if one of the following circumstances applies:

- The birth or adoption of dependents; or
- The student assumes guardianship (or joint or shared guardianship) of a child or other dependent.

Students who wish to have expected financial contributions waived or reduced due to exceptional circumstances must submit this request as an appeal. See [Chapter 13](#).

Changes in a student's marital status or living situation during the study period are not eligible for reassessment.

## Guidelines

A reassessment involves a non-discretionary decision or a simple change that may be the result of many different scenarios and circumstances.

The following table outlines the most common reassessment types and the documentation that students must provide along with their completed Appendix 7 (Request for Reassessment).

**Note:** For public institutions, please include Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information) only if the new study period end date is not reflected in the Institutional Appendix.

**Table 10.1 – Common Reassessment Types and Required Documentation**

Circumstance Change Type	Documentation or Action Required (an Appendix 7 is required in all of the following scenarios unless otherwise indicated)
<b>PROGRAM OF STUDY</b>	
Change of program at the same post-secondary institution	Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information)
Change of designated post-secondary institution (no funding disbursed)	Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information)
Change of program costs (per the post-secondary institution's Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3)	Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information)
Change in original study period end and/or start dates (varying length programs)	Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information) and Appendix 2 (if applicable) (Spouse/Common-law/ Partner Information)
Early Completion of Studies (fully completing a program/study period before the assessed study end date) See <a href="#">Chapter 9, Section 2</a> for more details.	Early Completion of Studies Notification form and Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information). An Appendix 7 is not required.
Non-punitive withdrawals (Change in original study period end date where a two-term application is reduced to one term. For example, the student applies for funding from September to April, completes the first term of study in December and decides not to return to their studies for the second term starting in January. The new study end date is December.) See <a href="#">Chapter 9, Section 2</a> for more details.	Non-punitive Withdrawal from Study Period form. An Appendix 7 is not required.



MISCELLANEOUS	
Error in original assessment	Note the change on Appendix 7 along with a brief description on page 2 explaining the error with supporting documentation.
Change in targeted study period income and total family income (of the applicant or, if applicable, the applicant's spouse or parents) due to error.	Appendix 7 only with a brief note explaining the change on page 2 and any applicable documentation to support the change.
Request to be reassessed using income for the current program year, matching the year of the application, due to a significant decrease in income from the previous year.	Income Appeal Form, with supporting documentation. An Appendix 7 is not required.
Name change	<p>IF a student has formally changed their name AND the name change <u>has not</u> been automatically updated on the student's StudentAid BC Dashboard THEN the student must send the following documentation to StudentAid BC to request a change in the student's name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of the student's Social Insurance Number card/letter;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of government-issued identification clearly indicating the student's name, date of birth and gender. An Appendix 7 is not required.</li> </ul>

## 10.2 Transferring between Post-Secondary Institutions

### Purpose

To enable a student receiving student financial assistance from StudentAid BC to transfer to a different post-secondary institution during their study period without having to reapply for student financial assistance.

### Policy

Student financial assistance awards are transferable between designated post-secondary institutions, provided that all basic eligibility requirements continue to be met.

## Guidelines

Students transferring between campuses of the same institution must complete the appropriate institutional transfer forms and submit them to StudentAid BC. If a student transfers to another post-secondary institution (or a second campus of the same post-secondary institution that has a different institutional code) and funding has not been disbursed, the student must submit an Appendix 7 (Request for Reassessment).

If more than two weeks pass between the student's last date of attendance at the original post-secondary institution and the start date at the new post-secondary institution, the student is considered to have withdrawn from the original post-secondary institution and must submit a new StudentAid BC application for the new post-secondary institution. If the student is transferring because of an institution closure, the gap between the last date of attendance at the original post-secondary institution and the start at the new institution can be up to three weeks. Year-end breaks and spring breaks are included when indicating the last day of study.

## Process

The following instructions provide an overview of the process and responsibilities for a student transferring between two post-secondary institutions. StudentAid BC must receive fully completed documentation at least six weeks before the study period end date; otherwise, the request will be denied.

1. The student must submit an Appendix 5 (Transfer of School) to the original post-secondary institution. The student completes sections 1, 4 and 5 of Appendix 5.
2. The original post-secondary institution completes section 2 of the Appendix 5. The Appendix 5 is either mailed to the new post-secondary institution or returned to the student with instructions to take it to the new post-secondary institution.
3. The new post-secondary institution completes section 3 of the Appendix 5 and forwards the completed form to StudentAid BC.

StudentAid BC will process the transfer and notify the student and the new post-secondary institution of any changes to the student's assessed financial need.

## 10.3 Overawards (Loans and Grants)

### Purpose

To identify students who have received more student financial assistance than for which they are eligible. Students may have their overaward deducted from any future loan entitlement.

## Policy

When a student has a change in circumstances that requires a reassessment of their original award, any student financial assistance already provided that exceeds the student's reassessed eligibility for student financial assistance may be considered an overaward.

## Guidelines

Overawards are identified as a result of a reassessment of an original application initiated by a student, a financial aid officer or StudentAid BC as a result of a review or verification.

### Repayment of Overawards

Overawards must be repaid to the National Student Loans Service Centre. Payments will be pro-rated to the borrower's federal and provincial loan debt, based on each loan's outstanding principal balance. Students cannot direct a payment to a particular portion (federal or provincial) of a Canada-B.C. Integrated student loans.

Students need to advise StudentAid BC that they have paid an amount equivalent to the amount of the outstanding overaward. StudentAid BC will review the National Student Loans Service Centre's records to confirm the payment was received.

Students can also appeal their overaward. See [Chapter 13](#).

### Canada Student Grant overawards

Canada Student Grants aim to make post-secondary study more accessible. Grant funding that exceeds a student's assessed financial need will be deemed an overaward under the following circumstances only. In these cases, grants will be converted to Canada Student Loans.

**a. Canada Student Grant overawards resulting from early withdrawal or change in status from full-time studies to part-time**

A grant overaward will be converted to loan when a student withdraws or changes their status to part-time within 30 calendar days of the study period start date.

A grant overaward will not be established if a student withdraws or changes their status to part-time after 30 calendar days of the study period start date.

**b. Canada Student Grant overawards resulting from change in assessed financial need**

A grant overaward will be converted to loan when a student has a change in assessed need such that they no longer have an assessed need of at least \$1.

Students whose circumstances have changed since submitting the original application must immediately advise StudentAid BC by submitting Appendix 7. The reassessment allows StudentAid BC to correct its assessment of a student's financial need over the study period.

**Withdrawal consequences for federal and provincial grants**

The table below outlines the grants administered by StudentAid BC that will produce an overaward on the student's loan balance, and at what point in the study period this occurs.

**Table 10.3 – Withdrawal Consequences for Federal and Provincial Grants**

Overaward conversion to loan for withdrawal	Federal or provincial	Within first 30 days	After 30 days
<b>Full-time</b>			
CSG-FT	Federal	Yes	No
CSG-FTDEP	Federal	Yes	No
CSG-D	Federal	Yes	No
BCAG-FT	Provincial	Yes	No
SBSD	Provincial	No	No
<b>Part-time</b>			
CSG-PT	Federal	Yes	No
CSG-D	Federal	Yes	No
CSG-PTDEP	Federal	Yes	No
BCAG-PT	Provincial	Yes	No
SBSD	Provincial	No	No

# Chapter 11: Student Financial Assistance Disbursement and Repayment



## [11.1 Purpose](#)

## [11.2 Disbursement](#)

### [11.2.1 Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement for Canada and British Columbia](#)

### [11.2.2 Funds Disbursement](#)

## [11.3 Payment-Free and Non-Repayment Periods](#)

### [11.3.1 In-Study Payment-Free Status](#)

### [11.3.2 Non-Repayment Period](#)

### [11.3.3 Medical and Parental Leave](#)

## [11.4 Repayment and Repayment Assistance](#)

### [11.4.1 Repayment](#)

### [11.4.2 Revision of Terms](#)

### [11.4.3 Repayment Assistance Plan](#)

## [11.5 Default on Student Loans](#)

### [11.5.1 Default on Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loans](#)

### [11.5.2 Default on B.C. Risk-Sharing and Guaranteed Loans](#)

### [11.5.3 Rehabilitation after Default](#)

## [11.6 Discharge, Termination and Cancellation of Student Loans](#)

### [11.6.1 Bankruptcy Discharge](#)

### [11.6.2 Death of a Borrower](#)

### [11.6.3 Severe Permanent Disability Benefit](#)

## [11.7 Restrictions on Eligibility in Repayment](#)

### [11.7.1 RAP Stage 2 Restriction](#)

### [11.7.2 RAP Affordable Payment Restriction](#)

### [11.7.3 Delinquency Restriction](#)

### [11.7.4 Default Related Restrictions](#)

### [11.7.5 Bankruptcy Related Restriction](#)

### [11.7.6 Severe Permanent Disability Benefit Restriction](#)

### [11.7.7 Administrative Measures Restriction](#)

### [11.7.8 Restriction After a Finding of Guilt](#)

## 11.1 Purpose

This chapter outlines the policy explanations for student financial assistance disbursement, loan repayment, and repayment supports related to the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan for full-time students.

For policy explanations related to disbursement and repayment of part-time student financial assistance, see [Chapter 12](#).

## 11.2 Disbursement

### 11.2.1 Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement for Canada and British Columbia

The Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) is a legal document that governs the rights and responsibilities, with respect to the financial assistance the student will receive from B.C. and the Government of Canada. The terms and conditions within the loan agreement outline the requirements on borrowing and repayment of Government of Canada and Government of B.C. student loans.

The MSFAA does not state the amount of funding or composition of funding the student will receive. Students receive a Notice of Assessment each time they apply for funding from StudentAid BC that describes their loan and grant amounts and disbursement details. The Notice of Assessment also includes an MSFAA number.

In most cases, the MSFAA will remain active throughout the student's post-secondary studies. In the following two situations, A student must submit a new MSFAA before they can receive additional StudentAid BC funding:

- Two years have passed since the student's last study period end date; or
- The student has signed a student financial assistance agreement with another jurisdiction since the last time they received financial assistance from StudentAid BC.

If a new MSFAA is required, the student will receive an email from the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) with a link to create an NSLSC account. The student will then use the MSFAA number provided on their Notice of Assessment and submit their MSFAA electronically from within their NSLSC account.

At any time, B.C. may amend the Terms and Conditions of the MSFAA-BC by posting updated Terms and Conditions on the StudentAid BC webpage. Borrowers are responsible for regularly reviewing the StudentAid BC webpage for any updated Terms and Conditions. Amendments to the Terms and Conditions are effective as of the date of posting, and borrowers continued participation in the B.C. Student Assistance Program constitutes acceptance of those amendments.

The B.C. Student Assistance Program is commonly referred to as StudentAid BC.

### 11.2.2 Funds Disbursement

Students who have been issued a Notice of Assessment could receive student loans and grants for up to the amount determined in their need assessment with consideration of the weekly and lifetime maximum funding limits.

The NSLSC will release funds if they receive the following before the student's study end date:

- a valid MSFAA completed and submitted by the student; and
- a Confirmation of Enrolment submitted by the post-secondary institution.

Funds will only be disbursed after the study period end date under exceptional circumstances, and as approved through an appeal process.

For more detail about the confirmation of enrolment process, see [Chapter 4, Section 8](#).

### **Funds deposited into a student's bank account**

Most student financial assistance is issued through an electronic funds transfer. Funds will be deposited into the bank account specified by the student within approximately seven business days after the post-secondary institution has confirmed enrolment. The bank account must be held in the student's name, solely or jointly.

If the bank account information is invalid, a cheque will be issued and sent to the address provided by the student within approximately ten business days.

### **Funds disbursed to post-secondary institutions**

Student financial assistance may be disbursed directly to a post-secondary institution. Section 1.9 of the StudentAid BC declaration states that a portion or all of the funding may, at the post-secondary institution's request, be sent directly to a student's institution to pay educational fees. Students must agree to the terms and conditions of the StudentAid BC Declaration when they apply for student financial assistance.

## **11.3 In-Study Payment-Free and Non-Repayment Periods**

### **11.3.1 In-Study Payment-Free Status**

In-study payment-free status is the term referring to the status of a borrower during the period when loan repayment is not required because the borrower is enrolled in full-time studies. Students with in-study payment-free status who are enrolled full-time at a designated post-secondary institution, in an eligible program are considered to be in a funded study term, even if they are not receiving loans or grants. Weeks on in-study payment-free status are counted towards a student's lifetime maximum weeks of funding.

Enrolment in part-time studies qualifies students for in-study payment-free status on their part-time loans but does not qualify them for in-study payment-free status on their full-time loans.

If a full-time student with a part-time loan reaches their full-time maximum number of weeks threshold, (i.e., 340 weeks), they can only defer payments on their full-time loans for the duration of their full-time study period(s). See [Chapter 8.1](#) Limits of Allowable Student Financial Assistance for more information.

The period of in-study payment-free status starts on the student's Period of Studies Commencement Date (PSCD). The PSCD is the first day of the first month of the student's confirmed period of studies.

The period of in-study payment-free status ends on the student's Period of Studies End Date (PSED). The PSED is the last day of the last month of the student's confirmed period of studies.

There are multiple situations described below in which outstanding Canada-B.C. integrated student loans can be placed into in-study payment-free status.

### **1. Returning full-time students who receive further student loan funding**

Students returning to full-time study who receive additional student loan funding will have their enrolment confirmed through their post-secondary institution. Confirmation of Enrolment must be received by the NSLSC on or before the date the student returns to studies to ensure the student's in-study payment-free status begins as of the date the student returns to studies. See [Chapter 4, Section 4.8](#) for more information about confirmation of enrolment when receiving further funding.

### **2. Returning full-time students who are not receiving further student loan funding**

Returning students who are not receiving further student loan funding must have their enrolment confirmed through their post-secondary institution to maintain their in-study payment-free status and to ensure that they do not enter repayment on their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan while they are in-study.

Confirmation of Enrolment must be received by the NSLSC on or before the date the student returns to studies to ensure the student's in-study payment-free status begins as of their study start date.

### **3. Late continuation of studies**

Late continuation occurs when less than six months have elapsed between a full-time borrower's previously confirmed PSED and subsequent PSED during their current period of studies, but the Confirmation of Enrolment is received after more than six months have elapsed.

This will cause the borrower to enter into repayment status, which could have been avoided if their confirmation of enrolment had been submitted within six months of the end of their previous study period.

Once the NSLSC receives the Confirmation of Enrolment, the borrower will be returned to in-study payment-free status.

### **4. Reinstatement**

Reinstatement occurs when more than six months elapse between the PSED of a full-time borrower's previously confirmed period of studies and the start date of their current period of studies. Borrowers will enter the repayment phase starting the first day of the seventh month after their PSED. In order to go back to in-study payment-free status, Confirmation of Enrolment must be received by NSLSC.



### 11.3.2 Non-Repayment Period

There is a six-month non-repayment period between the borrower's PSED and the day that the borrower enters repayment.

Borrowers are not required to begin making payments on their loan until the first day of the seventh month following their PSED after they cease to be a full-time student. However, borrowers can choose to make advance payments on their loan any time during their study period and during the six-month non-repayment period.

### 11.3.3 Medical Leave and Parental Leave

Medical leave and parental leave remove the financial burden of making Canada-B.C. integrated student loan payments when a borrower takes a temporary leave from post-secondary studies for valid medical reasons, including mental health reasons, or following the birth, finalization of an adoption, or commencement of a guardianship or tutorship of a child.

While on an approved leave, borrowers are not required to make payments on either the federal or provincial portions of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan.

The medical and parental leave is administered by NSLSC on behalf of the Province of British Columbia. For more information about how to apply, please visit the [website](#) or contact the NSLSC. See Chapter 16 for contact information.

#### Medical Leave

Medical leave is a temporary leave from Canada-B.C. integrated student loan payment obligations following a leave from studies as a result of a medical issue, including an issue related to mental health, that, in the opinion of a medical professional, would significantly interfere with the borrower's ability to pursue their program of studies.

There is no requirement that the medical condition prevents the borrower from attending post-secondary education altogether.

#### Parental Leave

Parental leave is a temporary leave from Canada-B.C. integrated student loan payment obligations following a leave from studies as a result of the birth, finalization of an adoption or commencement of the guardianship or tutorship of a child.

There is no requirement that the borrower's parental obligations prevent them from attending post-secondary education.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for medical or parental leave, borrowers must:

- Be in full-time studies or part-time studies, or in the six-month non-repayment period at the time of their application;
- Submit through the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) dashboard a Medical or Parental Leave Benefit Application within the prescribed timeframe; and
- Have taken a leave from studies (see Leave from studies below) for medical or parental reasons after October 1, 2020; and
- Be at least 30 calendar days into a new confirmed period of study following any previous medical or parental leave.

There is no requirement for a borrower's loans to be in good standing to be eligible for medical or parental leave.

Borrowers who take a leave from their studies for reasons unrelated to a medical or parental event are not eligible for a medical or parental leave from their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan repayment obligations, even if they experience a medical or parental event after having withdrawn from school.

**Application for Leave**

A borrower must submit their application for medical or parental leave during an eligibility window. The eligibility window begins on the medical event date or parental event date and ends 12 months later.

A borrower must complete the Application Form and apply for medical or parental leave within a six-month application window. The application window starts on the last day of the month in which they withdrew from post-secondary studies (i.e. the withdrawal PSED) and ends 6 months later.

Borrowers must submit a Medical or Parental Leave Benefit Application to the NSLSC. An application must include:

- a Medical Leave Attestation from a medical professional stating the medical event date; or
- a Parental Leave self-attestation that includes the parental event date.

**Leave from Studies**

Borrowers must have taken a leave from their studies for medical or parental reasons to be eligible for a medical or parental leave from their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan repayment obligations.

Borrowers must work with their educational institution to formally take a leave from their studies (unless they are in the six-month non-repayment period following studies).

Leave from studies means:

- When the borrower applies for medical or parental leave while in-study, the borrower must formally withdraw from studies with their educational institution.
- When the borrower applies for medical or parental leave while in a six-month non-repayment period following studies, they are still considered on a leave from studies, and their leave period will start on the day following their approved leave.

### **Length of Leave**

Borrowers who are approved for medical or parental leave will be granted six months of leave. A borrower may extend their initial six-month leave twice, for a maximum of three six-month periods or a total of 18 months.

Although the leave is granted in six-month periods, it is permissible for a borrower to end their leave early to return to post-secondary studies. There is no penalty for a borrower who returns to post-secondary studies before the end of their approved leave period. Borrowers should have their enrolment confirmed upon their return to studies.

If the borrower does not return to their studies, they will immediately enter their six-month non-repayment period following the end of their leave and subsequently enter repayment.

The Leave Status End Date (LSED), which is the last day of the sixth month from the borrower's Leave Start Date, will become the borrower's Period of Studies End Date (PSED). This date is used to determine the non-repayment period, and the repayment start date for loan amortization.

### **Back-to-back Leave Periods**

Borrowers cannot take back-to-back leave periods. Once a borrower has used 18 months, or did not extend their leave of six or twelve months, they must return to post-secondary studies for 30 calendar days before they are eligible for another leave. This requirement applies even if they are requesting leave for different reasons.

### **Lifetime Maximum Weeks of Student Financial Assistance**

Time spent on medical or parental leave is not included in a borrower's lifetime maximum weeks of student financial assistance.

In cases where a borrower returned to studies before the end of a leave period, the entire six months of the leave period are excluded from the calculation of their lifetime maximum weeks.

See [Chapter 8](#) for lifetime maximum funding limits.

### **Appeals**

There is no appeal process for rejected/denied applications. Borrowers can resubmit an application if their circumstances have changed but must meet all eligibility criteria.

## 11.4 Repayment and Repayment Assistance

### 11.4.1 Repayment

#### Loan Consolidation and Amortization

When a borrower enters repayment on the first day of the seventh month following the month in which they cease to be a full-time student, their Canada student loans and their B.C. student loans consolidate. Consolidation establishes a borrower's amortization or repayment period and interest rate, if applicable.

The standard amortization period is 9.5 years; however, borrowers have the option to extend their amortization period to a maximum of 14.5 years if the \$25/month minimum payment requirement is met. Borrowers can also choose to reduce their amortization period. See [Section 11.4.2](#) Revision of Terms.

Consolidated Loan Amount			Consolidated Amortization Period
\$1	To	\$1,365.99	18 months (1.5 yrs.)
\$1,366	To	\$2,975.99	42 months (3.5 yrs.)
\$2,976	To	\$4,375.99	66 months (5.5 yrs.)
\$4,376	To	\$6,985.99	90 months (7.5 yrs.)
\$6,986	+		114 months (9.5 yrs.)

**Note:** The amortization period does not include the non-repayment period of 6 months after the borrower ceases to be a full-time student.

All repayment terms and conditions are described in the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) for those borrowers who received funding after August 1, 2011.

Those borrowers who have not received further funding after August 1, 2011, remain under the terms and conditions of their existing British Columbia Student Loan Agreement as modified by the amendments to their British Columbia Student Loan Agreement (including the Schedule of Substituted Provisions). These borrowers are also affected by Bill 17, *Finance Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*, Section 142, transitional provisions.

#### Loan Repayment

Borrowers enter loan repayment on their Canada-B.C. integrated student loans and other B.C. student loans (Risk-Sharing Loans and Guaranteed Loans) on the first day of the seventh month after they cease to be a full-time student.

Students are required to start making payments on the first day of the seventh month after they:

- Have graduated from their studies;
- Have transferred to part-time studies;

- Have dropped their studies altogether; or
- If they are taking time off from their post-secondary education for more than six months and did not apply for and get approved for a medical leave or parental leave.

Borrowers who received their loan on or after August 1, 2000, must repay their Canada-B.C. integrated student loans through the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC).

If the borrower wishes to change certain repayment terms or to activate the pre-authorized debit, they can do this through their NSLSC online account.

If a borrower had arranged for the direct deposit of their loan disbursements, the same bank account number will be automatically used to withdraw monthly loan payments. If the bank account information changes, the borrower is required to update it directly from their online NSLSC account. However, if there are insufficient funds in that account or if their bank account number has changed and they have not updated their banking information as per the terms of their MSFAA, this will result in a returned payment.

If there are two returned payments, the loan will become delinquent which could affect the borrower's credit rating and prevent them from receiving further funding until the account is brought up to date. See Section [11.7.3](#) for delinquency restriction information.

Payments will be pro-rated to the borrower's federal and provincial student loan debt, based on each loan's outstanding principal balance. Borrowers cannot direct a payment to a particular portion (federal or provincial) of a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan.

### **Interest Rates**

Interest on B.C. government issued student loans was eliminated as of February 19, 2019. Borrowers are still responsible for paying any interest that accrued on their B.C. student loans prior to February 19, 2019.

Interest on Canada student loans was eliminated as of April 1, 2023. Borrowers are still responsible for paying any interest that accrued on their Canada student loans prior to April 1, 2023.

### **Power of Attorney Consent**

Borrowers can have another person take care of their student loan dealings with the NSLSC. Borrowers should submit the [Power of Attorney \(POA\) form](#) to NSLSC to provide permission for NSLSC to discuss their account with their representative. The Power of Attorney form is available from the federal government [website](#).

### **B.C. Risk-Sharing Loans (negotiated from August 1, 1995, to July 31, 2000) and B.C. Guaranteed Loans (negotiated prior to August 1, 1995)**

B.C. Risk-Sharing loans and B.C. Guaranteed loans are paid back through the financial institution where the borrower received the loan. Interest rates continue to apply to B.C. Risk-Sharing Loans

and B.C. Guaranteed loans. Borrowers can contact their financial institution to find out the current interest on their outstanding student loan. For information about repaying B.C. Risk-Sharing and B.C. Guaranteed loans, borrowers must contact the financial institution directly.

#### **11.4.2 Revision of Terms**

The Revision of Terms plan is available to borrowers who have a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan in repayment with the NSLSC. Borrowers can change the terms of their repayment to extend or reduce their amortization period. They may extend their amortization period to a maximum of 15 years from their Period of Studies End Date (PSED) or Rehabilitation Repayment Start Date (RRSD), excluding any periods during which a borrower benefits from RAP Stage 1.

There is no minimum amortization period. However, payments cannot be less than \$25 regardless of the amortization period.

#### **Temporary Minimum Payment**

A borrower having difficulty repaying their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan may opt to make a temporary minimum payment of no less than \$20 per month (\$10 per loan type). The temporary minimum payment is offered in intervals of up to six months but can be taken on shorter terms. A borrower is entitled to a maximum of twelve months of temporary minimum payments per loan over the course of their current loan repayment period.

This temporary minimum payment counter only resets when a Period of Study End Date (PSED) is updated. When the PSED is not changed following rehabilitation of loans, the temporary minimum payment counter does not reset and the borrower can only benefit for months not previously used, out of their twelve-month maximum.

For more information about the Revision of Terms, please visit the [Loan Repayment Options \(canada.ca\)](https://canada.ca) or contact NSLSC. See [Chapter 16](#) for contact information.

#### **11.4.3 Repayment Assistance Plan and Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities**

##### **Overview**

The Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP), including the Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities (RAP-D), is available to borrowers who have a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan in repayment at the NSLSC. RAP and RAP-D are administered by the NSLSC on behalf of and under the direction of the Province of British Columbia.

Borrowers must apply and, if approved, will receive repayment assistance for a period of six months. In the event that repayment assistance is required after the six-month period, borrowers will need to reapply.

RAP and RAP-D are tailored to the needs of borrowers based on the length of time they have been in repayment and on their ability to repay. If approved for RAP or RAP-D, borrowers receive a reduced payment or make no payment at all for the six-month RAP term.

More information about RAP and RAP-D, including how to apply, is available online. For all inquiries about RAP and RAP-D, contact the NSLSC. See [Chapter 16](#) for contact information.

**Note:** RAP and RAP-D for the BC and federal portions of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan are aligned, except that the B.C. portion is subject to the applicable laws of the Province of British Columbia.

### Affordable Payments

RAP and RAP-D are meant to assist borrowers who are experiencing financial difficulty repaying their student loans. Financial difficulty is determined by comparing a calculated affordable monthly payment to a calculated required monthly payment. If the affordable payment is less than the required monthly payment, the borrower qualifies for repayment assistance and makes only the affordable payment.

The affordable payment is calculated based on gross monthly family income and family size. The affordable payment will not exceed 10% of a borrower's gross monthly family income. Borrowers who earn below the income threshold for their family size are not required to make payments during their six-month RAP term.

Family Size	RAP/RAP-D Monthly Income Threshold	
	Program Year 2024-25	Program Year 2025-26
1	\$3,699	\$3,788
2	\$4,339	\$4,444
3	\$5,315	\$5,444
4	\$6,135	\$6,283
5	\$6,860	\$7,026
6	\$7,514	\$7,696
7+	\$8,117	\$8,313

## RAP Benefits

### RAP Stage 1

Borrowers pay the affordable monthly payment, and the federal and provincial governments cover any interest amount owing, if applicable, that a borrower's monthly affordable payment does not cover. A borrower eligible for RAP could receive this benefit for up to 60 months, or until they have been out of school for 10 years. Because no principal is covered by the federal or provincial governments during Stage 1, the amortization period is suspended.

### RAP Stage 2

Borrowers who have been on RAP Stage 1 for at least 60 months or in repayment for at least 10 years, are eligible for RAP Stage 2. While on Stage 2, principal and interest, if applicable, not covered by the borrower's monthly affordable payment is covered by the federal and provincial governments. This ensures that there will be no debt remaining beyond a 14.5-year amortization period. Borrowers on RAP Stage 2 are restricted from receiving further funding until their student loan is paid in full. See [Section 11.7.1](#) for RAP Stage 2 restriction.

## RAP-D Benefits

RAP-D is similar to RAP in that it is designed to assist borrowers experiencing difficulty meeting their repayment obligations. Those who are approved for RAP-D can obtain the following benefits:

- For RAP-D borrowers, the federal and the provincial governments cover the principal and any interest, if applicable, not covered by the borrower's monthly affordable payments. This ensures that there will be no debt remaining for a borrower on RAP-D beyond a 9.5-year amortization period.
- Eligible RAP-D borrowers are allowed to claim disability-related expenses, which are taken into consideration when the RAP-D application is assessed.

### 11.4.3.1 RAP Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for RAP and RAP-D:

- A borrower must reside in Canada; or
  - If they and/or their spouse/common-law partner are
    - Canadian Forces reservists stationed abroad on designated operations; or
    - Participating in an International Internship Program for a year or less.
- The borrower must be at least six months from their Period of Studies End Date (PSED).
- Payments on the borrower's Canada-B.C. integrated student loan are up to date.
  - Borrowers who have missed nine or fewer monthly payments could still be eligible to apply and should contact the NSLSC to inquire.



- The borrower's Canada-B.C. integrated student loan must not be in default. If in default, a borrower must rehabilitate their loan(s) before they can be eligible. See [Section 11.5.3](#) Rehabilitation after Default.
- The borrower must not be restricted by an Administrative Measures restriction. See [Section 11.7.7](#) for Administrative Measures restriction.

Borrowers who were in default and have rehabilitated the provincial portion of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan are eligible to apply for RAP for the B.C. portion, even if the federal portion is still in default. In this circumstance, the application for RAP will only cover the B.C. portion of the loan.

### **Eligibility for Stage 1**

Borrowers are eligible for Stage 1 if all the following apply:

- The first day of the month in which they applied for RAP is within 10 years of when the borrower ceased to be a student (i.e., PSED); and
- The borrower has not received 60 cumulative months of RAP or Interest Relief since ceasing to be a student (i.e., PSED).

In the case of a borrower who has rehabilitated their defaulted loan since their last PSED, the Rehabilitation Start Date (RRSD) replaces the PSED when determining RAP eligibility.

### **Eligibility for Stage 2**

Borrowers are eligible for Stage 2 if any of the following apply:

- The first day of the month in which they applied for RAP is at least 10 years since their last PSED; or
- The borrower has received at least 60 cumulative months of RAP Stage 1 or Interest Relief since their last PSED.

In the case of a borrower who has rehabilitated their defaulted loan since their last PSED, the Rehabilitation Start Date (RRSD) replaces the PSED when determining RAP eligibility. If the borrower is eligible for RAP they will begin at RAP Stage 1.

#### **11.4.3.2 RAP Application Process**

RAP is approved for six-month periods at a time. If a borrower continues to require financial support, they must submit a new application for each period to continue qualifying.

- Borrowers should apply online if they have an NSLSC account.
- Borrowers can get a paper application by contacting the NSLSC to request an application form; or
- Borrowers whose loans were issued by a financial institution can get an application from the financial institution holding their loan.

#### 11.4.3.3 Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities (RAP—D)

RAP-D provides repayment assistance that is accelerated and considers the additional living costs faced by people with a permanent, or a persistent or prolonged disability. For qualifying borrowers, the federal and the provincial governments cover both principal and interest, if applicable, that a borrower's monthly affordable payment does not cover.

If the applicant reapplies and continues to have an affordable payment which is less than the required payment, their loan is gradually reduced over a period of 10 years since PSED.

In the case of a borrower who has rehabilitated their defaulted loan since their last PSED, the Rehabilitation Repayment Start Date (RRSD) replaces the borrower's PSED for RAP eligibility purposes.

#### Eligibility and documentation

Eligibility criteria for RAP-D are like eligibility criteria for RAP, with the exception that RAP-D applicants must have a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability.

##### *Borrowers with a permanent disability*

Borrowers with a permanent disability must have had their permanent disability previously verified through StudentAid BC. Permanent disability is verified by meeting the definition of "permanent disability" as defined in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations. See [Chapter 15](#) for definitions.

If the borrower has not already had their permanent disability previously verified with the StudentAid BC or Canada Student Financial Assistance (CSFA) Program, they must provide proof of their permanent disability. This can be done through the RAP-D Verification of Disability Questionnaire and related documentation. There is also flexibility to accept any documentation that sufficiently demonstrates that the borrower has a permanent disability as defined by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations. Once verified borrowers can reapply for RAP-D and submit any disability related expenses they may have without going through any further medical verification.

##### *Borrowers with a persistent or prolonged disability*

RAP-D is also available for borrowers with a persistent or prolonged disability. Persistent or prolonged disability is verified by meeting the definition of "persistent or prolonged disability" as defined in the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations* (CSFAR). For definitions, please see [Chapter 15](#).

Borrowers applying for RAP-D with a persistent or prolonged disability are required to confirm their ongoing disability status through verifications and attestations.

Borrowers who have not had their persistent or prolonged disability previously verified with the StudentAid BC or CSFA Program prior to their RAP-D application must provide proof of their persistent or prolonged disability. This can be done through the RAP-D Verification of Disability Questionnaire and related documentation. There is also flexibility to accept any documentation that sufficiently demonstrates that the borrower has a persistent or prolonged disability as defined by the Regulations.

If approved, the borrower must thereafter attest for subsequent RAP-D applications. A new verification is required if the borrower reapplies for RAP-D after attesting to no longer having a persistent or prolonged disability, or as a result of periodic audit and verification.

Borrowers who were previously verified and received persistent or prolonged disability supports while in-study may have to provide verification with their initial RAP-D application. Borrowers who are not required to provide verification will be required to provide an attestation to indicate their persistent or prolonged disability is ongoing.

Borrowers who have a permanent, or a persistent or prolonged disability may have extra expenses that could impact their required monthly payment and, therefore, could affect their eligibility for RAP-D. When borrowers apply for RAP-D, they have the option of submitting receipts or statements for their disability-related expenses through the Disability-Related Expenses Form.

### **RAP-D Application process**

The application process for RAP-D is the same as the application process for RAP, with the following exceptions:

- If the borrower and NSLSC are waiting for confirmation of a permanent disability or a persistent or prolonged disability, the borrower's RAP application will be processed as if it is an application for Stage 1 or Stage 2 RAP. If the borrower meets the eligibility criteria, they will be placed on RAP pending notification of disability status.
- If it is determined during the borrower's open approved Stage 1 or Stage 2 RAP period that the borrower meets the permanent disability or persistent or prolonged disability criteria, the borrower's approved period may be re-adjudicated as RAP-D.
- If the borrower is approved as having a permanent disability, all RAP applications beginning with the current RAP period will be processed under RAP-D. Borrowers who have been approved as having a persistent or prolonged disability may be required to re-verify their disability status to maintain eligibility for RAP-D on subsequent applications.

### **Eligible disability-related expenses**

The assessment for RAP-D will take into consideration expenses that are directly related to the borrower's permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability. These may include medical, housing,

special care, or other expenses. Medical expenses must be prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner.

Applicants with health insurance can include any uninsured portion that they are required to pay out of pocket.

**Note:** Only disability-related expenses covered by a borrower's public health care or private insurance should be excluded from the monthly affordable payment assessment for RAP-D. Disability-related expenses paid for by a person or entity other than the borrower's public health care or private insurer can be included in the borrower's monthly affordable payment calculation.

#### 11.4.3.4 RAP Verification Process Requirements

The verification of RAP applications ensures that there are effective measures in place to encourage accurate reporting of a RAP applicant's income, marital status, and number of dependants, to identify misrepresentation and to ensure that the RAP benefit is only provided to those who qualify.

As part of the RAP application, applicants must attest to their gross monthly family income in the month prior to the month in which their applications are dated and signed.

Borrowers who apply early for RAP, such as prior to entering repayment or during the last month of a current RAP period, must attest to their gross monthly family income in the month in which their application is made.

The paper RAP application form, used by borrowers who do not apply online, requires an attestation of gross monthly family income in the month the application is dated, as well as the month prior.

Borrowers must also attest to their marital status and number of dependants in both the online and paper RAP applications.

Upon receipt of the completed application, an application could be selected for verification. If an applicant is selected for verification, the information declared on their RAP application form will be verified against their CRA taxpayer information and, where applicable, their spouse or common-law partner's taxpayer information.

Borrowers who are selected for RAP application verification will have their application put on hold and their loan payments suspended.

For RAP related restrictions on obtaining further student financial assistance, see [11.7.1](#) RAP stage 2 restriction and [11.7.2](#) RAP affordable payment restriction.

## 11.5 Default on Student Loans

### 11.5.1 Default on Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loans

A default occurs when a borrower fails to make monthly student loan payments as set out under the student loan agreement signed between the borrower and the Government of Canada or the Province of British Columbia.

Borrowers should contact the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) for information about the federal portion of their loan.

A borrower with a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan in default will not be eligible for further student financial assistance from either the Government of Canada or Province of British Columbia programs until the borrower completes the rehabilitation process as described in [Section 11.5.3](#).

### B.C. portion of a Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan

When a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan enters default, the integrated loan is separated, and the provincial portion is returned to the Province of British Columbia. The borrower will be restricted from all forms of further student financial assistance and must rehabilitate their accounts to have the restrictions removed.

A Canada-B.C. integrated student loan is in default if:

- The borrower fails to make their regularly scheduled loan payment by the loan payment due date for nine consecutive months; or
- After becoming delinquent (two months overdue), a demand for payment is made and the debtor refuses to pay.

When the provincial portion of the loan is returned to the Province of B.C., the outstanding student loan balance immediately becomes due and payable in full, and the loan is transferred to Revenue Services of British Columbia (RSBC) for collection. See [Chapter 16](#) for contact information.

RSBC will issue a demand letter to the borrower. Borrowers must make payment in full, enter into a satisfactory payment arrangement with RSBC, or document substantial financial hardship. Payment options are outlined in the demand letter.

If a borrower fails to make the agreed upon payment or provide any financial disclosure, RSBC may take further action to collect the outstanding account. Actions can include:

- Issuing a demand against the borrower's wages and/or bank account; or
- Registering a Crown Debt Charge against property held in the borrower's name; or
- Notifying the Canada Revenue Agency to set off monies owing to the borrower against the borrower's debt.

The debt will also be reported to a credit reporting agency, which may negatively impact the borrower's credit rating.

Borrowers can bring their loan out of default by following the rehabilitation policy outlined in [Section 11.5.3](#).

### **Canada portion of a Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan**

When the Canada portion of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan goes into default, the borrower should contact the NSLSC. See [Chapter 16](#) for contact information.

### **11.5.2 Default on B.C. Risk-Sharing and Guaranteed Loans**

A default on B.C. Risk-Sharing or B.C. Guaranteed Loans occurs when a borrower fails to make monthly student loan payments as set out under their loan agreement, however titled, between the borrower and the financial institution holding those loans.

A borrower with a B.C. Risk-Sharing loan or B.C. Guaranteed loan in default will not be eligible for further student financial assistance until clearance is given by the financial institution holding the loan or the borrower goes through the rehabilitation process. See [Section 11.5.3](#) Rehabilitation After Default.

### **11.5.3 Rehabilitation after Default**

If a borrower has defaulted on repaying their student loan, they must request rehabilitation before they can apply for additional student financial assistance from StudentAid BC. If the borrower is approved for rehabilitation, the B.C. portion of their student loans will no longer be in default. Rehabilitation requirements are different depending on the type of B.C. student loan.

### **Rehabilitation of Canada-B.C. integrated student loans**

B.C. Student Loan borrowers who hold a Canada-B.C. integrated student loan and who have lost their eligibility for B.C. student financial assistance because they defaulted and wish to rehabilitate their B.C. student loan must:

- Repay the outstanding debt and all associated fees in full; or
- Meet all the following criteria:
  - Contact Revenue Services of British Columbia to determine a payment schedule (a minimum payment that is based on the outstanding balance of the borrower's loan will be required); and
  - Repay to RSBC all outstanding interest, NSF charges and other fees associated with the B.C. Student Loan; and
  - Once all outstanding interest and fees are paid off, make the equivalent of two monthly loan payments based on the payment schedule outlined with RSBC; and
  - Ensure that RSBC repayment requirements are kept up to date until the rehabilitation request is approved by StudentAid BC.

If the borrower meets the eligibility criteria for rehabilitation and is approved, their loan balance will be transferred to the NSLSC for loan repayment management under the terms and conditions of the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA). If the borrower does not have a

signed MSFAA on file at the time of rehabilitation, they will be required to submit an MSFAA before the rehabilitation is complete.

Once the loan is returned to the NSLSC, borrowers will be required to acknowledge their new monthly payment, account number and loan amortization.

A borrower's credit report will be updated when the NSLSC provide the borrower's student loan information to the credit bureau.

Borrowers who rehabilitate the B.C. portion of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan may be eligible for the RAP on the B.C. portion of their loan. In the case of a borrower who has rehabilitated their defaulted loan since their last period of studies end date (PSED), the Rehabilitation Repayment Start Date (RRSD) replaces the borrower's PSED for RAP eligibility purposes.

### **Limitations on rehabilitation**

There is a maximum lifetime limit of two times that a borrower can rehabilitate their B.C. student loan after default, effective August 1, 2025. Borrowers who default again after rehabilitating twice, are not eligible to rehabilitate their loan again.

Borrowers who are in a bankruptcy-related Stay of Proceedings or who have a court-ordered judgment against their outstanding student loan balance are ineligible for rehabilitation of their Canada-B.C. integrated student loans.

### **Rehabilitation Appeals**

Borrowers can submit an appeal request to rehabilitate their B.C. student loan. To be eligible for an appeal a borrower must:

- Have made every reasonable effort to rehabilitate their loan; or
- Have an exceptional circumstance which has impacted their ability to meet the rehabilitation criteria.

The appeal request form for "Rehabilitation B.C. Student Loan After Default" is available on the [StudentAid BC website](#). See [Chapter 13](#) for more information about appeals.

### **Rehabilitation of Extinguished, Written-Off, Uncollectable, or Settled B.C. Student Loan Funding**

Borrowers who had defaulted (not declared bankruptcy) and their loans have been sent for collections and subsequently extinguished, written off, designated uncollectable by the *Limitation Act*, or settled must receive StudentAid BC approval via the appeals process to have their eligibility for B.C. student financial assistance reinstated. See [Chapter 13](#) for information on appeals.

**Rehabilitation of B.C. Risk-Sharing Loans and B.C. Guaranteed Loans collected by RSBC**

B.C. student loan borrowers who hold B.C. Risk-Sharing Loans or B.C. Guaranteed Loans collected by RSBC follow the same rehabilitation process as borrowers rehabilitating the B.C. portion of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan. The only difference is that the borrower's remaining B.C. loan balance will stay at RSBC for collection instead of transferring to NSLSC after rehabilitation.

**11.6 Discharge, Termination and Cancellation****11.6.1 Bankruptcy Discharge**

Subject to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA)*, borrowers who declare bankruptcy less than seven years after they ceased to be a full-time student continue to be responsible for repaying their student loans.

In cases of a bankruptcy declaration, B.C. student loan debts are only eligible to be discharged seven years or more after a borrower has ceased to be a full-time student. The seven-year count starts from the most recent Period of Studies End Date (PSED). If a borrower entered bankruptcy following a medical or parental leave, the Leave Status End Date (LSED) is used instead of the PSED.

The most recent PSED or LSED refers to the last day of the last month a borrower ceased to be a full-time student, regardless of whether the borrower received student loan or student grant funding in their last study period or not.

After discharge of a B.C. student loan debt, there is a three-year restriction period on receiving further student financial assistance from StudentAid BC.

Medical and parental leave periods count toward the bankruptcy three-year limit, since borrowers on medical and parental leave are considered to be 'in study' during the medical or parental leave.

See [Chapter 13](#) for information about how to request an appeal for further student financial assistance after a bankruptcy or a bankruptcy-related event.

**Eligibility for discharge in exceptional financial hardship (*Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*)**

In cases of hardship, a bankrupt borrower can make a request to the court to be discharged after five years have passed from their Period of Studies End Date (PSED) or Leave Status End Date (LSED).

To qualify for exceptional financial hardship, a person must demonstrate to the Court that they have acted in good faith and that they will continue to experience financial difficulties.

**11.6.2 Death of a Borrower**

If a borrower dies, all repayment obligations owed to the Province of British Columbia are terminated when a copy of the registered death certificate is received by StudentAid BC and the



National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC), or the lending institution holding the deceased borrower's loan. Upon receipt StudentAid BC will submit the loan balance for termination.

If notification of a borrower's death is received after B.C. student loan payments have been drawn from the deceased borrower's bank account, the payments will be refunded to the borrower's estate. Any post-dated cheques will be returned to the borrower's estate.

### **11.6.3 Severe Permanent Disability Benefit**

Borrowers with a severe permanent disability are eligible to have their student loan debts terminated if approved through the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit adjudication process. Borrowers whose loan obligation is cancelled under the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance. See [Chapter 6 Section 9](#) for more information.

## **11.7 Restrictions on Eligibility in Repayment**

Some restrictions may be applied to borrowers in repayment that will impact their eligibility for future student financial assistance. The following repayment-related restrictions are not a comprehensive list of restrictions and do not include restrictions that are applied under other circumstances.

### **11.7.1 RAP Stage 2 Restriction**

The RAP Stage 2 restriction occurs when a borrower has received at least one month of RAP Stage 2.

Borrowers who receive the RAP Stage 2 restriction are restricted from obtaining further student financial assistance until their student loans have been paid in full.

Borrowers with the RAP Stage 2 restriction are not restricted from receiving in-study payment-free status, the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit or further RAP benefits.

### **11.7.2 RAP Affordable Payment Restriction**

Borrowers who miss one or more affordable payments during their RAP or RAP-D terms and who do not make the missed payments within 30 days of completing their RAP or RAP-D terms are restricted from all forms of student financial assistance for a minimum of six months.

Until the borrower has fulfilled their RAP recovery obligation, they are prevented from receiving any student financial assistance except for the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.

### **RAP Recovery**

RAP Recovery is the process that borrowers must fulfill to remove their RAP affordable payment restriction after having missed an affordable payment during a RAP or RAP-D term.

Once the conditions of RAP Recovery are met, a borrower's missed affordable payment restriction can be removed.

**11.7.3 Delinquency Restrictions**

Borrowers with Canada-B.C. integrated student loans who are 90 or more days in arrears are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance until their payments are brought up to date.

**11.7.4 Default Related Restrictions**

Borrowers with Canada-B.C. integrated student loans in default are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance until the borrower completes the rehabilitation process or their student loans have been paid in full.

Borrowers with their B.C. Risk-Sharing loans or B.C. Guaranteed loans in default are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance until clearance is given by the financial institution holding the loans or until the borrower completes the rehabilitation process.

**11.7.5 Bankruptcy Related Restriction**

Borrowers who have entered into bankruptcy or a bankruptcy-related event and who have not repaid their student loan debt, or have not had their student loan debt discharged, are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance until the borrower completes the bankruptcy appeal process and an approval is granted.

Borrowers who have entered into bankruptcy or a bankruptcy-related event and have had their student loan debt discharged are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance for three years from the date of their bankruptcy discharge or until they complete the bankruptcy appeal process, and an approval is granted.

Appeals may be considered for exceptional circumstances. For more information, please refer to [Chapter 13](#).

**11.7.6 Severe Permanent Disability Benefit Restriction**

Borrowers whose loan obligation is cancelled under the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit are restricted from receiving further student financial assistance.

**11.7.7 Administrative Measures Restriction**

If a borrower knowingly makes false statements, misrepresentations, or omissions in order to get student financial assistance, they may be restricted from receiving financial assistance provided by the StudentAid BC or the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program for one to five years. In some cases, loans and/or grants may be made immediately repayable.

**11.7.8 Restriction After a Finding of Guilt**

Student borrowers who by reason of conduct in obtaining or repaying a student loan are found guilty of an offence under any Act of Parliament, as of the day of the finding of guilt, will not be eligible for further financial assistance until either:

- 5 years have passed since the day of the finding of guilt; or
- a pardon has been granted for the original finding.

## Chapter 12: Financial Assistance for Part-Time Students

Students who are enrolled part-time in an eligible full-time program at a designated institution can apply for student financial assistance. This chapter describes the eligibility criteria for part-time student financial assistance and summarizes the grant and loan programs available to students. It describes the application process for part-time student financial assistance and explains how financial need and income thresholds are calculated to configure awards. Finally, the chapter outlines the administrative processes specific to part-time funding.

[12.1 Eligibility Criteria](#)

[12.2 Grants and Loans for Part-Time Students](#)

[12.3 Calculating Financial Need and Income Thresholds](#)

[12.4 Lifetime Assistance Limit for Part-Time Students](#)

[12.5 Award Calculation](#)

[12.6 Release of Part-Time Funds](#)

[12.7 Cancellation of a Part-Time Application and Issued Cheques](#)

[12.8 Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan Payments](#)

[12.9 T4A Information](#)

### 12.1 Eligibility Criteria

#### Policy

Students who are studying on a part-time basis towards the completion of a certificate, diploma or degree may be eligible for student financial assistance if they meet the Government of Canada part-time criteria as outlined in the provisions of the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*.

Students applying for student financial assistance for their part-time studies must also meet the general eligibility criteria applicable to all StudentAid BC programs outlined in this manual. Eligibility criteria specific to part-time studies are described below.

#### Part-time eligibility criteria

A student is considered to be in part-time studies when taking between 20 and 59% of a full-time course load in a course or continuous period of study.

Students with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) studying between 40 to 59% of a full-time course load can choose to apply for either full-time or part-time funding, but not both, per study period.

To be eligible for part-time student financial assistance, a student must be enrolled in a program that meets all of the StudentAid BC program eligibility criteria (see [Chapter 2](#)) and that is approved

for full-time Canada Student Loan funding. The course or study period must be at least six weeks in length. Students must demonstrate financial need through the application process. See [Section 3](#) for information on financial need.

Applications must be submitted at least six weeks prior to the study period end date to allow for the processing of the application.

Two calculations determine part-time status, with the most common calculation based on course load or credits:

1. If a full-time student is defined as a student registered in 9 to 15 credits, then to be considered part-time a student would have to be registered in 3 to 8 credits.
2. If a full-time course load is based on 12 to 20 hours per week, then to be considered part-time a student would have to take between 4.0 and 11.8 hours of classes per week.

The program year for all of the part-time studies programs is August 1 to July 31.

Students apply for student financial assistance to the province or territory where they have last lived for at least 12 months in a row, not including time as a full-time post-secondary student.

Students who are enrolled in courses at two different institutions (split enrolment) are also eligible to apply for part-time funding. Refer to split enrolment policy in [Chapter 3](#) for eligibility criteria.

Students who are incarcerated or have an outstanding warrant for arrest are not eligible for funding.

### **Maintaining eligibility**

Under the terms of the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*, students must achieve a satisfactory scholastic standard to maintain eligibility for student financial assistance. As per Canada Student Financial Assistance Program (CSFA Program) policy, the requirements for maintaining satisfactory scholastic standard for part-time student financial assistance include:

- Maintaining a course load from 20 to 59% of a full-time course load; and
- Successfully completing all courses for which funding was issued.

A part-time student must successfully complete all courses for which their Canada Student Financial Assistance Program funding was issued in order to remain eligible for Canada Student Financial Assistance Program funding. The withdrawal from (or unsuccessful completion of) any or all of their courses would constitute a lapse in satisfactory scholastic standing.

Non-Punitive Withdrawal policy ([Chapter 9](#)) applies to part-time programs.

**Scholastic Standard for part-time students**

Post-secondary institution officials must notify StudentAid BC when a student has not achieved satisfactory scholastic standing either by withdrawal from part-time studies or by unsuccessful completion of some or all of their funded courses. See [Chapter 9](#) and above examples.

A part-time student borrower who fails to meet a satisfactory scholastic standard during a funded period of studies is restricted from receiving funding during their next part-time period of studies.

Students who have not successfully completed courses funded through student financial assistance may be reinstated to receive further part-time funding either by submitting a successful appeal or by successfully completing one semester funded through their own resources.

Successful completion of a self-funded semester can be demonstrated by submitting to StudentAid BC a transcript of marks from the institution, showing the successful completion of one semester of post-secondary study. The transcript for the successfully completed semester must be dated after the study end date of the unsuccessful semester.

Students can appeal this decision. See [Chapter 13](#).

**Examples of unsuccessful completion and withdrawal****Example 1:**

A student studying at 20% of a full-time course load who withdraws from their only course would not meet a satisfactory scholastic standard. In this case, the student should be reported by the institution as withdrawn from studies.

**Example 2:**

A student studying at 40% of a full course load who withdraws from one course (i.e., goes from 40 to 20% course load) would also not meet a satisfactory scholastic standard. In this case, the student is still in study and should not be reported as having withdrawn. Instead, the student should be reported by the institution as having unsuccessfully completed some or all of their studies.

**Restrictions: defaults, bankruptcy and overawards****Purpose**

To ensure that students who have defaulted on previous Canada Student Loan payments or declared bankruptcy that included Canada Student Loan funds do not receive further student financial assistance until the terms of their rehabilitation have been met.

**Policy****Default on Canada Student Loans**

A student in default on full-time or part-time Canada Student Loans or the Canada Apprentice Loan is not eligible for the CSG-PT, CSG-D, part-time Canada Student Loans or the CSG-PTDEP until their loan is rehabilitated through the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program.

**Default on B.C. Student Loans**

A student in default on full-time B.C. Student Loans is eligible to apply for CSG-PT, CSG-D, part-time Canada Student Loans and CSG-PTDEP funding.

**Bankruptcy involving Canada Student Loans**

A student who had a previous bankruptcy that included Canada Student Loan, or the Canada Apprentice Loan must seek clearance from the National Student Loans Service Centre before being eligible for a CSG-PT, CSG-D, part-time Canada Student Loans or a CSG-PTDEP.

**Overawards**

A student with an overaward involving full-time Canada Student Loans and/or B.C. Student Loans is eligible to apply for CSG-PT, CSG-D, part-time Canada Student Loans and CSG-PTDEP funding.

**12.2 Grants and Loans for Part-Time Students**

Repayable and non-repayable student financial assistance is available for eligible part-time students attending part-time studies in eligible full-time programs and is a function of the student's total family income and family situation.

The following part-time student financial assistance programs are available:

- B.C. Access Grant for Part-time Students;
- Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies;
- Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants;
- Part-time Canada Student Loan;
- Canada Student Grant for Persons with Disabilities; and
- B.C. Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities.

Each of these programs is described below, with the exception of the Canada Student Grant for Persons with Disabilities and the Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities, which are described in [Chapter 6](#).

## **B.C. Access Grant (Part-time)**

### **Purpose**

The B.C. Access Grant for Part-Time Studies (BCAG-PT) provides non-repayable financial assistance up to \$1,000 per program year and is meant to assist low and middle-income students studying part-time with the costs of post-secondary education and training.

### **Policy**

The B.C. Access Grant provides up-front, non-repayable financial assistance to low and middle-income learners enrolled in eligible programs at B.C. public post-secondary institutions. The amount of the grant cannot exceed a student's assessed need.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the BCAG (Part-time), students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet basic StudentAid BC eligibility criteria for part-time.
- Attend a B.C. public post-secondary institution.
- Enrolled as a part-time student in a program leading to an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma.
- Have remaining financial need after federal funding has been awarded.

Students will be automatically assessed when they submit their part-time student loan application.

### **Conversion of BC Access Grant to Conversion Loan**

A part-time BCAG award will be converted to loan if:

- a. The student is no longer qualified for enrolment or is no longer enrolled as a part-time Student, including if you commence enrolment as a full-time Student, within 30 days after the first day of classes;
- b. The student received the B.C. Access Grant on the basis of providing inaccurate information or of failing to provide relevant information; or,
- c. The appropriate authority determines that you are not entitled to the B.C. Access Grant based on reassessment.

A BCAG award will not be converted to loan if a student withdraws after 30 calendar days of the study period start date. Future grant disbursements (if any) are cancelled.

Withdrawal from studies does not reduce future entitlement to BCAG. However, BCAG recipients are subject to StudentAid BC's withdrawal policy outlined in [Chapter 9](#).

Students may appeal and have their grant-to-loan conversion reversed based on an exceptional circumstance that caused their withdrawal. See [Chapter 13](#) for more information on StudentAid BC's Appeals policy.

**Reassessment**

If a student is reassessed based on new information (e.g., updated income) and is found to have received BCAG in excess of their entitlement, the equivalent amount is converted to provincial loan that they must pay back.

**Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies****Policy**

The Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies (CSG-PT) provides non-repayable financial assistance of up to \$2,520 per program year and is meant to assist with the cost of tuition, books, supplies, transportation and unsubsidized child care expenses. The amount of the grant cannot exceed a student's assessed need.

The CSG-PT uses a progressive eligibility threshold whereby the grant amount decreases as family income increases. Students will be automatically assessed for the CSG-PT when they submit their part-time studies application form.

CSG-PT thresholds are defined in [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#).

**Criteria**

Students are eligible for the CSG-PT if they meet all the following criteria:

- Attend a StudentAid BC designated post-secondary institution on a part-time basis, pursuing studies leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma, including studies beyond the undergraduate level;
- Have demonstrated financial need; however, funds will not be issued for any assessed need under \$100;
- Have a family income equal to or below the established thresholds shown in [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#).

Effective 2015/16, residency for part-time students is the same as criteria in place for full-time students (see [Chapter 3, Section 3](#)) Students who began their part-time studies prior to 2015/16 are grand-parented under previous residency policy, and continue to be eligible for funding through the province in which their institution is located until they complete their studies.

**Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants****Policy**

The Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants (CSG-PTDEP) provides non-repayable financial assistance to students to assist with the costs of caring for their dependants while pursuing post-secondary studies on a part-time basis.



The CSG-PTDEP will not exceed the lesser of:

- The qualifying student's assessed need;
- \$56 per week of study if the student has one or two dependents;
- \$84 per week of study if the student has three or more dependents; or
- \$2,688 per program year.

The CSG-PTDEP uses a progressive eligibility threshold whereby the grant amount decreases as family income increases. Students will be automatically assessed for the CSG-PTDEP when they submit their part-time studies application form.

### Criteria

The CSG-PTDEP is based on assessed need. Part-time students will be eligible for the CSG-PTDEP if they meet all the following criteria:

- Attending a designated institution in Canada on a part-time basis, pursuing studies leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma;
- Have a dependent under the age of 12 or a dependant with a permanent disability who is 12 or older at the start of the semester; and
- Have total family income from the previous tax year below the income threshold shown in [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#).

## Canada Student Loans Program for Part-Time Students

### Policy

The Canada Student Loan for Part-Time students (CSL-PT) is repayable and will be disbursed if there is financial need remaining that is not met by part-time Canada Student Grant. The total outstanding maximum loan amount a part-time student may receive is \$10,000 in loan principal (i.e., not including capitalized interest).

Students will not be automatically assessed for the CSL-PT and must opt-in through their part-time studies application form.

### Criteria

Part-time Canada Student Loan funding is available to students:

- Who are studying part-time (20 to 59% of a full-time post-secondary course load);
- Whose income falls below a predetermined threshold (see [Chapter 14, Table 7b](#)); and
- Who require more funding than CSG-PT funds can provide.

### Procedure

Students with part-time loans must begin repaying their part-time loans on the first day of the seventh month after the last day of the part-time classes.

Part-time Canada Student Loans are payment-free while students are in part-time or full-time study. Confirmation of enrolment is required.

## 12.3 Calculating Financial Need and Income Thresholds

### Policy

To ensure student financial assistance for part-time studies is assessed based on financial need. Students applying for grant and loan funding for part-time studies must demonstrate financial need through an established need assessment process.

### Procedure

**Financial Need** for part-time studies is determined based on an assessment of allowable educational costs:

<b>Tuition</b>	Actual cost of eligible tuition and compulsory fees as reported by post-secondary institution. For B.C. public post-secondary institutions, if the actual tuition is not reported, use 40% (or course load percentage if greater than 40%) of the actual cost of tuition and compulsory fees as per the Institutional Appendix.
<b>Books/Supplies</b>	Allowable cost as per Institutional Appendix or actual cost as reported by the post-secondary institution.
<b>Miscellaneous Allowance</b>	Students with a 20%-34% course load: \$10 per week Students with a 35%-59% course load: \$20 per week Not to exceed \$340 for application period.
<b>Transportation Allowance</b>	\$13 per week but cannot exceed StudentAid BC extra transportation allowances of maximum of \$94 per week (on appeal).
<b>Child Care Costs</b>	Child care costs are allowed for children aged 11 and under, or age 12 and older if they have a permanent disability (as claimed on tax form). They are calculated as follows to a maximum of \$268 per child per week less any subsidy from other sources. 6 - 17 weeks: course load x 17 x # of eligible Dependents x \$268 18 - 34 weeks: course load x 34 x # of eligible Dependents x \$268 35 - 52 weeks: course load x 52 x # of eligible Dependents x \$268

<b>Extra Transportation</b>	Students receiving Disability Assistance under the <i>Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act</i> must first apply through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction for an annual bus pass, or for the <a href="#">Transportation Supplement</a> , if eligible and where available. Costs in excess of any Transportation Supplement amounts provided will be considered during the study period, up to a maximum of \$94 per week. Students must submit an appeal stating why the extra costs are needed.
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A student with a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) who requires exceptional education-related services or equipment may be entitled to the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Persons with Disabilities for up to \$20,000 per program year. This funding would be in addition to part-time student funding.

Income thresholds are based on the student's total family income and family size.

For the purposes of the part-time need assessment, total family income is defined as the total amount of the student's, and if applicable, spouse's income(s) reported on line 15000 (total income) of the student's, and if applicable, spouse's, previous year's T1 General Income Tax Form, or international equivalent.

If an income tax return was not filed, total income (for the student and, if applicable, their spouse) for the applicable tax year will include:

- Income Assistance and/or Disability Assistance for persons with disabilities;
- Employment insurance benefits;
- WorkSafeBC benefits;
- Assistance from the WorkBC Employment Services Program;
- Gross earnings (wages) from employment or self-employment (including co-op earnings; assistantships);
- Affordable Child Care Benefit received by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction; and/or
- Other sources of income (e.g., First Nation band funding, pension, child support, spousal support and maintenance, monetary gifts, sponsored Tuition)

Total income does not include Canada Child Tax Benefits or income tax refunds.

For the purpose of the part-time need assessment, total family size includes the student, spouse and dependent children.

Dependent children are defined as:

- Children 0-18 years of age; or
- Children 19 years of age or older who are:
  - A full-time secondary student; or

- A full-time post-secondary student who has been out of high school less than four years; or
- A child who is disabled and dependent on the student.

Children who have been out of high school for at least four years or who have been in the labour force for a least two periods of 12 consecutive months each are not considered dependents.

To be eligible for funding, the student's total family income must fall below the applicable maximum based on the student's family size as indicated in [Chapter 14, Table 7b](#). If the student's total family income exceeds the maximum based on the student's family size, the student is not eligible for any part-time loan or grant funding.

## 12.4 Lifetime Assistance Limit for Part-Time Students

### Policy

Students are no longer entitled to receive further part-time financial assistance (loans, grants or in-study payment-free status) once they complete a period of studies in which they reach/exceed their maximum of 340 weeks of financial assistance over the entire course of their post-secondary education. This maximum includes all weeks of full-time study for which a loan, grant or interest-free or payment-free status was granted.

Part-time study does not contribute to the maximum number of weeks. However, the maximum outstanding part-time loan limit is \$10,000, excluding interest.

Students who reach the \$10,000 part-time loan limit remain eligible to receive Canada Student Grants.

## 12.5 Award Calculation

For the 2025-2026 loan year, eligible students enrolled in part-time studies may receive the Canada Student Grant for Part-time students (CSG-PT) up to a maximum of \$2,520 per loan year (from August 1 to July 31).

The exact amount of the CSG-PT awarded is determined according to a single progressive threshold under which the size of the grant gradually decreases as income increases, with the rate of reduction varying by family size.

The CSG-PT amount awarded shall not exceed a student's assessed need. For example, if a student has \$1,200 of assessed need, then the student should receive a grant of no more than \$1,200.

If there is still unmet need after the full amount of the CSG-PT has been awarded, the student may be eligible for a part-time Canada Student Loan.

Financial assistance provided to eligible part-time students shall be disbursed in the following order: CSG-D, CSG-PT, CSG-PTDEP, CSL-PT. Part-time students eligible for the CSG-D shall receive \$2,800 during the 2025-2026 loan year, and this can exceed assessed need. For part-time students, it is important that the remaining elements of their total part-time financial assistance package (including CSL-PT, and/or CSG-PT, and/or CSG-PTDEP) does not exceed their assessed need.

The BCAG-PT award will be based on remaining financial need after CSG-D, CSG-PT, and CSG-PTDEP calculation. **Note:** The BCAG-PT will not exceed remaining financial need.

The SBSD is not calculated based on remaining financial need (see [Chapter 6](#) for details).

### Example

#### Scenario 1:

A student is attending post-secondary studies part-time in her second year for 34 weeks. She has a disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) with StudentAid BC and has one dependent child. Her total family income is within the income thresholds established in [Chapter 14, Table 7a](#). Her assessed financial need is \$4,600.

She is eligible to receive \$2,800 in CSG-D. Given her assessed financial need of \$4,600, when the CSG-D is applied, her remaining financial need is \$1,800.

She is also eligible to receive CSG-PT, based on her total family income. CSG-PT will cover the remaining financial need; therefore, she will receive \$1,800 in CSG-PT.

Given that there is no remaining financial need, she will not be assessed for CSL-PT, CSG-PTDEP or BCAG-PT.

#### Scenario 2:

A student is attending post-secondary studies part-time in his first year for 34 weeks. He has no disability (permanent, or persistent or prolonged) and no dependents. His total family income is within the income thresholds established in Table 7 a. and 7 b. His assessed financial need is \$10,000. He has indicated on his application that he would like to be assessed for part-time loans and has no outstanding part-time loan debt.

He is eligible to receive the maximum CSG-PT of \$2,520. Given his assessed financial need of \$10,000, when the CSG-PT is applied his remaining financial need is \$7,480.

The student is eligible to receive the maximum BCAG part-time amount of \$1,000. They have a remaining financial need of \$6,480.

The student has used \$3,000 of their part-time loan limit. They are eligible to receive Canada Student Loan – PT amount of \$7,000.

## 12.6 Release of Part-time Funds

### Purpose

To ensure students receive the funding for which they are eligible in a timely manner.

### Policy

Student loan or grant funding will only be released when:

- An active electronic Part-Time Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement has been processed; and
- Confirmation of the student's enrolment has been received from the post-secondary institution for each disbursement of funds.

### Process

#### StudentAid BC sends student a Notice of Assessment

Once StudentAid BC has processed the student's part-time application for student financial assistance, the student will receive a Notice of Assessment (NoA). For students who must complete and submit an MSFAA, the Notice of Assessment will include a 10-digit MSFAA number.

The Notice of Assessment describes:

- The type of funding the student is eligible to receive;
- The amount of funding approved; and
- When the student may receive funding.

#### Student completes the Part-Time Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA)

The Part-Time MSFAA is a legal document comprised of two separate loan contracts with the federal and provincial governments. The Part-Time MSFAA details the terms and conditions of financial assistance provided by the Government of Canada and the Government of B.C. to part-time students. The student must carefully review the Part-Time MSFAA before agreeing to the terms and conditions. This is a legally binding contract requiring the student to repay their student loans.

The Part-Time MSFAA does not state the amount of funding the student will receive. Instead, each time the student is approved for part-time funding by StudentAid BC, the student receives a Notice of Assessment that describes their loan and/or grant amount and disbursement details.

In most cases, the Part-Time MSFAA will remain active throughout the student's post-secondary studies. However, in the following two situations, the student must submit a new MSFAA before the student can receive new StudentAid BC funding:

- If the student takes a two-year break in studies; or
- If the student has signed a Part-Time MSFAA in another province.

If a new Part-Time MSFAA is required, the student will receive an email from the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) with a link to create an NSLSC account. The student will then use the Part-Time MSFAA number provided on the Notice of Assessment (NoA) and submit their Part-Time MSFAA electronically from within their NSLSC account.

### **Disbursement of Funds**

#### **To the Student:**

Most part-time student financial assistance is issued to the student via an electronic funds transfer. The National Student Loans Service Centre will only release funds if a valid MSFAA has been submitted and confirmation of enrolment received before the student's study period end date.

After the post-secondary institution has confirmed that the student is enrolled in an eligible, part-time post-secondary educational program for the entire study period for which the student has been awarded funding, the funds will be deposited into the specified bank account within seven business days.

If the bank account information is invalid, a cheque will be issued and sent to the address provided by the student within approximately 10 business days. Third-party bank accounts, such as those for the student's parents, will not be accepted.

Funds will be disbursed after the study period end date on an exceptional basis only. Students experiencing exceptional circumstances may submit a Funding After End Date appeal (see [Chapter 13](#)).

#### **Release of BC Access Grant funding**

The BCAG is distributed by means of a cheque or electronic funds transfer via StudentAid BC. If the study period is greater than 17 weeks, the grant is disbursed in two instalments: once at the beginning and once at the midpoint of the study period. If the study period is 17 weeks or less, the grant is distributed in one instalment at the start of the study period.

#### **To the Post-Secondary Institution:**

The fund disbursement may be split between the student and the post-secondary institution, except for the BCAG for part-time students. This transaction must be agreed upon between the two parties. Funds will be automatically allocated for the cost of tuition and fees from the loan disbursement amount in accordance with Canada Student Financial Assistance Program policy.

## 12.7 Cancellation of a Part-Time Application and Issued Cheques

### Policy

To stop further processing of an application and/or production of award documents, students may choose to cancel their application for part-time student financial assistance if the student loan documents and/or grant funds have not been cashed and funding has not been issued.

### Procedure

1. The student notifies StudentAid BC (via email) requesting that their application for part-time student financial assistance be cancelled and providing reasons for this request. The student or financial aid office must return all cheques, not negotiated or cashed, to StudentAid BC for cancellation.
2. StudentAid BC will cancel any cheques, not negotiated or cashed, and will then cancel the application.
3. A request for cancellation letter may be submitted by the financial aid officer and post-secondary institution owners/operators due to non-attendance by a student. In such cases, the uncashed cheques must accompany the cancellation request.
4. Students who change their decision to cancel the application must submit a new application if the original application has already been cancelled. If the original application has not already been cancelled, the student must advise StudentAid BC in writing (via email) to cease the cancellation process.

**Note:** Missing or destroyed B.C. Supplemental Bursary for Students with Disabilities or B.C. Access Grant cheques can be supported by contacting StudentAid BC via email at [StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca).

## 12.8 Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan Payments

### Policy

If a student applying for part-time funding has an outstanding full-time Canada-B.C. integrated student loan, studying part-time will not affect the status of the full-time loan. This means that the student will enter repayment on their Canada-B.C. integrated student loan regardless of their part-time studies.

Students with full-time loans must begin repaying their full-time loans on the first day of the seventh month after the last day of full-time classes, even if the student re-enrolls as a part-time student.

Students experiencing difficulties repaying a full-time Canada-B.C. integrated student loan may apply for assistance through either the [Repayment Assistance Plan](#) or the [Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with Disabilities](#).



Students enrolled in part-time or full-time studies are not required to make payments on their part-time Canada Student Loans until the first day of the seventh month following the end of their studies.

Part-time Canada Student Loans are payment-free while students are in part-time or full-time study.

To maintain in-study payment-free (formerly in-study interest-free) status on their part-time loans, students must submit a completed part-time student loan application and/or application for in-study payment-free status to inform the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program of their continued full-time or part-time studies. The application must be submitted within 30 days of it being signed by a representative of the designated education institution and before the end date of the study period.

## **12.9 T4A Information**

### **Policy**

The CSG-PT, CSG-D, CSG-PTDEP, BCAG- and SBSD are taxable benefits. To comply with Canada Revenue Agency taxation requirements, T4As must be issued for any grant amounts.

The National Student Loans Service Centre issues T4As to recipients of Government of Canada grants (CSG-PT, CSG-D and CSG-PTDEP).

StudentAid BC issues T4As to recipients of the SBSD.

## Chapter 13: Appeals

This chapter describes the process a student may request to have their funding and loan rehabilitation application reviewed. Students whose circumstances meet one of the criteria listed below AND who have not received the maximum amount of funding for the application study period, may request that their application be reviewed. The review may result in a change to the information used in the financial need assessment which could in turn result in additional funding being awarded.

### 13.1 StudentAid BC Appeals

#### Purpose

To ensure that students have the opportunity for consideration to be given to exceptional circumstances while applying for student financial assistance.

#### Policy

Students can request to have StudentAid BC reconsider their funding and loan rehabilitation application if one or more of the following criteria apply(ies) to their circumstances, or those of their spouse or parent(s):

- Medical illness or injury impacting their employment income or ability to study;
- Family emergency (e.g., death, injury, etc.) or a natural disaster that impacted their employment income or ability to study;
- Layoff, strike, lockout, or other reduction in income beyond their control;
- Substantive reason that they are unable to access an asset (e.g., legal or contractual restriction, inability to sell due to market conditions, etc.);
- There has been a change in their marital situation;
- They are caring for a child with disabilities or caring for elderly or sick relatives;
- There is an irreconcilable rift between a student and their parents; and/or
- They are experiencing exceptional circumstances not listed above.

In unique cases, StudentAid BC may consider other types of exceptional circumstances that have either a financial impact or an impact on the student's ability to continue their studies. To be considered exceptional, the circumstances must be unexpected and beyond the control of the applicant, and supporting documentation must be provided.

#### Initiating an appeal

To determine the appropriate appeal category, students could discuss their situation:

- with the financial aid office at their post-secondary institution; or
- directly with StudentAid BC.

Students initiate an appeal by submitting the appropriate appeal request form. Visit the [StudentAid BC](#) website for more details on appeals.

### **StudentAid BC appeal categories**

The following categories are eligible for appeal based on the student's full-time and/or part-time status:

Full-time:

- Scholastic Standing for Full-Time Students: Multiple Withdrawals from Study, Unsuccessful Studies, or Overaward
- Waive Step-Parent Contribution
- Modified Independent Status
- B.C. Student Loan Lifetime Maximum
- Room and Board
- Exceptional Expenses
- In-Study Payment-Free (formerly In-Study Interest-Free) Status

Part-time:

- Scholastic Standing for Part-Time Students: Withdrawal from Study or Unsuccessful Studies

Full-time and Part-time:

- Repeat Course (approval is granted only once for each course)
- Income Appeal
- Funding After End Date
- Additional Transportation Allowance
- B.C. Student Loan Rehabilitation Due to Bankruptcy
- Scholarship, Bursary and Grant Programs
- British Columbia Residency
- Rehabilitation of B.C. Student Loan After Default
- Single Parent Status

### **Appeal deadlines**

Appeal requests complete with all required information and documentation must be received by StudentAid BC at least six weeks before the study period end date.

The deadline to request an appeal of an overaward decision is 90 days from the date of the original letter advising the student of the overaward amounts.

Appeals submitted after the deadline will not be considered unless there was a family emergency, such as a severe medical event or death, or natural disaster, which prevented the student from submitting the appeal and all required documentation by the deadline.

**Note:** You may apply for rehabilitation of your student loan at anytime.

## Appeal processing

StudentAid BC considers appeals on an individual basis. Upon receipt of the appeal request, StudentAid BC will review the request and supporting documentation, apply standard policy to determine if the submission is complete, and determine whether or not the student's circumstances meet the criteria for consideration.

## Appeal outcomes

Approvals are granted, in full or part, when the student's circumstances meet one or more of the criteria outlined above.

Appeals will be denied by StudentAid BC when:

- A student fails to provide necessary documentation; or
- The student's circumstances do not meet the criteria described above.

If a student's appeal is denied, and the appealed issue was included in the list of policy and criteria that are eligible for appeal, the student may request a review by the Appeal Committee.

**Note:** Appeals denied by StudentAid BC are not automatically referred to the Appeal Committee for consideration.

If additional information is required, StudentAid BC will provide the student with a letter setting out the preliminary findings and a list of any outstanding documentation that is required to support the student's request. The student will then have an opportunity to respond with additional information. Once the student has submitted all additional documentation, or the stated deadline has passed, StudentAid BC will notify the student of the decision.

**Note:** An appeal cannot result in the student receiving more than the maximum amount of loan funding established by StudentAid BC and CSFA Program policy. Please refer to [Chapter 8](#) (Award Composition and Disbursement).

## Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee provides students with a fair and unbiased opportunity to have their appeal decision reconsidered. Appeal decisions may be re-evaluated by the StudentAid BC Appeal Committee upon student request.

StudentAid BC will complete an Appeal Summary form for all appeals referred to the Appeal Committee.

The Appeal Committee includes students, financial aid officers, a member from the public at large, and non-voting representatives from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills responsible for StudentAid BC.

The committee meets as needed based on the referral of cases. The Appeal Committee considers all files presented and makes recommendations that are subject to the final approval of the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills responsible for StudentAid BC or their designate.

**Note:** The recommendations of the Appeal Committee are applicable to individual situations only and do not establish precedents for future applications of a similar nature.

## Chapter 14: Tables

StudentAid BC policies and procedures are intended to ensure that all students are treated equitably. As such, all funding is based on standard assessment tables and a standard method of assessment. The student financial assistance awarded to a student is determined through an analysis of financial need, considering eligible student and family resources. The assessment process determines a student's financial need by considering student resources against allowable educational costs and Moderate Standard of Living costs. This chapter outlines the tables used in the assessment process.

[Table 1: Tuition and Compulsory Fees](#)

[Table 2: Books and Supplies](#)

[Table 3: Student Living Allowances](#)

[Table 4: Child Care Ceilings](#)

[Table 5: Parental Living Allowance](#)

[Table 6: Parental Contribution Formula](#)

[Table 7a: Income Thresholds for Receiving Maximum Canada Student Grants](#)

[Table 7b: CSG-FTDEP Family Income Eligibility Thresholds for Loan Year 2025-26](#)

[Table 7c: Family Income Eligibility Thresholds for Part-Time Student Loan \(CSL-PT\)](#)

[Table 8: Return Transportation](#)

[Table 9: Additional Transportation Allowance \(Appeal Basis Only\)](#)

[Table 10a: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant Full-time \(Programs that are less than two years in length\)](#)

[Table 10b: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant Full-time \(Programs that are two or more years in length\)](#)

[Table 10c: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant \(Part-time\)](#)

### Table 1: Tuition and Compulsory Fees

As per the approved Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3.

### Table 2: Books and Supplies

As per the approved Institutional Appendix or Appendix 3, costs for books and supplies are subject to the following maximums:

Number of weeks in the study period	Maximum
12 - 17	\$1,500
18 - 34	\$3,000
35 - 52	\$3,000

For full-time studies, computer costs of up to \$500 are permitted for hardware, software, software licensing and ongoing costs such as Internet charges, repairs and ink cartridges. If a student is required to have an e-reader, this cost is to be included within the books and supplies section and not within the \$500 allocated for computer costs.

- 12 - 17 week study period: \$1,500 books/supplies (including computer/technology costs of up to \$250, if applicable)
- 18 - 34 week study period: \$3,000 books/supplies (including computer/technology costs of up to \$350, if applicable)
- 35 - 52 week study period: \$3,000 books/supplies (including computer/technology costs of up to \$500, if applicable)

Canada Student Loan policy limits the books (includes textbooks and associated taxes that are mandatory and required for the program) and supplies assessment to \$3,000 per academic year. StudentAid BC will permit institutions to enter the full amount, even if the full academic year for the program is less than 52 weeks (e.g., September to April). However, an academic year cannot be less than 34 weeks. For programs with a standard academic year of two four-month terms, institutions may enter \$1,500 for each four-month term during which classes are offered.

It is up to institutions to define the length of the 'academic year' for each program. In cases where the timeline of the academic year for a particular program is difficult to define, institutions should contact StudentAid BC for clarification.

## Table 3: Student Living Allowances

### Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) Costs

The following costs are provided by the Government of Canada to provinces and territories for use in reflecting a student's **Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL)** while attending a post-secondary institution located in B.C. or other provinces in Canada. These maximum costs are used by StudentAid BC to assess need. Totals may not equal the sum of each column due to rounding.

### Monthly Standard of Living Allowances for British Columbia

Single student away from home	
Shelter	\$1,535
Food	\$340
Miscellaneous	\$417
Local transportation	\$131
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,423</b>

Single student living at home	
Shelter	\$0
Food	\$321
Miscellaneous	\$351
Local public transportation	\$152
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$824</b>

Single-parent student (excluding costs of child)	
Shelter	\$2,250
Food	\$312
Miscellaneous	\$436
Local public transportation	\$119
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,117</b>

Married student and spouse (excluding costs for child)	
Shelter	\$3,070
Food	\$628
Miscellaneous	\$642
Local public transportation	\$242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,582</b>

Cost for each child (wholly dependent relative)	
Shelter	\$420
Food	\$258
Miscellaneous	\$154
Local transportation	\$119
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$951</b>



**Note:** Exceptional expenses related to the need to maintain two residences for two months or less if a student needs to live away from home as part of a program can be listed. These expenses are calculated on a weekly basis and based on the weekly shelter allowance for single student living away from home divided by 4.3 ([Chapter 14, Table 3](#)). In 2025/26, the weekly maximum is \$354.

Student living allowances do not include:

- Household operation costs for pet expenses, horticultural goods and services, and other supplies.
- Household furnishings and equipment, and services related to furnishing and equipment.
- Gifts and contributions for persons outside the household or charitable organizations.
- Miscellaneous costs such as interest on loans, union or association dues, lottery tickets.
- Moving costs.
- Recreation equipment, vehicles and services, home entertainment equipment and services.
- Security costs for life insurance payments or RRSP payments.
- Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.

## Monthly Standard of Living Tables for Other Provinces

LIVING SITUATIONS	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	YT	NT	NU
<b>SINGLE STUDENT AWAY FROM HOME</b>												
Shelter (2 bedroom apt. incl. utilities shared by two)	616	598	1,155	882	885	1,207	1,001	721	1,025	737	962	1,465
Food (Purchased from Stores)	325	297	358	299	330	330	307	315	342	372	378	376
Miscellaneous (Personal & health care, clothing, H/H cleaning, communications)	284	314	302	289	385	352	367	379	410	387	398	398
Local Public Transportation	83	81	88	85	59	104	120	78	88	71	86	86
<b>Total Monthly Allowance</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>2,325</b>
<b>SINGLE PARENT (no dependent considered)</b>												
Shelter (1bedroom apartment including utilities)	955	1,005	1,741	1,212	1,417	1,971	1,551	1,213	1,665	1,257	1,609	2,571
Food (Purchased from Stores)	325	297	358	299	330	330	307	315	342	372	378	376
Miscellaneous (Personal & health care, clothing, H/H cleaning, communications)	284	314	302	289	385	352	367	379	410	387	398	398
Local Public Transportation	83	81	88	85	59	104	120	78	88	71	86	86
<b>Total Monthly Allowance</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>3,431</b>
<b>MARRIED STUDENT &amp; SPOUSE (no dependent considered)</b>												
Shelter (2 bedroom apartment including utilities)	1,231	1,196	2,310	1,765	1,769	2,414	2,001	1,442	2,051	1,473	1,924	2,930
Food (Purchased from Stores)	582	591	719	592	585	598	557	571	622	745	603	604
Miscellaneous (Personal & health care, clothing, H/H cleaning, communications)	568	623	602	577	609	643	706	719	786	769	647	647
Local Public Transportation	168	170	176	171	114	203	244	166	181	140	172	172
<b>Total Monthly Allowance</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>2,898</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>3,127</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>4,353</b>
<b>EACH DEPENDENT PERSON</b>												
Shelter	207	227	337	203	264	442	317	225	284	251	433	435
Food (Purchased from Stores)	232	241	252	241	271	256	239	245	266	304	301	301
Miscellaneous (Personal & health care, clothing)	128	91	89	85	145	133	168	171	186	115	138	139
Local Public Transportation	83	81	88	85	59	104	120	60	88	71	86	86
<b>Total Monthly Allowance</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>SINGLE STUDENT LIVING AT HOME</b>												
Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food (Purchased from Stores)	232	293	358	299	271	256	239	245	266	372	301	301
Miscellaneous (Personal & health care, clothing)	245	239	221	203	271	270	296	301	329	255	323	324
Local Public Transportation	83	81	88	85	59	104	120	78	88	71	86	86
<b>Total Monthly Allowance</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>711</b>

## Table 4: Child Care Ceilings

**Table 4: Monthly Ceiling for Child Care Expenses for 2025-2026**

Province	Monthly ceilings per child
British Columbia	\$1,153
Prince Edward Island	\$594
Nova Scotia	\$476
New Brunswick	\$600
Quebec	\$391
Ontario	\$469
Manitoba	\$460
Saskatchewan	\$600
Alberta	\$1,200
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$817
Yukon	\$912
Northwest Territories	\$660
Nunavut	\$660

## Table 5: Parental Living Allowance

**Table 5: Parents' Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) by family size**

Family Size	MSOL
2	\$56,537
3	\$73,448
4	\$85,442
5	\$94,745
6	\$102,348
7	\$108,779
8	\$114,349
9	\$119,259
10	\$123,650

The student's parent's Moderate Standard of Living allowance includes:

- Shelter (principal accommodation)
- Food
- Household operation for items such as communications, pet expenses, household cleaning supplies (paper, plastic and foil), horticultural goods and supplies
- Child care costs
- Household furnishings, equipment and related services
- Clothing purchase and clothing services
- Transportation – private and public
- Personal care supplies, equipment and services
- Reading materials
- Security costs for items such as life and employment insurance payments, retirement and pension fund payments, and RRSP payments

The parent's Moderate Standard of Living allowance does not include:

- Education tuition fees
- Food - restaurants, etc.
- Gifts and contributions for persons outside the household and charitable organizations
- Miscellaneous costs such as interest on personal loans, union or association dues, lottery tickets
- Personal taxes
- Recreation equipment, vehicles and services, home entertainment equipment and services
- Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages

**Table 6: Parental Contribution Formula**

Annual Discretionary Income	Weekly parental contribution
\$0 - \$7,000	(15.0% of DI)/52
\$7,001 - \$14,000	(\$1,050 + 20.0% of (DI - \$7,000))/52
over \$14,000	(\$2,450 + 40.0%*(DI - \$14,000))/52

DI = Discretionary Income = (Parent(s) gross income) – (taxes + C/QPP + EI) – (MSOL by Family Size from Table 5)

**Note:** The Student Financial Assistance System has been programmed to accept CPP deductions of up to \$2,748 and EI contributions of up to \$860.

**Table 7a: Income Thresholds for Maximum Canada Student Grants**

Family Size	Previous Year's Gross Annual Family Income for Maximum Grant Amount
1 person	\$37,701
2 persons	\$53,318
3 persons	\$65,302
4 persons	\$75,405
5 persons	\$84,304
6 persons	\$92,351
7 or more	\$99,751

**Table 7b: CSG-FTDEP Family Income Eligibility Thresholds for Loan Year 2025-2026**

Family Size	Previous Year's Gross Annual Family Income for Maximum Grant Amount	Gross Annual Family Income for CSG-FTDEP Cut-off
1 person	N/A	N/A
2 persons	\$53,318	\$96,923
3 persons	\$65,302	\$115,978
4 persons	\$75,405	\$128,222
5 persons	\$84,304	\$139,451
6 persons	\$92,351	\$150,043
7 or more	\$99,751	\$159,275

**Table 7c: Family Income Eligibility Thresholds for Part-Time Student Loan (CSL-PT)**

Family Size	Previous Year's Gross Annual Family Income for part-time loan cut-off
1 person	\$77,305
2 persons	\$108,119
3 persons	\$128,989
4 persons	\$141,779
5 persons	\$153,611
6 persons	\$164,855
7 or more	\$174,557

**Note:** The annual family income tables above are used for calculating the eligibility thresholds for the following grants: CSG-FT, CSG-FTDEP, CSG-PT and CSG-PTDEP.

Table 7a is also used for calculating the income thresholds for the fixed student contribution and the spousal contribution.

## Table 8: Return Transportation

Students are eligible for a return transportation allowance if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Dependent students who must leave their home community to attend school; or
- Married Students or common-law students who must live separately, in another community, from their spouse; or
- Independent single or single-parent students whose permanent place of residence is normally their parent's home who are living away from home in another community solely for purposes of full-time study during the study period

If a student falls into one of the three situations above, the student's indication of the cost of return transportation from the application is assessed subject to the following maximums:

Number of weeks in Study Period	Maximum
12 - 26	\$900
27 - 52	\$1,800

The program year maximum is \$1,800 regardless of the number of return trips taken. The return transportation allowance helps meet the cost of relocation to attend post-secondary studies.

### Note:

1. If travel is a mandatory part of the program, see [Chapter 7 under Section 3: Step 2 – Assess the Student's Cost](#).
2. The cost of return trips is based on the most economical means possible subject to a maximum of two return trips per academic year.
3. Transportation costs for practicum or clinical placements may be included at no more than \$25 per week of the practicum or clinical placement on the Institutional Appendix 3.
4. If the program requires all students to travel for their field trip/placement/travel as part of program, institutions may add a cost of \$25 per week of the field trip/placement/travel as part of program.

**Table 9: Additional Transportation Allowance (Appeal Basis Only)**

	Study Period	
	34 weeks	52 weeks
Up to \$94 per week	\$3,196	\$4,888

**Table 10a: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant Full-time (Programs that are less than two years in length)**

Family Size	Income for maximum grant	Income cap for receiving grants >minimum
1 person	\$37,701	\$79,718
2 persons	\$53,318	\$111,458
3 persons	\$65,302	\$132,870
4 persons	\$75,405	\$145,828
5 persons	\$84,304	\$157,833
6 persons	\$92,351	\$169,274
7 or more	\$99,751	\$179,116

**Table 10b: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant Full-time (Programs that are two or more years in length)**

Family Size	Income for maximum grant	Income cap for receiving grants >minimum
1 person	\$37,701	\$48,205
2 persons	\$53,318	\$67,853
3 persons	\$65,302	\$82,194
4 persons	\$75,405	\$93,011
5 persons	\$84,304	\$102,686
6 persons	\$92,351	\$111,582
7 or more	\$99,751	\$119,592



**Table 10c: Income Thresholds for B.C. Access Grant Part-time**

Family Size	Income for maximum grant	Income cap for receiving grants >minimum
1 person	\$37,701	\$55,208
2 persons	\$53,318	\$77,543
3 persons	\$65,302	\$93,455
4 persons	\$75,405	\$104,748
5 persons	\$84,304	\$114,941
6 persons	\$92,351	\$124,402
7 or more	\$99,751	\$132,820

## Chapter 15: Definitions

This chapter lists the key definitions used in this manual.

### **Academic Year**

For the purpose of assessment of need, the academic year is defined by the post-secondary institution and is based on the study period for which student financial assistance is required that starts between August 1 of the current year and July 31 of the following year. The academic year is subject to a maximum length of 12 months (52 weeks) and may include multiple terms or semesters, including spring and/or summer sessions.

### **Accredited Post-Secondary Institution**

A post-secondary institution that has passed the quality tests of an accrediting body. In British Columbia, the accrediting (or regulating) bodies include the Private Training Institutions Regulatory Unit, the Degree Quality Assessment Board, and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. A post-secondary institution must be accredited to be designated for StudentAid BC funding programs.

### **Adult Basic Education (ABE)**

Courses that are subject to tuition-free policy and that are intended to provide adult learners with skills and knowledge to access further education, training and employment. The courses and programs offered under the banner “Adult Basic Education” include literacy, numeracy and academic skills; academic upgrading; and life skills or career preparation courses. These courses provide upgrading that may allow entry into a post-secondary program, but do not themselves contribute credits towards a post-secondary credential.

### **Accessible Education and Training (AET)**

Courses at the adult basic education level that are designed for individuals with permanent disabilities or combinations of learning difficulties.

### **Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG)**

A Province of British Columbia grant program that provides direct educational funding for students enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL) and Accessible Education and Training (AET) programs.

### **Affordable Child Care Benefit (formerly Child Care Subsidy)**

A monthly payment from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction/Ministry of Children and Family Development provided to eligible students with dependent children to assist with child care costs.

**Appeal (Student)**

An appeal is a formal request for a review of a student's application assessment to take into account exceptional circumstances demonstrated or proven by the applicant, which may result in StudentAid BC setting aside standard program policy.

**Apprenticeship**

Apprenticeship training combines paid, work-based training (usually about 80%) with classroom or shop setting (usually about 20%). Apprenticeship training is not considered a program of study. In-school technical training typically ranges from four to 10 weeks per year depending on the trade and takes approximately four years on average to complete.

**Assessed Costs**

Assessed costs refer to the total of all costs allowable under the standard assessment and any exceptional expenses that have been approved on appeal.

**Assessed Financial Need**

A student's assessed financial need is based on a calculation of allowable educational expenses and moderate standard of living costs, minus their financial resources and expected contributions. Need is assessed according to federal and provincial student financial assistance policies and a student may have a federal assessed need that differs from the provincial assessed need.

**Assessed Resources**

Assessed resources are the total of all volunteered and expected contributions from the student and, where applicable, from the spouse/common-law partner or parents, step-parents, sponsor or legal guardian, less any discretionary adjustments approved on appeal. Resources do not include child tax benefits, T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return refunds, family bonuses or GST rebates.

**Assessment of Need**

The process of determining the amount of financial assistance a student is eligible for. Each student's application is subject to both a Government of Canada need assessment calculation based on Canada Student Financial Assistance Program policies regarding income and assets, and a Province of British Columbia assessment of need calculation based on StudentAid BC policies regarding income and assets. In each case, the eligible assessed need is the difference between allowable costs and total resources.

**Assessment Period**

The assessment period is the study period for which the applicant is applying for financial assistance. The maximum assessment period is 12 months (52 weeks).

**Assets**

Assets include investments demonstrating financial strength such as liquid assets (e.g., RRSPs, bonds, GICs, etc.) and fixed assets (e.g., real estate, revenue property, recreational property).

**Asynchronous Online Delivery**

Students and instructors do not meet in 'real time'. There is no live video lecture portion of the program. Students in a program or course that is delivered asynchronously may move through assignments at their own pace, supported by online resources such as recorded lectures, reading material, assignments, and discussion groups.

**At Home**

'At home' refers to single students living in a home owned, rented or leased by their parent, step-parent, sponsor or legal guardian.

**Audit a Course**

To attend a course without expecting to receive formal credit.

**Away from Home**

'Away from home' refers to single students who live away from a home owned, rented or leased by their parent, step-parent, sponsor or legal guardian or to students who live in self-contained suites owned, rented or leased by their parent, step-parent, sponsor or legal guardian when the student is paying fair market rent and their own utilities separately.

**Bankruptcy**

A state including borrowers who have entered into bankruptcy or a bankruptcy-related event (e.g., consumer proposals and orderly payment of debts) under the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*. Bankruptcy or bankruptcy-related events may impact student loans and future student financial assistance.

**Blended Learning**

Blended learning is when any part of a program is being delivered online (see online education/learning) in combination with onsite instruction.

**Borrower**

An individual who is or was a student and who is receiving, or who has received, British Columbia Student Financial Assistance, Canada Student Financial Assistance, or Student Financial Assistance as outlined in the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement, to attend studies at a Designated Post-Secondary Institution.

**B.C. Access Grant**

The B.C. Access Grant provides up-front, needs-based financial assistance to low- and middle-income learners studying full- or part-time in eligible programs at B.C. public post-secondary institutions that is non-repayable unless converted to a Conversion Loan under Section 6 of the MSFAA (PT) BC.

**Brokered Course**

When an institution provides a formal credential while another agency/institution provides the actual program of study.

**Bursary**

Non-repayable awards based on financial need and given to students by post-secondary institutions, governments, businesses, societies or other agencies and organizations.

**Canada-B.C. Integrated Student Loan**

The combining of a Canada Student Loan and B.C. Student Loan in the same MSFAA. There are two lenders: the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia that are managed in an integrated way by the NSLSC during study, in the non-repayment period and in repayment.

**Canada Student Financial Assistance Act (CSFAA)**

The *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act* and the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Regulations*, as in effect at any given time.

**Canada Student Grant**

A grant made under the *CSFAA*.

**Canada Student Loan**

A Direct Loan made under the *CSFAA* or Student Loan made under the *CSFAA* or *CSLA*.

**Canada Student Loans Act**

The *Canada Student Loans Act* and the *Canada Student Loans Regulations*, as in effect at any given time.

**Capitalized Interest**

The accumulated interest added to the principal balance of a loan.

**Citation**

A citation is a formal credential, as are degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Citation programs are often offered on a cost-recovery basis (partial or full) and may have some funding support from Employment and Social Development Canada or other sponsoring agencies. Citation programs may be offered on a full-time or part-time basis. Most of these courses are for credit and are recognized for block transfer to another program.

**Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)**

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) is entered by institutions and used for classifying instructional programs according to field of study.

**Clinical Placement**

In a real-life setting (such as a hospital, clinic or laboratory) where a student performs actual clinical procedures on real patients or clients.

**Common-law**

Students who have cohabited with a person in a marriage-like relationship for a period of at least one year (12 consecutive months) as of the first day of classes or their study period start date.

**Compulsory Fees**

Compulsory fees include annual admission fees required when submitting applications, student council fees, student services fees, field trip costs (excluding transportation cost as outlined in [Chapter 2, Section 3](#)), examination fees, graduate thesis costs and other amounts payable by the student to the educational institution that are obligatory in connection with their course of study. They may include fees payable for membership in professional or other societies where required.

**Confirmation of Enrolment**

A process in which a post-secondary institution confirms a student's enrolment.

**Continuous Entry**

A flexible option for students to enter a program at multiple points during a program year. All continuous entry programs must have a set duration of weeks in which the program must be completed.

**Conversion Loan**

A BC Access Grant for part-time students that has been converted into a repayable loan.

**Co-op Education**

A work assignment that is related to the field of study where the student is paid a competitive rate. Must be considered an essential element of the program of study.

**Course Load**

Course load is the percentage that refers to the rate at which a student is currently working in order to complete the entire program.

**Credential**

The certificate, citation, diploma or degree conferred upon the student by the home institution in recognition of successful completion of the required educational training.

**Current and Former Children or Youth in Care**

An individual who, prior to turning the age of majority, is/was in the care of:

- the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency under the Child Family and Community Services Act , or
- Another Province or Territory under a comparable legislation or agreement, or
- An Indigenous Governing Body through a comparable agreement under Indigenous Law.

**Default**

In relation to a student loan, of which the Borrower is more than 270 days in arrears on payments based on the Borrower's loan agreement and in respect of which collection action is taken.

**Delinquent**

A loan in respect of which the Borrower has failed to make a payment required by the Borrower's loan agreement for more than 90 days but does not include a loan that is in Default.

**Dependants**

For StudentAid BC purposes, eligible dependents/dependants are any dependents for whom the Canada Child Tax Benefit is claimed, or for whom a benefit is claimed on the applicant's income tax return. Eligible dependents/dependants must meet one of the following criteria:

- For the student's or spouse/common-law partner's children who are 18 years of age and under, the student and/or spouse/common-law partner must be guardians of the children who must live with the student or spouse/common-law partner at least two full days per week; or
- The student's or spouse/common-law partner's children aged 19 to 22 are full-time dependent students in study; or
- The student's or spouse/common-law partner's children are permanently disabled, are 19 years of age or over, are fully supported by the student or spouse/common-law partner and are claimed on the student's or spouse/common-law partner's income tax return; or
- The children are the student's foster children and foster-parent income is claimed on the application; or
- The dependents are the student's or spouse/common-law partner's elderly relatives who are fully supported by the student and claimed on the student's or spouse's income tax.

**Dependant's Living Allowance**

The dependant's total weekly allowance is one of the factors used to calculate the total living costs. The living allowance includes amounts for the cost of food, shelter, miscellaneous expenses (such as personal and health care items, clothing, household cleaning and communications) and local transportation. It is available to married and single-parent students who have dependant(s).

**Dependent Student**

Students identified as dependent are considered to be financially dependent on their parent(s), step-parent(s), sponsor(s) or legal guardian(s) and do not qualify as independent students.

**Designated Institution**

A post-secondary institution that has been authorized by British Columbia as eligible for the purposes of the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program with respect to some or all of the programs taught by the post-secondary institution. A post-secondary institution must be designated at the time a student's application is received or the application will automatically be denied.

**Discharge**

Refers to a situation when a borrower is legally excused from their loan repayment obligations by a formal court order. For normal consumer debt, discharge usually takes place after nine months from the date of bankruptcy. However, for student loans, the borrower is not discharged from their repayment obligations until seven years after the end of the most recent study period.

**Discretionary Costs**

A term used to describe costs that may be considered on an individual basis on appeal.

**Discretionary Income**

For parents, step-parents, legal guardians or sponsors, discretionary income is total income for the full taxation year before the student's study period, less the costs for taxes, CPP/QPP and EI from Appendix 1 and less the estimated costs for a Moderate Standard of Living from Table 5.

Discretionary income is determined through the assessment process.

**Distance Education**

See "Online/Blended Learning."

**Documentation**

Third-party testimony, in writing, that stands as evidence to support a claim stated on a student application or for consideration of exceptional circumstances (e.g., a doctor's letter in support of a claim for exemption from student contribution as a result of illness or disability).

**Early Completion**

When a student fully completes their studies before the assessed study end date, a reassessment will be conducted to adjust the original end date.

**eCert/eCertification**

The electronic form of approval used to digitally sign the student loan agreement.

**English as a Second Language Programs**

Courses that are subject to tuition-free policy and provide competencies in English for access to post-secondary education, the labour market and participation in English-speaking culture. These courses are provided for speakers of all different languages and provide language training that may allow entry into a post-secondary program, but do not themselves contribute credits towards a post-secondary credential.

ESL courses are generally not eligible for StudentAid BC funds, but students can apply for the Adult Upgrading Grant.

**Expected Contribution**

A financial contribution from a student, parent, step-parent, sponsor, legal guardian or spouse to assist with the cost of the student's program of study. The contribution is automatically assessed during the student need assessment process.

**Extinguishment**

The forgiveness of a debt or obligation to the Province and, to the extent that it is forgiven, the right of the government to collect the debt, obligation due or claim is nullified.

**Family Size**

Family size includes the applicant, and if applicable, spouse, parents, step-parents, sponsor, legal guardian and other eligible dependents.



**Field Placement**

A field placement provides students with an intensive part-time/short term intensive hands-on practical experience in a setting relevant to their subject of study. Field placements may not require supervision of a registered or licensed professional and the completed work experience hours are not required for professional certification. Field placements account for work-integrated educational experiences not encompassed by other forms, such as co-op, clinic, practicum, and internship.

**Financial Assistance**

Student loans, student grants, debt management programs and any other form of financial assistance provided directly or indirectly under the B.C. Student Assistance Program, commonly referred to as StudentAid BC.

**Financial Resources**

Resources available to students to contribute to the costs of their education, including student, parent and/or spouse contributions.

**Fixed Student Contribution**

The federally and provincially assessed amount a student is expected to contribute to their education costs based on their previous year's family income, family size and length of their study period. The fixed student contribution is used in the assessment of a student's financial need.

**Foundation Programs**

See "Pre-apprentice Programs."

**Full-Time Student**

A student who is enrolled in a minimum of 60% of a full course load (or 40% for students with a permanent, or persistent or prolonged disability) at a designated public or private post-secondary institution.

**Full-time Work/Labour Force**

See "In the labour force."

**Funded Term/Period of Study**

A period of study during which a student receives student financial assistance and/or payment-free status. Students who are on payment-free status are considered to be in a 'funded term' whether or not they have new student loans; withdrawals and unsuccessful terms are counted during this time.

**Good Standing**

Borrowers are in good standing if they make regular scheduled payments on their student loan and are not restricted from receiving further student financial assistance or disqualified from repayment assistance.

**Guardian**

Used to identify a person who is charged with the legal right and duty of care for a ward due to the ward's inability (due to age, or mental or physical inability) to care for himself or herself.

**Guaranteed Loans**

Loans issued by financial institutions prior to August 1, 1995, guaranteed by the Province of British Columbia and collected by the financial institution that issued the loan.

**Home Institution**

The post-secondary institution from which the student will receive their credential, used primarily for students with split enrolments.

**"In the Labour Force"**

For the purpose of determining whether a student is independent, the expression "in the labour force" means that during any two periods of 12 consecutive months preceding the start of the study period, the student was either working or actively seeking employment and was not a full-time student receiving student financial assistance. A student who was receiving Employment Insurance and was not a full-time student is considered to have been actively seeking employment. Income Assistance recipients, except persons with disabilities, are not considered to have been in the labour force unless they were seeking employment while receiving benefits.

**Independent Student**

Students identified as independent are considered to be financially independent of their parents, step-parents, sponsor or legal guardian if:

- There are no parent(s), step-parent(s), sponsor(s) or legal guardian(s) due to death or disappearance;
- The student has been out of high school for a minimum of 48 months;
- The student has been a member of the labour force for two periods of 12 consecutive months each; or
- The student is married, in a common-law relationship, separated/divorced/widowed or is a single parent.

**Institution Location (formerly Branch Campus)**

Any location of a post-secondary institution other than the main campus, but under the same corporate structure as the main campus, that:

- is permanent in nature;
- has a separate student body;
- has a resident administration;
- offers a full program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree; and
- is geographically separate from the main campus such that students may not easily avail themselves of educational and administrative services at the main campus.

**Instructional Hours**

The time spent in a classroom or other learning environment where both student and instructor are present.

**In-Study Payment-Free** Status of students whose enrolment has been confirmed and are not required to make payments on their student loans while they are in-study.

**Interface Policy**

Policy that applies to students receiving Disability Assistance under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* and their dependents whereby they are eligible to receive student financial assistance towards their educational costs only.

**Learning Disability Assessment**

An assessment, conducted by a registered or certified psychologist, that provides a diagnosis and evaluation of the nature and severity of an individual's disability(ies), is based on the diagnostic criteria found in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), and outlines how the disability impacts academic functioning. The assessment report also includes recommendations for specific accommodations needed to support the individual's academic performance.

**Leave Start Date**

The date that a medical or parental leave will begin. This date is set to the day after the borrower's most recent Period of Studies End Date (PSED) (e.g., the withdrawal PSED).

**Leave Status End Date (LSED)**

The last day of an approved medical or parental leave, which ends on the last day of the sixth month from the borrower's Leave Start Date. This date will also become the borrower's PSED for the purposes of determining the non-repayment period and the repayment start date and/or for loan amortization purposes.

**Legal Guardian**

A legal guardian is a person who has the legal authority, and duty, to care for another person. If the student is 18 years of age and under, and the student's parents are deceased or incapable of caring for the student, or the student is a child in care of the Province under a Continuing Custody Order, the Director of Child Welfare in the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Public Guardian and Trustee are considered to be the student's legal guardians.

**Legal Authority (Institution Designation Agreement)**

The individual or corporation responsible for adhering to the terms and conditions of StudentAid BC designation for itself and its institution locations.

**Loan Rehabilitation**

A process required when a borrower is either in default or after bankruptcy, to allow for consideration of additional StudentAid BC assistance.

**Loan Year (or program year)**

Loan Year means the period beginning August 1, in any year, and ending on July 31, the following year.

**Mandatory Fees**

See "Compulsory Fees."

**Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA)**

The MSFAA is a legal document that governs the rights and responsibilities with respect to the financial assistance the student will receive from B.C. and the Government of Canada. The terms and conditions within the loan agreement outline the requirements on borrowing and repayment of Government of Canada and Government of B.C. student financial assistance. The MSFAA for the full-time Canada-B.C. integrated student loan as well as the MSFAA for Part-Time funding are each comprised of two separate contracts, one with the federal government for federal student financial assistance, and the other with the provincial government for provincial student financial assistance.

**Medical Event Date**

The day on which, in the opinion of a medical professional, a medical issue significantly interferes with a borrower's ability to pursue their program of study as applies to a Medical Leave.

**Moderate Standard of Living**

The Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) is a measure of the cost of living that includes shelter, food, miscellaneous expenses and local transportation. For the parents, step-parents, legal guardians or sponsors of dependent students, the MSOL takes into consideration various family sizes. Also known as the 'Student Living Allowance,' the MSOL includes the maximum allowances set by the Government of Canada for living costs during the study period.

**Modified Independent Status**

The classification given to an applicant otherwise classified as dependent when a severe and permanent breakdown in the relationship between student and parent has occurred and has been documented (i.e., an irreconcilable rift).

**Mutually Exclusive Courses**

Courses that have a different course name and number but have the same content as another course. Students who are taking duplicate or mutually exclusive courses will not be granted credit for a second time and the duplicate course will not be counted when determining a student's course load of study for StudentAid BC purposes.

**National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC)**

The Service Provider responsible for administering Canada-B.C. integrated student loans while students are in-study, in the Non-Repayment Period or in repayment and their loans are less than 270 days past due.

**Non-punitive Withdrawal (two semester loan application where student is not attending the second semester)**

A non-punitive withdrawal occurs when any of the following four conditions apply:

1. The student is withdrawn due to an institution closure as outlined in [Chapter 9, Section 4: Interruption of Study](#);
2. The student did not attend classes at all and repaid the disbursement in full within 30 days;
3. The student attended classes for 10 days or less and repaid the disbursement in full within 30 days; or
4. The student received funding for two semesters, completed their first term/semester, including exams (if applicable), and either did not return to full-time studies or attended 10 days or less in the next term/semester. The second disbursement was not issued or was repaid in full within 30 days.

**Non-punitive Withdrawal (withdrawal before classes start)**

If an application cannot be cancelled for the initial disbursement of the application due to issuance of funding through electronic funds transfer, a non-punitive withdrawal will be allowed if the student has repaid the total amount funded within 30 days of deposit of funds.

**Non-punitive Withdrawal (due to institution closure)**

If students are withdrawn due to institution closure as outlined in [Chapter 9, Section 4](#), the withdrawal can be considered non-punitive.

**Non-repayment Period**

The six-month period after a student graduates or leaves a post-secondary institution when loan payments do not have to be made.

**Notice of Assessment**

A letter sent to StudentAid BC applicants once their StudentAid BC application is assessed. The Notice of Assessment (NoA) confirms the amount of StudentAid BC funding the student is eligible to receive that will be disbursed to the borrower along with the details of the loan period. The NoA will include a 10-digit MSFAA number.

**Online Education/Learning**

Online education/learning is a program delivery method that involves the course content delivered via the internet, intranet, audio/video files, or satellite. This delivery method includes both in classroom and out of classroom education.

**Original School**

The previous post-secondary institution a student is transferring from to a new home institution. This term is used in relation to Appendix 5 – Transfer of School.

**Outstanding Loan Balance**

The principal amount of your Conversion Loan outstanding at any time, together with accrued interest (if any) with respect to the MSFAA (PT)-BC; and the principal amount of your BC Student Loans outstanding at any time, including any BC Student Grant amount(s) converted to a BC Student Loan and the principal amount forming part of any student loan amounts consolidated under section D.11 (b) (i) or D.11 (b) (iii) with respect to the MSFAA-BC, together with all interest accrued on those amounts, and any unpaid non-sufficient funds (“NSF”) fees outstanding as of August 1, 2011.

**Overaward**

A student who received more student financial assistance than he or she was eligible to receive.

**Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework (the Framework)**

The Framework lays out common elements to be applied in all jurisdictions for the designation of post-secondary educational institutions in order for students to be eligible for government student financial assistance. The Framework describes key indicators that will be monitored by Province of British Columbia jurisdictions, including student performance (e.g., completion/graduation data, withdrawal date, and employment data), institution performance (e.g., administrative compliance) and portfolio performance (e.g., repayment data and default data).

**Parent**

For the purpose of assessing need, a parent includes natural parents, step-parents, sponsors and legal guardians.

**Parental Event Date**

The day on which a borrower has welcomed a new child through birth, the finalization of an adoption or commencement of a guardianship or tutorship as relates to a Parental Leave.

**Parental Expected Contribution (Financial Sponsor contribution)**

The amount of funds that should be available to dependent students from their parents, step-parents, sponsor or legal guardian (but not including foster parents) to help them meet allowable education costs. The amount of the expected contribution is determined using a standard assessment procedure.

**Parental Living Allowance**

A moderate standard of living allowance set by the Government of Canada that is a measure of the cost of living that includes shelter, food, miscellaneous expenses and transportation, and takes into account family size. This amount is used in calculating the contribution parents are expected to make towards a dependant student's education expenses.

**Part-time Student**

A student who is enrolled in a minimum 20 to 59% of a full course load at a public or private post-secondary institution.

**Partner**

The student's spouse or common-law partner. Spouses or common-law partners submit Partner Information in SIMS to determine a student's spousal/common-law partner expected contribution as part of their targeted resources in the financial need assessment.

**Period of Studies Commencement Date (PSCD)**

Is the first day of the first month of the borrower's confirmed period of studies.

**Period of Studies End Date (PSED)**

Is the last day of the last month of the borrower's confirmed period of studies.

**Permanent Disability**

Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment - or a functional limitation - that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and that is expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

**Permanent Resident**

An individual who is not a Canadian citizen but who has permission to reside in Canada on a permanent basis. Permanent Resident status can be demonstrated by presenting a valid IMM 1000 form, IMM 5292 or valid immigration card that does not specify limited conditions of entry, and a Social Insurance Number that starts with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7.

**Persistent or Prolonged Disability**

Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment - or a functional limitation - that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and has lasted, or is expected to last, for a period of at least 12 months but is not expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

**Post-secondary Study**

Studies at a post-secondary institution in which a student enrolls after secondary school (Grade 12). Post-secondary study does not include programs such as Adult Basic Education programs, college preparatory programs, English as a Second Language, etc.

**Power of Attorney (POA)**

A power of attorney is a written authorization to represent or act on another's behalf in private affairs, business or some other legal matters.

**Practicum**

Practical application of previously learned theory that is part of the course of study.

**Pre-apprentice Programs**

Pre-apprenticeship and primarily school-based programs (including those formerly known as Entry Level Trades Training Programs) directly aligned with apprenticeship programs, and providing an entry point by which participants can earn credit for Level 1 technical training without the need for a sponsor who has committed to provide work-based training.

**Preceptorship**

Period of final work experience where a student performs actual clinical or other professional procedures in a real-life setting.

**Principal**

Refers to the consolidated amount of student loan(s), excluding interest and any fees.

**Program**

A course or series of courses leading to a credential. Institutions are required to report to StudentAid BC information describing each program of study as approved by the governing body overseeing the delivery of the program and/or the operation of the institution.

**Program Codes**

StudentAid BC codes assigned to credential programs of study based on the field of study and level of achievement possible on graduation. The codes assist StudentAid BC in ensuring students attending designated institutions are funded only for approved programs.

**Program Year**

See "Loan Year."

**Protected Persons**

Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, Protected Persons include Convention Refugees and Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad classes, and persons in need of protection, defined as a person whose removal to their country of nationality or former habitual residence would subject them to the possibility of torture, risk of life, or risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. Protected Persons must have Social Insurance Numbers beginning with '9' and with an expiry date after their study period end date. Protected Persons applying for StudentAid BC funding may forward a copy of their notice of decision issued by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada as documentation of their status.

**Qualifying Year**

A study period that may be required before students who have completed their undergraduate degree may be admitted to graduate school or transfer to another program/faculty.

**Reassessment**

A request to make changes to the information on a student's application. Such changes could include income, program of study, costs and marital status before the first day of classes.



**Registered**

Formally enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

**Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)**

An RDSP is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future. Funds held in an RDSP account are exempt as an asset for the purpose of StudentAid BC.

**Resident**

A term used to describe a student's eligibility for Province of British Columbia residency under the StudentAid BC program. Eligibility differs between dependent and independent students.

**Restricted List**

A list of students restricted from receiving further student financial assistance until specific conditions are met. Students are placed on the Restricted List for a variety of reasons, such as when they are in default on a student loan, in an overaward situation or during a verification.

**Restriction**

The term used to describe a status placed on a student's financial assistance file. This status inhibits the ability to process the file any further without intervention from StudentAid BC staff. This status may be added to the file during various stages of the application, and it can be removed once the requirement set by StudentAid BC Policy has been met.

**Risk-Sharing Loans**

Loans issued by a financial institution between August 1, 1995 and July 31, 2000 where the Province of British Columbia pays a risk premium to the lending institution based on the value of all loans entering repayment status.

**Satisfactory Scholastic Standing**

Satisfactory scholastic standing is an eligibility requirement for both part- and full-time funding and is demonstrated through successful completion (i.e., the student receives credit towards a formal credential, certificate, diploma or degree issued by the governing body of the post-secondary institution) of a course or courses at the post-secondary level for each period of study. The criteria for maintaining satisfactory scholastic standing differ for part and full-time studies.

**Scholarship**

A scholarship is an award given to a student who has demonstrated high academic standing, or merit.

**Scholarship Trust Fund**

Scholarship trust funds are established by third parties to support the financial costs of post-secondary education. In situations where a scholarship trust fund has been established for a student, the parental contribution is the greater of the amount assessed by StudentAid BC or the annual amount available from the scholarship trust fund.

**Scholastic Standing**

Academic standing as determined by the post-secondary institution. If the post-secondary institution grants sufficient credit for advancement in the program and/or issues a credential to a student, the student is considered to have met the scholastic standing requirement under StudentAid BC.

**Self-paced Programs**

Programs designed for completion in a specific time frame, but that may also be delivered at a reduced course load. All students must complete 100% of the course work, although the time required for completion may vary depending on the percentage of course load being carried.

**Semester**

A distinct study period, lasting at least 12 to 17 consecutive weeks and that forms part of a longer program.

**Separated**

Marital status of a student who was married or lived in a common-law relationship (as defined by StudentAid BC) and who is not legally divorced but whose marital relationship is dissolved with no hope of reconciliation and where the student is no longer residing in the same household as the former partner. As a result, the student is maintaining a separate residence from the former partner.

**Single-parent Student**

Students who have never married, or who are separated or divorced from a spouse, or who are widowed and who have legal and/or physical guardianship and responsibility for supporting their own children at least two days per week during the entire study period.

**Split Enrolment**

Concurrently registered at more than one post-secondary institution (i.e., some courses are being taken at the home institution and some at another institution) during the same study period.

**Sponsor**

Individuals identified as the sponsor on Record of Landing immigration forms (IMM 1000 or IMM 5292) issued by the Government of Canada. Group sponsorship will not be used for student loan assessments.

**Sponsored Tuition/Books/Living Costs**

Funding provided by Employment and Social Development Canada, a first nation band council, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, community service provider or any other employer or agency for the cost of a student's tuition, books and living expenses.

**Spousal Income**

The income used to calculate the expected spousal contribution is the same prior year total annual family income that is used to calculate the fixed student contribution for married students and

common-law students. It is based on family income for married students and common-law students, and is equal to the sum of the student's income and the spouse's or common-law partner's income (found on line 15000 of their respective previous year's T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return).

**Standard Monthly Expenses**

Normal costs incurred on a monthly basis, such as rent, mortgage, food, utilities, car payments, insurance and other living expenses.

**Start Date/End Date**

The start date of a study period is the first day of classes. The end date is the last day of classes or the date of the last exam, whichever is later. See "study period."

**Student Expected Contribution**

The student's expected financial contribution toward funding the costs of their study period. This contribution amount is made up of the fixed student contribution and available resources such as scholarship and bursary funding and other resources targeted specifically towards the student's study period costs.

**Student Living Allowance**

Student living allowances are standard allowances established by the Government of Canada to cover the costs of shelter, food, local transportation and miscellaneous expenses and used by StudentAid BC to assess financial need for full-time students.

**Student Financial Assistance System (SFAS)**

A computer system that assesses full-time student loan applications, generates letters and produces award documents.

**Study Period**

The study period (also known as the 'period of study') is the time between the start date and end date specified in the application for student financial assistance. A program of study longer than 52 weeks must be broken into multiple study periods, and students are required to submit separate applications for student financial assistance for each study period. The minimum length of the study period is 12 consecutive weeks, and the maximum length is 52 consecutive weeks. The start date is the first day of classes; the end date is the date of the final class or exam, whichever is later.

**Study Period End Date Notification**

This notification is used by post-secondary institution officials to report a change to the study period end date. Students who originally submitted an application for two semesters and subsequently decided not to return for the second semester must submit a notification to change the study end date. Post-secondary institution officials must include an Appendix 3 (Institution and Program Information) if the new study period end date is not reflected in the Institutional Appendix.

**Successful Completion**

Used to identify a student who has fully completed a study period/semester/term and has also written and passed course exams for the same study period/semester/term.

**Summer Session**

A period of post-secondary study that includes courses taken within the months of July and August.

**Synchronous Online Delivery**

Students attend classes virtually in 'real time' with instructors and classmates.

**Targeted Resources**

Targeted resources are those provided to help with specific educational costs, and may include funds received from municipal government, Province of British Columbia or Government of Canada, the private sector or voluntary contributions from a student's parent (s), step-parent, sponsor, or legal guardian. The funds could be paid directly to the educational institution (for instance, to cover tuition), or they could be paid directly to the student.

**Technical Withdrawal**

The action of a student who drops below full-time studies or whose lack of attendance has dropped them below the minimum requirements established by StudentAid BC and who has failed to formally withdraw from studies through the registrar's office.

**Term**

A study period that forms part of an academic year at a non-semester based post-secondary institution. Courses taken on a term basis are generally incomplete until the conclusion of the entire academic year. For an academic program, 'term' means a four-month period of study. For a vocational or trade program, 'term' means 12 to 26 weeks.

**Training Out**

Training out pertains to students who have been awarded funding for the year in which a BC institution or program designation status is suspended or the program is no longer eligible. Training out is intended to allow students who are currently funded to continue with their program and receive funding for the balance of their program.

**Transfer of School**

A Transfer of School refers to a student who decides to attend a different post-secondary institution after receiving StudentAid BC funding for the first post-secondary institution attended. The student must complete an Appendix 5 (Transfer of School) form.

**Trustee**

A person who is licensed or appointed under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*.

**Unclassified Studies**

A period of study that may be required of students who, have completed their undergraduate degree before being admitted to graduate school, or cannot enter into an undergraduate major

without first completing courses necessary to meet the entrance requirements for the undergraduate major, or transferring to another program/faculty. Unclassified studies do not include university transfer programs. See “Qualifying Year.”

**Unmet Need**

The amount by which a student’s assessed financial need (Government of Canada or Province of British Columbia) exceeds the total award.

**Unsuccessful Completion**

Used to identify a student who has not fully completed a study period/semester/term and has not written and/or passed course exams for the same study period/semester/term.

**Verification**

A process of confirming the accuracy of information supplied for purposes of student financial assistance.

**Visa**

A permit allowing citizens of foreign countries to enter Canada for a specific purpose. Students residing in Canada on Visas are not eligible for student financial assistance through StudentAid BC.

**Wholly Dependent Person/Relative**

A person is wholly dependent on a student or a student’s spouse if the dependent person resides with the student, resides in Canada (except children described in the definition of dependant who may be studying abroad), is related to the student and, except in the case of a parent or grandparent of the student or spouse, is either under 18 years of age or is dependent by reason of a mental or physical infirmity. Wholly dependent persons may include: a child or a grandchild of the student or of the student’s spouse; or the parent, step-parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew of the student or the student’s spouse, if resident in Canada.

**Note:** In order for a student to be assessed living costs for a wholly dependent person, the person must have been claimed and accepted by Canada Revenue Agency as being wholly dependent on the student.

**Withdrawal**

The action of a full-time or part-time student who formally withdraws from courses. Circumstances resulting in an incomplete semester/term and where the student stops attending classes are also considered a withdrawal.

- For full-time, if the student falls below 60% (40% for students with permanent disabilities) of a full-time course load, the post-secondary institution is expected to report the student as ‘withdrawn.’
- For part-time, the student must successfully complete all courses for which their Canada Student Financial Assistance Program funding was issued. If the student is studying at 20% of a full-time course load and drops their only course, this is considered a withdrawal.

**WorkBC Employment Services Program**

A service of the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction that helps remove barriers to training and employment for British Columbians. Clients with permanent disabilities are provided services through employment service centres throughout the province and by community-based service providers.

**Work-integrated learning (WIL)**

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is a model and process of curricular experiential education which formally and intentionally integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting. WIL includes practicums, clinical placements, preceptorships, co-operative education placements and work terms outside the co-operative education model.

**Workplace Experience**

The time a student may spend gaining work experience, but which is not a requirement of the regulating body. Work experience may be offered by post-secondary institutions, although it will not be considered as part of instructional hours or as time eligible for student loan funding.

**Youth in Continuing Care of a Director**

A term used to describe a young person, who has, through a court order, been:

- Placed in a Continuing Custody Order with a Director pursuant to the *B.C. Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA);
- Placed under the Personal Guardianship of a director pursuant to the *B.C. Infants Act*;
- Placed under the Personal Guardianship of a director of adoption under the *B.C. Adoption Act* or;  
or
- Placed in the continuing custody of a director from a province other than B.C.

## Chapter 16: Contacts

This chapter lists contact information for the following:

- B.C. Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, StudentAid BC
- Canada Student Financial Assistance Program
- National Student Loans Service Centre
- B.C. Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Private Training Institutions Regulatory Unit
- Revenue Services of British Columbia

### **B.C. Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, StudentAid BC**

Mailing Address: Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
StudentAid BC  
PO Box 9173 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9H7

Courier Address: C/O StudentAid BC  
1st Floor, 835 Humboldt Street  
Victoria BC V8V 3Z9

Phone: +1-778-309-4621 (from outside North America)  
1-800-561-1818 (Toll-Free in Canada/USA)

Website: [www.studentaidbc.ca](http://www.studentaidbc.ca)

Email: [StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:StudentAidBC@gov.bc.ca)

### **Canada Student Financial Assistance Program**

See contact information (mailing address and telephone numbers) for the National Student Loans Service Centre.

Website: [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca)

### **National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC)**

Mailing Address: National Student Loans Service Centre  
PO Box 4030  
Mississauga ON L5A 4M4

Phone: 1-888-815-4514 (within North America)  
800-2-225-2501 (outside North America)

Fax: 1 888 815-4657 (within North America)  
1-905-306-2414 (outside North America)

TTY Line: 1-888-815-4556

Website: [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)  
<https://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca/en/home>

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Private Training Institutions  
Regulatory Unit**

Phone: (604) 569-0033  
1-800-661-7441 (Toll-Free)

Fax: (778) 945-0606

Website: [www.PrivateTrainingInstitutions.gov.bc.ca](http://www.PrivateTrainingInstitutions.gov.bc.ca)

Email: [PTI@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PTI@gov.bc.ca)

**Revenue Services of British Columbia (RSBC)**

Mailing Address: Revenue Services of British Columbia  
PO Box 9401 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9S6

Courier Address: Revenue Services of British Columbia  
Account Management  
Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP)  
2200 - 4464 Markham Road  
Victoria BC V8Z 7X8

Phone: (250) 405-4968  
1-866-345-3930 (Toll Free in Canada)

Fax: (250) 405-4412 or (250) 405-4410