

Eastern Wyoming College

Black & Gold Award

Purpose: Established Fall 2013 for students entering EWC beginning 2014-2015. The Scholarship Committee's intent was to create a new incentive that supports the retention and graduation goals of EWC's Strategic Enrollment Committee as well as those of Complete College Wyoming and Complete College America. The Black & Gold Award seeks to reward students for successful completion of set milestones, helping to keep them on track for graduating with an associate's degree within a normal two-year time frame.

FY15 budget: \$32,328 (*funding repurposed from VP's Honor Scholarship and Outstanding Student Scholarship*)

Total number of awards to fund in 2014-2015: ~~80~~ *per scholarship meeting 4/16/14, award all who apply for first year; may be able to request funds from Foundation if exceeding budget amount with successful students.*

Initial Eligibility Criteria: Incoming students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA and be degree-seeking.

Awarding Criteria: Recipient must have successfully completed at least 15 credits with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to receive the first award. A first award may be given based on completion of at least 15 concurrent enrollment or transfer credits (e.g., can get \$300 their first semester as a regular student at EWC). Students entering with more than 30 concurrent or transfer credits may be eligible for a \$500 award their first semester at EWC as a regular student and another \$500 for their second consecutive semester after successful completion of 15 credits with EWC. Certificate-seeking students are eligible for \$300 after successful completion of one term (15 credits) with EWC and may be eligible for the second year of the award if returning for a degree program in the next semester. Award may be used for any valid educational expense and is not designated for tuition/fees and/or direct EWC charges.

Continuing Eligibility Criteria: Students must continue to successfully complete 15 credits per semester with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to receive subsequent semesters of the award. Students will be allowed to use successfully completed summer credits to retain eligibility for the fall semester.

Value: An incremental award with the potential total of \$1,300 if the student retains eligibility.

First award: \$300 for semester following successful completion of at least 15 credits (*may be concurrent or transfer credits*);

Second award: \$500 for semester following successful completion of at least 30 total credits;

Third award: \$500 for semester following successful completion of at least 45 total credits.

Procedures: A new application will be posted online beginning January 2014. The application will also be available in the Financial Aid Office, Admissions Office, Outreach Centers and promoted at registration events. Advisors will be made aware of the new award and the importance of enrolling students in at least 15 credits and advising of the potential consequences of dropping below 15 credits when signing drop slips. The Center for Tutoring and Learning will be promoted as a resource for students who are at risk of not completing the required credits and before dropping students below 15 credits.

Examples of potential award scenarios:

1. Begins Fall 2014: 15+ total credits completed before spring → receives \$300 award Spring 2015
After Spring (or summer) 2015: 30+ total credits completed → receives \$500 award Fall 2015
After Fall 2015: 45+ total credits completed → receives \$500 award Spring 2016
2. Begins Spring 2015: 15+ total credits completed before fall → receives \$300 award Fall 2015
After Fall 2015: 30+ total credits completed → receives \$500 award Spring 2016
After Spring 2016 : 45+ total credits completed → receives \$500 award Fall 2016
3. Begins Fall 2014 with 15+ concurrent (or transfer) credits → receives \$300 award Fall 2014
After Fall 2015: 30+ total credits completed → receives \$500 award Spring 2015

After Spring 2015: 45+ total credits completed

→ receives \$500 award Fall 2015