

Office of Student Financial Aid

Undergraduate Financial Aid

2015–2016

FINANCIAL AID

The mission of the Office of Student Financial Aid is to help you and your family with the cost of attending the University of Wisconsin–Madison, by offering grants, work-study employment, and loans. Funds for these programs come from the federal government, the State of Wisconsin, and the university. We offer money management and debt counseling and information on other kinds of financial aid, such as scholarships and student employment.

How and When to Apply for Aid

We recommend that you complete your application as early in the year as possible to make sure you are considered for all funds.

All applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available online at fafsa.ed.gov, as soon as possible after January 1, 2015. Use UW–Madison’s school code 003895. After we receive your FAFSA we may request other information, such as your 2014 federal tax return transcript. The best way to keep track of the status of your financial aid application is to use the Student Center on My UW–Madison at my.wisc.edu. Once in the Student Center, click on the View Financial Aid module, select an aid year, followed by the Application Status link.

Special Students are not eligible for financial aid from our office unless returning to school for teacher certification (EDCS) or taking courses as pre-requisites for admission to a graduate of professional program (UNRS). Under these circumstances, students may qualify for Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study.

Summer Aid: If you wish to apply for summer financial aid, go to My UW–Madison (my.wisc.edu) and click on “Student Center.” In the “Finances” section find “View Financial Aid,” select aid year 2016, and click on “Summer Application.” Try to submit all your 2015–16 forms by late April. To be eligible for summer financial aid you must be enrolled half-time in a session at least four weeks in length. Types of aid available for summer are usually limited to Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, and Federal Pell Grant. If you receive a Federal Direct Loan during the summer it may affect the maximum amount of loan you can borrow during the following school year.

Note: Financial aid is awarded on an annual basis, so you must reapply every year.

Your Email and Address

Our office will contact you at your “wisc.edu” email address, or at your MAILING address if you have no email address. Be sure to keep both addresses current at My UW–Madison, my.wisc.edu.

How We Calculate Your Financial Need

The information on your FAFSA is analyzed by the Federal Student Aid Program and then reviewed for accuracy by our office. All the information you provide to us is kept confidential and is used only as necessary to calculate your financial aid.

For financial aid purposes, “need” is defined as the difference between your cost of attendance (as determined by the university) and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is calculated from the information you provided on your FAFSA. In some cases we must change the EFC. Common reasons are forms filled out incorrectly, incompletely, or with estimated rather than exact amounts.



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Your Cost of Attendance

Although the cost of attending UW–Madison will vary among all students, the university bases its financial aid packages on cost estimates or “budgets.” Below are the budgets we are using for an undergraduate for the 2015–16 academic year based on full-time enrollment.

	Wisconsin Resident	Non-Resident	Minnesota Resident
Tuition & Fees	\$10,399	\$26,649	\$13,185
Books & Supplies	1,200	1,200	1,200
Room & Board	8,804	8,804	8,804
Miscellaneous	3,286	3,286	3,286
Travel	1,030	1,630	1,370
TOTAL:	\$24,719	\$41,569	\$27,845

- Residency for tuition purposes is determined only by the residence examiner in the Registrar’s Office.
- Most nonresidents receive an extra travel allowance.
- Students in certain academic majors have extra course-related allowances.

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

It is a basic assumption of the federal financial aid programs that you and your family bear the main responsibility for paying college expenses. When the federal processor analyzes your FAFSA they calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—a measure of your family’s financial strength. This includes income, assets and debts, family size, number of children in college, and other factors. The EFC also takes into account your own income and assets.

Note About Independent Status: For financial aid purposes, you can be considered independent only if you meet one of the federal criteria listed below. Even if you are not supported by your parents or claimed as a dependent on your parent’s tax forms, to be eligible for financial aid as an independent or self-supporting student you must:

1. be born before January 1, 1992; or
2. be married; or
3. be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.) at the beginning of the 2015–16 school year; or
4. be currently serving active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training; or
5. be a veteran of the U.S. armed forces; or
6. have children who will receive more than half of their support from the student between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016; or

7. have dependents (other than the student’s children or spouse) who live with the student and who receive more than half of their support from the student, now and through June 30, 2016; or
8. have been in foster care or a dependant or ward of the court at anytime since the student turned age 13 years, where both parents were deceased; or
9. be an emancipated minor as determined by a court in the student’s state of legal residence as of the date the FAFSA is filed; or
10. be in legal guardianship as determined by a court in the student’s state of legal residence as of the date the FAFSA is filed; or
11. be determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless by the student’s high school or school district liaison at anytime on or after July 1, 2014; or
12. be determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless by the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on or after July 1, 2014; or
13. be determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program on or after July 1, 2014.

Meeting Your Financial Need

Our office makes every effort to meet your financial need. In many cases there are not enough funds to meet the full need, especially for non-resident students. You may only be eligible for a standard amount of Federal Direct Loan based on your grade level (\$5,500 maximum for freshmen). You may need to rely on private or merit scholarships, Federal Direct PLUS loans, or private loans to supplement your aid package.

Your Financial Aid Award Offer

When your aid award offer is ready you will receive an email at your “wisc.edu” address informing you to go to MyUW to log in and see your offer and instructions for next steps. If you have completed your aid application and sent us all requested information, you can expect to receive an award offer as follows:

Application Completed:	Expect Award Offer:
Before early March	By May 1
Early March and later	Several weeks after file completed

Financial Aid Changes and Appeals

If you would like us to reconsider your financial aid application, you may send a letter of appeal to our office. Appeals are usually successful only if your or your family’s income or expenses have changed dramatically since your original application. Likewise, if there are changes in your financial situation, such as a receipt of a scholarship, it is your responsibility to let our office know. We will send you an award revision if we need to make any changes to your original award.

Types of Aid

When you apply for financial aid through our office you will be considered for the following types of aid. Some funds may be depleted part way through the year, so it is always best to apply as early as possible.

Federal Pell Grant: Amounts up to \$5,645 based on need as determined by the Federal Pell Grant Program.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): Based on need (and availability of funds) as determined by our office.

Wisconsin Grant: A state grant program for Wisconsin residents, based on need as determined by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board and our office.

University Gift and Trust Funds: Donors make many bequests to the university to assist needy students. These grant funds are given in varying amounts on the basis of financial need as determined by our office.

Federal Perkins Loan: Amounts vary by grade level and need, with a \$27,500 cumulative undergraduate maximum. Interest is 5%, and neither interest nor payments begin until nine months after the student is no longer enrolled at least half-time. Borrowers must sign a promissory note. Based on financial need as determined by our office and on fund availability.

Nursing Student Loan (NSL): A federal loan program for nursing students. Awards range from \$100 to \$2,500 for the first two years, and up to \$4,000 per year in subsequent years, with a cumulative maximum of \$17,000. Interest is 5%, and neither interest nor payments begin until the student is no longer enrolled at least half-time in the School of Nursing.

Federal Work-Study (FWS): This is an employment program where students are awarded the opportunity to earn funds up to \$2,200 per school year based on financial need and fund availability. Students identify positions they are interested in (see Student Employment), apply, and interview for them, and once they begin working they are paid every two weeks. Positions are generally found on-campus.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan: First-time borrowers are required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Direct Loan entrance counseling when the loan is accepted. Eligibility is based on financial need as determined by our office. The interest rate will be set on July 1, 2015, and was not available at the time of publication. For 2014–15 the rate was fixed at 4.66%. Each loan has a loan fee currently set at 1.073% of the total amount borrowed – the rate may be changed on October 1 2015. Interest begins to accrue when the student is no longer enrolled at least half time. Repayment begins six months after that.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan: This loan is identical to the Direct Subsidized Loan with the following exceptions:

- This loan is not based on financial need.
- Interest accrues on the loan from the date of disbursement; however the borrower has the option of paying the interest

monthly, quarterly, or waiting to capitalize the interest (add the interest to the principle balance) at the end of their grace period on the individual loan.

Annual Maximums: All maximum loan amounts below are for 12-month periods beginning with summer and extending through the academic year.

Dependent freshmen	\$5,500 (up to \$3,500 subsidized)
Dependent sophomores	\$6,500 (up to \$4,500 subsidized)
Dependent juniors/seniors	\$7,500 (up to \$5,500 subsidized)
Independent freshmen	\$9,500 (up to \$3,500 subsidized)
Independent sophomores	\$10,500 (up to \$4,500 subsidized)
Independent juniors/seniors	\$12,500 (up to \$5,500 subsidized)

Aggregate Maximum for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans:

- \$31,000 for dependent students (\$23,000 subsidized limit)
- \$57,500 for independent students (\$23,000 subsidized limits)

Scholarships

The university offers a number of scholarships for both incoming freshmen and continuing undergraduates. These scholarships are generally offered in recognition of academic merit and artistic talent. For incoming freshmen, a scholarship is usually awarded based on outstanding high school performance. There is a uniform deadline of February 1 for incoming freshman to apply for scholarships. For returning students, scholarships are usually awarded based on academic record and/or outstanding ability in a particular field, generally without regard to financial need. Most of the schools/colleges and some individual departments within the university award scholarships to students studying within their programs. For more information on available scholarships, go to Scholarships@UW–Madison (scholarships.wisc.edu).

If you would like information about other possible scholarships, there are a number of websites that offer free scholarship information. Two of the best are www.fastweb.com and www.finaid.org. Other sources for non-university scholarships include high school guidance counselors, civic or church groups, labor unions, PTAs, or parents' employers.

Student Employment

Although Federal Work-Study positions are offered to some students as part of their financial aid package, there are many other job opportunities advertised through the UW Student Job Center at 333 East Campus Mall, #9101. Both on- and off-campus job openings are posted daily on the Job Center's website: www.jobcenter.wisc.edu. These jobs are open to all students. In addition, the Memorial Union, University Hospital and Clinics, University Housing, and campus libraries all hire many student employees each semester.

Short-Term Loans

We offer short-term loans on a limited basis to students registered in a current session. These loans are only given to help in unanticipated emergency situations and must be repaid within the semester they are borrowed. To be considered for a short-term loan you must make an appointment with a financial aid counselor. Students may choose to contact their school or college to see if a short term loan through them might be a better fit for their current need than a short term loan through the financial aid office.

Counseling

Our main reception desk is open from 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday. Our front desk staff can answer many questions, but in some cases it may be necessary for you to speak to a financial aid counselor.

Make an appointment to see a counselor if you have questions regarding financial aid or need assistance with budgeting, money management, or debt counseling. To schedule appointments, please call our office at 608-262-3060.

Other Types of Assistance

Students may be eligible for some of the following other types of assistance. Application procedures vary for each program.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students): Loans borrowed by parents of dependent undergraduates that are based on the parent's credit. Parent may borrow up to the student's cost of education minus other financial aid. Visit www.finaid.wisc.edu for more information. The interest rate will be set on July 1, 2015, and was not available at the time of publication. For 2014–15 the rate was fixed at 7.21%. Each loan has a loan fee currently set at 4.292% of the total amount borrowed—the rate may be changed on October 1, 2015. The PLUS loan can be deferred if the student or the parent borrower is enrolled at least half-time. If a PLUS Loan is denied, the student may be eligible to receive an additional Direct Unsubsidized Loan up to the independent student grade level limit for the academic year.

Private Loans: Loans that are offered through private lenders to provide additional funds. It is recommended that students exhaust federal and state aid before borrowing a private loan. These loans will require a credit check and most will require a co-signer if the borrower has little or no credit history. Private loans may have either a fixed or variable interest rate. Visit www.finaidlwisc.edu to compare and select private loans.

Lawton Undergraduate Minority Retention Grant: Grants of up to about \$3,000 per year, based on financial need, for Wisconsin or Minnesota resident African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have grade-point averages of at least 2.0. To apply, contact your school/college minority program coordinator, and follow the procedures described under "How and When to Apply" in this brochure.

Talent Incentive Program Grant: These grants are made possible by the Wisconsin State Legislature. The student must be a Wisconsin resident and certified as eligible by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board.

FASTrack (Financial Aid Security Track) Program: This program assists economically disadvantaged Wisconsin undergraduates in paying for college through a combination of grants, work, and small loans. The program assures that a student's financial need will be met each year for four years. Single, financially dependent students are considered for the program based on the family's current and past financial situation and need for aid. Both work and borrowing are minimized to reduce the student's financial burden. All students who apply for aid are considered for FASTrack—there is no special application. Qualifying students are selected by our office.

BANNER (Badger Aid for Non-Residents) is a program designed to help low-income non-resident students pay for college through grants, loans, and work. The program strives to meet a student's full financial need each year for four years. Single, financially dependent students are considered for the program based on the family's financial situation (current and past) and financial need as calculated by our office and funding availability. We consider all non-resident undergraduates who apply for aid through our office for BANNER—there is no special application. Qualifying students are selected by our office.

Veterans: For further information contact the Veteran Services and Military Assistance Center at veterans.wisc.edu or call 608-265-4628 or stop in at 333 East Campus Mall, 10th floor, Suite 10301.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may be eligible for tuition and book funding through a grant from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Visit their website, www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr. For information regarding disability-related services and programs on the UW–Madison campus, contact either the DVR office or the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 702 W. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53715, 608-263-2741.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant (BIA): Grants are available to full-time students who are also members of a federally recognized Indian tribe. The amount is based on financial need as determined by our office. These grants replace some or all of the loan or work-study portion in a student's aid package. For further information contact us or the respective tribal government.

Wisconsin Indian Grant (WIG): Grants are available to students who are both Wisconsin residents and American Indians. The amount is based on financial need as determined by our office. Contact us for more information.

Child-Care Tuition Assistance Program: Students with children may qualify for up to \$1,400 per academic year to assist in paying child-care costs. Eligibility is based on financial need, but unlike many other financial aid programs, all students, including Special students, those enrolled less than half-time, international students, and others, are potentially eligible. Applications are available from our office.

Financial Aid Eligibility

In order to receive funds through the Office of Student Financial Aid you must:

- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States (international students are not eligible for any aid through our office);
- have a valid Social Security number;
- be in compliance with Selective Service registration;
- be admitted to UW–Madison in a degree program (see section on Special students);
- demonstrate financial need as determined by the Office of Student Financial Aid (except for Federal Unsubsidized Stafford, PLUS, and alternative loans);
- maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by our office and by your academic college or school;
- carry a minimum of 6 credits per semester (half-time). Only the Pell Grant is available for less than half time enrollment;
- meet the eligibility requirements of each of the aid programs you accept;
- not be in default on any educational loan, not show an unwillingness to repay any educational loan, and not owe any refund on a grant or loan;
- have no convictions for the sale or possession of illegal drugs while receiving financial aid (depending on the date of conviction, you may be ineligible for federal student aid); and
- not be delinquent in payments of court-ordered child support and/or maintenance (applies to State of Wisconsin controlled grant ips).

Student Consumer Information

- Data on student-retention rates are available from the Office of the Registrar, www.registrar.wisc.edu.
- Information on academic programs, faculty, and physical facilities is available in the *Undergraduate Catalog*, online at pubs.wisc.edu/ug/index.htm.
- Information regarding university accreditation, such as that by the North Central Association, may be obtained from the Academic Planning and Institutional Research Office in the Office of the Provost, 170 Bascom Hall.
- The university tuition refund policy for withdrawal from classes is available on the “Tuition and Fees” link on the Office of the Registrar’s website (registrar.wisc.edu). Students with financial aid who withdraw will be required to return any tuition refund to the university’s financial aid accounts.
- Students who withdraw from the university may have to repay a portion of their award to the university. The exact amount of repayment will vary depending on when the withdrawal occurs. Any tuition refund to the student will automatically be applied to the amount that must be repaid.

- Criteria used to determine whether a student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) are available in the *Student Award Guide* on our website. Essentially, students are allowed to enroll for a maximum of 150% of the number of degree credits needed to complete the program, and must maintain a successful degree credit completion rate of two-thirds of all credits for which they have enrolled. They must also have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at the end of each academic year. This applies to all semesters during which the student is enrolled, not just those during which aid is received.
- We recommend students be in contact with the aid office when considering withdrawing from a course or a semester. There can be SAP and repayment ramifications that academic advisors may not be aware of.
- There is a complete listing of our Consumer Information Disclosures at finaid.wisc.edu/818.htm
- Information on the Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA) can be found at www.registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa_overview.htm
- Information on the Annual Security Report can be found at www.registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa_overview.htm
- Information on Campus Safety can be found at safeu.wisc.edu
- Information on voter registration can be found at vote.wisc.edu
- Information on vaccination requirements is available at uhs.wisc.edu/services/records/immunization-and-health-history.shtml
- Information on the Drug & Alcohol Policy is available at students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/policies.html

The information in this brochure is the most accurate available at the time of publication, and is subject to change at any time without notice.

In conformance with applicable federal and state law and with university policy, UW–Madison does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, arrest or conviction record, marital status, handicap, political affiliation, or veteran’s status with regard to treatment of employees and students in educational programs or activities which it operates. Inquiries concerning this policy may be directed to the appropriate campus admitting or employing unit or to the Office for Equity and Diversity, 179A Bascom Hall, 608–263–2378, oed.wisc.edu.

Office of Student Financial Aid
University of Wisconsin–Madison

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