



Financial Aid Checklist

- Submit the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov**
 - The FAFSA is available October 1 for the following academic year.
 - Priority is given to those students that have completed a FAFSA before January 1 using UW-W's school code: 003926.
- Submit additional documentation if requested**
 - Students will be notified if additional information is required.
 - Your FAFSA cannot be processed without the requested documentation.
- Review your Financial Aid Offer**
 - The estimated Aid Offer mailing date is February 15 for students with a completed FAFSA.
 - New students will be sent an Aid Offer via postal mail.
 - Continuing students are sent a Financial Aid Offer Notification to their campus email account.
 - Financial Aid information for all students can be seen online in your WINS account, www.uww.edu/wins.
- Accept your aid online, via your WINS account**
 - We recommend accepting your financial aid by May 1 (if you receive your Award Letter after May 1, you have 3 weeks from the date we send you your Award Letter to review/accept your financial aid).
- Verify your enrollment details**
 - Your aid will not pay your bill if your actual enrollment does not match what was on your Financial Aid Offer (e.g., half time, three-quarter, full time, etc.). Please notify us if your enrollment level has changed.
- Decide who has access to your Financial Aid information**
 - To authorize the Financial Aid Office to speak with your parent, legal guardian, or spouse, log into WINS, select the Financial Aid tile, and then click Release Financial Information.
- Provide authorization to pay miscellaneous charges**
 - To authorize federal financial aid to pay charges other than tuition, segregated fees, course fees, housing, and meal plans, log into WINS, select the Financial Aid tile, and then click View Student Permissions
- Report private scholarships or other sources of aid not on your Award Letter**
 - The Scholarship Form can be found at www.uww.edu/financialaid/forms.
- Complete federal loan requirements at www.StudentAid.gov**
 - Complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement, for **ALL** borrowers beginning 21-22 academic year
 - Complete Loan Entrance Counseling, for first-time borrower
 - Sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN), for first-time borrower
- Research additional financing options, if needed**
 - Federal Direct Parent Plus Loan: www.uww.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/parent
 - Private Loans: www.uww.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/private
 - Payment Plan: www.uww.edu/adminaffairs/finance/sfs
- Learn more about Federal Work-Study or regular payroll employment opportunities**
 - Use Handshake to search for student jobs: www.uww.edu/financialaid/employment
- Review student billing and refund options**
 - See <http://www.uww.edu/adminaffairs/finance/sfs> for tuition due dates and payment options.
 - Visit www.uww.edu/studentbilling to pay online and set up direct deposit of refunds.
 - Use cost.uww.edu to estimate your charges.



Financial Aid Policies

Enrollment

Financial aid awards are based on actual enrollment for the term in which the aid is awarded. In order for funds to disburse, you must be registered for the same number of credits for which you were awarded aid. Most financial aid programs require at least half time enrollment. It is your responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of any changes to enrollment. On the 10th class day of the term, your financial aid will be revised based on the enrollment which is captured on that day.

For details of enrollment requirements, please visit <http://www.uww.edu/financialaid/policies/enrollment>.

Withdrawals/Return of Title IV Funds

If you withdraw from all courses during a semester, the Financial Aid Office must calculate the amount of financial aid you did not earn. This is determined based on the number of days you attended for the semester. The date of withdrawal used in the calculation is based on the date you submit your intent to withdraw to the Registrar's Office or the last date of an academically-related activity, if this is known to be different. Unearned funds must be returned to federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs, and in many cases, this will cause you to owe a balance to the university. Once you have completed more than 60% of the semester, you have earned all financial aid for that semester. Your aid eligibility may also have to be recalculated if you stop attending all courses without completing the official withdrawal process.

For full details of how withdrawing from courses impacts your financial aid, please visit <http://www.uww.edu/financialaid/policies/withdrawals>.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

We are required by federal regulations to monitor that all students are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) towards completion of their degree. In order to receive financial aid, students must comply with the three eligibility standards of satisfactory progress:

1. Minimum cumulative grade point average
 - a. 1.5 for undergraduate students with 1-36 attempted credits
 - b. 2.0 for all other undergraduate students, including transfer students
 - c. 3.0 for graduate students
2. Minimum number of successfully completed attempted credits
 - a. All students are required to successfully complete at least 67% of their attempted credits
3. Maximum timeframe to completion
 - a. All students are only eligible for financial aid for 150% of the published length of their academic program.

Students who fail to meet these standards will not be eligible for federal, state, and most institutional financial aid. SAP is monitored at the end of each spring semester and summer term.

For full details of the requirements for all three components, please visit <http://www.uww.edu/financialaid/policies/academic-progress>.

Contact Information

Address:	Financial Aid Office	Phone:	262-472-1130
	University of Wisconsin – Whitewater	Fax:	262-472-5655
	Hyer Hall 130	Email:	uwwfao@uww.edu
	800 West Main Street	Website:	www.uww.edu/financialaid
	Whitewater, WI 53190	Cost Estimator:	http://cost.uww.edu/



Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is a loan for parents of dependent students to supplement the financial aid package. The PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) Loan allows parents to borrow money to cover any educational costs not already covered by the student's other financial aid. PLUS loans are the financial responsibility of the parents, not the student.

Eligibility

- The parent borrower must be the student's biological or adoptive parent. The parent borrower may be the student's step-parent if the step-parent information was provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Your child must have completed the FAFSA and been awarded, be a dependent student who is enrolled at least half-time and be making Satisfactory Academic Progress. In addition, parents and their child must be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens with a domestic address. PLUS Loans are not processed until the student's financial aid has been awarded.
- To be eligible for a PLUS Loan, the parent must pass a credit check conducted by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that indicates they do not have adverse credit history. For the PLUS loan, ED defines adverse credit history as being 90 or more days delinquent on any debt or having any debt within the past five years subjected to default determination, bankruptcy discharge, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment, or write-off.
- If a parent is denied a PLUS loan, the Financial Aid Office will proceed based on the parent's preference as indicated on the PLUS Loan application. Parents may appeal the credit decision, find a co-signer, or the student may borrow additional Unsubsidized Loan based on annual loan limits (the student may borrow the additional Unsubsidized loans only if the parent indicated they "will not pursue" the other options in the application).

Application Process

The Parent PLUS Loan program does not allow a student to apply for funds as the borrower. A parent must complete the PLUS Loan Request process for the appropriate aid year. A new application must be completed every year the parent wishes to borrow a PLUS Loan.

- Parents who wish to apply for the loan need to complete the PLUS Request Process online at **www.studentaid.gov** after determining the amount they would like to borrow. PLUS Loan applications become available for the next academic year at the end of May.
- The parent will need to sign in using their own FSAID issued by the Department of Education. If you do not have an FSA ID, you can apply for one at fsaid.ed.gov. Once you have signed in, select the "Parent Borrowers" tab to begin the application.
- Complete the application by filling in the requested information. A credit check will be performed and results will be displayed immediately. If your application is approved, you will be notified when to complete the "PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note."

Fees and Interest Rates

- Loan fees are deducted from each loan disbursement.
- Interest rates are established each year based on an index rate.
- The interest rate, once established on a loan, will be fixed for the life of that loan.
- For additional information, including the most current rates and loan fees, please visit: **www.uww.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/parent**



Private Student Loans

Private Loans (also referred to as Alternative Loans) are used to help bridge the gap between the cost of your education and the amount available from state and federal financial aid programs. Private loans are applied for and are the financial responsibility of the student.

- Private Loans may carry higher interest rates, require a co-signer, and/or offer different repayment options than federal loans.
- Each loan program will differ, so it is important that you know the terms and conditions of the loan, as well as your rights and responsibilities as a borrower.
- Before you explore private loan options, please make sure that you have exhausted all possible federal and state financial aid funds available.
- Our office strongly recommends that students file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) before applying for private loans.
- Private loans for the next academic year will not be processed prior to July as most lenders require a credit check which is only valid for 90 days.
- Processing time can take up to one month depending on current volume so be sure to apply well in advance of tuition due dates.

Steps to apply for a Private Loan

- You will need to choose a lender and apply for the loan directly using the lender's online application on their website, or in person.
- You may conduct your own research and apply using any lender you wish. Our office will certify Private Loans from any lender.
- Most applicants will need to apply for a Private Loan with a co-signer. A co-signer is someone who signs your promissory note along with you. By co-signing your promissory note, this person assumes responsibility for the loan if you fail to repay it.
- Applying with a co-signer can increase your chances of receiving a Private Loan with the most attractive terms. If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien, you may be required to apply with a co-signer.
- The UWW Financial Aid Office offers an online comparison tool to help research lenders. Please visit uww.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/private and click on the **Fast Choice** Link.



Fees and Interest Rates

Most Private Loan programs do not charge borrower fees. Some Private Loans may come with one-time fees that represent a percentage of your requested amount. Private Loan fees vary from lender to lender. Fees usually come in two forms:

- **Origination Fees:** These fees are either added to (or deducted from) your total loan amount when funds are disbursed to the school.
- **Disbursement Fees:** These fees are added to your loan amount when you enter repayment.

Private Loans may offer the borrower a choice between fixed or variable interest rate. The credit scores of the borrower and co-signer will determine your interest rate.

- Make sure you know your interest rate information before signing the promissory note.
- Repayment typically begins six months after you graduate, drop below half time or withdraw from school.