

Funding for College

Financial Aid:

Grants, Scholarships, and Loans



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

Agenda

- Review costs associated with college
- Explain how financial aid is determined
- Discuss the various types of financial aid
- Outline the financial aid application steps

College Costs

Direct Costs

- Items charged by the institution
 - Tuition and fees
 - Living Expenses
 - On-campus residence hall/dorm (Housing)
 - Meal plan (Food)

Indirect Costs

- Items not billed by the institution, but allowed to be in the Estimated Cost of Attendance
 - Educational supplies
 - Transportation
 - Miscellaneous (personal) expenses

College costs and Estimated Cost of Attendance figures can vary from college to college.

UW-W Sample Estimated Cost of Attendance

	WI Resident	MN Reciprocity	Non-Resident
Tuition/Fees	\$8,976	\$10,548	\$19,076
Housing/Food	\$8,400	\$8,400	\$8,400
Direct Costs Subtotal	\$17,376	\$18,948	\$27,476
Supplies/Course Materials	\$300	\$300	\$300
Transportation	\$900	\$900	\$900
Miscellaneous/Personal	\$2,260	\$2,260	\$2,260
TOTAL	\$20,836	\$22,408	\$30,936

Figures are based on being a full-time undergraduate student, attending in-person classes, and living on campus with a meal plan. Amounts listed are the Estimated Cost of Attendance figures for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Financial Aid Determination

- Most types of financial aid require you to demonstrate federally-determined “financial need”

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance} \\ - \text{Student Aid Index (SAI)} \\ \hline = \text{Need} \end{array}$$

Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Is the result of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid[®] (FAFSA)
- Main components for a Dependent student include:
 - Parent and student income
 - Parent and student assets
 - Number in the household

Dependency Status

- Dependent students are required to include parental information on the FAFSA
- Dependency status for the U.S. Department of Education is different than for the IRS or other federal agencies

Dependency Status

- Students are Dependent for 2026-2027 if they cannot answer yes to one of these items:
 - Were you born before 1/1/2003 (24 or older)?
 - Are you married?
 - Are you working on a Master's degree?
 - Do you have children you financially support?
 - Are you a Veteran?

Dependency Status

- Students are Dependent for 2026-2027 if they cannot answer yes to one of these items:
 - Are you an emancipated minor?
 - Are you in a legal guardianship?
 - Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless?

Types of Financial Aid

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships
- Grants
- Student Loans
 - Federal
 - Private
- Student Employment

Scholarships

- Financial aid that **does not** have to be repaid
- Awarded on the basis of merit, skill, or a unique characteristic
- Foundations, businesses, charitable organizations
- Deadlines and application procedures vary widely
- Begin researching early!

Scholarships

- First-year scholarships are awarded by the UW-W Admissions Office, based on merit:
 - Admission application needs to be submitted by January 1
 - <https://www.uww.edu/scholarships#new-students>
 - <https://www.uww.edu/scholarships#nonresident-students>
- Scholarships for the remaining time here are awarded through the UW-Whitewater Foundation:
 - Application is open typically from December 1 to mid-February
 - <https://www.uww.edu/scholarships#current-students>

Grants

- Financial aid that **does not** have to be repaid
- Based on demonstrated financial need
- **Federal Pell Grant** (SAI must be $\leq 6,655$)
 - \$740 – \$7,395/ year
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant**
 - \$800/ year for \$0 SAI at UW-W

**Amounts listed are for 2025-2026; 2026-2027 amounts will be published in Spring 2026.*

Grants

- **Wisconsin Grant** (SAI must be $\leq 6,250$)
 - \$1,000 – \$3,500/year
- **Non-Resident Grant** (SAI must be $\leq 10,000$)
 - \$1,000 - \$1,500/year

**Amounts listed are for 2025-2026; 2026-2027 amounts will be published in Spring 2026.*

Federal Student Loans

- Financial aid that ***does need to be repaid***
- **Direct Subsidized Loan**
 - Government pays loan interest as long as student is enrolled at least half-time (6+ credits)
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loan**
 - Student charged interest while in school
 - 2025-2026 interest rate is 6.39% for undergraduate students; 2026-2027 interest rate will be determined in May 2026

Federal Student Loans

- Annual maximum loan amounts (combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized)

	Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$5,500	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$6,500	\$10,500
Junior & Senior	\$7,500	\$12,500
Lifetime Limit	\$31,000	\$57,500

Financing Options

- If students need assistance above what is offered by completing the FAFSA, they can look into two different financing options:
 - Parent can apply for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan
 - Student can apply for a Private/Alternative Loan, with a credit-worthy cosigner

Financing Options

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

- For parents of Dependent students
- 2025-2026 interest rate: 8.94%
- 2025-2026 origination fee: 4.228%
- Repayment begins 60 days after the loan disburses; or 6 months after graduation if the parent requests a deferment
- Apply online at **Studentaid.gov**

Private/Alternative Loan

- Borrowed from a bank/credit union
- Interest rate, fees, and repayment plans all vary by lender
- Repayment typically begins 6 months after graduation, but interest will accrue while in school
- Visit **www.uww.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/private**

Employment

- All UW-W jobs are posted on Handshake
- Students who are awarded Federal Work-Study (FWS) use Handshake to search for positions
- Being awarded and accepting FWS does not guarantee employment
- FWS funds are earned and students receive those earnings via bi-weekly paychecks; FWS earnings are not paid toward tuition charges

Applying for Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid® (FAFSA):
 - FAFSA.gov or StudentAid.gov
 - UW-Whitewater's school code: **003926**
- Must reapply every year:
 - 2025-2026 was available by December 1, 2024
 - 2026-2027 available by October 1, 2025

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FederalStudentAid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾Grants and Loans ▾Loan Repayment ▾Loan Forgiveness ▾

BILL ▾

Get Money To Help Pay for School

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form
[Start New Form](#)

Edit a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form
[Edit Existing Forms](#)

Accept an Invitation for a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form
[Accept an Invitation](#)

Need the 2025–26 FAFSA Form?
[Start New Form](#) | [Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation](#)

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA® form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year

State of Residence

[Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)



Who should complete the FAFSA® form?

Any student, regardless of income, who



30 minutes

How long will it take?

It takes most people 30 minutes to fill out the FAFSA form, including



What do I need?

- Verified account username and password (FSA ID)

The logo for the FAFSA form, featuring the word "FAFSA" in large blue letters with a registered trademark symbol, and "form" in smaller blue letters below it. To the left of the text is a stylized illustration of three students: one carrying a backpack, one sitting at a desk, and one standing.

A thick purple arrow pointing from the right towards the FAFSA logo.

- Available in English and Spanish

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The logo for the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, featuring a stylized white 'W' on a dark background.

University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

What's Needed to Complete the FAFSA?

Student Demographic Data

- Name
- Date of birth
- Social Security Number
- Driver's license number (if you have one)
- StudentAid.gov account (Federal Student Aid ID*)

*create FSA ID at least 3 days prior to completing the FAFSA;
don't use your high school email address

Student Income Information

- Income earned from work*
- Adjusted Gross Income from federal tax form (if filed taxes)*
- Checking, savings, and other investments information

*automatically imported

What's Needed to Complete the FAFSA?

Parent Demographic Data

- Name(s)
- Date(s) of birth
- Social Security Number(s) (SSN)
 - If parent does not have an SSN, enter all zeros
- Marital status
- Parent(s) must create a StudentAid.gov account (Federal Student Aid ID*)

*create FSA ID at least 3 days prior to completing the FAFSA

Parent Income Information

- Income earned from work*
- Adjusted Gross Income from federal tax form (if filed taxes)*
- Checking, savings, and other investments information
- Number of people in the household*

*automatically imported (parents without SSN must manually enter tax data)

What's Needed to Complete the FAFSA?

2026-2027

- Use 2024 taxes

FAFSA Contributors

FAFSA[®] FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran

Understanding the FAFSA[®] Form

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Contributors to the FAFSA[®] Form



Parents or Spouses

Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



How to Invite

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

[Information or Documents You May Need](#)

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

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Dependent Student FAFSA contributors

- Student
- Married parents
 - If parents filed joint tax returns, only one parent is needed
- If parents divorced, parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months and that parent's spouse
 - If both parents provided equal support, then the parent whose income is greater and that parent's spouse

Inviting Parents to FAFSA Form

FAFSA[®] FORM 2026–27

Student Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

Personal

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Contributor Invite

Signature

Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA[®] Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

599887939test@testcod.edu

Send Invite

FAFSA[®] FORM 2026–27

Student Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

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Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

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Send Invite to 599887939test@testcod.edu?

We'll send an invitation link and an access code to this email address.

Go Back

Send Invite

Inviting Parents to FAFSA Form

Invited parent(s) receive(s) an email to add their information to the student's FAFSA

Federal Student Aid

Complete Your Section of Alex's FAFSA® Form



Hello,

Alex T. started their 2026–27 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form and needs your input as a contributor. Alex won't be eligible for federal student aid without your help.

[Accept Invitation](#)

You will need to log in to StudentAid.gov to accept the invitation. If you log in without selecting the "Accept Invitation" button, you will need to go to the "FAFSA® Form" menu at the top of the page, select "Accept Contributor Invite," and provide this code:

7X6XH XF

If this invitation was sent to you by mistake, [decline the invitation](#).

Why You Were Invited

We need some information from you to determine what aid Alex is eligible for. Without your input, they won't be eligible for federal student aid.

Being a contributor doesn't make you responsible for Alex's education costs.

The FAFSA® form is often used to determine a student's eligibility for state and school financial aid in addition to federal financial aid.

We recommend finishing early in case states or schools have earlier **deadlines**.

 [Sign up for text alerts](#) to stay updated on our grant programs, loan forgiveness programs, repayment plans, and information about your loans.

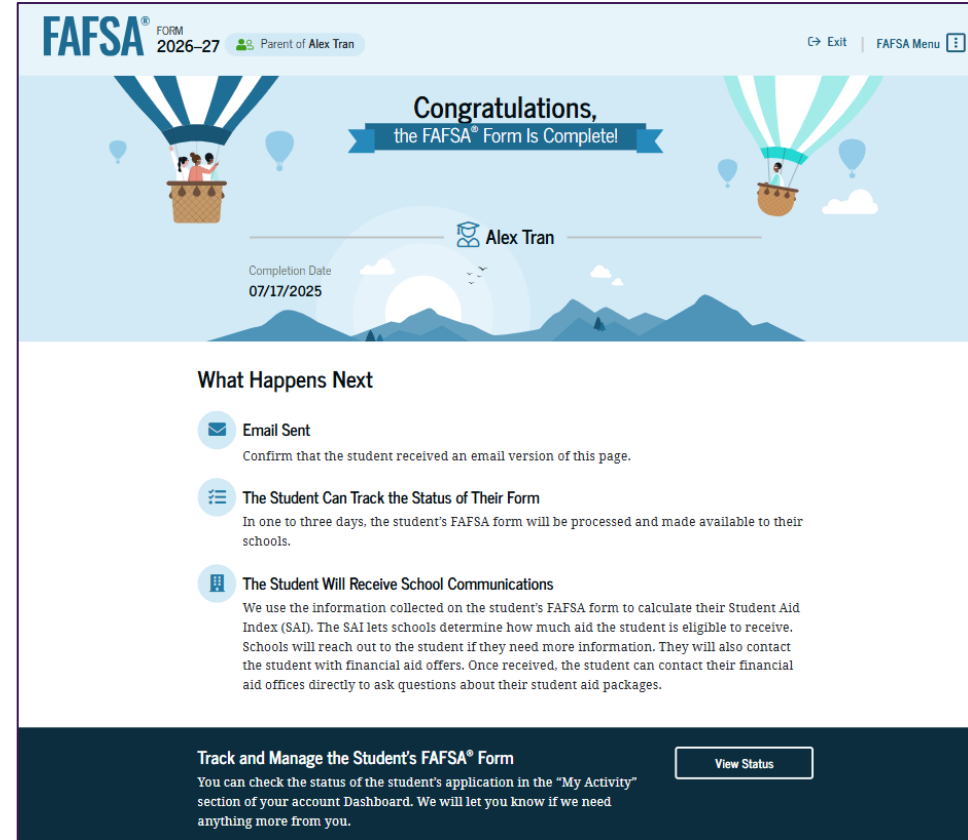
Dependent Student FAFSA Confirmation

Upon submitting the student's FAFSA form, the parent is presented a confirmation page.

This page displays information about tracking the student's FAFSA form and next steps.

The student will receive an email with the full, detailed confirmation.

With the student and parent sections completed and signed, the FAFSA form is now considered complete and submitted for processing.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 confirmation page for Alex Tran, a dependent student. The page features a celebratory banner with hot air balloons and the text "Congratulations, the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!". Below the banner, the student's name "Alex Tran" and the completion date "07/17/2025" are displayed. The page is divided into sections: "What Happens Next" and "Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form".

What Happens Next

- Email Sent**
Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.
- The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form**
In one to three days, the student's FAFSA form will be processed and made available to their schools.
- The Student Will Receive School Communications**
We use the information collected on the student's FAFSA form to calculate their Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine how much aid the student is eligible to receive. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with financial aid offers. Once received, the student can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form
You can check the status of the student's application in the "My Activity" section of your account Dashboard. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

[View Status](#)

After the FAFSA

- Students may be required to submit additional paperwork:
 - Tax forms
 - Verification worksheets confirming household size
 - Statement of educational purpose
- New students are sent paper letters; returning students are sent emails requesting the documentation:
 - All students can see the requested items when logging in to WINS

Common FAFSA Errors

- Incorrect Social Security Numbers and other personal information
- Using incorrect parent tax data in cases of divorce or separation
- Failure to include stepparent's information if the parent whose information being reported on the FAFSA has remarried
- Incorrect household size
- Including main home and/or protected retirement investments in net worth
- Not listing a school on the FAFSA. UW-Whitewater's FAFSA School Code is **003926**.

Special Circumstances

- Contact the Financial Aid Office at each college for a review of your situation
- Reasons for requesting a special condition:
 - Change in employment status
 - Out-of-pocket medical expenses
 - Change in marital status
 - Loss of benefits (e.g. child support)

Additional Sources of Aid

- Free scholarship search engines:
 - Collegeboard.org
 - Fastweb.com
 - ScholarshipAmerica.org
 - Scholarships.com
- Check with your high school guidance/student services office

Questions?

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Financial Aid Office

Hyer Hall 130

800 West Main Street

Whitewater, WI 53190

uww.edu/financialaid

uwwfao@uww.edu

(p) 262-472-1130

(f) 262-472-5655



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