

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 widely 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 2025-2026 if they cannot answer yes to one of these items:
 - Were you born before 1/1/2002 (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 2025-2026 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 $\leq 6,650$)
 - \$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

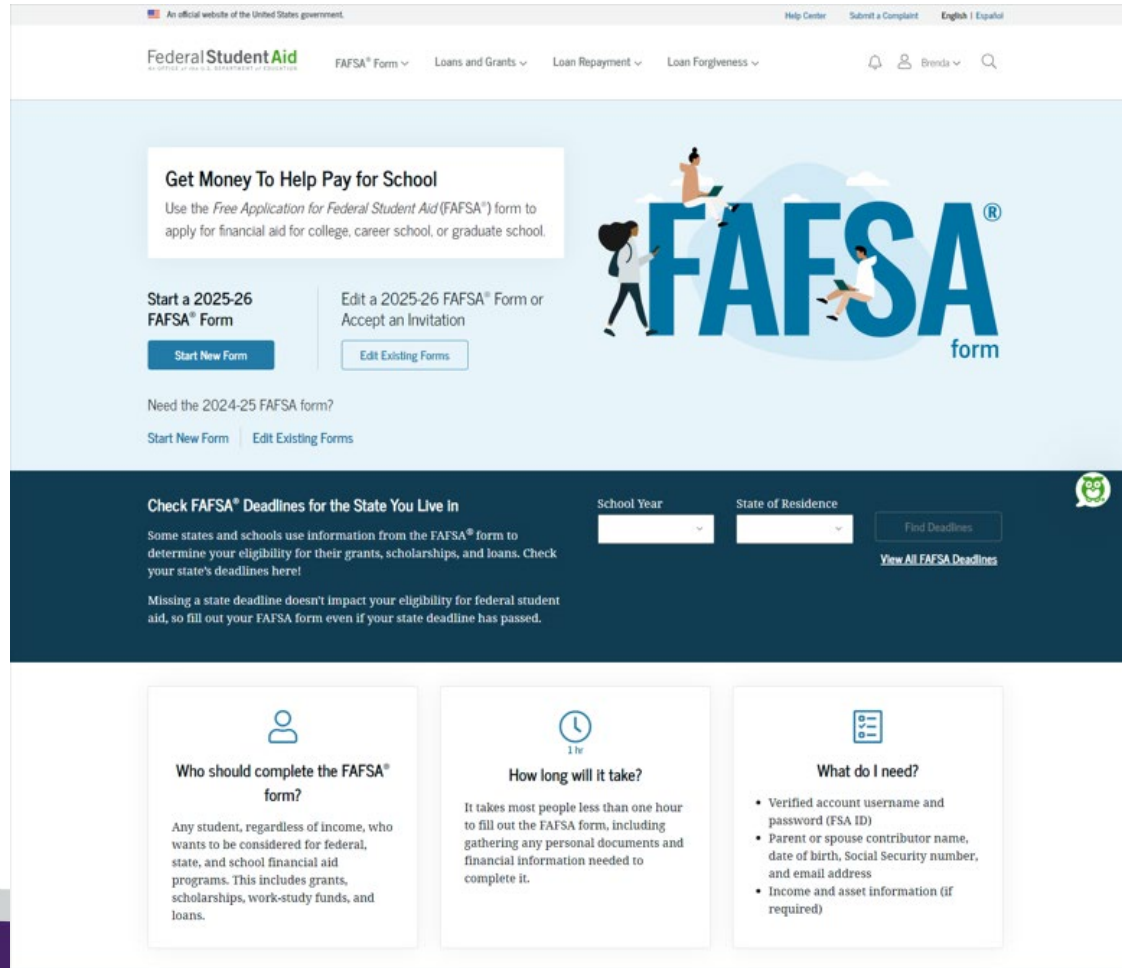
- All UW-W jobs are posted on Handshake
- Students who are awarded Federal Work-Study (FWS) use Handshake to search for positions
- Being awarded and accepting FWS does not guarantee employment
- FWS funds are earned and students receive those earnings via bi-weekly paychecks; FWS earnings are not paid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

Applying for Financial Aid

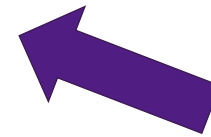
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- 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 will be available October 1, 2025

Free Application for Federal Student Aid



The screenshot shows the FAFSA website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Help Center', 'Submit a Complaint', and 'English | Español'. Below this, the 'Federal Student Aid' logo is visible, along with links for 'FAFSA® Form', 'Loans and Grants', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'Get Money To Help Pay for School' and 'Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.' To the right of this text is a large 'FAFSA form' logo with an illustration of students. Below the banner, there are buttons for 'Start a 2025-26 FAFSA® Form' and 'Edit a 2025-26 FAFSA® Form or Accept an Invitation'. Further down, there's a section for 'Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in' with dropdown menus for 'School Year' and 'State of Residence', and a 'Find Deadlines' button. At the bottom, there are three informational cards: 'Who should complete the FAFSA® form?', 'How long will it take?', and 'What do I need?'. The 'What do I need?' card lists requirements: 'Verified account username and password (FSA ID)', 'Parent or spouse contributor name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address', and 'Income and asset information (if required)'.



- Available in English and Spanish

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)
- 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 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?

2025-2026

- Use 2023 taxes

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

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

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 FASFA Form

FAFSA[®] FORM 2025–26

Student Jenny Price

Save | FAFSA Menu

1

2

3

4

5

Personal Circumstances

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Signature

Invite Parent(s) to This FAFSA[®] Form

We Need Information for Your Parent(s) Now

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA[®] form. This doesn't make them financially responsible for your education. You can invite one or both of your parents to your form now and have them complete their required sections.

Enter information about your parent(s) identified on the prior page, and we'll send an email on your behalf.

If they already have a StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID), the information entered here must exactly match that account.

IMPORTANT: If your contributor doesn't have a Social Security number, you may encounter an issue that impacts your ability to add them to your form. If you receive this error, review the [guidance and recommended workaround](#) and try again.

Use the email address that is most likely to reach your contributor. Unlike the other information provided, the email address doesn't need to match the email associated with their StudentAid.gov account.

Parent

First Name ①

Mark

Last Name ①

Price

Parent Spouse or Partner

Optional

First Name ①

Last Name ①

Date of Birth ⑦

Month Day Year

01 01 1980

Social Security Number (SSN) ⑦

***-**-8744 SHOW SSN

☐ My parent doesn't have an SSN. Checking this box when your parent does have an SSN may delay processing of your FAFSA form.

Email Address ⑦

brianprice@gmail.com

Confirm Email Address ⑦

brianprice@gmail.com

Send Invite

Previous

Date of Birth ⑦

Month Day Year

Social Security Number (SSN) ⑦

☐ My parent doesn't have an SSN. Checking this box when your parent does have an SSN may delay processing of your FAFSA form.

Email Address ⑦

Confirm Email Address ⑦

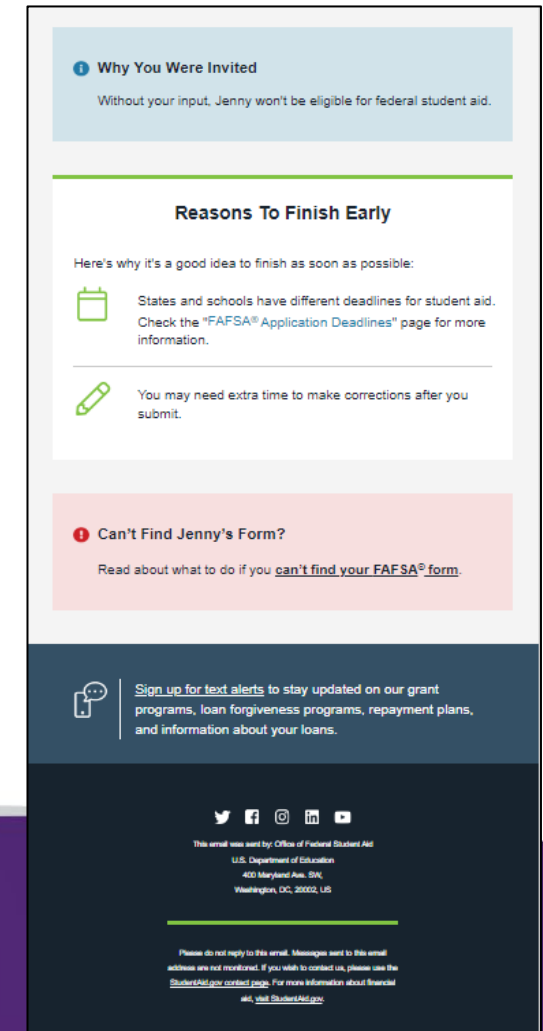
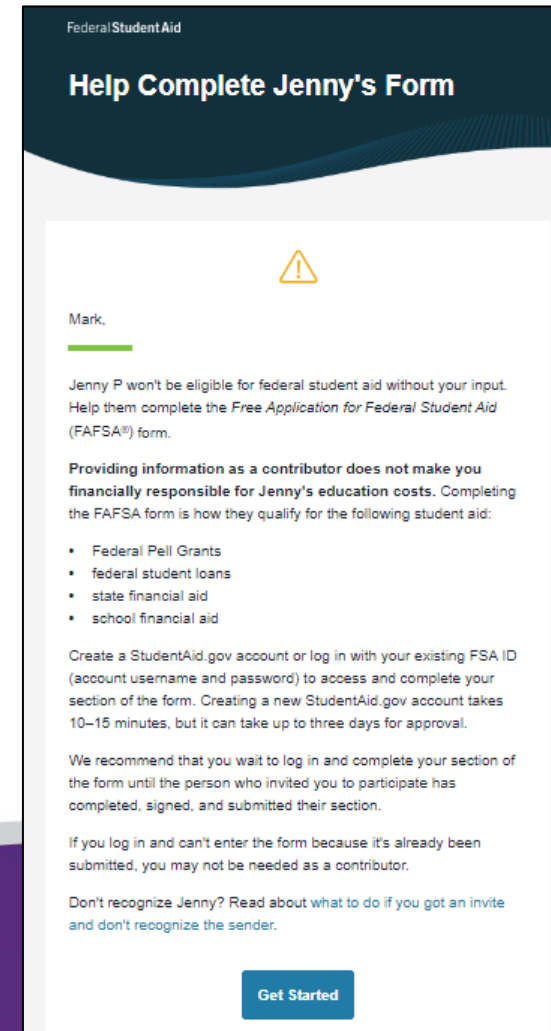
Send Invite

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University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

Inviting Parents to FAFSA Form

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



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 confirmation page for the 2025-26 form. The header includes the FAFSA logo, the form year, and the user's name, "Parent of Jenny Price". A navigation bar at the top right contains "Exit" and "FAFSA Menu" links. The main content area features a celebratory banner with hot air balloons and the text "Congratulations, The FAFSA® Form Is Complete!". Below this, the student's name "Jenny Price" and the completion date "08/28/2024" are displayed. A section titled "What Happens Next" lists three steps: "Email Sent" (confirming an email was sent), "The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form" (indicating the form will be processed within three days), and "The Student Will Receive School Communications" (explaining that schools will use the form to calculate the Student Aid Index (SAI) and may reach out for more information). At the bottom, a dark blue footer contains the text "Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form" and a "View Status" button.

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

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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