

Financial Aid Information 2007-08

A guide to help you estimate and
apply for a financial aid package

This Is Your Information Booklet

Financial aid for postsecondary (beyond high school) education can look like a real mess! There are all sorts of new terms you probably haven't heard before. There are many rules and procedures, some of which may change from year to year. This 2007-08 edition of Financial Aid Information will help you sort things out. It will help you:

- learn about the types of financial aid available to support your education beyond high school
- estimate how much financial aid you may be eligible for
- apply for financial aid to help pay the costs of attending a school or college in 2007-08.

This booklet is mainly for high school students and their parents, but can be used by anyone needing financial aid to return to school. It contains information to help you apply for financial aid and evaluate aid offers by different schools and colleges.

You may want to save this booklet until you have accepted a financial aid package, if you qualify. The Financial Aid Checklist on page 19 will help you keep track of your progress.

Study the information in this booklet carefully, and ask your parents to study it also. You need parental help and cooperation to apply for and receive financial aid (unless you are an "independent student," see page 5).

Use the worksheets and checklist to help you do your calculations and make sure you get everything done on time. If you have any questions on financial aid, ask your counselor for help. Good luck!



***Applying for
financial aid
can make YOU
a winner!***

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A Message to Parents About Financial Aid



Helping your son or daughter obtain financial aid is important, but it isn't simple! You will have to fill out forms with a lot of personal financial information. You may need to apply to several financial aid sources. Remember that your child cannot get financial aid unless you help by filling out the necessary forms. Your time and effort can give your child the opportunity to attend the school or college that is best for him or her.

Important: Your child doesn't need to have high grades in high school to be eligible for financial aid. (They must be high enough for admission to the college or school, of course.) Financial aid is figured on the basis of your child's financial need, not on grades.

Here are some suggestions on how to approach applying for financial aid:

- Take time to go through this book with your son or daughter. Write down any questions as they occur to you. High school counselors and financial aid offices at the schools or colleges your child is considering will help you.
- Check on the Federal PLUS Loan Program, described on page 21. You may wish to consider this program to help you meet your expected parental contribution.
- Complete your federal income tax return for 2006 as soon as possible. If your child will be required to file a return, that should be completed as well. The financial need analysis forms require personal financial information taken from your IRS 1040 (or 1040A or 1040EZ) form. If your income was low enough that you do not need to file an income tax return, you will still need to have records showing what your income was.

- You don't need to file your return until the date it is due. When your child applies for financial aid, you will probably be required to furnish copies of your return(s) and to certify that they are the ones that have been or will be filed.
- Check pages 7 and 22 for some "tax breaks" and related steps that may help toward making your parental contribution.

All agencies to which you submit financial need analysis forms, IRS forms, and related documents are required by law to keep all information strictly confidential.

- Set aside time to complete the financial need form(s) with your child. The forms are complicated, with over 100 questions, and it takes time and work to fill them out correctly. Read and follow the instructions that come with the forms.
- Make sure your child has his or her own Social Security number. It is required for entry on the financial need analysis form you will have to complete.
- Keep copies of your tax form, the financial need form(s) that you send in (see page 19), and all correspondence with the financial aid offices at the schools or colleges to which your child applies. You may need to refer to them later.
- Become aware of deadlines (pages 24, 28-29) at all the institutions your child is considering. Late applications may be penalized or disqualified.
- Send financial need forms by regular First Class U.S. Mail. Registered or certified mail will delay processing. The date that financial aid offices use for priority assignment is usually the in-stamp date at the needs analysis agency.
- Use the Checklist on page 19. It can help you and your child complete the application process successfully.
- Remember that students from most income backgrounds are eligible for some type of financial aid. It is usually advisable to file a financial need analysis form.

Begin work early on the financial need form(s). Promptness pays!

Continuing Your Education

It is important to consider continuing your education after high school, or going back to school if you graduated some years ago, because:

- People with postsecondary education often find jobs more easily and usually earn more money than those with only a high school diploma.
- Many desirable jobs require you to have a college degree or a technical college/vocational school associate degree or diploma.
- Attending a school or college lets you meet different kinds of people, expand your skills, and develop new opportunities for yourself.

There are **many** types of colleges and universities, technical colleges, and vocational schools, in-state and out-of-state, for you to choose from. These include:

- University of Wisconsin System campuses
- Public and private universities and colleges in Wisconsin and throughout the nation
- Wisconsin Technical College System campuses
- Private vocational schools.

Education beyond high school will bring you face-to-face with one important fact: **postsecondary education will cost you money!** Your education through high school was paid for with tax dollars (unless you went to a private or parochial school), but you will have to pay at least part of the costs of your future education. This is where financial aid programs can help you out.

Financial aid programs provide you with assistance to attend the college or school that best fits with your abilities, interests, and needs, even if your own and your family's financial means are limited. **There is financial aid money to help you pay for an education at all types of postsecondary schools, colleges, and universities.**

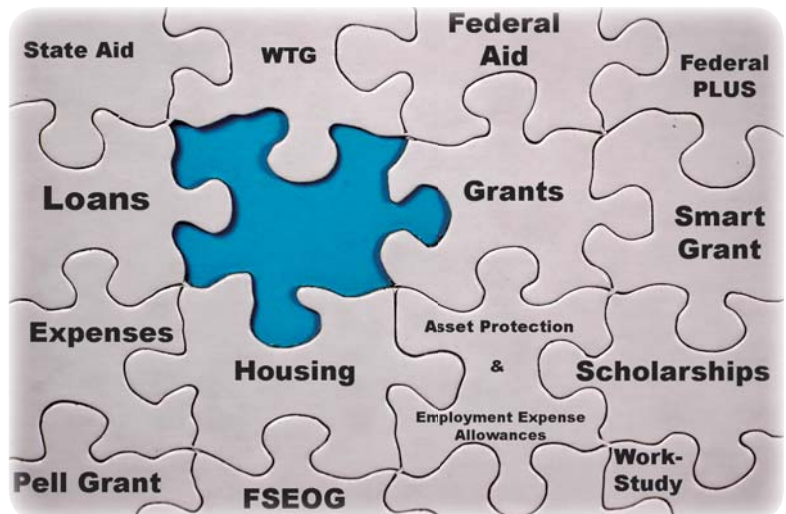
Financial aid is available to many students from low- and middle-income families. **Low grades won't keep you from getting financial aid.** If you think you need financial assistance to attend the school or college you prefer, apply for financial aid. Financial aid is available in the form of **grant aid** (which you don't have to pay back), **loan aid** (which you do have to repay), and **Work-Study aid** (federally subsidized part-time jobs while attending school).

Financial aid money is provided by:

- The federal government
- The State of Wisconsin
- Individual schools and colleges
- Community, business, and service organizations
- Banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions.

Financial aid is not just for a few people. At many schools, over half of the students receive some financial aid.

This workbook will help you figure out the financial aid puzzle.



Postsecondary Education Costs and Financial Aid

Costs

The cost of postsecondary education can be high. For students living off-campus away from home, costs can range from \$6,000 to over \$42,000 each year, depending on the school or college attended. Financial aid helps you to meet education costs for the school year. However, you are expected to meet your own expenses over the summer and save some money for the next school year as well.

The type and location of the college or school have a big effect on your education costs. Where you live—with your parents, in a dormitory, or off-campus in a house or an apartment—is an important factor.

The table below shows some typical education costs for the current (2006-07) year.

Table of Typical Education Costs

Education costs include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation to and from school, and personal expenses such as clothes and entertainment. Costs for room and board and transportation are greatly affected by where you live, as shown here. This table shows approximate cost ranges at different types of institutions.

Type of institution	Living at Home	Living in a Dorm	Living Off-Campus
University of Wisconsin System	\$8,000 to \$10,500	\$9,000 to \$17,250	\$12,750-19,000
Independent Colleges and Universities	11,500 to 34,000	16,500 to 40,250	18,000 to 42,000
Wisconsin Technical College System	2,500 to 6,500	Not provided	9,000 to 13,000
Private Vocational Schools	3,000 to 17,500	Not provided	6,000 to 21,000

Costs at independent colleges and private vocational schools vary greatly. Check with your counselor for the cost to attend Wisconsin colleges or schools you are interested in, or check with their financial aid offices. You will probably need to search online or call out-of-state schools for information.

Financial Aid Basics

Costs and Financial Aid

Financial aid programs help students from lower- and middle-income families to meet the expenses of postsecondary education. The most important of these programs are provided through the U.S. Department of Education and by agencies of the various states. A basic principle of financial aid programs is that your choice of a postsecondary education program should be determined mainly by your abilities and interests, **not** by the financial resources you and your parent(s) have.

Financial aid programs therefore involve a **financial need** determination—a balancing of the costs of your education against a calculated amount that you and your parent(s) will be expected to pay.

Financial Need

You don't have to be in a low-income family to qualify for financial aid, but you do have to have financial need. Your financial need at a school or college is the differ-

ence between your Cost of Attendance for that institution and what you and your family are expected to contribute. Even though **costs vary** from school to school, the amount you are able to pay **is the same**. Therefore, your financial need will be greater at a school with a high Cost of Attendance than at one with lower Cost of Attendance.

Here's a simplified formula showing how your financial need for a college or school is calculated:

Your Cost of Attendance

(Computed tuition/fees, books/supplies, room and board, transportation, personal expenses)

– Your Family Contribution

(Expected share from you & your parent(s))

= Your Financial Need

Your Cost of Attendance

When you apply for aid to a college or school, it estimates your education costs. The result is your **Cost of Attendance**. In computing this figure, the financial aid office uses **standard estimates** of expenses such as room and board, books, and transportation. These may be more or less than your actual costs. (For example, if you choose to live in an expensive apartment, your room and board costs will still be calculated based on a “reasonable” rental value.)

The financial aid office compares your ability to contribute with your Cost of Attendance, not with your actual costs.



Types of Financial Aid

There are three types of need-based financial aid:

- **Grant aid**, money given to you to help pay for your education that you do not have to repay. You do not pay income tax on grant aid.
- **Loan aid**, money you borrow for your education expenses, and which you will have to repay the lender, along with interest.
- **Work-Study aid**, money you will earn by working at a job arranged through the financial aid office of the school or college. You do not have to repay Work-Study aid, but the money you receive is taxable income.

Grant aid is obviously the most desirable form of financial aid, but you cannot expect to get grant aid covering all of your financial need. Usually, you will be offered a combination of all three types.

You might also be eligible for some non need-based financial aid or **scholarships**. If so, they will usually **replace** some of your financial aid, not **add to** it.

Estimating Your Eligibility for Financial Aid

Financial Need Analysis

To qualify for financial aid, schools and colleges require your need to be measured by a **need analysis service**. This is an agency that takes financial information from you and your parent(s), then estimates how much money you and your parent(s) can be expected to contribute to your education.

The agency does its estimating according to rigid standards established by the federal government, so **all agencies will give you the same result**. Financial aid offices use the estimate to determine your need and eligibility for financial aid.

The U.S. Department of Education requires all federal financial aid programs to use **only** the government’s **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA) form. It is also used for Wisconsin aid administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board. The FAFSA is published by the Department of Education. There is a **single version** of the FAFSA. Separate versions, with code letters, are no longer used. The FAFSA is also available on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. FAFSA processing is **free**.

The College Board publishes another financial aid form called the PROFILE. This replaces the former Financial Aid Form (FAF). This is used by some institutions, primarily private colleges and universities, for their **institutional** (nonfederal, non-Wisconsin) financial aid programs. To complete the PROFILE online, visit <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>.

(Note that there is a charge for processing the PROFILE!)



Parental Contribution

To calculate how much your parent(s) will be expected to contribute, the analysis service considers:

- Their income and assets, including savings
- Their ages and need of retirement income
- The number of children and other dependents in the household
- The number of family members enrolled in higher education programs.

The expected parental contribution will usually be different if there is only one parent, if both parents work, or if more than one dependent is enrolled in postsecondary education. (Approximate rules to cover these situations appear on the next page.)



Family income includes all income your parent(s) received, **whether or not it was taxable**, such as:

- Salary or wages earned by parent(s)
- Farm or business earnings of parent(s)
- Interest or dividend income of parent(s)
- Tax-deferred IRA/Keogh contributions
- Housing allowance received by parent(s)
- Child support payments received by your parent
- Parental pensions or Social Security payments
- Welfare or unemployment insurance payments.

Income is adjusted by subtracting Social Security tax, federal income tax, and state income tax paid.

The **assets** that are counted in determining the expected contribution by your parent(s) include cash, savings and investments, and equity in a business, farm (unless it is a family farm on which they live), or other real estate they own.

Equity in the house your parent(s) live in or in a family farm on which they live is not included.

For a nonfamily farm or a business asset up to \$105,000, only 40% of the asset is counted. The percentage counted rises gradually after that.

Special considerations apply if your parents are **divorced** or **legally separated**. Only the income of the parent with whom you lived most of the time during the past 12 months is counted for the need analysis.

(If you lived equal times with both parents, it is the one who contributed most to your support.)

An important point: If that parent has remarried, your stepparent's income and assets **must be included** in calculating the parental contribution.

Student Contribution

Students are expected to pay part of the cost of their education from their earnings and savings. You will be expected to contribute 50% of your last year's after-tax income exceeding \$3,000, your annual **income protection allowance**.

If you will be continuing your postsecondary education in 2007–08, any financial aid you received in 2006-07 (including Work-Study wages) is **not considered as income**.

Students are also expected to contribute 20% of their savings (or other investments) each year they are in school.

For example, if you have \$1,000 in savings at the time you apply for financial aid, you will be expected to contribute 20% of the \$1,000 (\$200) in your first year, leaving \$800.

Next year, you will again be expected to contribute 20% of any remaining savings (which might be more or less than \$800, depending upon what additional deposits and withdrawals you make).

Professional Judgment

Several special cases that used to be explicitly included in the formulas for calculation of financial need are now left to be decided by the **professional judgment** of the financial aid administrator. This means that the financial aid administrator may or may not adjust your financial need, depending upon his or her judgment of your specific family situation. Some of these cases are:

- A parent has recently become unemployed
- Your family had medical expenses over 11% of your income protection allowance (IPA) that were not covered by insurance
- Your parent(s) are paying private elementary, middle, or high school tuition for dependents **other than yourself**
- You do not meet the federal rules for an independent student, but there are unusual circumstances that may justify that classification.
- Your parent has been called to active duty in the armed forces
- Elder care expenses



If you or your parent(s) feel that the expected contribution returned by the need analysis agency is unfair because of some special circumstances, discuss your situation with the financial aid administrator. You must have a specific problem (for example, a parent has become unemployed), not merely say, “we can’t afford this much.”

Independent Students

Some students have supported themselves for several years, and their parents are not expected to contribute to college expenses. For independent students, the financial aid application process works differently because parental income and assets are not considered. Their financial need is also calculated by different formulas. **Your eligibility for independent student status is determined by federal law and regulations.**

You are considered an independent student for 2007–08 federal financial aid programs if you meet **one or more** of these conditions:

- You are 24 years old (born before 1/1/83)
- You are a U.S. Armed Forces veteran (Reserve or National Guard membership does not make you a veteran.)
- You have legal dependents **other than a spouse**
- You are an orphan or a ward of the court
- You are married or a graduate or professional student and will not be claimed as a U.S. income tax exemption by your parent(s) in 2006.

If you are married, your spouse is **not** a dependent for financial aid purposes, even if she or he had no income. (Your spouse’s income and assets **are** included when determining your expected contribution.)

There are separate need analysis formulas for independent students without and with dependents.

For an Estimate of Parental/Student Contributions

You can get a good estimate of what your expected parental contribution will be by you (and your parent(s)) completing the appropriate Family Contribution Worksheet on pages 6-11. Turn to page 13 to complete your estimate of your financial aid eligibility at up to four schools.



Expected Family Contribution Worksheets

You may calculate your Expected Family Contribution by using one of the worksheets below, together with the tables on pages 10 and 11. There are separate worksheets for dependent students, independent students without dependents (other than spouse) and independent students with one or more dependents. *These worksheets are from a government draft dated 8/15/06. These worksheets may have changed since the printing of this booklet.*

Dependent Students		
A. Parents' Expected Contribution		
2006 Income		
1. Parents' 2006 Adjusted Gross Income	\$	
2. Parents' 2006 Total Untaxed Income/Benefits <i>See page 4 for common taxed and untaxed income categories</i>	\$	
3. Total Parents' Income <i>Add Lines 1 and 2</i>		
Allowances		
4. 2006 U.S. Income Tax Due <i>May be more or less than the amount withheld</i>	\$	
5. 2006 Wisconsin and Other Taxes <i>If Wisconsin and Other Taxes are less than \$15,000, multiply Line 3 by .07. If more than \$15,000 multiply Line 3 by .06</i>	\$	
6. FICA (Social Security) Taxes Paid	\$	
7. Employment Expense Allowance <i>See Table A on page 10</i>	\$	
8. Court-ordered Child Support Payment	\$	
9. Income Protection Allowance <i>See Table C on page 10</i>	\$	
10. Total Allowances Against Income <i>Add Lines 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9</i>		\$
11. Parents' Available Income <i>Line 3 minus Line 10; may be a negative number</i>	\$	
Assets		
12. Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts	\$	
13. Real Estate/Investment Equity <i>Do not include home equity; if negative, enter zero</i>	\$	
14. Business/Farm Adjusted Net Worth <i>See Table B on page 10</i>	\$	
15. Total Assets <i>Add Lines 12, 13, and 14</i>		
16. Asset Protection Allowance <i>See Table D on page 11. Table D is a condensed version of the "official" table. Parents' Asset Protection Allowance may be slightly greater than indicated here.</i>		\$
17. Discretionary Net Worth <i>Line 15 minus Line 16; if less than 0, enter 0</i>		\$
18. Conversion Factor	0.12	
19. Income Supplement From Assets <i>Multiply Line 17 by Line 18</i>		\$
Adjusted Available Income and Parents' Expected Contribution		
20. Adjusted Available Income <i>Add Lines 11 and 19; may be a negative number</i>	\$	
21. Parents' Total Expected Contribution <i>Use Line 20, see Table E on page 10</i>	\$	
22. # of Family Members in Postsecondary Institutions <i>Half time or greater attendance</i>	#	
23. Parents' Expected Contribution for Student <i>Divide Line 21 by Line 22; if negative, enter zero</i>		\$
B. Student's Expected Contribution		
2006 Income		
24. Student's 2006 Adjusted Gross Income <i>Do not include income from Federal Work-Study Awards in 2006</i>	\$	
25. Student's 2006 Total Untaxed Income/Benefits <i>See page 4 for common taxed and untaxed income categories</i>	\$	
26. Total Student's Income <i>Add Lines 24 and 25</i>		\$

Allowances		
27. 2006 U.S. Income Tax Due <i>May be more or less than the amount withheld. If student does not file a 2006 federal tax return, enter 0</i>	\$	
28. Wisconsin and Other Taxes <i>Multiply Line 26 by .04; if negative, enter zero</i>	\$	
29. FICA (Social Security) Taxes Paid	\$	
30. Income Protection Allowance	\$ 3,000	
31. Allowance for parents' negative Adjusted Available Income <i>If line 20 is negative, enter line 20 as a positive number; if line 20 is zero or positive, enter zero</i>		\$
32. Total Allowances Against Income <i>Add Lines 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31</i>		\$
33. Student's Available Income <i>Line 26 minus Line 32; if less than 0, enter 0</i>		\$
34. Student's Contribution from Income <i>Multiply Line 33 by .50</i>		\$
Assets		
35. Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts	\$	
36. Real Estate/Investments Equity <i>If negative, enter zero</i>	\$	
37. Business/Farm Net Worth <i>If negative, enter zero</i>	\$	
38. Total Student's Assets <i>Add Lines 35, 36, and 37</i>	\$	
39. Student's Contribution from Assets <i>Multiply Line 38 by .20</i>		\$
40. Student's Expected Contribution <i>Add Lines 34 and 39</i>		\$
C. Family Expected Contribution		
41. Parent's Expected Contribution <i>Copy from Line 23</i>	\$	
42. Student's Expected Contribution <i>Copy from Line 40</i>	\$	
43. Family Expected Contribution <i>Add Lines 41 and 42</i>		\$

Savings Bond and IRA Considerations

Series EE and Series I Savings Bonds

Series EE Savings Bonds purchased in 1990 or later and all Series I bonds may be redeemed **tax-free** when they are used to pay for tuition and fees at an eligible postsecondary institution. Redemption is not tax-free when used to pay for expenses such as books, travel, and room and board. Bonds must be registered in one or both parents' name(s).

IRA Withdrawals for Educational Expenses

Since 1998, distributions may be taken from Roth or traditional IRAs or 401(k) plans without paying the 10% early-withdrawal penalty, provided the funds are used to pay for qualifying postsecondary educational expenses.



Independent Students Without Dependents Other Than a Spouse

2006 Income		
1. Family's 2006 Adjusted Gross Income <small>Student and spouse, if any. Do not include income from Federal Work-Study awards in 2006.</small>	\$	
2. Family's 2006 Total Untaxed Income/Benefits <small>See page 4 for common taxed and untaxed income categories</small>	\$	
3. Total Family's Income <small>Add Lines 1 and 2</small>		\$
Allowances		
4. 2006 U.S. Income Tax Due <small>May be more or less than the amount withheld</small>	\$	
5. Wisconsin & Other Taxes <small>Multiply Line 3 by .04</small>	\$	
6. FICA (Social Security) Taxes Paid	\$	
7. Employment Expense Allowance <small>See Table F on page 11</small>	\$	
8. Income Protection Allowance <small>See Table G on page 11</small>	\$	
9. Total Allowances Against Income <small>Add Lines 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8</small>		\$
10. Family's Available Income <small>Line 3 minus Line 9; may be a negative number</small>		\$
11. Family's Contribution from Income <small>Multiply Line 10 by .5</small>		\$
Assets		
12. Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts <small>Includes spouse, if any.</small>	\$	
13. Real Estate/Investments Equity <small>Do not include house student lives in</small>	\$	
14. Business/Farm Adjusted Net Worth <small>See Table B on page 10 - Do not include net worth of farm student lives on</small>	\$	
15. Total Assets <small>Add Lines 12, 13, and 14</small>		\$
16. Asset Protection Allowance <small>See Table H on page 11. Table H is a condensed version of the "official" table. The Asset Protection Allowance may be slightly greater than indicated here.</small>		\$
17. Discretionary Net Worth <small>Line 15 minus Line 16; if less than 0, enter 0</small>		\$
18. Conversion Factor		0.20
19. Family Contribution from Assets <small>Multiply Line 17 by Line 18</small>		\$
Family Expected Contribution		
20. Family Contribution from Income <small>Copy from Line 11</small>	\$	
21. Family Contribution from Assets <small>Copy from Line 19</small>	\$	
22. Family's Total Expected Contribution <small>Add Line 20 and Line 21 If less than 0, enter 0</small>	\$	
23. Number of Family Members in Postsecondary Institutions <small>Half-time or greater attendance</small>	#	
24. Family Expected Contribution for Students <small>Divide Line 22 by Line 23</small>		



Independent Students With Dependents Other Than a Spouse

2006 Income		
1. Family's 2006 Adjusted Gross Income <i>Student and spouse, if any. Do not include income from Federal Work-Study awards in 2006.</i>	\$	
2. Family's 2006 Total Untaxed Income/Benefits <i>See page 4 for common taxed and untaxed income categories</i>	\$	
3. Total Family's Income <i>Add Lines 1 and 2</i>		\$
Allowances		
4. 2006 U.S. Income Tax Due <i>May be more or less than the amount withheld</i>	\$	
5. Wisconsin and Other Taxes <i>If Wisconsin and Other Taxes are less than \$15,000, multiply Line 3 by .07. If more than \$15,000 multiply Line 3 by .06</i>	\$	
6. FICA (Social Security) Taxes Paid	\$	
7. Employment Expense Allowance <i>See Table I on page 11</i>	\$	
8. Income Protection Allowance <i>See Table K on page 11</i>	\$	
9. Total Allowances Against Income <i>Add Lines 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8</i>		\$
10. Family's Available Income <i>Line 3 minus Line 9; may be a negative number</i>		\$
Assets		
11. Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts <i>Includes spouse, if any</i>	\$	
12. Real Estate/Investments Equity <i>Do not include house student lives in</i>	\$	
13. Business/Farm Adjusted Net Worth <i>See Table B on page 10 - Do not include net worth of farm student lives on</i>	\$	
14. Total Assets <i>Add Lines 12, 13, and 14</i>		\$
15. Asset Protection Allowance <i>See Table J on page 11. Table J is a condensed version of the "official" table. The Asset Protection Allowance may be slightly greater than indicated here.</i>		\$
16. Discretionary Net Worth <i>Line 14 minus Line 15; if less than 0, enter 0</i>		\$
17. Conversion Factor	0.07	
18. Income Supplement from Assets <i>Multiply Line 16 by Line 17</i>		\$
Adjusted Available Income and Family Expected Contribution		
19. Adjusted Available Income <i>Add Lines 10 and 18</i>	\$	
20. Family Total Expected Contribution <i>Use Line 19, see Table E on page 10; if negative enter zero</i>	\$	
21. Number of Family Members in Postsecondary Institutions <i>Half-time or greater attendance</i>	#	
22. Family Expected Contribution <i>Divide Line 20 by Line 21</i>		\$



Tables for Expected Family Contribution Worksheets

These numbers are from a government draft dated 8/15/06. These numbers may have changed since the printing of this booklet.

Tables for Dependent Students

Table A: Employment Expense Allowance

If both parents were employed in 2006, \$3,200 or 35% of smaller income, whichever is less.
If parent qualified under IRS rules as a head of household or a surviving spouse for 2006, \$3,200 or 35%.
Otherwise, none.

Table B: Business/Farm Adjusted Net Worth

Actual Net Worth	Adjusted Net Worth
Less than \$1	0
\$1-\$105,000	40% of Net Worth
\$105,001-\$320,000	\$42,000 plus 50% of NW over \$105,000
\$320,001-\$535,000	\$149,500 plus 60% of NW over \$320,000
\$535,001 or more	\$278,500 plus 100% of NW over \$535,000



Table C: Income Protection Allowance for Parents

Family Size*	Number in Postsecondary Education					* Family size includes student. For each additional family member, add \$3,590 to allowance.
	For each additional college student, subtract \$2,460 from allowance.					
	1	2	3	4	5	
2	15,000	12,430	---	---	---	
3	18,680	16,130	13,560	---	---	
4	23,070	20,510	17,950	15,390	---	
5	27,220	24,660	22,100	19,540	16,980	
6	31,840	29,280	26,720	24,160	21,600	

Table D: Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance

Age of Older Parent	No. of Parents	
	2 Parents	1 Parent
33	20,300	8,400
36	27,900	11,500
39	35,600	14,700
42	40,100	16,400
45	43,100	17,500
48	46,400	18,800
51	50,200	20,100
54	54,300	21,600
57	59,000	23,200
60	64,300	25,100

Table E: Contribution from Adjusted Available Income (AAI)

AAI Income	Contribution
-\$3,410 or less	-\$750
-3,409 to 13,400	22% of AAI
13,401 to 16,800	\$2,948 + 25% of AAI over \$13,400
16,801 to 20,200	3,798 + 29% of AAI over 16,800
20,201 to 23,700	4,784 + 34% of AAI over 20,200
23,701 to 27,100	5,974 + 40% of AAI over 23,700
27,101 or more	7,334 + 47% of AAI over 27,100

Tables for Independent Students Without Dependents Other Than a Spouse

Table F: Employment Expense Allowance

If student is married, and student and spouse both were employed in 2006, \$3,200 or 35% of smaller income, whichever is less.

Otherwise, none.

Table G: Income Protection Allowance

If student is single: \$6,050.

If student is married and student and spouse will both be enrolled at least half-time at a postsecondary institution in 2007–08: \$6,050.

If student is married and only student will be enrolled at least half-time at a postsecondary institution: \$9,700.

Table H: Asset Protection Allowance

Age of Student	Marital Status	
	Married	Single
26	\$2,500	\$1,000
27	5,100	2,100
28	7,600	3,100
29	10,200	4,200
30	12,700	5,200
31	15,200	6,300
32	17,800	7,300
33	20,300	8,400
36	27,900	11,500
39	35,600	14,700
42	40,100	16,400

For students 25 years old or younger, the Asset Protection Allowance is 0.

Tables for Independent Students With Dependent(s) Other Than a Spouse

Table I: Employment Expense Allowance

If student and spouse both were employed in 2006, \$3,200 or 35% of smaller income, whichever is less.

If student qualified under IRS rules as a **head of household** or a **surviving spouse** for 2006, \$3,200 or 35% of student's income, whichever is less.

Otherwise, none.

Table J: Asset Protection Allowance

Age of Student	Marital Status	
	Married	Single
26	\$2,500	\$1,000
27	5,100	2,100
28	7,600	3,100
29	10,200	4,200
30	12,700	5,200
33	20,300	8,400
36	27,900	11,500
39	35,600	14,700
42	40,100	16,400
45	43,100	17,500
48	46,400	18,800

For students 25 years old or younger, the Asset Protection Allowance is 0.



Table K: Income Protection Allowance for Independent Students with Dependents

Family Size (include student)	Student's Number in College				
	1	2	3	4	5
2	\$15,320	\$12,700	---	---	---
3	\$19,070	\$16,470	\$13,850	---	---
4	\$23,560	\$20,940	\$18,330	\$15,710	
5	\$27,800	\$25,170	\$22,570	\$19,950	\$17,340
6	\$32,510	\$29,890	\$27,290	\$24,660	\$22,060

For each additional family member add \$3,670. For each additional college student subtract \$2,610.

Examples of Financial Aid Eligibility

The examples below illustrate how to estimate your financial need at different schools. You do this by first estimating the expected contribution from your parent(s) and your own contribution from savings and earnings. Add them to get your expected family contribution.

Finally, subtract that value from the school-computed Cost of Attendance for the school(s) in which you are interested. The difference is the amount of financial aid you may be eligible for. We'll look at two different family situations and two different schools.

Example 1

Patricia Jones' family has four members. Her parents earn about \$10,000 and \$7,500 respectively (after taxes). They have about \$20,000 in assets. They will not be expected to contribute to Patricia's education. (See Family Contribution Worksheet on pages 6-9.) Patricia has \$1,200 in savings, so she will be expected to contribute about \$240 of savings. She earned \$4,500 last year after taxes, so she will be expected to contribute \$750 (one half of the remainder of \$4,500 minus \$3,000) in earnings for her first year.

College A		
Cost of attendance		\$5,500
Parents' contribution	\$0	
Patricia's savings contribution	240	
Patricia's earnings contribution	750	
Total expected family contribution		
Amount of financial aid for which Patricia may be eligible		\$4,510

College B		
Cost of attendance		\$16,500
Parents' contribution	\$0	
Patricia's savings contribution	240	
Patricia's earnings contribution	750	
Total expected family contribution		
Amount of financial aid for which Patricia may be eligible		\$15,510

Example 2

Mike Washington's family has three members. Parental income is about \$50,000 (after taxes). Only one parent is employed. They have about \$40,000 in assets. They will be expected to contribute \$7,800 to Mike's education. (See Family Contribution Worksheet on pages 6-9.) Mike has \$2,500 in savings, so he will be expected to contribute about \$875 of savings. Because he earned \$5,000 after taxes last year, he will be expected to contribute \$1,225 in earnings (one half of the remainder of \$5,000 minus \$2,550) for his first year.

College A		
Cost of attendance		\$5,500
Parents' contribution	\$7,800	
Mike's savings contribution	500	
Mike's earnings contribution	1,000	
Total expected family contribution		
Amount of financial aid for which Mike may be eligible		\$0

College B		
Cost of attendance		\$16,500
Parents' contribution	\$7,800	
Mike's savings contribution	500	
Mike's earnings contribution	1,000	
Total expected family contribution		
Amount of financial aid for which Mike may be eligible		\$7,200

IMPORTANT

If either you or your parents cannot meet the expected contributions, you should contact the financial aid office to see if any adjustment is possible. If your financial circumstances change, either before you enroll or during the school year, you must also inform the college financial aid office.

Calculating Your Eligibility for Financial Aid

Your Cost of Attendance

- List up to three universities, colleges, or schools you are interested in attending.
- From your counselor or the school's financial aid office, find out your 2006–07 Cost of Attendance for each school.
- Write down the amounts below.

College/School	Cost/Attendance
1.	\$
2.	\$
3.	\$

Your Expected Family Contribution

- Complete the Expected Family Contribution Worksheet (pages 6-9) applicable to your situation.
- Enter your family's expected contribution below on the appropriate line (either Line 4, 5, or 6).

4. Dependent Student Worksheet <i>page 7, Line 42</i>	\$
5. Independent Students without Dependents Worksheet <i>page 8, Line 24</i>	\$
6. Independent Students with Dependents Worksheet <i>page 9, Line 22</i>	\$

Financial Aid You May be Eligible For

- For each college you are interested in, write down the Cost of Attendance (*from Lines 1, 2 and 3, see above*)
- Write your expected family contribution (*from Line 4, 5, or 6, see above*).
- Subtract Family Contribution from Cost of Attendance. The difference, **if it is greater than zero**, is the amount of financial aid you may be eligible for at that school.

College/School	College # 1	College # 2	College # 3
Cost of Attendance	\$	\$	\$
Family Contribution	- \$	- \$	- \$
Financial Aid you may be eligible for <i>Subtract Family Contribution from Cost of Attendance</i>	\$	\$	\$

Will You Be Offered That Much Aid?

Possibly not! For some types of aid, mainly Federal Pell Grants, each school and college gets the funds needed to make awards to all its eligible students. For most other types, each campus has only a fixed amount of money, and funds are often used up before all eligible applicants receive their aid.

Early application makes a difference here!

Usually, financial aid offices allocate funds equitably among all who apply before their school's deadline (see pages 28-29); late applicants get only what is left over.



Financial Aid Programs

Types of Financial Aid

As noted on page 3, financial aid comes in the form of **grants, loans, and Federal Work-Study** aid. If you have financial need, you are usually offered a combination of these forms of aid by the campus financial aid office. You must be at least a half-time student to receive most financial aid. Students enrolled less than full-time receive proportionately smaller amounts of aid.

There are also **scholarships**, which are grants outside the financial aid system, based on a variety of criteria. Some require a showing of financial need, others are awarded without regard to need. Some scholarships go to students with good grades, while others are for those who meet conditions such as religious affiliation, special hobbies or interests, artistic/athletic ability, or career plans.

Scholarships are available from many schools and colleges and from groups such as businesses, unions, service clubs, and community organizations. Check with your school counselor and campus financial aid offices for information about scholarships for which you might be eligible.

Generally speaking, if you receive a scholarship not part of your financial aid package, your other financial aid will be reduced by the same amount.

However, it will usually be your **loan aid** or **Federal Work-Study aid** that is reduced, not your **grant aid**. So it is to your benefit if you can get a scholarship.

There are also some forms of governmental aid for students which are outside the financial aid system. These programs include Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance, Wisconsin Works, and Veterans' Benefits. They are described on pages 23-24.

Visit the U.S. Department of Education website at www.ed.gov for more information about financial aid.

Male students 18 and over: You must be Selective Service registered to receive federal financial aid!

Federal Grant Aid

Federal Pell Grants

The Federal Pell Grant program helps provide financial access to the school or college of their choice for low- and middle-income students. For eligible students, Pell Grants are intended to be the **floor** or **base** upon which all other aid is built.

For the current 2006-07 academic year, Federal Pell Grants range from \$400 to \$4,050. The formula used for Federal Pell Grants is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Maximum Federal Pell Grant} \\ & \quad (\$4,050 \text{ for } 2006-07) \\ & - \text{Your Family Contribution} \\ & \quad \text{(Expected share from you \& your parent(s))} \\ & \hline & = \text{Your Federal Pell Grant (If a full-time student)} \end{aligned}$$

There are two minor modifications to this formula:

- If your grant would be less than \$200 according to the formula, you are **not eligible** for a Federal Pell Grant.
- If your grant would be \$200 or more but less than \$400 according to the formula, you will receive a grant of \$400.



Federal Pell Grants are available to any **undergraduate** student who is attending an eligible college or vocational school at least half-time and whose expected Family Contribution is less than \$3,850 (for the maximum grant of \$4,050 for 2006-07). If you are less than a full-time student, your grant is reduced proportionately. For example, if your Federal Pell Grant is \$1,200 and your course load is three fourths of full-time, your grant will be reduced to \$900.

If you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, you are almost certainly eligible for other forms of financial aid and should apply for them.

To be eligible for most other types of aid, you must apply for a Pell Grant!

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

The FSEOG program assists students with financial need by supplementing other sources of financial aid. You must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant to be considered for a FSEOG award.

FSEOG grants range from \$100 to \$4,000. Funds are available for both full-time and part-time (at most schools, at least half-time) students. Each campus has a fixed allocation of FSEOG funds, so early application is essential.

Academic Competitiveness Grant

This new grant is available to students in their first or second years of study at two- or four-year degree-granting institutions. The maximum award for the first year of study is \$750, and the maximum for the second year of study is \$1,300.

To be considered for the ACG, you must have completed a rigorous high school program of study and be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant)

This new grant is available to students in their third and fourth years of study at four-year degree-granting institutions. The maximum award is \$4,000 per year.

To be considered for the National SMART Grant, you must major in physical, life or computer science, engineering, mathematics, technology, or a critical foreign language and have at minimum a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. You must also have received a Federal Pell Grant.

For more information about the ACG and National SMART Grant, visit www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/ac-smart.html.



Bureau of Indian Affairs Grants (BIA)

Students of one-quarter or more Native American or Alaska Native heritage with financial need may be eligible to receive educational grants from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

To apply for a BIA Grant, file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an Indian Scholarship Application. The scholarship application is a joint application form also used to apply for the state-funded Wisconsin Indian Student Assistance Grant program (see next page).

For more information about BIA Grants, check with the financial aid office at your college or school, your tribal education office, or visit the Office of Indian Education Programs at http://www.oiep.bia.edu/faqs_grantinfo.html.



Wisconsin Grant Aid

State of Wisconsin financial aid programs are administered by the **Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB)**, visit www.heab.state.wi.us. They are available only to residents of the State of Wisconsin. Except for students who are blind or deaf, the college or school attended must be in Wisconsin.

To receive any HEAB administered grant, you **must** include a Wisconsin college or school in your list of schools on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form**. You may not apply for HEAB aid by using the PROFILE! Thus, no student pays a processing fee to apply for any HEAB administered program.

Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG)

The WHEG program provides Wisconsin students at campuses of the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and Tribal Colleges with grants of \$250 to \$3,000 per academic year, for a maximum of 10 semesters.

To be eligible for a WHEG award, you must be a Wisconsin resident, have financial need not met by other grants, be enrolled at least half-time, and maintain a satisfactory academic record.

There is no statutory deadline for WHEG applications (they are made automatically when you file your FAFSA form listing a University of Wisconsin System, Wisconsin Technical College System campus, or Tribal College), but only a fixed appropriation is provided. A late application may mean there is no money available for you!

Talent Incentive Program Grant (TIP)

The TIP program provides grant funds to the most financially or educationally disadvantaged Wisconsin students attending nonprofit institutions of higher education in Wisconsin. Grants are awarded for the freshman year and renewable for up to four more years if the student remains in good academic standing and has need. Students at both public and private institutions in Wisconsin are eligible for TIP awards of \$600 to \$1,800 per academic year and \$250 to \$1,800 thereafter. To apply, complete and submit the FAFSA form, and also submit a Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program intake form, available from any WEOP office (see page 17).



Wisconsin Hearing and Visually Handicapped Student Grant

The Visual and Hearing Impaired Program assists students who are legally blind or deaf with grants of up to \$1,800 a year, based on need, for up to 10 semesters. This grant is available at nonprofit in-state or eligible out-of-state public or independent institutions. To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form plus the HEAB blind/deaf certification form, signed by your physician. Send the certification to:

Higher Educational Aids Board
PO Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885
www.heab.state.wi.us

Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG)

The WTG program assists students at Wisconsin non-profit schools that charge more tuition than the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The minimum grant is \$250, and the maximum is set each year by HEAB.

To be eligible to receive WTG aid, you must be a Wisconsin resident, attend an accredited nonprofit independent college or university in Wisconsin having tuition costs in excess of those of UW-Madison, be at least a half-time student, and be in good academic standing. You may receive grants for the equivalent of 10 semesters of undergraduate instruction.

For more information, consult your school counselor or the financial aid office at the school in which you are interested. As with WHEG, there is a fixed appropriation, so you should apply as early as possible.

Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant

This program is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors attending Wisconsin technical colleges, independent colleges, and tribal colleges. Students must be enrolled at least half-time and be African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Cambodian, Laotian, or Vietnamese. The maximum yearly award is \$2,500, based on financial need. Contact the financial aid office of the institution you are attending for further information. The UW System offers the Ben R. Lawton Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant for students at UW System schools.

Wisconsin Indian Student Assistance Grant

Wisconsin residents with one-quarter or more Native American heritage with financial need may be eligible for educational grants up to \$1,100 a year from the Higher Educational Aids Board for a maximum of 10 semesters, including graduate study.

To apply for an Indian Student Assistance Grant, file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and an Indian Student Assistance Grant Application. This is a joint application also used to apply for federally funded Bureau of Indian Affairs Program Grants (see page 15).

Ask the financial aid office at your college or school about state Indian Student Assistance Grants or write to:

Higher Educational Aids Board
PO Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP) Talent Search Program

The State of Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP) provides counseling services to disadvantaged or nontraditional students in both rural and urban areas of the state.

The Talent Search Program is a counseling tool to identify students who may be eligible for opportunity grants. Students, parents, and counselors seeking further information about admission, financial aid, and other WEOP services may visit <http://dpi.wi.gov/weop.index.html> or contact counselors at any of these seven offices:

WEOP–Ashland

620 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 682-7975

WEOP–Eau Claire

Norwest Bank Building
204 E. Grand Avenue
5th Floor
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 836-3171

WEOP–Green Bay

2140 Holmgren Way
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 492-5745

WEOP–Madison

125 South Webster Street
Rm 309
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7481
(608) 266-1636

WEOP–Milwaukee

101 West Pleasant St.
Suite 204
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 227-4466

WEOP–Racine

2113 N. Wisconsin
Racine, WI 53402
(262) 638-7370

WEOP–Wausau

133 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403
(715) 842-0871

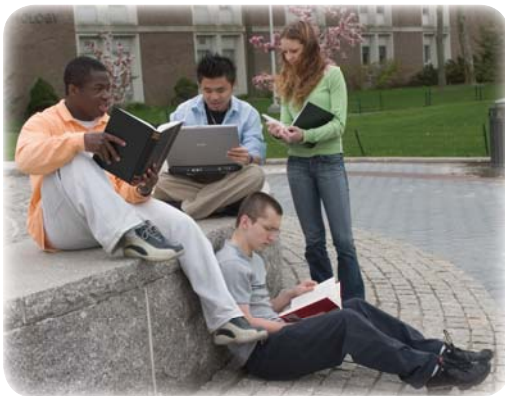


Minnesota-Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity Agreement

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity Agreement makes public colleges and universities more accessible to residents of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Under the compact, a student pays the tuition of a comparable institution in his or her home state. An online application form is available at www.heab.state.wi.us/mnwiapp.html.

Financial need is not considered in this program. If you remain enrolled on a continuous basis, only the initial application form is required. **In this program, you are not eligible for either HEAB administered aid or State of Minnesota aid programs.** You can, of course, apply for federal aid and may be eligible for institutional financial aid.

Other reciprocity agreements exist between border Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) campuses and comparable schools in Minnesota, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Illinois. Call the individual technical colleges for detailed information.



Academic Excellence Scholarships

The graduate with the highest grade point average from each Wisconsin high school is eligible for a scholarship to attend any accredited Wisconsin public or private nonprofit institution of higher education. These scholarships are jointly funded by HEAB and the institution attended.

High schools with over 500 students will have one or more additional scholars. If an eligible student chooses not to make use of the scholarship, it usually does not pass to the next highest student; no scholarship is awarded in such cases.

Academic Scholarship awards are for \$2,250 applied toward tuition. Scholars who continue to attend full-time with a 3.0 grade point (B) average will have their awards renewed for up to three additional years.

Academic Scholarships are not based upon financial need. Receiving an Academic Scholarship will reduce your need by the amount of the award, but it will normally be **loan** or **Federal Work-Study**, not **grant** aid that is affected. For further information, check with your high school counselor.

Other Grants

Need-based grant aid may also be available from individual colleges and schools as well as from some community organizations, employers, unions, churches, and service organizations. Contact your high school counselor or a campus financial aid office to find out about programs for which you may be eligible. In some cases, a separate application may be required.

*This information is provided by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB).
www.heab.state.wi.us*



Loan Aid Grants Aren't Enough

Grant aid is the most desirable form of financial aid: you do not have to pay it back after you leave school, and you are not taxed on it. Unfortunately, only a few students at most schools will receive enough grant aid to finance their postsecondary education. There simply isn't enough grant aid available to meet the financial need of most students.

That means students will usually have to find other means to pay for their education. Some may be able to pay more from their earnings or savings than the financial need formulas expect. Some parents may also provide more support than expected. But many students will need to obtain **loan aid**.

About Loans in General

You need to understand how student loans work before you decide to take one. A student loan is a good source of money, but after you graduate or leave school, you will have to make monthly or quarterly payments until the loan is repaid. The amount you borrow is the **principal**. In addition to repaying the principal, you will also have to pay **interest** — the fee you pay to use someone else's money. The interest is a percentage of the principal not yet repaid; different types of loans have different interest rates. As you pay back the principal, the portion of your payments allocated to interest decreases.

Student loans are relatively low-interest loans. Some types of loans have interest rates as low as 5%, other have rates comparable with home mortgages. All have rates much lower than loans for consumer goods, such as cars and furniture.

Some loans need not be repaid if you fulfill certain requirements (usually related to employment) after graduating. Generally, you should not take such loans unless you are quite sure you are willing to earn the "forgiveness."

You may take out several loans over the course of your education. A student loan is both an **opportunity** and an important **responsibility**. Be sure you keep track of your **total repayment obligations**, both the total amount you will have to pay monthly or quarterly and the time at which you will have to begin making payments, in relation to when you graduate, leave school, or drop to under 50% enrollment. Repaying student loans may be a bigger financial burden than you expect — several hundred dollars per month if you borrow heavily!

Financial Aid Checklist

Keep this checklist as a handy personal guide to your financial aid process. This is for your own use and should not be sent to any agency. Notify college of any changes of address. Keep copies of all forms, store them in a folder for safe keeping

Information	College/School # 1	College/School # 2	College/School # 3
Name of college/school City, state			
Financial aid officer's name Phone number of aid office Email address			
ADMISSIONS APPLICATION			
Deadline	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
Admissions application mailed	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION __ FAFSA __PROFILE __ FAFSA __PROFILE __ FAFSA __PROFILE			
Deadline	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
Mailed/internet form sent	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
Student Aid Report received	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
OTHER FORMS REQUIRED (list deadlines and date completed and mailed)			
Name of bank/lender Loan officer's name Phone number Email Loan date and Amount	___/___/___ \$ _____	___/___/___ \$ _____	___/___/___ \$ _____
COSTS (estimate actual, not school-calculated)			
Tuition/fees	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Room/board	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Books/supplies	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Living expenses	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE			
Grant aid offered	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Loan aid offered	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Work-Study aid offered	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Aid Offered <i>Add Grant, Loan, and Work-Study</i>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Difference <i>Total Cost minus Aid Offered</i>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (Actual, not Student Aid Report-expected)			
Parent contribution	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Your contribution	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Family Contribution	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>Considering your aid and income, will you be able to afford to attend this school?</i>	___ Yes ___ No	___ Yes ___ No	___ Yes ___ No
<i>Is this the school you most want to attend?</i>	___ Yes ___ No	___ Yes ___ No	___ Yes ___ No

Federal Loans



Federal Perkins Loan Program

The Federal Perkins Loan program provides needy students with low-interest federally funded loans from schools and colleges.

The maximum that may be borrowed under this program is \$4,000 annually, with a maximum total of \$20,000 for all undergraduate years. Graduate students may borrow a maximum of \$6,000 per year, up to a maximum total of \$40,000 for undergraduate and graduate loans combined. Students at schools with a low default rate (almost all those who have received Federal Perkins Loans are paying them off on schedule) may borrow somewhat more.

Federal Perkins Loans have a 5% interest rate. There is no interest while you are in school, and you don't have to begin repayment until nine months after you complete your studies or are no longer enrolled at least half-time. You have up to 10 years to repay, depending on the size of the loan.

Cancellation of a portion of a Federal Perkins Loan can be obtained by full-time after-graduation employment in certain fields such as law enforcement, teaching in low income areas, and nursing health care. Check with the financial aid office at the school you decided to attend for more information on these possibilities. **Don't plan on this unless you are quite sure you will want to work in one of the jobs that will provide the forgiveness!**

Students' eligibility for a Federal Perkins Loan depends upon financial need, other aid received, and the amount of Federal Perkins Loan funds available to that institution. Your **aid package** (see page 27) will include a Federal Perkins Loan offer if you qualify; no separate application is needed.

Federal Stafford Loan Program

Federal Stafford Loans provide students with funds for their education. The loans are made by banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations or by the U.S. Department of Education. Undergraduates may borrow up to \$2,625 the first year, \$3,500 the second, and up to \$5,500 in subsequent years, to a maximum of \$23,000. Beginning July 1, 2007, the maximums will be raised to \$3,500 the first year and \$4,500 the second year. **These maximums are greatly reduced for undergraduate programs of less than a full academic year.**

New Federal Stafford Loans disbursed after July 1, 2006 have a fixed interest rate of 6.8%. If you also have Federal Stafford Loans that were first disbursed between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2006, the interest rates for July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 are 6.54% while you are in school and 7.14% in repayment. (The federal government pays the interest while you are in school and during the grace period.)

The financial aid office of the school you plan to attend determines your eligibility, based on your remaining financial need, that is, your financial need minus all other forms of financial aid and scholarships. You then apply for the loan at a lending agency. If your usual lender does not participate in the program, get a list of lenders from the financial aid office. If your maximum allowed Federal Stafford Loan is less than \$500, you may have difficulty in finding a lender—paperwork costs eat up too much of the small profit on the loan.

For federal loans disbursed after July 1, 2006, you pay a 2% origination fee and a 1% federal default fee. These amounts are subtracted from the face value of the loan before your check is issued. You have at least 10 years to repay the loans, and repayment begins six months after you leave school.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program

This program is intended for students who do not meet the need requirements for a regular Federal Stafford Loan. The maximum loan is your calculated Cost of Attendance minus all other financial aid (including Federal Perkins and Federal Stafford loans) and scholarships. You don't have to have financial need as calculated by the financial aid office, **but you must have applied for a regular Federal Stafford Loan, if eligible, before seeking an unsubsidized loan.**

The limits for dependent undergraduate students are the same as for subsidized loans (see above).

Independent undergraduate students and students whose parents were not eligible for a PLUS loan have significantly higher limits. As with Federal Stafford Loans, these amounts are reduced for students in programs of less than a full academic year.

Independent graduate/professional students may borrow up to \$18,500 per year, with a maximum of \$138,500 for undergraduate and graduate loans combined.

Regular and Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans are added together in determining the maximum amounts that can be borrowed, as well as the aggregate limits. For example, if you receive a regular Federal Stafford Loan of \$1,000 in your first undergraduate year, you will be limited to borrowing \$1,625 under the unsubsidized program.

An important difference between unsubsidized and regular loans is that you are charged interest **from the time you receive the loan**, while still in school. You may “capitalize” this interest—have it added to the principle—but **this is seldom wise**. If you do so, you may be shocked at the amount you will have to repay. For example, if you borrow \$1,000 at the start of your freshman year with an interest rate of 8% and interest is capitalized four times a year, you will owe \$1,373, not \$1,000, on the loan at the end of four years. You have at least ten years to repay the loans. Repayment begins six months after you leave school.

Federal PLUS Loan Program

Federal PLUS Loans are made to parents of undergraduate or graduate dependent students. The loans may only be used to pay educational costs. Banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, or the U.S. Department of Education makes the loans, and the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation or a similar agency guarantees them.

Parents may borrow an unlimited amount, subject to the restriction that the amount cannot exceed educational costs for their dependent children. A credit check is required before the loan can be made.

There is no “needs test” for Federal PLUS Loans, but the amount borrowed cannot exceed the difference between the student’s Cost of Attendance and all other financial aid.

As of July 1, 2006, Federal PLUS Loans have a fixed interest rate of 8.5%. Unlike Federal Stafford Loans, the federal government does not pay the interest while you are in school, so interest payments begin immediately. Generally, borrowers have at least ten years to repay a Federal PLUS Loan.

To apply, ask your parent(s) to check with your counselor or the financial aid office at the college or school you plan to attend.



Consolidation Loans

If you take out sizeable loans for most years of your postsecondary education, the sum of the payments required when you have to begin repaying the loans may be a very heavy financial burden. To help you with this problem, **Consolidation Loans** are available to many borrowers.

This loan lets you replace Federal Stafford (regular and unsubsidized) Loans and Federal Perkins Loans with one loan having a lower payment than the total payments on the original loans. Parent(s) may be able to consolidate PLUS loans they have taken out.

The maximum time to pay off the combined loan depends upon the total amount:

\$ < 7,500 – \$ 9,999	12 years
\$ 10,000 – \$ 19,999	15 years
\$ 20,000 – \$ 39,999	20 years
\$ 40,000 – \$ 59,999	25 years
Over \$ 60,000	30 years

The interest rate on a consolidation loan is the “weighted average” of the interest rates on the original loans, rounded up to the nearest higher 1/8th of 1%.

For example, if you have \$4,000 in Federal Perkins Loans and \$6,000 in Federal Stafford Loans (with an interest rate of 7.14%), the consolidated rate will be:

$$\frac{4,000 \times 0.05 + 6,000 \times 0.0714}{10,000} = 0.0628$$

which results in 6.28% interest for the loan

While consolidating loans will reduce your payments, you will in the long run pay more interest, which will cost you money. When you near the end of your postsecondary education, check with your school’s financial aid office for advice on whether you should consolidate your loans.

Wisconsin Minority Teacher Loans

Junior, senior, and graduate minority students in education and teacher preparation programs at Wisconsin private colleges or UW institutions may borrow at 5% interest up to \$2,500 per year to a maximum of \$5,000, which will be “forgiven” at 25% per year employed as a teacher in a Wisconsin school district enrolling at least 29% minorities. For more information, call your financial aid office or download a brochure at www.heab.state.wi.us/MTLflyer.doc.

Income Tax Considerations

Congressional actions have provided some “tax credit” provisions to assist students and their parents in paying for postsecondary education. These credits are phased out for married taxpayers with over \$107,000 Adjusted Gross Income and for single taxpayers with over \$53,000 AGI. Consult www.irs.gov for additional information on other tax deductions, Coverdell ESAs, and employer-provided assistance.

HOPE Scholarship Credit

This credit provides a credit against federal income tax of up to \$1,500 per student for the **first two years** of postsecondary education. It covers 100% of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees, plus 50% of the next \$1,000.

Other costs, such as books and room/board are not covered. The taxpayer may be the student, spouse, or dependent.

Lifetime Learning Credit

This credit provides an annual credit against federal income tax of 20% for up to \$10,000 in postsecondary tuition expenses, with a maximum credit of \$2,000. The taxpayer may be the student, spouse, or dependent. This credit may not be taken if the HOPE credit is used for the student in the same year.



Work Aid

Federal Work-Study

The Federal Work-Study program provides students with part-time jobs to earn money for their higher education costs. The college or school locates jobs on-campus or off-campus with nonprofit or government employers. Most colleges offer a Federal Work-Study job as part of their financial aid package.

There is no fixed maximum award. The limit is determined by your financial need and the number of hours you are permitted to work. An important feature of Work-Study jobs is that your earnings from them **are not considered as income** when you re-apply for financial aid next year.

Remember: Work-Study money comes as **wages** paid as you work at the job(s) for which you have been hired. Work-Study aid is **taxable income**, and taxes will be withheld unless you file a W-4 form that exempts your wages from withholding. You do not pay Social Security tax, however.

A school or college will try to place you in jobs related to your studies or career plans. You will be paid at least the federal minimum wage. Wages normally depend on the job's skill and responsibility levels. As your studies progress, you may be able to obtain better and higher paying jobs.

If a Work-Study grant is part of your financial aid package, check with the financial aid office at your school. They will tell you what kinds of jobs are available and how you should apply. You may also find your own Work-Study job. Campus employers often post a variety of openings, sometimes at well above the minimum wage. In most cases, Work-Study pays 75% of your wages, your employer only the remaining 25%. So you will have a good bargaining position.

Other Jobs

Other jobs are often available through the school employment office or in the community. But remember that your earnings from these jobs, even while you are attending school, **will increase your expected financial contribution** (if your total annual earnings exceed \$3,000) when you apply for financial aid next year.

Other Programs Available to Qualifying Students

Department of Vocational (DVR) Rehabilitation Training Grant

The DVR Training Grant may be given to eligible persons attending a university, college, technical college, or vocational training. The maximum grant is \$4,000 per year.

The DVR Training Grant will help eligible persons pay for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, personal expenses, dependent care, and other related expenses.

You may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation aid if you have a disability which interferes with your vocational goals.

For more information, call the Vocational Rehabilitation field office serving your area. Call the main DVR office, (608) 261-0050, if you don't know its number or address. Visit the DVR website for more information at www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr.

Wisconsin Works

In 1997–98, Congress passed welfare legislation that phased out the Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, replacing it with a system of “block grants” to states. In Wisconsin, the replacement programs are called “Wisconsin Works” (W-2).

W-2 programs are administered by the Department of Workforce Development and locally managed by a county or tribal welfare agency, or by a private contractor. W-2 programs emphasize making the transition from welfare to employment. Because of this, postsecondary education assistance is mainly limited to that which qualifies a client for employment. To assist clients in moving to productive employment, W-2 uses the concept of an **employment ladder**:

- **Unsubsidized Employment:** Employment for which the W-2 agency provides no subsidy to the employer.
- **Trial Job:** A W-2 subsidized employment position that provides work experience and training which may lead to permanent unsubsidized employment. The W-2 subsidy for Trial Job participants is paid directly to the employer.

- **Community Service Job:** A W-2 work readiness practice placement designed to improve the employability of participants by providing work experience in the public and private sectors. CSJs must serve a useful purpose or be a project whose cost is at least partially offset by revenue generated.
- **W-2 Transition:** A W-2 work-readiness placement for clients unable to perform independent, self-sustaining work, but who are able to participate in work practice or other development training.

Participation in W-2 programs is overseen by a **Financial and Employment Planner (FEP)**. FEPs provide eligibility determinations, job readiness screening, employment planning, and financial and employment management services. They also make referrals to other assistance programs and determine eligibility for support services such as food stamps and Medicaid.

Veterans (VA) Benefits

Veterans

Most veterans and some members of military reserve components (including National Guard units) are eligible for educational benefits. For further information, call or write to an office of the Veterans Administration (VA) or the campus Veterans Affairs Office or visit www.va.gov.

Dependents of Veterans

A federal program of benefits is available to students who are dependents of a veteran with a 100% service-related disability or of a deceased veteran parent. For further information, call or write to any County Veterans Service Office or Veterans Administration Office or visit www.va.gov.

Important Dates	
Dec 1, 2006	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should become available. But remember: don't date, sign, or file form(s) before January 1, 2007.
Jan 1, 2007	File your FAFSA (and possibly, other needs analysis forms) as soon as possible after January 1.
Jan 31, 2007	Students and families should receive their Internal Revenue Service (IRS) W-2 forms from employers before this date.
Feb 15, 2007	Some colleges and schools have FAFSA priority deadlines as early as this. See pages 28-29

Deadlines for financial aid applications are very important and sometimes very strict!
(For more information about financial aid deadlines, refer to pages 28-29.)

Test Dates and Registration Deadlines			
	<i>Date of Test</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Late Registration Deadline</i>
SAT & Subject Tests	December 2, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 9, 2006
ACT	December 9, 2006	November 3, 2006	November 16, 2006
SAT & Subject Tests	January 27, 2007	December 26, 2006	January 4, 2007
ACT	February 10, 2007	January 5, 2007	January 19, 2007
SAT only	March 10, 2007	February 2, 2007	February 14, 2007
ACT	April 14, 2007	March 9, 2007	March 23, 2007
SAT & Subject Tests	May 5, 2007	April 3, 2007	April 11, 2007
SAT & Subject Tests	June 2, 2007	April 28, 2007	May 9, 2007
ACT	June 9, 2007	May 4, 2007	May 18, 2007

Applying for Your Financial Aid and Getting It

How To Apply for Financial Aid

You get financial aid only if you apply for it! Don't disqualify yourself by not applying. Be sure you and your parent(s) fill out the form completely and correctly! You **must** have your own Social Security number to enter on the form. Incomplete forms will not be processed, and will delay or deny your eligibility for financial aid. Here are the basic steps you'll take.

Step 1: Find Out About College/School Financial Aid Procedures

Find out the application procedures for each university, college, or school you wish to apply to. These are usually found in the brochures that schools and colleges provide. Pay attention to application deadlines! Be sure to **apply for admission** as well as for financial aid to the school(s) or college(s) in which you are interested. Usually, aid is not offered until you are approved for admission. (You don't need to have decided whether to attend there.)

Step 2: Complete and Submit Financial Need Analysis Forms

You (and your parent(s) unless you are an independent student) must fill out the Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prepared by the U.S. Department of Education. There is **no processing fee** for the FAFSA.

You can pick up a FAFSA from your counselor or download the FAFSA and signature page at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can also download pre-application worksheet to help you collect the information you'll need to complete the FAFSA online.

If you'd rather complete the FAFSA entirely online, you must apply for your personal identification number (PIN). Visit www.pin.ed.gov to apply for your PIN. It will take approximately 1-3 business days to receive it. Your PIN serves as your electronic signature. It also provides you with access to your personal records, and allows you to find out what your financial aid status is. If your parent will sign for you, that parent must apply for a separate PIN.

The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for **all** federal and Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) state-funded need-based aid. Schools having **their own financial aid resources** may use FAFSA or they may require you to complete the PROFILE, created and processed by College Scholarship Services. **There is a charge for processing the PROFILE.**

Complete the PROFILE **only** if an institution you are applying to requires it. You will also have to file the FAFSA to receive **any** federal or HEAB aid.

The FAFSA and/or PROFILE processor will analyze the information you provided, calculate your expected family contribution, and report it to the schools and colleges you specified on the form. On the FAFSA, list both the complete names and six-digit institution codes of up to six schools to which your expected family contribution is to be sent. See pages 28-29 for the codes for many Wisconsin institutions. If you include any Wisconsin college or school, the FAFSA processor will automatically send your information to HEAB as well.

Including a Wisconsin college or school on your FAFSA is the only way to apply for Wisconsin state financial aid programs. It is always a good idea to include at least one Wisconsin college or school in your list, even if you expect to go out of state to college.

The analysis agency will notify you when your form has been processed, and will inform you of your family's expected financial contribution by sending you a Student Aid Report (SAR). Filing your completed FAFSA automatically causes you to be considered for:

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal SEOG grants
- Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant
- Federal SMART Grant
- Wisconsin WHEG grants (if you include a University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System campus on your form)
- Wisconsin WTG grants (if you include a Wisconsin independent college or school)
- Federal Perkins Loans
- Federal Stafford Loans
- Federal Work-Study Aid
- (Possibly) institutional need-based aid. Colleges and schools may have their own form or require you to file the PROFILE.

Step 3: Submit College or School Financial Aid Applications

Many colleges and schools ask you to fill out their own financial aid application after receiving your expected family contribution from the FAFSA processor. In many cases you will need to send a copy of the SAR you receive. Some institutions will receive your SAR electronically. Typically, one application form, together with the SAR information, covers all financial aid programs.

for which you are eligible, but check with the aid office for any special programs that you need to apply for separately.

You may be required to submit verification information to the financial aid office. This usually means sending copies of the 2006 income tax returns for your parent(s) and yourself, including W-2 forms.

Step 4: Look for Other Grants and Programs

Check with your counselor, parental employers, unions, fraternities or sororities, religious and community groups, and other organizations to see if you are eligible for other scholarships or grants.

To apply for other forms of aid from governmental sources, check with the appropriate agency (see pages 23-24). Any such aid must be reported to the financial aid office.

Step 5: Federal Loan Programs

If you are eligible for a Federal Perkins Loan, the financial aid office will include it in your offer of financial aid. The school or college itself will prepare the note you will sign if you accept the loan.

Do not apply for other loans until you have been given your offer of financial aid. The financial aid office can advise you of your eligibility for a Federal Stafford Loan, as well as tell you how much you (and your parent(s)) can borrow under the other federal loan programs.

If you apply for and receive a loan before you apply for other aid, the amount of the loan will be deducted from your financial need, and the aid that you can receive from other sources may be reduced.

To get a Federal Stafford Loan, contact your school's financial aid office to see if you need to find a lender (bank, savings and loan, or credit union) willing to make the loan. Ask the lender for an application. Fill out the first half, then take it to the school's financial aid officer, who will complete the form so you can submit it to the lender.

Some schools inform you of your Federal Stafford Loan eligibility at the same time you are notified of other financial aid. If you qualify, they may send you a loan application with the school section completed, ready for you to submit to a lender.

Some lenders have policies limiting lending to students in their freshman year. These loan limits are often less than the maximum of \$2,625 per year allowed freshmen and sophomores under the Federal Stafford Loan Program.

Typical processing of a Federal Stafford Loan by the school, lender, and Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation takes 6 to 16 weeks from the time you pick up the form from the lender until you receive the check written by the lender and disbursed to you by the school. **For first-year borrowers, a federal rule requires payment to be delayed until 30 days after your instruction begins.**

A loan officer at the lending institution will know if your loan has been approved; check with the lender for information on the status of your application.

Step 6: Next Year You Must Reapply

To receive aid in subsequent years, you must re-apply each year and have a new needs analysis made. Check with the financial aid office to find out exactly what you will need to do. Be sure you know the deadline for reapplying. **Do not expect the aid office to notify you!**

Students receiving federal financial aid in 2006–07 should be mailed a Renewal Application version of the FAFSA by January 1, 2007. The form will contain preprinted data, such as names, addresses, and Social Security numbers (taken from your previous year's FAFSA) for many of the entries. This will make your renewal application process simpler than your initial application. **Check with your financial aid office if you do not receive your Renewal Application on time.**

Remember: Usually, you must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by your school to continue to qualify for aid.

Helpful Telephone Numbers and Organizations

For general information on federal financial aid programs and procedures, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

If you are planning to attend a postsecondary institution in Wisconsin, information may be obtained by calling the following numbers:

For the University of Wisconsin System, call
UW-HELP (Higher Education Location Program)
1-800-442-6459
TTY: 1-800-442-4621
(for persons who are hearing impaired)
<http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu>

For independent universities and colleges, call
WAICU (Wisconsin Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities)
(608) 256-7761
<http://www.waicuweb.org>

When You Are Offered Financial Aid

Your Student Aid Report

You should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks after you submit your FAFSA. This will list your expected family contribution and will also tell you whether you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant and, if so, for how much. As soon as you have the SAR, send photocopies to the financial aid office of all colleges and schools you are interested in. They will need to know your Federal Pell Grant status to determine what other financial aid they will offer you. (Some institutions you list on your FAFSA form may receive your SAR data from the Department of Education electronically on an ISIR—Institutional Student Information Record—eliminating the need for you to submit your SAR.)

If you receive a Federal Pell Grant, sign and submit the original SAR to the financial aid office of the college or school you decide to attend. This is necessary to have your award processed. You will receive the grant money in installments, as set by the school's policy.

Financial Aid Packages

In awarding you financial aid, school and college aid offices will take into account the Cost of Attendance for your program on their campus, your expected family contribution from the need analysis agency, any Pell Grant, and other scholarships and aid, including veterans benefits or Wisconsin Works.

Most colleges and schools offer students aid in the form of a **financial aid package** consisting of grant(s), plus loan and/or Federal Work-Study aid. Institutions usually do not make financial aid offers until the admissions office has approved your application. (This does not mean that you have decided to actually enroll there.)

Different schools and agencies have their own individual schedules for paying financial aid awards. You should ask the financial aid office **when** you will receive your checks and plan accordingly. You should also ask how you will get your checks. Some schools mail awards, while others expect you to pick them up.

What you should know about the financial aid packages that you are offered:

- You must sign and return the forms that the financial aid office sends you, indicating whether or not you accept the award.
- You don't always have to accept the whole package. You can sometimes accept only part of it, such as grants but not loans. If you decide not to accept the loan portion of the package, the aid office will not increase the amount of your grants.
- Many schools and colleges allow students to trade Work-Study aid for loan aid and loan aid for Work-Study aid. If you are interested, ask the financial aid office for details.
- Your financial aid award may be changed if your financial aid circumstances change significantly, both before the school year begins and during the year.

You must report any major changes in your financial circumstances to your financial aid office. Some examples of changes to be reported are: parental death, divorce or loss of job, receiving a large gift or inheritance, and becoming eligible for Wisconsin Works or veteran's benefits.

Other Organizations Awarding Aid

Other organizations will notify you directly of your award. They may pay you the funds directly, or they may pay you through the campus financial aid office. **These awards must be reported to the campus financial aid office.**



Survey of Institutional Financial Aid Procedures

These pages list basic information on financial aid procedures for many Wisconsin colleges and schools, including:

- **Institutional codes**, used on FAFSA to identify schools to which you want information sent.
- Whether a separate **institutional aid application** form (in addition to need analysis form) must be completed.
- Application **priority date** to get full consideration for financial aid. If “None,” applications are processed as received, or school has no financial aid that it controls.
- Whether the school accepts the PROFILE.



Name and Location of College	Institutional Code	Institutional Application	Application Priority Date	PROFILE accepted?
Alverno College, Milwaukee	003832	Yes	April 1	Yes
Bellin College of Nursing, Green Bay Freshman & sophomores apply for aid through UW-Green Bay	006639	No	March 1	No
Beloit College	003835	Yes	Feb 28	No
Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville	005390	Yes	None	No
Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee	003837	No	April 1	Yes
Carroll College, Waukesha	003838	No	None	No
Carthage College, Kenosha	003839	No	Feb 15	No
Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire	005304	Yes	April 15	No
College of the Menominee Nation	031251	No	April 30	No
Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon	003842	Yes	May 1	No
Edgewood College, Madison	003848	No	March 15	Yes
Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton	009744	No	April 15	No
Gateway Technical College, Kenosha	005389	Yes	April 15	No
Lac Court Oreilles Ojibwa Community College	017199	No	None	No
Lakeland College, Sheboygan	003854	Yes	May 1	No
Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland	009194	No	June 1	No
Lawrence University, Appleton	003856	Yes	March 15	No
Madison Area Technical College	004007	Yes	April 15	No
Maranatha Baptist Bible College, Watertown	016394	No	March 1	No
Marian College, Fond du Lac	003861	No	March 1	No
Marquette University, Milwaukee	003863	No	March 1	No
Mid-State Tech. College, Wisconsin Rapids	005380	No	None	No
Milwaukee Area Technical College	003866	No	March 15	No
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design	014203	No	March 1	Yes
Milwaukee School of Engineering	003868	No	March 15	No

This information is provided by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). <http://heab.state.wi.us>

Name and Location of College	Institutional Code	Institutional Application	Application Priority Date	PROFILE accepted?
Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac	005303	Yes	April 1	No
Mount Mary College, Milwaukee	003869	Yes	March 1	Yes
Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander	008919	Yes	April 15	No
Northcentral Technical College, Wausau	005387	No	April 1	No
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay	005301	No	April 15	No
Northland College, Ashland	003875	Yes	April 15	No
Ripon College	003884	No	March 1	No
St. Norbert College, De Pere	003892	Yes	March 1	No
Silver Lake College, Manitowoc	003850	No	March 1	No
Southwest WI Technical College, Fennimore	007699	No	April 15	No
University of Wisconsin Colleges (all campuses)	003897	No	April 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	003917	No	April 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	003899	No	April 15	No
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse	003919	Yes	March 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Madison	003895	Yes	None	No
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	003896	No	March 1	No
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh	003920	No	March 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Parkside	005015	No	March 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Platteville	003921	No	March 15	No
University of Wisconsin-River Falls	003923	No	May 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	003924	No	June 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Stout	003915	No	March 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Superior	003925	No	April 15	No
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	003926	No	March 15	Yes
Viterbo University, La Crosse	003911	Yes	March 15	No
Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee	005294	Yes	March 31	No
Western Wisconsin Technical College, La Crosse	003840	Yes	March 15	No
Wisconsin Indianhead Tech. College	011824	No	March 15	No
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee	014658	Yes	March 1	No

This information was checked in October 2006. If the school of your choice is not included in this list, call its financial aid office.



Comparing College Costs on the Basis of Financial Aid Offers

When you have received your financial aid offers, you should compare them to see how much it will cost to go to the places you applied to. Each aid offer will probably be different, as will your student costs. Therefore, the amounts that you will have to pay at each school will usually be different, too.

To compare the costs of the different schools and colleges, do the following steps:

Step 1: Write down your total student cost at each school. (You may need to adjust the Cost of Attendance computed by the school, depending on where you will live, etc.)

Step 2: List the grant aid each school offers you. Subtract the grant aid from your total student cost to see how much you will have to pay, through parents' contribution, your savings and earnings, loans, and Federal Work-Study aid.

Step 3: Write down how much your parent(s) will **actually** contribute to your education. (This may not be the amount expected by the school.)

Step 4: List the amount of savings and of earnings you expect to contribute, not counting possible Federal Work-Study aid.

Step 5: Calculate your total family contribution by adding up the amount your parent(s) will furnish, your contribution from savings, and your contribution from earnings. Subtract this from the amount of nongrant funds you need.

Step 6: List the loan and Work-Study aid the school offers you. You may want to ask: What kind of Work-Study job is being offered? Can I get a better job elsewhere through Work-Study or on my own? Can I work and keep my grades up?

Step 7: Subtract the school's offer of loan and Work-Study aid from what you need in addition to your family contribution. Do you need additional funds? If so, you will have to come up with this amount. Maybe you can reduce your expenses somewhat—for example, by finding less expensive housing. Perhaps you can work more this summer. You may want to think about a Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Your parent(s) may consider a PLUS loan so they can contribute more to your education. Or maybe you need to consider a school with lower costs or one that offers more aid.

College/School Costs on the Basis of Financial Aid Offers			
Financial Aid Offers	College/School # 1	College/School # 2	College/School # 3
Student Expense & Grant Aid			
Total student expense	\$	\$	\$
Total grant offered	\$	\$	\$
Total funds you need	\$	\$	\$
Family Contribution			
Parents contribution	\$	\$	\$
Your savings contribution	\$	\$	\$
Your earnings contribution (not Work-study)	\$	\$	\$
Total Family Contribution	\$	\$	\$
Loan and Work-Study Aid			
Funds needed minus family contribution	\$	\$	\$
Loan aid offered by college	\$	\$	\$
Work-Study Aid offered by college	\$	\$	\$
Additional Funds Needed	\$	\$	\$

Making Your Decision

How does the total cost to you and your parents compare among the schools that you are interested in attending? Are you willing to pay more for one school than another?

*Financial aid can
make college
possible for you!*

Your Financial Aid Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights

You have the right to know what financial aid programs are available at your college or school.

You have the right to know the application deadlines for each program available to you.

You have the right to know how financial aid will be distributed, how decisions on distribution are made, and the basis for these decisions.

You have the right to know how your student expense budget was determined. This includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, travel, books and supplies, and personal and miscellaneous expenses were estimated.

You have the right to know what resources (such as parental contribution, other financial aid, and your own assets) were considered by the financial aid office in calculating your need.

You have the right to know how much of your financial need has been met, as determined by the financial aid officer at the school or college.

You have the right to an explanation of the programs included in your student financial aid package:

- what portion of your package is grant(s), what portion loan(s), and what portion Work-Study
- for the loan part, an explanation of the payback procedures, including interest rate charged, total amount you must repay, length of time you have to repay the loan, and when repayment is to begin.

You have the right to know how the school determines whether you are making satisfactory progress, and what happens if you are not.

You have the right to know your school's refund policies:

- the portion, if any, of tuition and fees that are refunded to you if you withdraw before the end of the term
- the portion, if any, of the financial aid you received which you must pay back immediately if you withdraw before the end of the term.

Under the Federal Stafford Loan Program, if you cannot meet the repayment schedule, you may request that the loan payments be reduced for a specific period of time if this will assist you in avoiding default.

Student Responsibilities

You must complete application forms and submit them to the proper agencies, meeting all deadlines.

You must provide correct information. In most instances, misreporting information on financial aid applications is a violation of law and may be considered a criminal offense. You will also probably lose your eligibility for aid.

You must submit additional documentation, verification, corrections, and/or new information requested by the financial aid office or the agency to which you submitted your application.

You are responsible for reading and understanding all forms that you are asked to sign, and for keeping copies of them.

Schools must provide information about school programs and performance to prospective students upon request. Consider this information carefully before enrolling.

When you have decided upon the school at which you will enroll, you should promptly notify any other school(s) which offered you financial aid that you are declining their offer.

You must fulfill the terms of all agreements that you sign.

You must do the work that is agreed upon accepting a Federal Work-Study award.

You should be aware of your school's refund procedures.

If you withdraw from school before the end of a term, you must notify the financial aid office. You may have to pay back immediately a part of the aid you received.

You should keep track of the total repayment obligations for all loans you take out.

If you receive a Federal Stafford Loan, you must notify the lender whenever you:

- change your address
- graduate from your program of study
- withdraw from school or reduce your program level to less than half-time attendance
- change your name (e.g., maiden name to married name)
- transfer to a different school or college
- enter the military, Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps before the loan is completely repaid.

Glossary of Financial Aid Terms

Term	Description
Assets	Financial worth, including equity in real estate, a business, stocks, bonds, and cash. Equity in a house or farm where the family resides is not included.
Cost of Attendance	The school-calculated cost for you to attend a specific college or other postsecondary school. Your Cost of Attendance depends upon your tuition and fees, estimated textbook cost, type of housing available to you, and your transportation costs.
Coverdell ESAs	The new name of what was formerly called an Education IRA. The Coverdell Education Savings Account is set up by parents and students to save money for education expenses. For more information, consult a bank, brokerage, or mutual fund company.
Dependent Student	A student whose parent(s) may under federal regulations, be expected to make a financial contribution (depending upon their income and assets) to his or her education costs.
Expected Family Contribution	The amount a student and parent(s) are expected to contribute to higher education costs, based on income, savings, and assets, as determined under federal regulations.
Equity	The value of a property after you have paid any mortgage or other charges relating to it.
FAFSA	<i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid.</i> A U.S. Government form used to apply for federal and Wisconsin HEAB financial aid programs.
Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant	This new grant is available to students in four-year degree-granting institutions. The maximum award for the first year of study is \$750 and the maximum for the second year of study is \$1,300.
Federal Pell Grant	A federal grant of up to \$4,050 (amount for 2006-07), based upon financial need.
Federal Perkins Loan	A loan made by the U.S. Government at 5% annual interest rate. There are no interest charges while in school. You begin repayment nine months after you graduate or are no longer enrolled at least half-time. You have up to 10 years to repay, depending upon the amount borrowed.
Federal PLUS Loan	Loans made by private lenders, guaranteed by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation. Not need-based but cannot exceed Cost of Attendance minus all other financial aid.
Federal Stafford Loan	A need-based loan made by private lenders, but guaranteed by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation or similar agency. See page 20 for the interest rates. You begin repayment of the loan six months after you graduate, leave school, or drop to less than 50% attendance. You have up to 10 years to repay, depending on the amount borrowed.
Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	A federal grant program to assist students with financial need by supplementing other financial aid.
Federal Work-Study Program	A program that provides eligible students with part-time jobs to earn money for their educational expenses.
Financial Aid Office	The office at each school responsible for evaluating students' eligibility for aid and awarding the available funds.
Financial Need	The difference between the Cost of Attendance for the school or college chosen and your Expected Family Contribution toward those costs. This determines the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive.
Grant Aid	Financial aid that does not have to be repaid.
Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation	A private nonprofit organization which guarantees loans made by private lenders under the Federal Stafford, PLUS, and Consolidation Loan programs.

Term	Description
Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB)	The agency that administers aid programs offered by the State of Wisconsin.
Income Protection Allowance (IPA)	An amount of money needed to cover an individual's or family's basic living expenses.
Independent Student	A student whose parent(s) are not expected, under federal regulations, to contribute to his or her education expenses. Parental income and assets are not counted in computing financial need.
Institutional Aid	Financial aid provided by a college or school from its own resources, which does not have to be based on federal needs standards.
Institutional Code	Used on FAFSA to identify colleges/schools to which you may send your SAR.
Living expenses	Expenses for transportation, clothing, and personal expenses.
Loan	A form of aid that must be repaid.
National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant)	This new grant is available to students in their third and fourth years of study at four-year degree-granting institutions. The maximum award is \$4,000 per year.
Package	The financial aid offer from a university, college, or school, which is usually made up of a combination of grant, loan, and/or work aid.
Parental Contribution	The amount of money parent(s) pay toward their child's college education.
Priority Date, Application	The date the application must be received by to get full consideration for financial aid.
Professional Judgment	Used by a financial aid administrator to adjust financial aid awards due to unforeseen or special circumstances.
PROFILE	The form developed by the College Board, used for some institutional aid.
Room and Board	The cost of housing and meals while attending a school or college.
Scholarship	A grant awarded completely or partly on the basis of grades, other achievements, or satisfying special conditions (for example, a parent working for a particular employer), rather than only the student's financial need.
Student Aid Report (SAR)	The report from the FAFSA processor, indicating your expected family contribution and eligibility for a Pell Grant. You must sign and turn in the SAR to receive your grant.
Student Contribution	The amount of money a student will pay toward his/her college education.
Tax-Deferred IRA/Keogh Plan	IRA stands for Individual Retirement Account. Different types of IRAs (for example, Roth or traditional IRAs) are available to investors. A Keogh plan is a tax-deferred retirement savings plan. For more information, consult a bank, brokerage, or mutual fund company.
Tuition and Fees	The charges by the school or college for attending that institution. They may depend on the number of courses taken ("per credit") or be a fixed amount.
Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG)	A state grant aid program for students who attend a University of Wisconsin or Wisconsin Technical College System campus or a Tribal College.
Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG)	A state aid program for students who attend Wisconsin colleges or schools that charge more than the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Financial Aid on the Internet

Online Resources

One Internet resource to provide assistance to students and others on financial aid and related matters is **Mapping Your Future**, <http://mapping-your-future.org>.

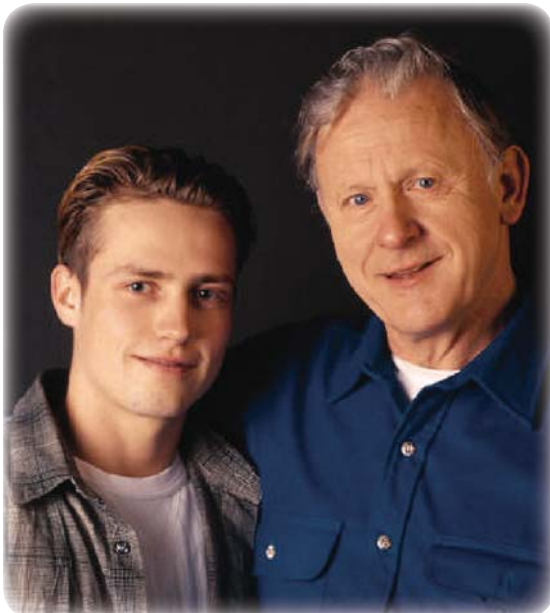
The site is sponsored by Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and a number of similar guarantors and servicers. Students and their families may find information to help make education and financial aid decisions.

Mapping Your Future Includes:

- Financial aid information on grants, loans, work-study programs, and scholarships
- Explanations of procedures to apply for student financial aid
- Tips on selecting a school, including types of schools and characteristics to consider when choosing a school
- Information about academic preparation needed for college, and what to expect from admission procedures and standardized tests
- Tips on preparing a resume, job hunting, and job interviewing
- Links to other resources for career, college, and financial aid information.

Using Mapping Your Future

Your school or your local library probably has access to the Internet. Once you're on the Web, visit <http://mapping-your-future.org>. If you have access to the Internet from your home, you can also get to the site from there.



Other Internet Sites for Financial Aid

The **Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board** site has information on HEAB programs and procedures, plus links to other financial aid sites. For more information visit <http://heab.state.wi.us>.

The **National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators** site contains information on scholarship resources. For more information visit <http://www.nasfaa.org>.

The **U.S. Department of Education** site contains a variety of information on education issues. For more information visit <http://www.ed.gov>.

The **Wisconsin Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators** site provides information on application procedures for financial aid, types of financial aid, a scholarship search, and resources for school counselors. For more information visit <http://www.wasfaa.net>.

The **College Board** is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. For more information visit <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

What About National Service?

Participation in AmeriCorps provides a means for some students to become involved in community-based service programs and earn education credits that may be used either to defray postsecondary education costs (if performed before beginning higher education) or partially pay off student loans (if performed after completing higher education).



Briefly, the AmeriCorps program involves public service work in education, health, public safety, and environmental projects. AmeriCorps volunteers receive a modest living stipend plus health care (and child care, if applicable) for a maximum of two years. For each year of service performed, an educational credit of \$4,725 per academic year will also be earned. This credit is not need-based.

The program is administered by the federally chartered Corporation for National and Community Service.

Some possible benefits from your participation in the National Service Program:

- You may value the opportunity to help in meeting some societal or environmental need, to perhaps “make a difference.”
- If you perform your service before beginning your postsecondary education, your increased maturity and broadened horizons may make you a better student.
- You will earn significant (even though only partial) financial support for your education.

Some limitations you should be aware of:

- By participating in the program, you will postpone your postsecondary education and/or entry into the job market by one or two years.
- You will receive significant education credit for your service, but in most cases, the amount will be only a fraction of your postsecondary education costs.

You can obtain more information at:

Corporation for National & Community Service
310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Room 1240
Milwaukee, WI 53203-2211
(414) 297-1118

www.nationalservice.org

www.americorps.gov



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