



How to Limit What You Borrow

(And therefore limit how much you must repay)

Only Borrow What You Need

Many students borrow more than they need. By borrowing only what you truly need, you will limit the amount that you will have to repay when you get out of school as well as the amount of interest that will accrue on those loans. If you borrow more than you need, you can always contact the Financial Aid Office and return any excess funds so that you are reducing what you owe.

Summer Jobs

Try to save as much money as you can from your summer job and use the money you save either to pay on your university bill or for living expenses during the school year.

Jobs During The Academic Year

Whether it is an on-campus or off-campus job, working part time can give you the money you need for living expenses so that you don't need to borrow as much in student loans.

Apply Any Birthday or Other Gift Money To Your Student Loans

There is never any penalty for paying early on your loans. In fact, it is encouraged. Any payments you can make while you are in school will reduce the amount you will have to repay when you are out of school.

Make As Large A Payment As You Can Afford

The longer it takes you to repay your student loans, the more interest you will be paying. By paying anything above what you are scheduled to pay you will ultimately pay less interest and pay your loans off sooner.

Apply For Scholarships

In addition to UWL Foundation scholarships, apply for any other outside scholarships that you are eligible for. Scholarships are free money and will be used to pay on your university bill, allowing you to borrow less in student loans.

Complete Your Degree In A Timely Manner

Plot out what courses you need to take for your major and stick to the plan as much as possible. Take as many credits as you can handle each semester. Any credits between 12 and 18 taken during a semester are essentially "free courses."

Pay Interest As You Go

If you can, plan to pay the interest on your student loans as you go. When you go into repayment on your student loans, the interest that has accrued up to that point will be capitalized (added to the amount you borrowed) and from that point forward you will be paying interest on that interest.

Register At Your Servicer's Website

Once your first loan has disbursed, the Department of Education will assign your loans to one of four servicers and you will begin receiving information from that servicer. All payments you make will be handled through this servicer. By registering at your servicer's website, you will have one location to view how much you have borrowed and how much interest has accrued. You can update your contact information at this site and when you go into repayment, you will be able to make electronic payments there. The contact information for each of the four services is provided on the back of this document.

Federal Loan Servicing Contact Information

Great Lakes

www.mygreatlakes.org
General Help: 800.236.4300

FedLoan Servicing

www.myfedloan.org
General Help: 800.699.2908

NelNet

www.nelnet.com
General Help: 888.486.4722

Sallie Mae (SLMA)

www.salliemae.com
General Help: 800.722.1300

Student Loan Debt to Income Ratio by Percentage of Monthly Payments

Calculate the total amount of student loans you will borrow (amount of debt), determine what you expect to earn (annual salary) and find where they meet on the chart below. **This is the percentage of your salary that will have to go to pay your student loans.**

AMOUNT OF DEBT	ANNUAL SALARY																
	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$55,000	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$95,000	\$100,000
\$5,000	3.5%	2.8%	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
\$10,000	6.9%	5.5%	4.6%	3.9%	3.5%	3.1%	2.8%	2.5%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%
\$15,000	10.4%	8.3%	6.9%	5.9%	5.2%	4.6%	4.1%	3.8%	3.5%	3.2%	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%
\$20,000	13.8%	11.0%	9.2%	7.9%	6.9%	6.1%	5.5%	5.0%	4.6%	4.2%	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%	3.2%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%
\$25,000	17.3%	13.8%	11.5%	9.9%	8.6%	7.7%	6.9%	6.3%	5.8%	5.3%	4.9%	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	3.5%
\$30,000	20.7%	16.6%	13.8%	11.8%	10.4%	9.2%	8.3%	7.5%	6.9%	6.4%	5.9%	5.5%	5.2%	4.9%	4.6%	4.4%	4.1%
\$35,000	24.2%	19.3%	16.1%	13.8%	12.1%	10.7%	9.7%	8.8%	8.1%	7.4%	6.9%	6.4%	6.0%	5.7%	5.4%	5.1%	4.8%
\$40,000	27.6%	22.1%	18.4%	15.8%	13.8%	12.3%	11.0%	10.0%	9.2%	8.5%	7.9%	7.4%	6.9%	6.5%	6.1%	5.8%	5.5%
\$45,000	31.1%	24.9%	20.7%	17.8%	15.5%	13.8%	12.4%	11.3%	10.4%	9.6%	8.9%	8.3%	7.8%	7.3%	6.9%	6.5%	6.2%
\$50,000	34.5%	27.6%	23.0%	19.7%	17.3%	15.3%	13.8%	12.6%	11.5%	10.6%	9.9%	9.2%	8.6%	8.1%	7.7%	7.3%	6.9%
\$55,000	38.0%	30.4%	25.3%	21.7%	19.0%	16.9%	15.2%	13.8%	12.7%	11.7%	10.9%	10.1%	9.5%	8.9%	8.4%	8.0%	7.6%
\$60,000	41.4%	33.1%	27.6%	23.7%	20.7%	18.4%	16.6%	15.1%	13.8%	12.7%	11.8%	11.0%	10.4%	9.7%	9.2%	8.7%	8.3%
\$65,000	44.9%	35.9%	29.9%	25.6%	22.4%	19.9%	18.0%	16.3%	15.0%	13.8%	12.8%	12.0%	11.2%	10.6%	10.0%	9.4%	9.0%
\$70,000	48.3%	38.7%	32.2%	27.6%	24.2%	21.5%	19.3%	17.6%	16.1%	14.9%	13.8%	12.9%	12.1%	11.4%	10.7%	10.2%	9.7%
\$75,000	51.8%	41.4%	34.5%	29.6%	25.9%	23.0%	20.7%	18.8%	17.3%	15.9%	14.8%	13.8%	12.9%	12.2%	11.5%	10.9%	10.4%
\$80,000	55.2%	44.2%	36.8%	31.6%	27.6%	24.6%	22.1%	20.1%	18.4%	17.0%	15.8%	14.7%	13.8%	13.0%	12.3%	11.6%	11.0%
\$85,000	58.7%	47.0%	39.1%	33.5%	29.3%	26.1%	23.5%	21.3%	19.6%	18.1%	16.8%	15.7%	14.7%	13.8%	13.0%	12.4%	11.7%
\$90,000	62.1%	49.7%	41.4%	35.5%	31.1%	27.6%	24.9%	22.6%	20.7%	19.1%	17.8%	16.6%	15.5%	14.6%	13.8%	13.1%	12.4%
\$95,000	65.6%	52.5%	43.7%	37.5%	32.8%	29.2%	26.2%	23.9%	21.9%	20.2%	18.7%	17.5%	16.4%	15.4%	14.6%	13.8%	13.1%
\$100,000	69.0%	55.2%	46.0%	39.5%	34.5%	30.7%	27.6%	25.1%	23.0%	21.2%	19.7%	18.4%	17.3%	16.2%	15.3%	14.5%	13.8%

Your student loan debt is manageable with your income.

Your student loan debt will be somewhat of a financial burden with your income. You may need to choose a different payment plan or pick up another job.

Your student loan debt will be a significant financial burden with your income. You will definitely need a different payment plan and may not be able to feasibly pay off the debt.

*It is recommended that your monthly debt payment not exceed more than 10% of your monthly income.

If it is above 10% of your monthly income, you will need to adjust your payment plan to extend the amount of years to pay back.

This chart is based on the standard 10 year payment plan and 6.8% interest.

The percentage indicates the percent of your monthly salary that would go toward your loans, not the yearly salary amount.

To determine the approximate salary of your desired position, use WiscCareers at: www.uwlax.edu/careerservices/students/careerexploration.htm



Financial Aid Office
finaid@uwlax.edu
608.785.8604

www.uwlax.edu/finaid

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