Estimate your college cost at UW-La Crosse by visiting our Net Price Calculator, available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator. Based on your personal situation, this tool will help to estimate your costs and help you understand what types of financing resources may be available.

File parent and student federal taxes. If your 2015 federal taxes were filed electronically, within 1-2 weeks after filing, you should be able to retrieve your federal tax data right into your FAFSA. This option will streamline and expedite the processing of your financial aid application. If over 24 years of age, you must submit only your taxes, and must also include your spouse’s taxes if married.

Submit the completed FAFSA or re-submit the FAFSA with UWL’s School Code if the FAFSA has already been completed. Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov and be sure to include UWL’s School Code, 003919. We strongly recommend that you use the IRS Data Retrieval option. In order to successfully use this option, you must have a federal tax return filed with the IRS, have a valid Social Security Number, and have an unchanged marital status since December 31, 2015. When completing the tax information on the FAFSA, indicate “Already Filed” and select the IRS Data Retrieval option.

It is recommended that you submit the FAFSA before UWL’s priority date of March 15 in order to be considered for all programs, although the FAFSA can be completed throughout the academic year. Make sure your Social Security Number is correct on all forms.

Apply for UW Scholarships. Information about available UW Foundation scholarships is available at https://uwlax.academicworks.com. Applications must be submitted by February 15.

Apply for private scholarships. Information about external scholarships is available at www.uwlax.edu/scholarships.

Submit any additional forms specifically requested by the UWL Financial Aid Office. When the results of your FAFSA are received by the Financial Aid Office, you will be sent an email. This email will also indicate whether there is additional documentation required from you. Any requested items will be listed in the “To-Do” section of your UWL WINGS Student Center, https://wings.uwlax.edu.

View your financial aid award online. All students will receive an email notification when their award is available to accept on their WINGS Student Center. You are able to accept, decline or reduce the aid offered. Click on the name of the award for more information about each award type.

Complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Loan Counseling (ELC) if you have not already done this at a previous academic institution. If you are a first-time borrower receiving a Federal Direct Loan, the Direct Loan MPN and ELC must be completed before your loan can be applied to your student bill. Both of these requirements can be completed at www.studentloans.gov. If you’ve already completed these steps at another institution, they do not need to be completed again.

Review the “Guide To Your Financial Aid Award” for the upcoming academic year, available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/accept/decline-your-award. Note the information regarding “Other Financing Options.”

Print and submit a Federal Parent PLUS Loan Request Form. After reviewing the “Other Financing Options” many parents choose to take out a Federal Parent PLUS Loan on their student’s behalf. This loan is in the parent’s name and repayment of the loan is the parent’s responsibility. The parent must also complete a Parent PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (Parent PLUS MPN), available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/Parent-PLUS-loans. The maximum that can be borrowed in a Parent PLUS Loan is indicated on the student’s award as “Your Other Loan Eligibility.” Parents should wait until their student has received their award before submitting this form.

Complete and submit the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Release Form (optional). The FERPA Act of 1974 protects the privacy of student records, including those created and maintained by the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office cannot discuss your information with your parents, spouse or other individuals without your written permission. This release form will remain in effect for the current academic year and is available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/FERPA-form.

Review billing information and the billing process for UW-La Crosse. Billing charges will be placed on your student WINGS account the first week of classes, where this financial information can be referenced. Additionally, billing dates and information can be obtained at by visiting the following website: www.uwlax.edu/cashiers. The institution’s billing process can be found at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers/billing-and-registration.

Complete Exit Loan Counseling at your previous academic institution. If you accepted federal student loans at a previous academic institution, you also must complete Exit Loan Counseling. This will help you understand repayment for your federal student loans, but will not put you in repayment status as long as you are enrolled at least half-time at UWL.

Notify previous institution of current enrollment if you’ve received a Federal Perkins loan in the past. This ensures that your Perkins loan will not go into repayment. If an enrollment verification is needed, please contact Records and Registration.

Learn about student employment options on the UWL Financial Aid website. Find helpful information on various student employment opportunities through the Job Board, Federal Work Study, student help, and odd job list by visiting the following link: www.uwlax.edu/finaid/student-employment.

Check out the UWL Scholarship Resource Center for information about our new scholarship database, a variety of helpful workshops and application review assistance. Visit www.uwlax.edu/scholarships.

Find helpful information on college and finances provided through the UW-La Crosse It Makes Cents! financial literacy program. Information on budgeting, credit, saving/banking/investing, protection and how to pay for college is available by visiting www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents.

Like us on Facebook (UW-La Crosse Financial Aid) for updates, deadlines and other useful financial aid information!

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