For FAFSA purposes, you are a veteran if you engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. Armed Forces, or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who was called to active duty for other than state and training purposes, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the serve academies, and were released under a condition other than dishonorable.

Students who are able to claim veteran status are considered independent students and do not have to show their parent's income and assets on the FAFSA form.

After admission to UW-L, ensure all proper information and documentation is submitted to these offices in a timely manner, including official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions to the Admissions Office, planning out your academic course load with Frank Tierney in the Academic Advising Center, completed a credit evaluation with Scott Johns in the Admissions Office, and meet with Nicole Jablonski, the Veteran Educational Benefit Coordinator. Schedule an appointment with Jen Weber to discuss financial aid options.

If living on campus, pay your $75 housing deposit online.

Estimate your college cost at UW-La Crosse by visiting our Net Price Calculator, available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator, or request a financial aid shopping sheet at www.uwlax.edu/Veteran-Services/Federal-Tuition-Assistance. Based on your personal situation, these tools will help to estimate costs and understand what types of financing resources may be available.

File 2014 federal taxes. If your 2014 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.

Submit your completed FAFSA with UW-L’s School Code, 003919. Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. We strongly recommend that you use the IRS Data Retrieval option. When completing the tax information on the FAFSA, indicate “Already Filed” and select the IRS Data Retrieval option. This option will expedite the processing of your FAFSA.

It is recommended that you submit the FAFSA before UW-L’s priority date of March 15 in order to be considered for all programs, although the FAFSA can be completed throughout the academic year.

Apply for scholarships. Information about available UW-L Foundation scholarships is available at www.foundation.uwlax.edu/sch.html. Applications must be submitted by February 15. Veteran scholarship information available is at www.uwlax.edu/vets/resources_scholarship.html. Information about external scholarships is available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/scholarships.

Submit any additional forms specifically requested by the UW-L Financial Aid Office. When the results of your FAFSA are received by the Financial Aid Office, you will be sent an e-mail. 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 WINGS Student Center. Failure to turn in requested documents could delay your financial aid.

View your financial aid award on-line. 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.

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.”

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.

Activate your Tower One Card. This is also your student ID card. All financial aid proceeds are applied first to the student’s university bill. If funds remain after the bill is paid in full, a refund is generated, which will go directly to your Tower One Card unless you change your refund preference to a personal checking account or paper check when you activate your card.

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-L. Billing charges will be placed on your student WINGS account the first week of classes. Additionally, billing dates and information can be obtained at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers.

Complete Exit Loan Counseling (XLC) at your previous academic institution. If you accepted federal student loans at a previous academic institution, you also must complete Exit Loan Counseling.

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.