



Financial Aid 2020-21

GRADUATE STUDENT CHECKLIST

- Submit the completed 2020-21 FAFSA.** Complete the FAFSA, available after October 1, 2019, at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> or **myStudentAid mobile app** and be sure to include **UWL's School Code, 003919**. We strongly recommend you use the IRS Data Retrieval option. In order to successfully use this option, you must have filed a 2018 federal tax return with the IRS, have a valid Social Security Number, and have an unchanged marital status since December 31, 2018. 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 **shortly after acceptance to UWL** 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.

- Submit a completed Summer School Application** if you will be attending at least half time in the summer and wish to receive financial aid in the summer. Remember that any Federal Direct loans borrowed during the summer may reduce your eligibility during the academic year.
- Apply for UWL Foundation Scholarships.** Information about available institutional scholarships is available at <https://uwlax.academicworks.com>. Applications must be submitted by **February 1**.
- 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 a confirmation email to your UWL account. This email will also indicate whether there is additional documentation required from you. You will find information about any requested items in the "To-Do" section of your WINGS Student Center, <https://wings.uwlax.edu>.

- View your financial aid award online.** All students will receive an email notification to the student's UWL account when their award is available for review 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 Graduate 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 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 <https://studentloans.gov>. If you also borrow a Graduate PLUS loan you may want to complete the counseling that covers Direct and PLUS loans.

- Set up your refund preference.** 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. In your WINGS Student Center, in the Finances section, you will see an option for "**Student Choice Refund.**" By clicking this option, you will be able to submit the information enabling your refund to be deposited directly into your personal bank account. Direct deposit is highly recommended.

- Apply for a Federal Graduate PLUS Loan** (optional). After reviewing the "Other Financing Options" some graduate students choose to borrow a Federal Grad PLUS Loan. You must complete a Grad PLUS Loan application and Master Promissory Note (Grad PLUS MPN). Both are available at <https://studentloans.gov>. The maximum that can be borrowed in a Grad PLUS Loan is indicated on your award as "Your Other Loan Eligibility-G". Not all graduate students will have other loan eligibility. Some student's eligibility will be met by Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans.

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

- Give Guest Access on WINGS** (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 can not discuss your information with your parents, spouse or other individuals without your permission. Guest Access will allow you to specify what types of information can be shared with the individuals you choose. Guest Access will remain in effect while you are at UWL unless you make changes. Information is available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/FERPA-form.



Check out the UWL Scholarship Resource Center for information about our private 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 Make\$ Cents! financial literacy program.
www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents.



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