



# Financial Aid 2016-17 VETERAN CHECKLIST

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.

**Estimate your college cost at UW-La Crosse by visiting our Net Price Calculator**, available at [www.uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator](http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator), or request a financial aid shopping sheet at [www.uwlax.edu/Veteran-Services/Federal-Tuition-Assistance](http://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 2015 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.

**Submit your completed FAFSA with UWL's School Code, 003919.** Complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://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 UWL's priority date of February 1** in order to be considered for all programs, although the FAFSA can be completed throughout the academic year.

**Apply for scholarships.** Information about available **UWL Foundation** scholarships is available at [www.foundation.uwlax.edu/sch.html](http://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](http://www.uwlax.edu/vets/resources_scholarship.html). Information about external scholarships is available at [www.uwlax.edu/finaid/scholarships](http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/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 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 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](http://www.studentloans.gov). If you've already completed these steps at another institution, they do not need to be completed again.

**Review billing information and the billing process for UWL.** 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](http://www.uwlax.edu/cashiers).

## TIPS:

- Receiving military and veteran benefits does not make you ineligible to file a FAFSA. However, some benefits may reduce your need-based aid (Grants, Subsidized loans, etc).
- Complete the FAFSA even if you do not want to take out loans. You won't know what you are eligible for until you complete the FAFSA.
- Some scholarship applications require FAFSA data.
- Some benefits including but not limited to National Guard Tuition Reimbursement, Wisconsin GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance need to be included on your financial aid award and can reduce your aid.
- You **DO NOT** have to accept any of the aid offered to you.
- We encourage you to take your benefits into consideration and only borrow what you need in student loans
- If your benefits change or run out during the academic year, you can still file the FAFSA.



Find helpful information on college and finances provided through the UW-La Crosse **It Make\$ 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](http://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents).



Follow UW-La Crosse Financial Aid social media for updates, deadlines and daily scholarship information!