



# Financial Aid 2020-21 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 purposes other than state and/or training, 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 include information related to 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 [uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator](http://uwlax.edu/finaid/net-price-calculator), and/or request a Financial Aid Shopping Sheet at [uwlax.edu/Veteran-Services/Federal-Tuition-Assistance](http://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.
- Submit the completed 2019-20 FAFSA.** Complete the FAFSA, available after October 1, 2019, at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) 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 income tax return with the IRS, have a valid Social Security Number, and have an unchanged marital status since December 31, 2018. When completing the income tax section on the FAFSA, indicate "Already Filed" and select the IRS Data Retrieval option.
- It is recommended 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 [uwlax.academicworks.com](http://uwlax.academicworks.com). Applications must be submitted by February 1. Veteran scholarship information available is at [uwlax.edu/veteran-services/resources/scholarship](http://uwlax.edu/veteran-services/resources/scholarship). Information about outside scholarships is available at [uwlax.edu/scholarships](http://uwlax.edu/scholarships).
- Submit any additional forms specifically requested by the UWL Financial Aid Office.** Upon receipt of your FAFSA, the Financial Aid Office will send a confirmation email. This email will 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 offer.
- View your financial aid offer online.** You will receive an email notification when your offer is available for review on your WINGS Student Center. You are able to accept, decline or reduce the aid offered. Click on the name of the offer for more information about each offer.
- Complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Loan Counseling (ELC)** if you have not already completed 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 [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.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 WINGS student account the first week of classes. Additionally, billing dates and information can be obtained at [uwlax.edu/cashiers](http://uwlax.edu/cashiers).



## TIPS:

- Receiving military and veteran benefits does not make you ineligible to file a FAFSA. However, some benefits may reduce your eligibility for need-based aid (Grants, Subsidized loans, etc).
- Complete the FAFSA even if you are not interested in borrowing a loan. You may be eligible for grants and 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 offer and can reduce your eligibility for other aid.
- You DO NOT have to accept any of the aid offered to you.
- We encourage you to consider your benefits and only borrow what you need.
- If your benefits change and/or run out during the academic year, you can still complete 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).



Check out the UWL Scholarship Resource Center for information about our outside scholarship database, a variety of helpful workshops and application review assistance. Visit [www.uwlax.edu/scholarships](http://www.uwlax.edu/scholarships).