



Financial Aid 2020-21

GRADUATE STUDENT CHECKLIST

- Submit the completed 2020-21 FAFSA.** Complete the FAFSA, available after October 1, 2019, at 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 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 during the summer and are interested in financial aid for this term. Remember that any Federal Direct loans borrowed for the summer session may reduce your loan 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.** Upon receipt of your FAFSA, the Financial Aid Office will send a confirmation email. 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 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 award for more detailed 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 studentaid.gov. If you also borrow a Graduate PLUS loan, you may want to complete the counseling that covers both Direct and PLUS loans.

- All borrowers (new and continuing) will also be required to complete the new Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement process.** More information to come in April 2020.
- Set up your refund preference.** All financial aid proceeds are applied first to your university bill. If funds remain after the bill is paid in full, a refund is generated. In your WINGS Student Center/Finances, choose the option for "**Student Choice Refund.**" By clicking this option, you will be able to submit the information required to deposit your refund 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 studentaid.gov. The maximum that can be borrowed in a Grad PLUS Loan is indicated on your offer as "Your Other Loan Eligibility-G". Not all graduate students will have other loan eligibility.
- 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. Billing dates and information are provided at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers. The institution's billing process can be found at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers/tuition-and-billing/billing-and-registration.
- Provide 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 outside 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.

