



# Financial Aid Edition

# EAGLE MAIL

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Online version available at  
[http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/  
Financial-Aid-Newsletter](http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/Financial-Aid-Newsletter)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**June 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22,  
24, 27, 29**

**Freshman Registration &  
Family Orientation**

**Mon., July 4 - Holiday  
Financial Aid Office closed**

**Fri., Sept. 2 - Mon., Sept. 5  
New Student Orientation**

**Mon., Sept. 5 - Labor Day  
Financial Aid Office closed**

**Tues., Sept. 6  
Fall Semester Classes Begin**

### University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Financial Aid Office

215 Graff Main Hall  
1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601 USA

Phone: 608.785.8604  
Fax: 608.785.8843

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

email: [finaid@uwlax.edu](mailto:finaid@uwlax.edu)

[www.uwlax.edu/finaid](http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid)



## “Your Other Loan Eligibility\*”

You probably noticed “Your Other Loan Eligibility\*” listed near the bottom of your financial aid award and questioned what this is. The figure listed is the maximum that can be borrowed in either a Federal Parent PLUS Loan (in the parent’s name) or a private Alternative Education Loan (in the student’s name but usually requiring a co-signer). It is informational only. You are not able to accept or decline this item.

Many students/families apply for one of these types of loans if the other aid offered along with the student/family resources aren’t enough to cover the student’s bill. Either of these loans requires a separate application.

More information about both loan types is available at  
<http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/Explore-other-financing-options>.

## Federal Parent PLUS Loans vs. Alternative Loans

When families determine that borrowing additional funds beyond the student’s award/family resources is necessary, the first decision is whether to borrow a Federal Parent PLUS Loan or a private Alternative Education Loan. Each family needs to decide what works best for them. The Federal Parent PLUS Loan is, and will always be, in the parent’s name, while the Alternative Loan will be in the student’s name. The Federal Parent PLUS Loan is a loan with a fixed interest rate, while the interest rate on the Alternative Loan will be set by the lender, based on the credit worthiness of the student and co-signer. For the 2016-17 academic year, the Federal Parent PLUS Loan interest rate will be 6.31% with a 4.272% Origination Fee deducted from the loan prior to disbursement.

## Ask Earnest

*“Dear Earnest, Can the Financial Aid Office (FAO) share information with my parents?”* The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents the FAO from sharing your financial aid information with anyone without your permission. Students are able to give “Guest Access” to individuals through their WINGS Student Center. Go to [www.uwlax.edu/finaid/ferpa-form](http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/ferpa-form) and choose the “To create Guest Access” link for instructions for giving access to specific individuals and to designate what types of information those individuals will have access to. Access remains in place until revoked. It does not expire. Be sure to share your information only with appropriate people.

## It Make\$ Cents!



We are UWL's own financial literacy program emphasizing everything personal finance.

We encourage students to get to know us and learn how we can help grow their personal financial awareness. Our goal is to prepare our students for success by helping them learn money management skills including:

- Budgeting**
- Student Loans**
- Savings**
- Managing Credit**
- Bank**
- Investing**
- Preventing Identity Theft**



### It Make\$ Cents! Peer Mentors

The IMC! Peer Mentors are here to talk to you about your financial questions. They are college students just like you. Learn from their financial successes and failures. Let them help you do anything from building a weekly budget to starting a retirement plan. Unanswered questions won't help you earn or save money!



[www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents](http://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents)

## You Hafta FAFSA...Just Earlier This Year!

The 2017-18 FAFSA will be available starting October 1, 2106! That's three months earlier than in previous years and that FAFSA is going to require your 2015 tax information. Yes, you read that right. You will use your 2015 tax information even though it was also used for the 2016-17 FAFSA!

The FAFSA is changing and that's a good thing! Earlier FAFSA filing and the use of Prior-Prior Year (PPY) tax data allows students and families additional time for financial planning for their upcoming academic year.

If you were planning your New Year's Day around filing the 2016-17 FAFSA, you can now make new plans as we strongly encourage you to file in October! Let us know if you have any questions or you can come to one of our FAFSA workshops in October. We will be ready and waiting to help you or your student file!

## SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE CENTER (SRC)

Fall, 2015 brought with it the creation of the **Scholarship Resource Center (SRC)** and we enjoy hearing some of our students complain that it wasn't created sooner!

The SRC helps current and perspective students focus on alternative funding for their education through scholarships. We understand the scholarship search process can be overwhelming and we aspire to ease that burden the help of our external with scholarship database.

Students are able to search our entire database at [uwlax.edu/scholarships](http://uwlax.edu/scholarships) or they can sort the scholarships by answering a few simple questions. Scholarships specific to their responses will be highlighted green! Students interested in an even more specific list can take our "Get Scholarcific Survey" to have a list of scholarships emailed to them. It's that easy!

Our goals are to help students: locate and apply for scholarships; identify their strengths; write and application essays; develop resumes; and create supporting materials.



## How to Sign Up for This Newsletter

The UWL Financial Aid Office produces a monthly newsletter (like this one), which is available to students and parents. The newsletter is available online at <http://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/Financial-Aid-newsletter>. Parents and families can sign-up at the same website to receive an e-mail notification when the newsletter is available. In addition, anyone signing up will receive other Eagle Mail publications that include campus wide information.

A typical monthly Financial Aid Newsletter will include timely topics related to financial aid, financial literacy and information on scholarship applications that are due during that month.