UW-LA CROSSE

Financial Aid 2022-23 GRADUATE STUDENT CHECKLIST

Submit the completed 2022-23 FAFSA. Complete the FAFSA, available after October 1, 2021, at **studentaid.gov** and be sure to include **UWL's School Code**, **003919**. We strongly recommend using the IRS Data Retrieval option which requires that you have filed a 2020 federal tax return with the IRS, have a valid Social Security Number, and an unchanged marital status since December 31, 2020. 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 **shortly after acceptance to UWL** in order to be considered for all financial aid 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 (5 credits) and have interest in receiving financial aid during the summer. Remember that any Federal Direct student loans borrowed during the summer may reduce your eligibility during the upcoming 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 documentation 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 if 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. After reviewing, you are able to accept, decline or reduce the aid offered. Click on the name of the aid type for more information about each offer.

Review the "Guide To Your Graduate Financial Aid Offer" for the upcoming academic year, available at **www.uwlax. edu/finaid/current-undergraduates/accept-your-financialaid-award/acceptdecline-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 requirements can be completed at **studentaid.gov**. If you also borrow a Federal Graduate PLUS loan, you may want to complete the counseling that covers both Direct and PLUS loans. All borrowers (new and continuing) will soon be required to complete the new Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement process. More information to come in Fall, 2021.

Set up your refund preference. All financial aid proceeds are first 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 section, choose the option for "Student Choice Refund." Here you will be able to submit the information required for 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 **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.

Provide Guest Access in 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 request changes. Information is available at www.uwlax.edu/finaid/incoming-undergraduates/give-parentguardian-access/ferpa-form/.

Review billing information and the billing dates for UW-La Crosse. Billing charges will be placed in your student WINGS account the first week of classes. Billing dates and information are available at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers. The institution's billing process can be found at www.uwlax.edu/cashiers/tuition-and-billing/billing-andregistration.



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. Information on budgeting, credit, saving/banking/investing, protection and how to pay for college is available by visiting

