APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID
TIMELINE/CHECKLIST
2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

☐ Now! —
  o Research and apply for scholarships.
    Visit www.scholarships.uwm.edu for information on scholarships available from UWM, tips on applying, and links to free scholarship search sites.
  o Receive a financial aid estimate.
    Check out our Net Price calculator at http://uwm.edu/financialaid/net-price-calculator/ or visit https://fafsa.gov/ and select the Thinking About College box to use the Department of Education’s online tool.

☐ October 1, 2016 – Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Effective with the 2017-18 academic year, students can apply earlier than ever! Apply online at www.fafsa.gov using your tax information from 2015— which you completed months ago. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool which will make the application process even easier. Many funds are limited, so apply early. Create your electronic signature (an FSA ID) NOW at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid. Remember this ID as you will need it again.

☐ November 2016 – Monitor your email (UWM email once it has been assigned) and PAWS accounts. This is our primary means of communicating with you. We may have to request additional documents from you. Submit all requested items as quickly as possible.

☐ To Be Determined – We begin emailing financial aid notifications. The new timeline for submitting a FAFSA, requires many changes. Our current plan is to begin notifications early in 2017. Updates will be posted on our website as we progress through the fall. Read all emails and the Financial Aid Handbook (found on our website) carefully to avoid missing important information. Keep in mind it can take six weeks once we have all the information needed for your eligibility to be determined. Accept or decline aid offered to you within 30 days.

☐ Spring 2017 -- Complete any master promissory notes (MPNs) and entrance loan counseling requirements. Most students are offered a loan or combination of loans. All first time borrowers will need to complete a master promissory note (MPN) in order to have those funds actually disburse. Entrance Loan Counseling (a tutorial and quiz) is also required. For Direct Loan borrowers, all of these requirements can be completed online at www.studentloans.gov.

☐ April through June—Finalize your budget and financing plan. This will require that you develop a budget. Using the UWM Total Cost Estimator, http://uwm.edu/financialaid/tuition-cost/uwm-total-cost-estimator/ will help you create your personal budget and help you determine if you need to consider additional funding sources. Keep in mind that aid offered to you will be for the entire academic year, and you will want to make sure the budget you develop reflects the same time period.

☐ June/July— Apply for any additional loans. Most families will need to use a combination of tools to help finance their education. These include savings, earnings, federal tax incentives, financial aid, university installment payment plan, and additional loans. Parents of dependent students are encouraged to consider the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan at www.studentloans.gov. Another option would be Private Alternative Educational Loans. For details and some comparisons, visit the Loan area of our website.

☐ Contact Us!
Many questions can be answered 24/7 by using the ‘Ask the Panther’ feature found on our website. You are also encouraged to email, call, or stop by for assistance. Please visit our website first for current office and advising hours.
Helpful Information on the Web:

Keeps parents and students up to date on changes to Student Aid programs. Also link to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the fafsa4caster--a tool to get an early evaluation on federal financial-aid-eligibility.
- FAFSA Application, FAFSA Worksheet
- Student Loan Management Tools
- Choosing the Right College for You

College Access [www.Going2College.org]
Explore career options, plan for college, and locate financial aid sources.
- Career Planning
- College Planning
- Finding a College
- Paying for College

KnowHow2Go [www.KnowHow2GO.org]
Resource for career, college, and financial aid for middle school through senior year in high school.
- College prep ideas starting with Middle School
- Helpful guidance for parents

The College Board [www.Collegeboard.com]
Offers an overview of financial-aid options as well as a scholarship search tool that scours more than 2,200 programs involving financial aid, scholarships, and internships.
- Make a college plan
- Ways to fund a college education
- Financial Aid Timeline
- Interactive Calculators
- Scholarship Scams
- Compare Financial Aid awards (interactive calc)
- Selecting a Financial Aid Package
- Financial Aid Myths
- Tax Tips and Benefits
- Investment Options

FinAid! [www.finaid.org]
An exhaustive compilation of internet resources of interest to financial aid applicants.
- Interactive Calculators (EFC and Saving)
- Planning for College
- Answering your Questions (Financial Aid Professionals respond to your personal questions)
- Scholarship Search and Scams

Mapping Your Future [www.mappingyourfuture.org]
Resource for career, college, financial aid, and money management information.
- College Planning
- Career Planning
- Interactive Calculators
- Parental guidance in planning for Middle and High school students