APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

TIMELINE/CHECKLIST

2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR

Now! —

- Research and apply for scholarships.
  Visit [www.scholarships.uwm.edu](http://www.scholarships.uwm.edu) for information on scholarships available from UWM, tips on applying, and links to free scholarship search sites.

- Receive a financial aid estimate.
  Check out our Net Price calculator at [http://uwm.edu/financialaid/net-price-calculator/](http://uwm.edu/financialaid/net-price-calculator/) or visit [https://fafsa.gov/](https://www.fafsa.gov/) and select the Thinking About College box to use the Department of Education’s online tool.

October 1, 2017 – Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Apply online at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov) using your tax information from 2016—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://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm](https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm). Store this ID in a secure location, you will need to use it every year.

November 2017 – 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.

Late December 2017/Early January 2018 – We begin emailing financial aid notifications.
Updates will be posted on our website as we progress through the fall. Read all emails and the Financial Aid Handbook (found under Financial Aid Forms on uwm.edu/onestop) 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 2018 -- 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](http://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/onestop/estimating-your-costs/uwm-total-cost-estimator/](http://uwm.edu/onestop/estimating-your-costs/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](http://www.studentloans.gov). Another option would be Private Alternative Educational Loans. For details and some comparisons, visit the Loan area of our website, [www.loans.uwm.edu](http://www.loans.uwm.edu).

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:

U.S Department of Education  www.studentaid.ed.gov
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

GradReady  uwm.gradready.com
Money saving, student loan explaining site that offers great videos, tools, and resources to help you get real-world ready.
- Evaluate loan options
- Create a financing plan
- Consider debt-to-income scenarios
- Establish an in-school budget

Looking Forward to your Future  http://lookforwardwi.gov/
Resource for students and parents with questions and decisions about college and student debt.
- College Planning
- Career Planning
- Interactive Calculators
- Parental guidance in planning for Middle and High school students

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  Compare Financial Aid awards (interactive calc)
- Ways to fund a college education  Selecting a Financial Aid Package
- Financial Aid Timeline  Financial Aid Myths
- Interactive Calculators  Tax Tips and Benefits
- Scholarship Scams  Investment Options