

# Financing College

UWM Financial Aid Office

# Paying for College...

- This is a shared responsibility:
  - Students
  - Parents
  - State and Federal Governments
  - Private Sources



# Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (1974)

- Non-directory information may not be released to any party other than the student without a student's written consent.
- What is considered non-directory? Examples:
  - ✓ Campus ID #
  - ✓ Financial Aid information
  - ✓ Class Schedule
  - ✓ Grades
  - ✓ GPA
  - ✓ Advisor Information
  - ✓ Academic Actions
  - ✓ Current disciplinary actions
- Release Forms must be completed by the student designating what can be released and to whom.

# Getting Started: The FAFSA

FSA ID

Starting the FAFSA

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

# Which FAFSA!?

Starting classes in:

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Tax Year</u>
Spring 2023	2022-2023	2022-2023 FAFSA	2020 Taxes
Summer 2023	*Check with Financial Aid Office		
Fall 2023	2023-2024	2023-2024 FAFSA	2021 Taxes
Spring 2024	2023-2024	2023-2024 FAFSA	2021 Taxes

# Completing the FAFSA

## Details for 2023-2024 FAFSA!

- ✓ Available as of October 1, 2022
- ✓ Referencing 2021 tax year information
- ✓ File every academic year your student attends
- ✓ There is a FAFSA App! myStudentAid

Go to: <https://fafsa.gov>

Never pay to file a FAFSA!

# FAFSA Tips

- ✓ Get Ready!
  - Gather what is needed (next slide)
  - Take a Deep Breath, it's going to be ok!
- ✓ Take your time! Read through each question carefully..
- ✓ Write things down!
  - Username, password, and email addresses
  - Store in a secure, but readily accessible location
- ✓ Use the resources available to you!
  - Along the right hand side of the FAFSA, there is a floating box 'Help and Hints'
  - Call a Financial Aid Office! Most Offices will answer FAFSA questions even if your student is not enrolled there
- ✓ Save your progress (frequently)!

## Help and Hints

### Student's Driver's License State

#### Question 12

Select the state that issued your driver's license or identification card. Select **Foreign Country** if your license was issued by a foreign country.

# What do I need to complete the FAFSA?

- ✓ FSA ID usernames and Passwords
- ✓ Student and Parent social security numbers (cards)
- ✓ Driver's license # (if applicable)
- ✓ All 2021 W-2 forms
- ✓ Student & Parent Federal Income Taxes (2021)
- ✓ To use IRS DRT, need FSA ID, correct filing address and filing status
- ✓ Untaxed income records (non-ed. Veteran benefits, child support)
- ✓ Current bank statements
- ✓ Business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
- ✓ Documentation that you are a permanent resident or other eligible non-citizen if you are not a citizen.



# Creating an FSA ID

- ✓ An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid websites and serves as your legal signature.
- ✓ Go to: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- ✓ Student and parent must have separate Usernames!
  - Use Separate email addresses when creating
    - ✓ Student email (Colin Hanks): [ColinHanksfinaid@gmail.com](mailto:ColinHanksfinaid@gmail.com)
    - ✓ Parent email (Tom Hanks): [TomHanksfinaid@gmail.com](mailto:TomHanksfinaid@gmail.com)

**\*\*DO NOT use High School email addresses-they expire!\*\***

# FSA ID Tips Continued

- ✓ Store in a secure but accessible location-no need to create a new one each year
- ✓ Should NOT be shared
  - It's your legal signature!
- ✓ For families with more than 1 student, the parent can use the same username and password for all of their students
  - Each student will need to create their own ID

# IRS Data Retrieval (DRT) Tips

## ELIGIBLE to use DRT

- Must have a valid SSN and FSA ID
- Must have filed 2021 taxes

**\*If you have moved since filing 2021 taxes and have updated your address with USPS, try using the new address.**

## INELIGIBLE to use DRT:

- Married but filed taxes separately
- Student or Parents that married after 12/31/2021
- Filed an extension and have not yet completed the returns
- Filed Puerto Rican or foreign tax returns

## Federal Income Tax Information

[Edit Data](#)

Based on the information you provided, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) located your income tax return. With your permission below, the IRS will securely transfer your tax information to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to populate any applicable FAFSA® questions.

For your protection, the IRS will not display your tax information and will further encrypt any tax information transferred using the IRS DRT; therefore, ED is unable to display your tax information on your FAFSA form.

The data retrieved from your tax return is limited to the items listed below as you reported to the IRS:

Tax Year	Type of Return Filed	Untaxed Portion of IRA Distributions & Pensions/Annuities
Name(s)	Adjusted Gross Income	Tax-exempt Interest Income
Social Security Number	Income Earned from Work	IRA Deductions and Payments
Filing Status	Income Tax	Status of Amended Returns Received
IRS Exemptions	Education Credits	Schedule 1 Evaluation

Refer to your tax records if you have a question about the values you reported.

### Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA Form [?](#)

The tax information provided to fafsa.gov will populate the answers to the appropriate FAFSA questions. After the FAFSA questions are populated, your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form. Check this box if you are choosing to transfer your information.


TRANSFER NOW [?](#)

### Do Not Transfer My Tax Information and Return to the FAFSA Form [?](#)

By clicking the "Do Not Transfer" button, you are choosing not to transfer your tax information electronically. Your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form.


DO NOT TRANSFER [?](#)

# Parent IRS Info


Student Demographics ✓ School Selection ✓ Dependency Status ✓ Parent Demographics ✓ Financial Information  Sign & Submit Confirmation

✓ You have successfully transferred  IRS tax information.

The father's IRS tax information has been successfully transferred into this FAFSA. Questions that were populated with tax information will be marked with "Transferred from the IRS." For your protection, IRS tax return information is not displayed on the FAFSA.

What type of income tax return did your father file for ? 

Transferred from the IRS

What was your father's adjusted gross income for ? 

Transferred from the IRS

# Sections of The FAFSA

**Student Section:** Under status bar will indicate who the questions are referring to

## 4 Student Tabs:

- ✓ Student Demographics
- ✓ School Selection
- ✓ Dependency Status
- ✓ Financial Information

Student Tax Filing Status

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Parent Financials Student Financials Sign & Submit Confirmation

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Your information was successfully saved.

Because the FAFSA belongs to the student, "you" and "your" always (unless otherwise noted) refer to the student.

**Attention!** You must provide financial information from your 2019 tax return on the following pages.

For 2019, have you completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return? ?

Already completed

What income tax return did you file for 2019? ?

IRS 1040

For 2019, what is your tax filing status according to your tax return? ?

Single

**IRS Data Retrieval Tool**

Applying is faster and easier if you transfer your tax return information into this FAFSA with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT):

[LINK TO IRS](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

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# Sections of the FAFSA

**Parent Section:** Under status bar will indicate who the questions are referring to

## 2 Parent Tabs:

- Parent Demographics
- Parent Financial Information

\*The Help and Hints box will provide guidance on which parent to use and other information on how to respond to the questions.

Parent Tax Filing Status

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Parent Financials** Student Financials Sign & Submit Confirmation

**PARENT INFORMATION**

Information was successfully saved.

**Attention!** You must provide financial information from your parents' 2019 tax return on the following pages.

For 2019, have your parents completed their IRS income tax return or another tax return? ?

Already completed

What type of income tax return did your parents file for 2019? ?

IRS 1040

For 2019, what is your parents' tax filing status according to their tax return? ?

Married-Filed Joint Return

**IRS Data Retrieval Tool**

Applying is faster and easier if your parents transfer their tax return information into this FAFSA with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT).

[LINK TO IRS](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

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# FAFSA: Reporting ASSETS

## Assets to Include:

- ✓ Cash, Checking, and Savings accounts
- ✓ Net worth of investments, real estate, investment farms, and businesses for companies with more than 100 employees
- ✓ Education IRAs
- ✓ College Savings Plans (529, EdVest, etc.)

## Assets NOT to Include:

- Home you live in.
- Family farm if you live there.
- Value of life insurance and retirement plans (pensions, annuities, Keogh's, non-education IRA funds, etc.)
- Personal Vehicles

***\*\*Any questions about what should or should not be included, PLEASE contact a school's Financial Aid Office!\*\****



## Signature Options

### Student signature for: Perez

Date of Birth      Social Security Number  
02/05/2001      -----1467

### Other Options to Sign and Submit

We recommend signing electronically with an FSA ID so you don't have to print and mail a signature page or return later to sign your FAFSA form. If you are unable to sign electronically, select another option:

#### Sign electronically with my FSA ID

This is the fastest option. Selecting this option will return you to the "What is your (the student's) FSA ID?" question.

#### Print a signature page

This option requires that you print and mail your signature page.

#### Submit without signatures

This option allows you to submit your FAFSA form now without your signature, but you will need to return later to sign.

Continue

[Return to Signature Status](#)

✓  
Student Demographics

✓  
School Selection

✓  
Dependency Status

✓  
Parent Demographics

✓  
Parent Financials

6  
Student Financials

7  
Sign & Submit

SIGN & SUBMIT

Which parent are you?



Parent 1

Unsigned

Last Name

Walter

Date of Birth

12/11/1970

Social Security Number

-----7890

Provide Parent Signature



Parent 2

Unsigned

Last Name

Brown

Date of Birth

11/30/1980

Social Security Number

-----8463

Provide Parent Signature

Previous

## Signature Status



You have chosen to submit your FAFSA® form without all required signatures. If you continue, your application won't be complete.

Your FAFSA form must be signed before your school can determine your eligibility for federal student aid. The fastest way to sign a FAFSA form is electronically using an FSA ID. Select "Choose Another Way to Sign" below to sign with an FSA ID. [Need help signing with your FSA ID?](#)

To submit without signature(s), select "Submit My FAFSA Form Now."



### Student Selected Signature Option

Unsigned

Last Name

Perez

Date of Birth

02/05/2001

Social Security Number

-----1519

[Choose another way to sign.](#)



### Parent Selected Signature Option

Unsigned

Last Name

Walter

Date of Birth

12/11/1970

Social Security Number

-----7890

[Choose another way to sign.](#)

[Sign as a Different Parent](#)

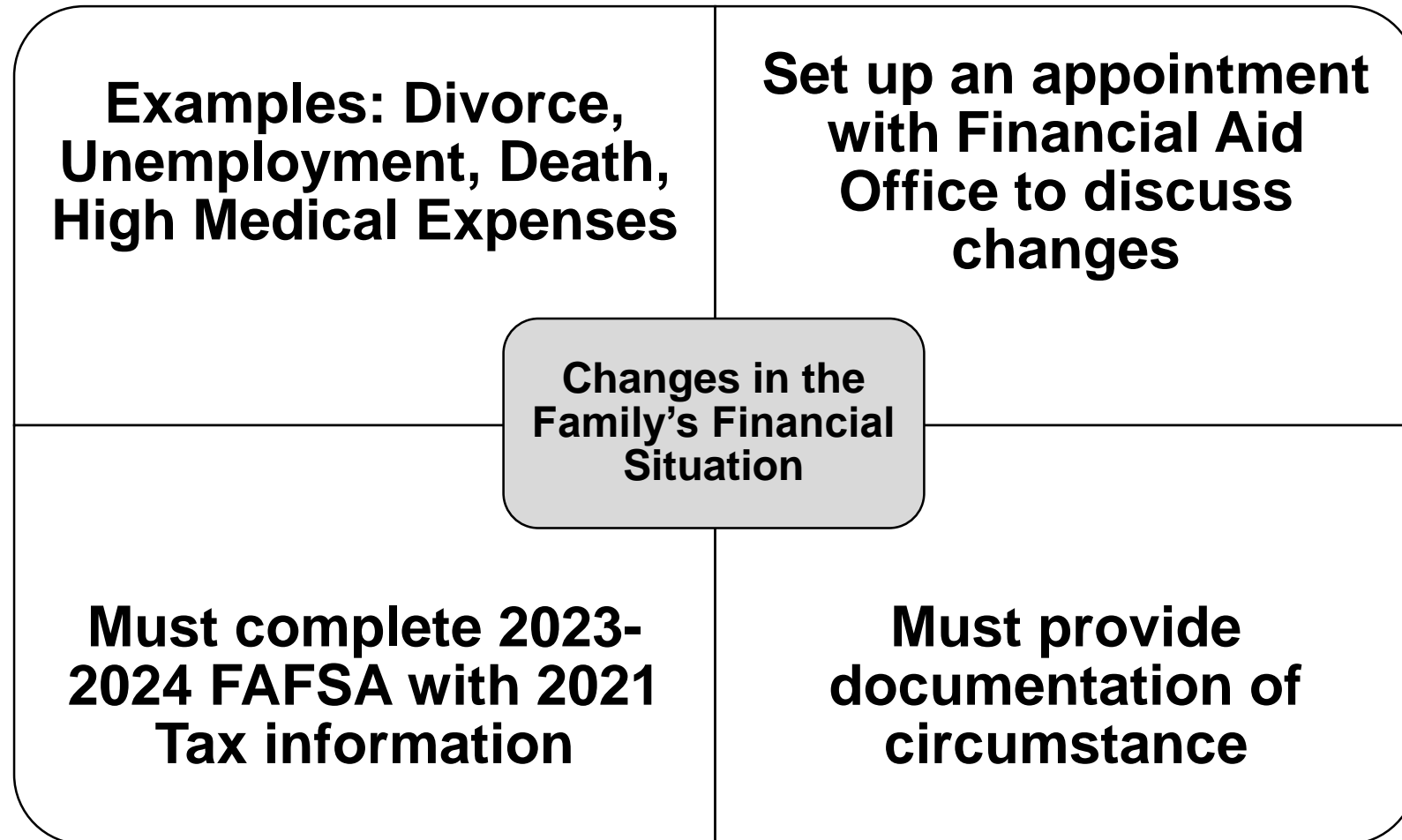
[Previous](#)

[Submit My FAFSA Form Now](#)

# Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Missing signatures
- Wrong Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/Remarried parent information
- Untaxed Income
- U.S. Income Taxes Paid
- Reporting retirement funds
- Household Size
- Number in Postsecondary Education
- Not using Legal Name-Must match the Social Security Administration
- Not Applying At All!

# What if something has changed?



# Costs of College

Anticipated Costs

Comparing Financial Aid Offers

# Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)

- ✓ Tuition & Fees
- ✓ Room & Meals
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Books & Supplies, and
- ✓ Personal/Miscellaneous Expenses

**\*\*DO NOT confuse this with your bill!!\*\***

# Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- ✓ The information reported on the FAFSA is used to calculate the EFC
  - Income, Assets, Family size, Number in college, age of older parent
- ✓ Not an amount you have to pay for college- what the government says your family should be able to contribute towards yours college education
- ✓ Income Index

EFC is used to determine the student's financial need and eligibility for certain types of funding.

**COA-EFC=Financial Need**



# Financial Need Comparison

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$13,240</b>	<b>\$23,658</b>	<b>\$48,390</b>
<b>Less EFC</b>	<b>\$5,075</b>	<b>\$5,075</b>	<b>\$5,075</b>
<b>Need</b>	<b>\$8,165</b>	<b>\$18,583</b>	<b>\$43,315</b>

# What Do I Pay to the School?

## Direct Costs/The Bill (varies by school)

Tuition and Fees

+ Room and Meals\*

+ Books & Supplies\*\*

=Direct Costs to be paid to the institution

## Indirect Costs (varies by school)

Transportation

Living expense (off campus)\*

Books & supplies\*\*

Miscellaneous Living Expenses

Spending cash

**\*Depending on your student's housing choice\***

**\*\*If books are included or not\*\***

# Affordability

Types of Financial Aid

Alternate Options

# Need versus Merit Aid

## Need Based Aid

- Funds that are based on financial need
  - Most government grants (State and Federal)
  - Subsidized Loans
  - Federal Work Study
  - Some Scholarships

## Merit Based Aid

- Funds that are based on merit or achievement
  - Academic Scholarships
  - Some government grants

# Types of Aid

- GRANTS: Qualify for based on FAFSA and Financial Need
  - Federal Pell Grant
  - Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
  - Wisconsin Grant
  - Tuition Assistance Grant
- SCHOLARSHIPS
- FEDERAL WORK STUDY (Need Based)
- LOANS:
  - Subsidized (Need based) and Unsubsidized

# Annual Federal Loan Limits

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Subsidized Annual Maximum Eligibility</b>	<b>Unsubsidized Annual Minimum Eligibility</b>	<b>Combined Annual Maximum Eligibility</b>
<b>Freshman (Dependent)</b>	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
<b>Sophomore (Dependent)</b>	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
<b>Junior &amp; Senior (Dependent)</b>	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
<b>Freshman (Independent)</b>	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
<b>Sophomore (Independent)</b>	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
<b>Junior &amp; Senior (Independent)</b>	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

# Lifetime Aggregate Federal Loan Limits

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Subsidized Lifetime Maximum Eligibility</b>	<b>Unsubsidized Lifetime Minimum Eligibility</b>	<b>Combined Lifetime Maximum Eligibility</b>
<b>Freshman (Dependent)</b> <b>Sophomore (Dependent)</b> <b>Junior &amp; Senior (Dependent)</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>
<b>Freshman (Independent)</b> <b>Sophomore (Independent)</b> <b>Junior &amp; Senior (Independent)</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$34,500</b>	<b>\$57,500</b>

Check [NSLDS.ed.gov](https://www.nsls.ed.gov) to know how much you have borrowed

# Lifetime Federal Pell Grant Limits

- There is a limit to Pell Grant eligibility
  - 12 full-time semesters (6 years)
  - Maximum lifetime eligibility = 600%
  - One full-time semester = 50%
  - If attending part time, a percentage of Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) is calculated
    - Example:  $\frac{1}{2}$  time enrollment = 25% of Pell LEU
- \*\*\* *Pell received in Winterim and Summer terms count toward aggregate limits!*



# Scholarships

- Where to Look:
  - College/University Websites
    - <https://uwm.edu/onestop/finances/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/>
  - High Schools Resources
    - Guidance Offices, libraries, etc.
  - Local Scholarship Foundations and Organizations
  - Libraries
  - Scholarship Search Engines
    - [Big Future](#) by College Board, a database of more than 2,300 sources of college funding
    - [FastWEB](#) a personalized search with a database of 1.5 million local, national and college-specific scholarships
    - [International Scholarships](#) resources for international students and study abroad
    - [Gilman International Scholarship Program](#) – Aid to undergraduates who wish to study abroad.
    - [Petersons](#) more than 1.7 million awards
    - [Scholarships](#) unlimited access to a database of 2.4 million scholarships

# Tips for Successful Scholarship Search and Applications

- 1. Be thorough and accurate.** Incomplete applications do not best represent you and may affect your eligibility.
- 2. Tell your story.** This can often be the most important part of the entire application process. This is your only opportunity to share who you are and your unique circumstances. This can help illustrate your financial need and why you deserve the scholarship.
- 3. Recommendation Letters.** These can really help boost your application. Be sure to ask those who can positively attest to your character and commitment.
- 4. Meet Deadlines.** Be sure your application gets submitted on-time.
- 5. Ask questions.** Work directly with the scholarship coordinator for questions or clarity.

# Example UWM Student Bill



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
PO BOX 500  
MILWAUKEE WI 53201-0500

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS OF 08-09-2021

Student A  
100 Student Drive  
Student City, WI XXXXX

Campus ID: XXXXXXXXXXXX

View PAWS for charge and payment activity made after the statement date.

Failure to pay charges by the due date may result in a \$25 late payment fee and a finance charge assessment on the unpaid balance at the rate of 1% per month. Transcript, diploma and registration holds may be placed on past due charges.

Charge Description	Term	Unpaid Balance	Due Date
Tuition and Fees			
Undergrad Instructionl Tuition	Fall 2021	\$4,045.56	2021-09-02
EDUC Instrctnl Technlgy Fee	Fall 2021	\$90.00	2021-09-02
Mandatory Student Fee Variable	Fall 2021	\$487.95	2021-09-02
Mandatory Student Fee Fixed	Fall 2021	\$271.35	2021-09-02
Special Class Fees			
ENGLISH Inclusive Access Fee	Fall 2021	\$41.39	2021-09-02
Housing/Meal Plans			
Sandburg Double Room	Fall 2021	\$2,821.00	2021-09-02
Meal Plan Admin Fee	Fall 2021	\$864.00	2021-09-02
Meal Plan Level 2	Fall 2021	\$1,231.00	2021-09-02
Total Charges Due:		\$9,852.25	
**Anticipated Aid (if applicable)			
Fed Direct Subsidized Loan 1	Fall 2021	\$1,732.00	
Fed Direct Unsubsidized Loan 1	Fall 2021	\$990.00	
**Anticipated Balance Due:		\$7,130.25	

# Additional Funding Options

## Parent PLUS Loan

- Dependent Students ONLY
- Taken out in the parents name, never transferred to the student
- Credit based
- Parents can apply at <https://studentloans.gov>
- Interest accrues

\*\*If parent is denied, student is eligible for an additional unsubsidized loans for the year\*\*

## Private Alternative Educational Loans

- Private lending institutions
- Co-signer may be needed
- Variable interest rate; some offer fixed rates

Contact your school for more information and resources.

# Additional Funding Resources

- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Veteran's benefits
- ROTC Scholarships and/or stipends
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Grants
- State Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- Health and Human Services Loan and Scholarship Programs
- Employer Reimbursement

# After the FAFSA

What Happens After the FAFSA is Submitted?

# Timeline After Completing the FAFSA

**FAFSA  
Completed**

- Information will be sent to the schools selected on your FAFSA

**Documents**

- Monitor your email, mail for requests for more information (verification, citizenship, selective service, etc.)

**Financial Aid  
Offer**

- Schools will notify students of their aid eligibility (typically via email or mail, may require student to accept/decline offers via a student portal)

**Decide!**

- Carefully review the types of funding offered and accept or decline as needed.

# After You've Received your Offer

- Create a budget.
  - Often bills won't be available until closer to the start of classes. Use tools provided to estimate what those costs will be.
- Determine whether you will need to secure additional funding.
- Report Scholarships to the Financial Aid Office.
- Complete Entrance Loan Counseling.
- Complete any Direct Loan Master Promissory Notes
- Read Financial Aid policies or handbooks
- Make an appointment with the Financial Aid Office for assistance



# Cost of College: Questions to Ask

- What are your fiscal responsibilities?
  - What are your costs? (Tuition, room and meals, books/supplies, Orientation fees, etc.)
  - When are tuition and fees due?
  - Are books included in the cost of tuition?
  - What happens if you have to drop classes or withdraw for the semester?
  - Housing contracts= lease: know before you sign!
- Compare your Financial Aid Offers
  - What is your bottom line out of pocket total (does this include loans)?
  - What is your funding plan beyond Federal, State, and Institutional sources?
- Be prepared for other expenses that are not part of the bill:
  - Course materials
  - Transportation costs
  - Technology (Laptop, software, etc.)
- Where do you find answers?
  - Financial Aid websites/Financial Aid Office/Financial Aid Staff!
  - College Cost websites

# Conversations to have as a Family:

- Begin building a budget, set financial goals and priorities
- Discuss ways to manage expenses
  - Identify needs versus wants
- How will bills be paid? Who is paying?
  - Set clear expectations
- How much will the student be expected to contribute?
- What are the student's due dates?
  - How will they accomplish tasks on time?
- What type of accounts will your student have and who will manage them?
- What other resources are available to the student?

# College Goal WI

- Free program to help families complete the FAFSA
- In person and Virtual Events for 2022!
- Attend an Event to Be Entered to win a SCHOLARSHIP!
- 99 percent of the families felt it was worth attending

For location information:  
**visit [www.collegegoalwi.org](http://www.collegegoalwi.org)**



# Questions!

- UWM Financial Aid Department:

414-229-4541

[finaid@uwm.edu](mailto:finaid@uwm.edu)

[financialaid.uwm.edu](http://financialaid.uwm.edu)

