A faint, light-colored illustration of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, showing its prominent dome and classical architectural details like columns and a portico. The illustration is centered in the background of the page.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATOR
BRIEFING BOOK
2017-18

**CHAPTER 13 – EDUCATION
– POST SECONDARY**

Wisconsin has a rich history in higher education. The University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System are the two public higher education systems in the state. Wisconsin is also home to over 20 private, nonprofit colleges and universities, two tribal colleges, and over 200 for-profit post-secondary schools.

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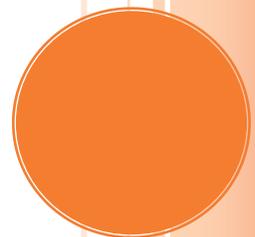


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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

The University of Wisconsin System (UW System) consists of 13 degree-granting universities, 13 two-year colleges, and the statewide University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension programs. The overall mission of the system includes the development of human resources and the discovery and dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research, public service, and the provision of extended education beyond the boundaries of the campus.

The guiding philosophy of the UW System is the “Wisconsin Idea,” which is most often associated with University President Charles Van Hise and Governor (and U.S. Senator) Robert M. La Follette, Sr. The Wisconsin Idea is the concept that “the boundaries of the University are the boundaries of the state.” In practice, this means making the resources of the UW available to people all across the state, not just those who are currently enrolled as students. The Wisconsin Idea began as an effort to use the knowledge of the UW faculty to assist the state Legislature in shaping government policies, but it soon expanded to helping teachers, farmers, and people of all ages and levels of education. [s. 36.01, Stats.; Jack Stark, *The Wisconsin Idea: The University’s Service to the State*, in *State of Wisconsin Blue Book* 101 (1995-1996).]

The statutory requirements applicable to the UW System are set forth in ch. 36, Stats., which grants broad authority and responsibility to the UW Board of Regents (BOR) to operate the UW System. In addition, ch. 36, Stats., contains provisions relating to faculty and student governance; eligibility for in-state tuition; faculty and academic staff layoffs and termination; numerous special programs which the UW System must offer; and tuition remission programs.

and seek racially and ethnically diverse faculty and staff; and promote the economic development of the state. [Regent Policy Document 1-2.]

UW-Madison consistently ranks among the top recipients of federal research funding nationwide. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) supports research at UW-Madison by protecting and licensing the inventions of its scientists. The WiSys Technology Foundation provides research patent and licensing support to the other UW-System four-year campuses. [See <http://www.wisys.org/about-us> and <http://www.warf.org/about-us/about-us.cmsx>.]

The UW System two-year campuses are known as the “UW Colleges.” They generally offer associate degrees, but some campuses offer select bachelor’s degrees in collaboration with the comprehensive campuses. Their mission and goals include providing students with the first two years of a liberal arts general education, accessibly and affordably; preparing students for successful transfer to a baccalaureate or other professional program; emphasizing teaching excellence and supporting the development, testing, and use of effective teaching methods; and cooperating with other UW System institutions, technical colleges, private colleges, and public schools to maximize the educational opportunity and resources available to the citizens within the campus service areas. [Regent Policy Document 1-2; *Mission, Goals, and Vision of UW Colleges*, available at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/approval-of-mission-statements/>.]

The UW Colleges are generally located in areas of the state that are not near a four-year campus. The colleges, and their locations, are as follows:

- UW-Barron County (Rice Lake)
- UW-Marquette County (Marquette)
- UW-Marathon County (Wausau)
- UW-Marshfield/Wood County
- UW-Fox Valley (Menasha)
- UW-Manitowoc
- UW-Fond du Lac
- UW-Sheboygan
- UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
- UW-Washington County (West Bend)
- UW-Waukesha
- UW-Rock County (Janesville)
- UW-Richland (Richland Center)

The total enrollment of all UW Colleges campuses in the Fall 2015 semester was 13,552. [Headcount Enrollment by Institution, Fall 2015-16, available at: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/reports-statistics/educational-statistics/student-statistics/>.]

UW-Extension

Each county extension office maintains its own website. A listing of county office websites can be found at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/about/location-maps.html#maps>

The UW-Extension is the outreach arm of the UW System, and has offices in every county. Its mission is to provide, jointly with the UW System institutions, the Wisconsin counties, and tribal governments, a program to apply university research, knowledge, and resources to meet the educational needs of Wisconsin residents, wherever they live and work. This mission includes the programs of the four UW-

Extension divisions: Cooperative Extension; Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning; Broadcasting and Media Innovations; and Business and Entrepreneurship.

Wisconsin residents participate in UW-Extension programs through various delivery methods, including workshops, one-on-one counseling, interactive networks, and correspondence study.

Cooperative Extension staff apply university knowledge to address issues in rural, suburban, and urban settings. Cooperative Extension provides educational programming in all 72 counties and within three tribal nations. The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and Leadership Wisconsin are part of this division.

Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning Extension coordinates the UW System continuing education programs at all 26 campuses, online, and in communities throughout the state.

The **Broadcasting and Media Innovations Division** delivers Wisconsin Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio. It also houses the National Center for Media Engagement, which helps public media build community connections, and houses Instructional Communications Systems, which provide technologies for distance learning.

The **Business and Entrepreneurship Division** supports businesses and entrepreneurs via the Wisconsin Small Business Development Network at the 13 UW four-year-campuses by providing services such as no-cost consulting, feasibility analysis, and business research. It also houses the Center for Technology Commercialization, the Center for Business Intelligence, the Manufacturing Diversity Institute, and the Food Finance Institute.

[Regent Policy Document 1-2; *About Us*, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION, <http://www.uwex.edu/about/> (last visited May 24, 2016).]

Governance of the UW System

The UW System is governed by the BOR, which consists of 18 members: 14 citizen members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for seven-year staggered terms; two students at UW System institutions who serve two-year terms, also appointed by the Governor; and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the President of

the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board, or by his or her designation, another member of the WTCS Board. At least one of the 14 citizen members of the BOR must be appointed from each of Wisconsin's eight Congressional districts. [s. 15.91, Stats.]

Biographies of current BOR members may be found at:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/about-the-regents/>

BOR policy documents may be found at:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/>

The BOR is directed by law to: enact policies and promulgate rules for governing the UW System; plan for the future needs of the state for university education; ensure the diversity of quality undergraduate programs while preserving the strength of the state's graduate training and research centers; and promote the widest degree of institutional autonomy within the UW System. Some of the specific powers of the BOR include:

- Appointing the president of the UW System.
- Appointing the chancellors and vice chancellors of the 13 universities, the 13 UW Colleges, and the UW-Extension.
- Determining the educational programs to be offered by the UW System.
- Determining admission policies.
- Granting degrees.

The president and chancellors of the UW System are charged with the implementation of BOR policies and the administration of the institutions. [ss. 36.09 and 36.11, Stats.] Under statutory "shared governance," the faculty, academic staff, and students of each institution play a role in the governance of the UW System, but the degree of involvement was modified by the 2015-17 Biennial Budget Act, 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 (Act 55).

Under prior law, subject to the responsibilities of the BOR, the president, and the chancellor, the faculty was vested with responsibility for the immediate governance of the institution and actively participated in institutional policy development. The faculty had the primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. Academic staff actively participated in the immediate governance of and policy development for the institution and had the primary responsibility for the development of policies and procedures regarding academic staff members. Likewise, students actively participated in the immediate governance of and policy development for the institution and had primary responsibility for the development of policies concerning student life, services, and interests. [s. 36.09 (4) to (5), 2013-14 Stats.]

Under Act 55, faculty, academic staff, and students may organize themselves as they determine and may select representatives to participate in institutional governance.

However, each group no longer has the statutory responsibility for or the statutory responsibility to actively participate in the immediate governance of and policy development for an institution. Instead, each group is primarily responsible for advising the chancellor regarding the policies and procedures that concern its respective membership. Further, Act 55 clarified that the responsibilities and powers of the faculty, academic staff, and students are subordinate to the responsibilities and powers of the BOR, the president, and the chancellor. [s. 36.09 (3m) to (5), Stats.]

Admission

Specific admission policies for each UW institution are developed by the individual campuses, taking into account their mission and resources and guidance from the BOR. However, in order to qualify for admission to any UW System institution as a freshman, an applicant must be a graduate of a recognized high school or complete the requirements for a high school equivalency certificate or diploma. All UW System institutions require a

The online application to all UW System institutions may be found at:
<https://apply.wisconsin.edu>

Profiles of admitted freshman showing average class ranks and tests scores for students admitted at each campus can be found at:
<http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/admissions/freshman/guidelines.aspx>

minimum of 17 high school credits in specified subjects. As an alternative, a student who attended a high school that has a non-traditional curriculum may submit a UW System Competency-Based Admission profile. Applicants must also submit ACT or SAT scores. Individual institutions have discretion to waive one or more of the minimum requirements for particular applicants when appropriate.

According to BOR policy, applicants are given a comprehensive review to determine whether

they are prepared to satisfactorily complete academic work and whether they will benefit from and enrich the educational environment and enhance the quality of the institution. Review is based on academics, standardized test scores, and other factors including student experiences, leadership qualities, special talents, and whether the applicant is a veteran, is socio-economically disadvantaged, or is a member of a historically underrepresented racial or ethnic group. [Regent Policy Document 7-3.]

For more information on the Youth Options program consult:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/youthoptions>

Under Wisconsin's **Youth Options** program, public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements may take post-secondary courses at a UW System or other post-secondary institution and receive high school and college

credit. Subject to a limit on the maximum number of credits, the school board must pay for the course if it determines that the course qualifies for high school credit and is not comparable to a course already offered in the school district. A student interested in

participating should talk with staff at his or her high school and the post-secondary institution. [s. 118.55, Stats.; ch. PI 40, Wis. Adm. Code.]

More information about the course options program is available at:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/courseoptions>

Under the **Course Options** program, pupils in public K-12 schools may take courses offered by “educational institutions,” including nonresident public school districts, charter schools, the UW System, WTCS, tribal colleges, WAICU colleges, and other nonprofit organizations that are

approved by the Department of Public Instruction. A pupil may attend no more than two courses at any time under the program. The resident school district must pay tuition for the course and may reject an application by a pupil to attend a course under the program if it determines that the course does not satisfy a high school graduation requirement or does not conform to or support the pupil’s academic and career plan.

Generally, an educational institution may not require that a pupil pay a fee to take a course under the program, except that an institution of higher education may charge a pupil additional tuition and fees for attending a course at the institution if the pupil will receive post-secondary credit for successful completion of the course. A pupil’s resident school board and the educational institution must determine the amount of additional tuition and fees that may be charged. [s. 118.52, Stats.]

Tuition Rates

Under Wisconsin law, the BOR may generally establish differing tuition and fees for different classes of students, such as undergraduates, graduate students, and nonresident students. The BOR may also establish special tuition rates and fees, known as “differential tuition” for particular studies or courses of instruction. [s. 36.27 (1) (a), Stats.]

According to BOR policy, differential tuition is an amount charged on top of base tuition to support additional services and programming for students at a particular institution, for a particular category of students, such as all undergraduates, or for students enrolled in certain programs. Program-specific differential tuition is usually charged for programs that have high operating costs, such as the health sciences or engineering. In order to establish and charge differential tuition, a chancellor must submit a differential tuition proposal to the UW System for review. Once the UW System has reviewed the differential tuition proposal and ensured that students of the institution were advised and consulted about the proposal, the UW System President may forward the chancellor’s proposal to the BOR for approval. Chancellors do not have the ability to charge differential tuition without prior approval of the BOR. [Regent Policy Document 32-7.]

Tuition for resident undergraduate students, however, has been frozen since 2013. Act 55 extends the tuition freeze originally established by 2013 Wisconsin Act 20, specifying that during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, the BOR may not charge resident undergraduates at any UW institution or UW colleges campus tuition that is more than the tuition charged to resident undergraduates in the 2014-15 academic year at the same

institution or campus. Differential tuition for resident undergraduates, described above, is generally subject to the tuition freeze for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, except that the BOR may implement an increased differential tuition at UW-Stevens Point if approved by students in a referendum. [2015 Wis. Act 55 SEC. 9148 (4) and (4d).]

Tuition and segregated fee rates per semester for undergraduate students at UW System institutions for the 2015-16 academic year are set forth in the table below. The term “segregated fees” refers to charges in addition to instructional fees assessed to all students for services, programs, and facilities that support the primary mission of the university.

2015-16 UW System Full-Time Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Per Semester

Campus	Resident	Nonresident	Minnesota Reciprocity
UW Colleges ¹	\$2,514 - \$2,665	\$6,007 - \$6,157	\$2,514 - \$2,664
UW-Eau Claire ¹	\$4,411	\$8,198	\$4,411
UW-Green Bay ¹	\$3,912	\$7,699	\$4,281
UW-La Crosse ¹	\$4,416	\$8,392	\$4,416
UW-Madison ^{1, 2}	\$5,208	\$14,833	\$6,691
UW-Milwaukee ^{1, 3, 5}	\$4,715	\$9,801	\$6,617
UW-Oshkosh ¹	\$3,744	\$7,530	\$4,050
UW-Parkside ¹	\$3,671	\$7,665	\$4,039
UW-Platteville ¹	\$3,744	\$7,669	\$4,053
UW-River Falls ¹	\$3,969	\$7,755	\$4,272
UW-Stevens Point ¹	\$3,836	\$7,970	\$4,205
UW-Stout ^{1, 4}	\$306.78 ⁴	\$564.97 ⁴	\$317.77 ⁴
UW-Superior ²	\$4,018	\$7,805	\$4,269
UW-Whitewater ^{1, 2}	\$3,819	\$7,855	\$4,077

1. The tuition rate listed is for one semester of tuition at a full-time rate (12-18 credits).
2. Bachelor’s in Business Administration tuition is an additional \$500 per semester and Engineering tuition is an additional \$700 per semester.
3. Students enrolled in the School of Business Administration, College of Engineering and Applied Science, College of Nursing, Peck School of the Arts, and the Department of Architecture may pay an additional per-credit charge.
4. UW-Stout’s tuition rates are per credit; the amount listed is the cost of one credit.
5. Communication Science and Disorders and Occupational Therapy have higher tuition rates.

Source: <http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/systemcosts.aspx>.

Residency

The chancellor of each institution is required to develop procedures for residency determinations and provide for appeals from classifications of nonresidency. The appeals process must include the right to a hearing. Residency decisions are subject to judicial review. [Regent Policy Documents 32-1 and 32-2; ch. UWS 20, Wis. Adm. Code.]

Generally, to be considered a resident for tuition purposes, an adult student must have been a resident of Wisconsin for the 12 months prior to the beginning of the semester or session for which the student registers. For a minor student, the same requirement applies to his or her parent or parents. In determining residency, the intent of the person to establish and maintain a permanent home in Wisconsin is determinative.

There are several exceptions to this requirement, including special provisions for migrant workers and their children, members of the Armed Forces stationed in Wisconsin and their families, persons who relocated to Wisconsin for employment purposes, and persons who are refugees, among others. [s. 36.27 (2), Stats.; ch. UWS 20, Wis. Adm. Code.]

Subject to certain exceptions, nonresidents must pay the nonresident tuition rate. Nonresident students are charged tuition in excess of instructional costs, thus subsidizing resident students. The amount charged for nonresident tuition is not subject to any statutory limits. However, increases in nonresident tuition are limited by the amount nonresident students and their families are willing to pay. The UW System competes with other regional and, in some cases, national and international institutions for nonresident students. Setting nonresident tuition at a level that is not competitive with the rates charged by these institutions may result in decreases in nonresident enrollment and related revenues.

Fee Remissions

More information about tuition and fee remission options can be found in UW System financial policy F44, available at:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/financial-administration/financial-administrative-policies-procedures/fppp/>

There are several opportunities for full or partial resident and nonresident tuition and fee remission, including those listed below.

Tuition remission is available, under certain circumstances, for the children and surviving spouse of an ambulance driver, correctional officer, fire fighter, emergency medical services technician, or law enforcement officer

who was killed in the line of duty or as the result of a duty disability in Wisconsin. [s. 36.27 (3m), Stats.]

Tuition and segregated fees remission is available for veterans who satisfy certain residency and service requirements. Likewise, tuition and segregated fees remission is available, under certain circumstances, for the children and surviving spouse of a veteran who, while a resident of this state, died on active duty, died as the result of a service-connected disability, died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty for training purposes or was awarded at least a 30% service-connected disability rating under federal law. [s. 36.27 (3n) and (3p), Stats.; 20 U.S.C. s. 1015d.]

These fee remissions also apply to WTCS tuition. [s. 38.24 (5), (7), and (8), Stats.]

Reciprocity

The Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement may be found at:

<http://www.heab.state.wi.us/docs/board/1516/rep1601.pdf>

The Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement allows residents of the two states to attend public post-secondary institutions in the other state without having to pay nonresident tuition. Participating students

pay a reciprocal fee that cannot exceed the higher of the two states' resident tuition rates. Under the agreement, a student generally pays the higher of the resident tuition charged by the institution attended or by its comparable institution in the other state. The reciprocity agreement is negotiated and administered jointly by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) and the Minnesota Higher Educational Services Office. Wisconsin law specifies that the agreement is subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on Finance. While the current agreement does not contain a specific expiration date, it may be modified at any time upon mutual agreement of both states. [s. 39.47, Stats.]

There are also reciprocal tuition agreements for residents of Menominee County, Michigan, enrolled in the UW Center-Marinette County, residents of Iron County, Wisconsin, enrolled at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Michigan, and residents of Marinette County, Wisconsin, enrolled at Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan. [See, Reciprocity Agreements with Other States, available at: <http://heab.state.wi.us/programs.html>.]

Return to Wisconsin

Nonresidents may receive a 25% waiver of nonresident tuition under the “Return to Wisconsin” program. To be eligible, a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian must have graduated from the institution where the student will enroll. Participating UW campuses are UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, and UW-Whitewater. In addition to being admitted to the campus of choice, the student will be required to complete an additional form attesting to the relationship with an eligible alumnus.

Midwest Student Exchange Program

Currently 12 UWS campuses participate in the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP), which allows students from a participating state to attend public colleges or universities in other participating states at a tuition of no more than 150% of resident tuition. Wisconsin joined MSEP in 2005. UW campuses individually determine whether they will participate and identify factors for admission of students through the MSEP.

Tri-State Initiative

More information about nonresident student reduced tuition programs can be found at:

<http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/nonresident.aspx>

UW-Platteville's Tri-State Initiative (TSI) is a program open to residents of Illinois and Iowa who are admitted to certain programs of study. TSI will pay in-state tuition plus an additional premium of \$4,000 each eligible year up to five years. Programs of study include Engineering, Agriculture, Criminal Justice, and Education. There are limited openings in the TSI program each year. More information about

the Tri-State Initiative can be found on the UW-Platteville website.

General Principles Governing Transfer Admissions and Transfer of Credits

The UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy (UW System Regent Policy 7-1) sets general transfer policy for all UW System campuses and may be found at:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/university-of-wisconsin-system-undergraduate-transfer-policy>

Admission of students to the UW from other institutions of higher education is based on comprehensive, individualized admission review, consistent with the process for freshman admission. In awarding transfer credit, UW institutions consider the quality and comparability of the transfer student's coursework, and the applicability of that work to the receiving institution's degree requirements. The BOR directs UW

institutions to provide transfer students the same opportunities as continuing students to demonstrate their competence through the use of internally or externally developed tests, portfolio assessment procedures, and other competency-based alternatives.

In addition, students who transfer with a UW associate degree are considered to have satisfied university, college, or school general education requirements at their transfer campus.

The Transfer Information System (TIS) is a UW System website that provides potential transfer students with current course equivalencies and other important transfer information. The address is:

<http://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/>

Most UW System institutions require all students to complete a specific number of credits at that institution in order to obtain a degree. Transfer students are responsible for fulfilling these credit requirements.

Upon being admitted to an institution, transfer students receive a credit evaluation showing how transferred courses equate to courses at their new campus. They also receive information showing how their courses apply toward a

particular program and degree requirements. Students have the right to appeal credit evaluations. [Regent Policy Document 7-1; Academic Information Series 6.0.]

UW Colleges Guaranteed Transfer

The UW System transfer policy provides for "UW Colleges Guaranteed Transfer," under which students are guaranteed admission to the transfer institution if they: (1) begin college at a UW Colleges campus; (2) submit a "Declaration of Intent to Participate" at any time prior to completing 30 credits at the UW Colleges campus; (3) earn the necessary

A student who begins as a freshman at a UW College two-year campus is guaranteed admission to a four-year campus as a junior under the "guaranteed transfer" program.

credits (at the UW Colleges campus) for junior status at the UW campus they wish to attend; (4) have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) (2.80 for UW-Madison); and (5) meet the same criteria for admission to specific majors or programs as continuing students.

Additional requirements apply for guaranteed transfer to UW-Madison.

More information is available at: <http://uwc.edu/admissions/transfer/guaranteed-transfer>.

UW System - WTCS Universal Credit Transfer Agreement

Wisconsin law requires the BOR and the WTCS Board to enter into and implement an agreement that identifies 30 credits of core general education courses that will be transferable between and within each institution participating in the agreement. The credits must be transferable without loss of credit towards graduation or toward completion of a specific course of study. [s. 36.31 (2m), Stats.]

The UW and the WTCS entered into this agreement on June 6, 2014. More information about the agreement may be viewed here: <http://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/universal-transfer/>.

Flexible Option

The UW Flexible Option program, a partnership between UW System institutions and UW-Extension, allows students to earn credits and degrees without attending traditional classes. Students are assigned academic coaches and earn credits by passing assessments. Students may learn the material online or by using textbooks and may also earn credit for knowledge gained through experience if they can show through an assessment that they have mastered a subject area.

Students enroll in Flexible Option for three-month “subscription periods” during which they can access learning materials, receive academic support, and complete competency tests.

For each subscription period, students can choose between an “all-you-can-learn” option for \$2,250, in which they try to master as many skill sets, and pass as many assessments, as they can, or a “single competency-set” option for \$900, which allows a student to master one skill set.

The Flexible Option program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. More information on the program can be found at:

<http://flex.wisconsin.edu/faqs/>

A typical degree requires mastering eight to 15 competency sets under the flexible program. The competencies and assessments for each degree are determined by UW faculty. Flexible Option programs are currently offered through UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, and the UW Colleges.

Distance Education

The UW System also provides courses via distance learning using online, videoconference, print, and other media. All UW System institutions offer distance learning programs.

Students have access to a broader range of degree and program options than is available through the UW Flexible Option program. However, some distance learning programs conform to a more traditional academic term schedule and may not offer competency-based advancement opportunities, which are available through the UW Flexible Option program.

Information about distance learning courses and programs at the UW System can be found at: <http://distancelearning.wisconsin.edu>. The UW Colleges offer an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree that is delivered completely online through <http://www.online.uwc.edu>.

Auditing Courses

Wisconsin statutes require the BOR to allow individuals aged 60 or older to audit courses free of charge. BOR policy provides that Wisconsin residents age 60 or older, and disabled Wisconsin residents receiving disability benefits, may audit classes without charge; residents under the age of 60 must pay 30% of the normal per credit academic fee to audit a class. Nonresidents are charged 50% of the normal per credit academic fee. The right to audit a class is subject to general conditions, including approval of the instructor and sufficient classroom space. [s. 36.27 (1) (b), Stats.; Regent Policy Document 4-10.]

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

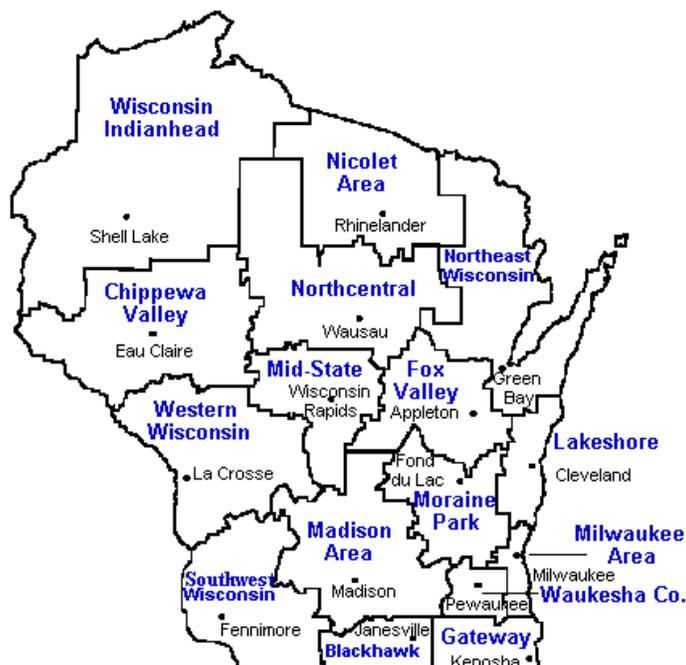
In 1911, Wisconsin became the first state to establish a system of state aid and support for industrial education. According to the WTCS Fact Book, the current system consists of 16 technical college districts which encompass every area of the state, with 48 main and satellite campuses that serve approximately 304,000 people annually.¹

State law establishes the principal purpose of the WTCS as providing occupational education and training and retraining programs along with customized training and technical assistance to business and industry in order to foster economic development and the expansion of employment opportunities. Additional purposes of the WTCS are to provide: educational opportunities for high school age students; a collegiate transfer program; community services and vocational or self-enrichment activities; basic skills education; and education and services to minorities, women, and handicapped or disadvantaged individuals to enable them to participate in the workforce. [s. 38.001, Stats.]

Some of the instructional divisions in which courses are offered in the WTCS include: agriculture; business; television; graphics; home economics; industrial services; and health, technical, and general education.

¹ See, Wisconsin Technical College Fact Book 2016, Wisconsin Technical College System, 2016 [<http://www.wtcsystem.edu/wtcsexternal/cmspages/getdocumentfile.aspx?nodeguid=3879c9ef-7e83-4f74-8517-f43d34041700>.]

Wisconsin Technical College Districts and Main Campuses



Source: WTCS.

WTCS State Board

The **WTCS State Board** is the coordinating agency for the WTCS. It consists of 13 members: an employer representative; an employee representative; a farmer representative; the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee; the Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development or a designee; the president of the UW BOR or a designee from among the Regents; six public members; and one technical college student.

The WTCS Board establishes statewide policies and standards for the educational programs and services provided by the 16 technical college districts that cover the state. The WTCS Board supervises district operations through reporting and audit requirements and consultation, coordination, and support services. It sets standards for building new schools and adding to current facilities. The WTCS Board also provides assistance to districts in meeting the needs of target groups, including services for the disadvantaged, the disabled, women, dislocated workers, the incarcerated, and minorities. [s. 38.04, Stats.]

District Boards

Each technical college district, other than Milwaukee Area Technical College, is headed by a local technical college district board of nine members, which includes two employers and two employees who are representative of the various businesses and industries in the district; a school district administrator; an elected state or local official; and three additional members. The district board members are appointed by district appointment

committees, which consist of county board chairs in 13 districts and school board presidents in the other three districts. [ss. 38.08 and 38.10, Stats.]

The makeup of the Milwaukee Area Technical College District Board differs from the other district boards. It consists of:

- Five persons representing employers: three of which represent employers with 15 or more employees; two of which represent employers with 100 or more employees; and at least two who represent employers who are manufacturing businesses. A person representing an employer must have at least two years of experience managing a business entity, nonprofit organization, credit union, or cooperative association with at least 15 employees or at least two years of experience managing the finances or the hiring of personnel of a business entity, nonprofit organization, credit union, or cooperative association with at least 100 employees.
- One elected official.
- One school district administrator.
- Two additional members. [s. 38.08 (1) (a) 1g., Stats.]

The Milwaukee County Executive and the chairpersons of the Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Washington County boards of supervisors constitute the appointment committee for the Milwaukee Area Technical College Board. [s. 38.10 (1) (d), Stats.]

The district boards are responsible for the direct operation of their respective schools and programs. They are empowered to levy property taxes (within certain statutory limits) and develop an annual budget; provide for facilities and equipment; hire a district director, staff, and teachers; determine programs to be offered (with WTCS Board approval); admit students; and provide financial aid, guidance, and job placement services. [s. 38.12 through 38.16, Stats.]

Programs and Degrees

The WTCS offers several types of educational programs and degrees.

An **associate degree** is a two-year program, which combines technical skills with general education, such as math, communications, and social sciences.

One- and two-year technical diploma programs focus on hands-on learning of occupational skills and can take as little as one or two years to complete, depending on the particular program.

Short-term (less than one year) diploma programs focus on one particular occupation and can take less than a year to complete.

Certificates are designed to provide students with streamlined education to enhance their jobs skills.

The **liberal arts** program provides the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate college education. Seventy-two of the credits earned transfer to UW System four-year campuses. The Liberal Arts program is available at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Madison Area

Technical College (also called Madison College), Nicolet Area Technical College, Chippewa Valley Technical College, and Western Wisconsin Technical College.

WTCS Website:

<http://www.wtcsystem.edu>

Apprentice-related instruction is a combination of on-the-job training and classroom-related instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation in two to five years. There are hundreds of apprenticeship programs available in construction, service, and industrial occupations.

Advanced technical certificates respond to employers' needs for highly skilled employees, and are offered as a small block of credits (9-12), with at least six of these credits having advanced content beyond the associate degree.

Adult secondary education consists of high school level instruction (grades 9-12) for adults. Students are typically working toward a high school credential such as the national General Educational Development (GED) test or the Wisconsin High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). Technical colleges may also offer specific high school level courses to individuals who may need a few credits to complete their high school diploma.

Family literacy programs are designed to help parents become better learners while promoting their children's learning at home and achievement at school.

English as a second language programs train people whose native or dominant language is not English to read, write, and communicate in English.

Customized training is offered in partnership with employers. The training is delivered in various formats including:

- On-site training at the company or business during regular hours or various shifts.
- Training which uses the distance learning network and provides two-way audio and visual communication.
- Training that is interactive through a computer or video or on the Internet.

Training can be customized into any of the following:

- A quick-start training session on equipment or methods.
- A focused seminar format.
- An upgrade of employees' basic skills in math, reading, or communications.
- Long-term training to retain a quality workforce.
- Training in high-demand areas, such as technical skills training, computer-assisted applications, workplace assessment, quality processes, or supervisory development.
- Training to resolve specific technical problems, analyze workflow procedures, or evaluate employee performance.

The WTCS also offers part-time programs that are comprised of vocational, adult, basic skills education, and district and community services, which include vocational or hobby courses and activities offered with community groups.

Admission and Tuition

State law provides that, in general, every person who meets certain age requirements and who is a resident of Wisconsin is eligible to attend a technical college. Nonresidents may attend if the district board of attendance approves the enrollment. A district board may give priority in admitting students to residents of the district. [s. 38.22, Stats.]

The 2016 tuition costs are the same for each of the 16 technical colleges. For Wisconsin residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs cost \$130.35 per credit and collegiate transfer programs are \$176.35 per credit. For out-of-state residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs are \$195.53 per credit and liberal arts transfer programs are \$264.53 per credit.

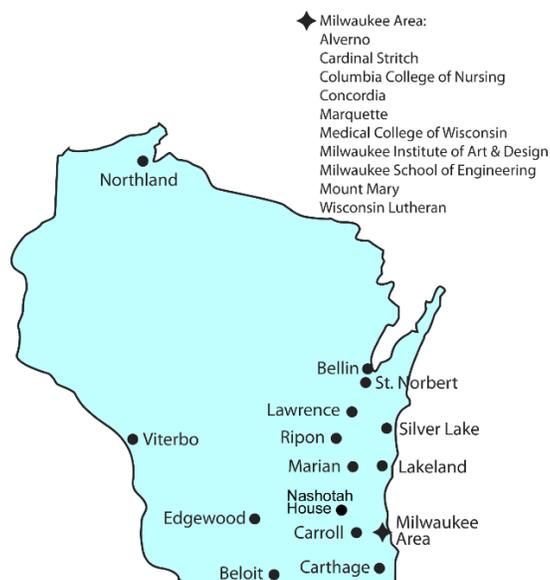
Transfer of WTCS Credits to UW System

Students attending the WTCS Collegiate Transfer program at Madison, Milwaukee, Chippewa Valley, Western Wisconsin, Southwestern Wisconsin, or Nicolet Area Technical College may generally transfer up to 72 credits to any UW System campus. Many of the technical colleges have articulation (transfer) agreements with four-year private colleges and universities in the UW System. These agreements may contain course-to-course equivalencies, while others provide for a total program transfer. There are nearly 1,100 program-to-program transfer agreements between the technical colleges and the UW System four-year universities.

In addition, as discussed above, the UWS and the WTCS entered into an agreement for guaranteed transfer of 30 credits of core general education courses in June 2014.

PRIVATE NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Wisconsin has over 20 private, nonprofit, accredited degree-granting colleges and universities, a majority of which are members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU). As shown on the map below, the institutions and their locations are as follows: Alverno College, Cardinal Stritch University, Columbia College of Nursing, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mount Mary University, Wisconsin Lutheran College and Marquette University all in the Milwaukee area; Bellin College, Green Bay; Beloit College, Beloit; Carroll University, Waukesha; Carthage College, Kenosha; Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon; Edgewood College, Madison; Lakeland University, Plymouth; Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah; Lawrence University, Appleton; Marian University, Fond du Lac; Northland College, Ashland; Ripon College, Ripon; St. Norbert College, De Pere; Silver Lake College, Manitowoc; and Viterbo University, La Crosse.



Source: Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Each institution has a distinct mission, emphasis, and approach to teaching and learning. Some of the institutions are religiously affiliated but, except for Nashotah House Theological Seminary, all accept students regardless of creed. A comparative review of private institutions, as well as links to the websites of each institution, can be found at: <http://www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org/colleges>.

Private colleges and universities receive no direct operating funding from the state. They are governed by private boards of trustees. All private colleges and universities in Wisconsin are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, except for Nashotah House, which is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Admission, Enrollment, and Costs

Enrollment and Costs

In 2014-15, the 24 WAICU-member private colleges and universities in Wisconsin together enrolled approximately 60,000 students. They awarded 24% of the bachelor's degrees in the state, including 30% of engineering degrees, 40% of health professions degrees, and 28% of business degrees. In addition, they produced 53% of all the state's new graduates with four year nursing degrees. They also awarded 37% of all the state's graduate degrees, including 100% of dental degrees, 58% of medical doctor degrees, 61% of education degrees, and 52% of physician assistant degrees.

The average price for tuition and fees at a WAICU-member private college or university during the 2014-15 academic year was \$29,671. However, more than 99% of the first-time

full-time undergraduates at private colleges in Wisconsin received financial aid, the majority of which was provided by the institutions themselves. Seventy-five percent of the average private aid package consisted of grants, which do not have to be repaid. The average financial aid package provided to a freshman for the 2014-15 academic year was \$24,287, leaving an average tuition cost of \$5,384. The costs for room and board are roughly comparable in the public and private sectors. [WAICU Facts, available at: <http://www.waicu.org/research/waicu-facts>.]

In 2015-16, the Wisconsin Grant program provided \$26.8 million in means-tested financial aid for low-income Wisconsin students who attend Wisconsin private nonprofit colleges. Grant awards ranged from a minimum of \$250 to a maximum of \$2,900. [s. 39.30, Stats.; 2015 Wisconsin Act 55; 2015-16 Wisconsin Grant and Continuing TIP Formulas, available at: <http://heab.state.wi.us/finadmin/index.html>.]

Each private institution sets its own admission policies. Generally, admissions are determined by a committee which considers a potential student's family situation, a written essay, a portfolio of the student's high school work, volunteer and job experience, and possibly notes on an interview with the student.

Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

WAICU is recognized in state statutes as the official representative of Wisconsin's private colleges and universities and, therefore, acts on behalf of both WAICU-member and nonmember institutions in some circumstances. The college and university presidents serve as WAICU's Board of Directors.

Wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org is an online resource maintained by WAICU to help students and their families select a private college or university and apply for admission. It contains information and admissions applications for all WAICU-member independent degree-granting colleges and universities within Wisconsin. The site is located at: <http://www.wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org>.

The president of WAICU or his or her designee, along with the president of the UW System and the president of the WTCS, is a member of the Educational Communications Board, the Wisconsin Technology Council, the College Savings Board (EdVest), the Distance Learning Authorization Board, and the Council on Workforce Investment. [ss. 15.105, 15.57 and 15.675, Stats.; 29 U.S.C. s. 2821.]

Tribal Colleges

There are two tribal colleges in Wisconsin -- the College of Menominee Nation (CMN), located in Keshena and Green Bay and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (LCO) in Hayward. The main campus of the College of the Menominee Nation is located in Keshena, and there is also a campus in Green Bay.

LCO's main campus is located in Hayward. LCO also has three Outreach Sites operating on four nearby Ojibwe reservations: Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, and St. Croix. LCO also provides research, education, and community outreach through its Community College Extension at the Hayward campus.

The LCO Extension is made up of three programs: the Increased Capacity Program, the Youth Development Program, and the Water Quality Program. The Extension also partners with the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program. Extension operations are funded with grants from the USDA Extension Program.

Each college is operated as a nonprofit institution by the respective tribe, and both offer two-year associate degrees and less-than-two-year certificates, in a variety of fields. CMN also offers bachelor's degrees in select programs. The colleges have an open enrollment policy meaning nontribal members may enroll. Both tribal colleges are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

In Fall of 2014, the total enrollment at the College of Menominee Nation was 560, 59% of whom were Native American. The programs with the largest enrollments were education, business, biological and physical science, liberal studies, and nursing.

The total enrollment at the LCO in Fall of 2014 was 352, 73% of whom were Native American. The most popular areas of study at the college were ethnic, cultural, and gender studies, health professions and related clinical sciences, business, and liberal arts. This and more information about the tribal colleges is available on their websites: <http://www.menominee.edu/> and <http://www.lco.edu/>.

PRIVATE TRADE, TECHNICAL, CAREER, DISTANCE LEARNING, AND DEGREE-GRANTING SCHOOLS

There are over 200 private schools in Wisconsin which train people in a wide variety of occupations. The majority of the schools are for-profit businesses owned by an individual or a corporation. The schools vary greatly in size but most provide small classes and individualized instruction.

Some of these private schools issue certificates of completion; others issue associate's or bachelor's degrees. Credits earned from proprietary schools generally do not transfer to degree-granting schools.

State Regulation

A directory of EAB-approved schools is available on the EAB's website: <http://www.eab.state.wi.us/>

The Educational Approval Board (EAB) regulates for-profit post-secondary schools (except those regulated by other state agencies, such as cosmetology schools) and in-state nonprofit post-secondary institutions incorporated after January 1992. Most private post-secondary schools serving Wisconsin students, whether they are

located within or outside the state, are required to obtain the EAB’s approval prior to advertising or providing training. Training which leads to employment or ongoing education is generally approved. Approval must be renewed annually.

The following kinds of training are exempt from EAB oversight:

- Religious or strictly sectarian training.
- Professional development.
- Training provided for a business with limited access to nonemployees.
- Employers training their own employees.

Under Wisconsin law, if this type of school serves a Wisconsin resident, even if only via online programming, it must be EAB-approved unless the school is exempt. However, many schools offering programs and degrees via the Internet do not seek EAB approval. To protect themselves, consumers should contact the EAB before enrolling in schools offering distance learning programs.

The EAB website contains information about submitting complaints regarding a school and what to do if an EAB-approved school closes. Some EAB-approved schools in Wisconsin are eligible to participate in the federal financial aid programs. Schools should be contacted directly to determine whether financial aid is available. [s. 38.50, Stats.; EAB Frequently Asked Questions, available at: <http://eab.state.wi.us/resources/faq.asp>.]

Accreditation

The State of Wisconsin does not accredit schools. Accreditation is not the same as, nor is it necessarily required, for EAB approval. Accreditation is obtained through an optional nongovernmental, voluntary peer review process. A school can choose to go through a self-study and then request an accrediting agency to send a team of experts to visit the school. If the team finds that the school is meeting the standards of the accrediting agency, the accrediting agency awards the label “accredited.” [See, “State Approval and Accreditation: What is the Difference?” available at: <http://eab.state.wi.us/resources/accreditation-difference.asp>.]

FINANCING THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

For more information about financial aid available to post-secondary students in Wisconsin, consult HEAB’s website located at: <http://www.heab.state.wi.us/>

Wisconsin provides numerous forms of financial aid for higher education, including grant programs, loan programs, scholarships, and tuition reciprocity agreements. Eligibility criteria for these financial aid programs are set by statute. The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) has primary responsibility for

administration of Wisconsin financial aid programs.

This chapter discusses only state-funded financial aid programs. Other financial aid may be available from the federal government, individual higher educational institutions, or private organizations.

Generally, a student must satisfy certain requirements in order to qualify for any of the Wisconsin state financial aid programs. With certain exceptions, a student must:

- Qualify as a resident of Wisconsin.
- Possess a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent.
- Enroll in a degree or certificate program.
- Attend a nonprofit college or university located in Wisconsin.

The FAFSA form may be filed online at: <http://fafsa.ed.gov>

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Paper applications are available from high school guidance offices or college financial aid offices. Students may file the FAFSA beginning on January 1, for the upcoming academic year.

- Register with the Selective Service, if required to register.
- Not appear on the statewide child support lien docket.

[subch. III, ch. 39, Stats.; “Introduction to Financial Aid for Students and Parents,” available at: <http://www.heab.state.wi.us/intro.html>.]

Academic Excellence Scholarship

The **Academic Excellence Scholarship** program provides scholarships to the seniors with the highest grade point average (GPA) from each high school in Wisconsin that enroll in a public or private institution of higher education in the state. Referred to as “scholars,” the number of students that may receive these scholarships from each high school is based on the number of students in each respective high school as follows:

- For each high school with an enrollment of at least 80 pupils but less than 500 pupils, the senior with the highest GPA in all subjects.
- For each high school with an enrollment of at least 500 pupils but less than 1,000 pupils, the two seniors with the two highest GPAs in all subjects.
- For each high school with an enrollment of at least 1,000 pupils but less than 1,500 pupils, the three seniors with the three highest GPAs in all subjects.
- For each high school with an enrollment of at least 1,500 pupils but less than 2,000 pupils, the four seniors with the four highest GPAs in all subjects.
- For each high school with an enrollment of 2,000 or more pupils, the five seniors with the five highest GPAs in all subjects.
- For each high school with an enrollment of 2,500 or more pupils, the six seniors with the six highest GPAs in all subjects.

In addition, scholarships may be awarded to the senior with the highest GPA from the school operated by the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the school operated by the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Also, not more than 10 scholarships statewide may be awarded to seniors with the highest GPA from high schools enrolling less than 80 pupils.

If a scholar under this program declines a scholarship, the high school must designate as alternate scholars any seniors with the same GPA as the scholar. If there is no other student with the same GPA, the school must designate a scholar from any of the remaining seniors with the next highest GPA of not less than 3.8.

If a student is awarded a scholarship and is enrolled full-time in a participating institution (UW System, WTCS, or private nonprofit college in Wisconsin), and maintains a GPA of at least 3.00, the student is eligible for a scholarship in the subsequent year. If a student does not enroll in a participating institution of higher education in the subsequent year, the student is eligible for the scholarship in the second year following the year in which they previously received the scholarship.

The value of the Academic Excellence Scholarship is currently \$2,250 per year, not to exceed four years. Half of this amount is funded by the state, and the other half is matched by the institution of higher education. [s. 39.41, Stats.; ch. HEA 9, Wis. Adm. Code.]

Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program

2013 Wisconsin Act 60 created a Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program under which HEAB awards scholarships to certain scholars, designated on the basis of level of proficiency in technical education subjects, who enroll, on a full-time basis, in a technical college district school. Under this program, the number and amounts of scholarships awarded, the duration for which a scholarship may be awarded, the conditions for continued receipt of a scholarship, and the institutional match requirement are the same as under the Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program, described above. A person may not receive both an Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship and a Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship. [s. 39.415, Stats.]

Grant Programs

The **Lawton Undergraduate Minority Retention Grant** program is administered by the UW and is available to minority undergraduates enrolled in the UW System. It is available to U.S. citizens who are Wisconsin residents who demonstrate financial need. Minnesota residents with tuition reciprocity are grandfathered in through 2015-16 to be eligible. A student must be a member of a statutorily underrepresented group (African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or Southeast Asian of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, or Hmong descent). The maximum grant award is \$3,000 per year for up to four years. [s. 36.34 (1), Stats.]

The **Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant** program provides grants of \$250 to \$1,800 to the most financially needy and educationally disadvantaged resident students attending public or private nonprofit colleges and universities in the state. First-time freshmen students are nominated for the TIP Grant by the school financial aid offices or by counselors of the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities program. To continue to receive the TIP Grant, students must continue to show financial need. Eligibility cannot exceed 10 semesters and a grant may not be awarded to the same student more than six years after they receive the initial grant. Continuous enrollment is not required. [s. 39.435 (2), Stats.]

The **Wisconsin Grant** program provides grants of at least \$250 to undergraduate residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at UW System, WTCS, and tribal institutions and private nonprofit colleges or universities in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need. [ss. 39.30 and 39.435 (1), Stats.]

The **Hearing and Visually Handicapped Student Grant** program provides funding for residents enrolled at least half-time at an in-state or eligible out-of-state public or independent institution, show financial need, and have a severe or profound hearing or visual impairment. Students are eligible to receive from \$250 to \$1,800 per year for up to 10 semesters. [s. 39.435 (5), Stats.]

The **Indian Student Assistance Grant** program provides grants of \$250 to \$2,200 per year to residents who are at least 25% Native American or are recognized as a member of a tribe by the appropriate tribal government. A recipient must be enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at UW System, WTCS, private nonprofit colleges and universities, or for-profit educational institutions in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need with a limit of 10 semesters of eligibility. [s. 39.38, Stats.]

The **Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant** program provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to resident minority undergraduates, excluding first-year students, enrolled at least half-time in private nonprofit, WTCS, or tribal institutions. “Minority student” includes a student who is an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam. Awards range from \$250 to \$2,500 per year and are based on financial need and eligibility is limited to eight semesters or 12 quarters. [s. 39.44, Stats.]

The **Contract for Dental Education** allows a finite number of Wisconsin residents to attend the Marquette University School of Dentistry at a “resident” tuition rate. Currently, 160 students are able to participate each academic year. Students who meet the program criteria are awarded \$8,753 in tuition subsidization. [s. 39.46, Stats.]

The **Medical College of Wisconsin Capitation Program** provides tuition assistance to a finite number of Wisconsin residents enrolled full-time in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. [s. 39.155, Stats.]

The **Wisconsin Health Professions Loan Assistance Program (HPLAP)** was established to assist rural and underserved communities in recruiting and retaining primary care health and dental professionals. Health care providers who agree to work in

federally designated shortage areas are eligible for up to \$100,000 in education loan repayment assistance through this competitive program. Physicians working in rural, non-shortage areas are also eligible for \$50,000.

The HPLAP has two funding sources, with slightly different criteria. One portion of the program is funded solely by state funds and another portion uses federal funds. Most of the specifications for the awards provided under these two funding sources are the same. However, those awards that are partially funded by federal matching dollars have some additional requirements.

The program is administered by the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health. More information is available at: <http://worh.org/loan-repayment>.

2015 Wisconsin Act 282 established the **Emergency Financial Need Grant Program** to award grants to address emergency financial needs of certain college students. A student is eligible for an emergency financial need grant if the following criteria are met:

- The student is enrolled in the WTCS or a two-year UW college campus.
- The student's expected family contribution, as determined by the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is less than \$5,000.

A financial emergency is defined as “an unplanned event causing an unanticipated expense that would cause a student to not complete that term if a grant were not available to cover the expense.” A college may award a grant to an eligible student to pay the student's expense resulting from a financial emergency. Expenses such as those for medical treatment or vehicle repair are eligible. Expenses for textbooks, student fees, or groceries are not eligible.

The amount of the grants awarded to a student may not exceed a total of \$500 per academic year, with a limit of two grants per student per academic year. A student's grant application must include written proof identifying the nature and amount of the expense and the third party to whom this amount is owed. Emergency financial need grant funding is distributed by the WTCS Board, and by the UW Board of Regents. [ss. 36.66 and 38.42, Stats.]

The **Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant** was created by 2013 Wisconsin Act 128. It is administered by HEAB and is designed to encourage primary care physicians and psychiatrists to practice primary care medicine or psychiatry in underserved areas in Wisconsin.

A physician or psychiatrist is eligible to participate in the grant program if he or she: (a) graduated from a graduate medical education training program in Wisconsin with an emphasis on primary care medicine or psychiatry in 2014 or any year thereafter; (b) practices primary care medicine or psychiatry in an underserved area in Wisconsin; and (c) does not appear on the statewide child support lien docket.

The Act provided \$1.5 million general purpose revenue in 2014-15 for the program, to be divided equally between grants for physicians and grants for psychiatrists. The grants are

for “financial assistance” for recipients. The Act does not specify any limitations on how the grant funds may be used by recipients.

The HEAB must award grants to up to 12 physicians and up to 12 psychiatrists annually. If more than 12 physicians or 12 psychiatrists apply for the grant in any fiscal year, HEAB must select program participants from among the applicants based on the order in which the applications were received and the health professional shortage area score of the underserved areas in which the physician or psychiatrist would be practicing.

Physicians and psychiatrists who are selected to participate in the program are eligible to receive grants for up to three years. [s. 39.385, Stats.]

Act 55 provided no additional funds for the grant program for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 fiscal years.

Loan Programs

The **Minority Teacher Loan** program provides loans to resident minority undergraduate sophomores, juniors, or seniors who are enrolled at least half-time in programs leading to teacher licensure at certain institutions of higher education located in Wisconsin. Loans are up to \$10,000 per year, with an overall maximum of \$30,000. A minority student is either an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam. For each year of teaching in a high demand area of discipline in City of Milwaukee elementary or secondary schools, 25% of the loan and interest is forgiven. [s. 39.40, Stats.]

The **Nursing Student Loan** program provides loans to residents who are enrolled at an eligible in-state institution that prepares them to be licensed as either registered nurses (RNs) or licensed practical nurses (LPNs) or to work as a nurse educator. The maximum annual award is \$3,000 with an overall maximum of \$15,000. For each of the first two years the recipient works as a nurse or nurse educator, 25% of the loan is forgiven. The balance remaining after forgiveness must be repaid at an interest rate not to exceed 5%. If the recipient does not work as a nurse or a nurse educator, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate not to exceed 5%. [s. 39.393, Stats.]

The **Teacher Loan** program provides loans to sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled in higher education programs of study leading to a teacher’s license in an area of discipline identified as a teacher shortage. The loan amounts are up to \$10,000 annually with an overall maximum of \$30,000. A recipient must teach in a high demand area related to the recipient’s discipline in a public or private elementary or secondary school in the City of Milwaukee district or in a school in a rural county. For each year of teaching, 25% of the loan and interest is forgiven. [s. 39.399, Stats.]

The **Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan** program provides loans to residents enrolled in a program that prepares them to be licensed as teachers of the visually impaired or as orientation and mobility instructors. The maximum award per year is \$10,000 with an overall maximum of \$40,000. A recipient must agree to work as a licensed teacher or an

orientation or mobility instructor in Wisconsin. For each of the first two years the student teaches and meets certain eligibility criteria, 25% of the loan is forgiven. For the third year, 50% is forgiven. If the student does not teach and meet the eligibility criteria, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%. [s. 39.398, Stats.]

EdVest

The EdVest College Savings Program is one of two Wisconsin “529 Plans” administered by the College Savings Program Board, which is attached to the Department of Administration (the second plan, called Tomorrow’s Scholar, offers similar options and benefits as EdVest, but it is only available through financial advisors and fee-only planners). A “529 Plan” is an education savings plan operated by a state or educational institution that offers certain tax advantages and is named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which authorizes these types of savings plans. EdVest is managed by TIAA-CREF, a private financial services firm, and is designed to encourage parents and others to save money for a child’s future post-secondary education expenses.

For more information on the EdVest program, consult:

<https://www.edvest.com/>

Under EdVest, any person may open an account on behalf of a designated beneficiary. Contributions are placed in a trust fund established by the State of Wisconsin and are directed into special investment portfolios designed and managed specifically for the program. Earnings in an account grow federal and state tax-free in Wisconsin, as well as potentially tax-free in other states, until the time the beneficiary is ready to go to college. The funds are then available to be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses at any eligible school--including two- and four-year colleges, technical, vocational, and graduate schools.

Qualified withdrawals from EdVest are federal, and potentially state, tax-free. Wisconsin residents owe no state income tax on qualified withdrawals. A qualified taxpayer may deduct from his or her state taxable income up to \$3,100 per year per beneficiary for contributions paid into an EdVest account that remain in the account for at least 365 days (the base maximum contribution deduction of \$3,000 is increased on an annual basis to reflect changes in the U.S. Consumer Price Index). Under certain circumstances, excess contributions may be carried forward to reduce state taxable income in subsequent tax years. [26 U.S.C. s. 529; ss. 16.641 and 71.05 (6) (a) 26., Stats.; ch. Adm 81, Wis. Adm. Code.]

Tuition Deduction

A Wisconsin taxpayer may deduct from his or her state taxable income allowable higher education expenses for tuition expenses incurred by the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s dependent. The maximum tuition deduction per student per year equals twice the average amount of resident undergraduate tuition charged by UW System four-year institutions for the most recent fall semester. Allowable expenses include tuition paid to any university,

college, technical college, or a school approved by the EAB that is located in Wisconsin. The deduction also applies to tuition paid by a Wisconsin resident to attend a Minnesota school under the Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity program. The maximum amount of the deduction phases out as income increases and is eliminated when income exceeds \$60,000 for single taxpayers and \$100,000 for married taxpayers filing joint returns. Beginning in 2013, the income phase-out levels are increased each year based on the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index. [s. 71.05 (6) (b) 28., Stats.]

Deduction for Interest on Student Loans

An individual may deduct from his or her state and federal taxable income up to \$2,500 for interest paid on student loans. The deduction is reduced for single filers with taxable income between \$65,000 and \$80,000 and for joint filers with taxable income between \$130,000 and \$160,000. The deduction is not available for filers with incomes above these amounts. The income phase-out levels are increased each year to account for inflation. [26 U.S.C. s. 221.]

Wisconsin GI Bill

For information regarding tuition benefits under the Wisconsin GI Bill, see Chapter 30, *Veterans*.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

1. At the beginning of each biennial legislative session, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau publishes Informational Papers that describe various state programs and agencies, including the WTCS, and the UW System. The Informational Papers are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>.
2. The following Legislative Audit Bureau audits and letter reports are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>:
 - *University of Wisconsin System* (Audit Reports 14-3 and 15-1).
 - *Level of Commitment for University of Wisconsin System Program Revenue Balances* (Report 13-17).
 - *University of Wisconsin System's Financial Statements* (Auditor's Opinion, January 2013).
3. Additional information about the UW System may be found on its website at: <https://www.wisconsin.edu>. A map with links to the individual website of each UW System campus may be found at: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/campuses/>.
4. Additional information about the WTCS may be found on its website at: <http://www.wtcsystem.edu/>.

5. Additional information about private colleges and universities in Wisconsin may be found on the WAICU website at: <http://www.wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org/>.
6. Additional information about proprietary schools in Wisconsin can be found on the EAB's website at: <http://www.eab.state.wi.us/>. A directory of all approved for-profit schools in Wisconsin may be found at: <http://www.eab.state.wi.us/resources/schoolsprogram.asp>.
7. Additional information about financial aid programs may be found on the HEAB website at: <http://www.heab.state.wi.us/>.

GLOSSARY

EdVest: A college savings “529” program administered by the College Savings Program Board at the Department of Administration and managed by TIAA-CREF.

FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid: Filing of this form is a prerequisite for obtaining financial assistance under the majority of financial aid programs offered in Wisconsin.

WAICU: Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Wisconsin Grants: The need-based grant program for students at the UW, WTCS, tribal colleges, and private colleges in Wisconsin.

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