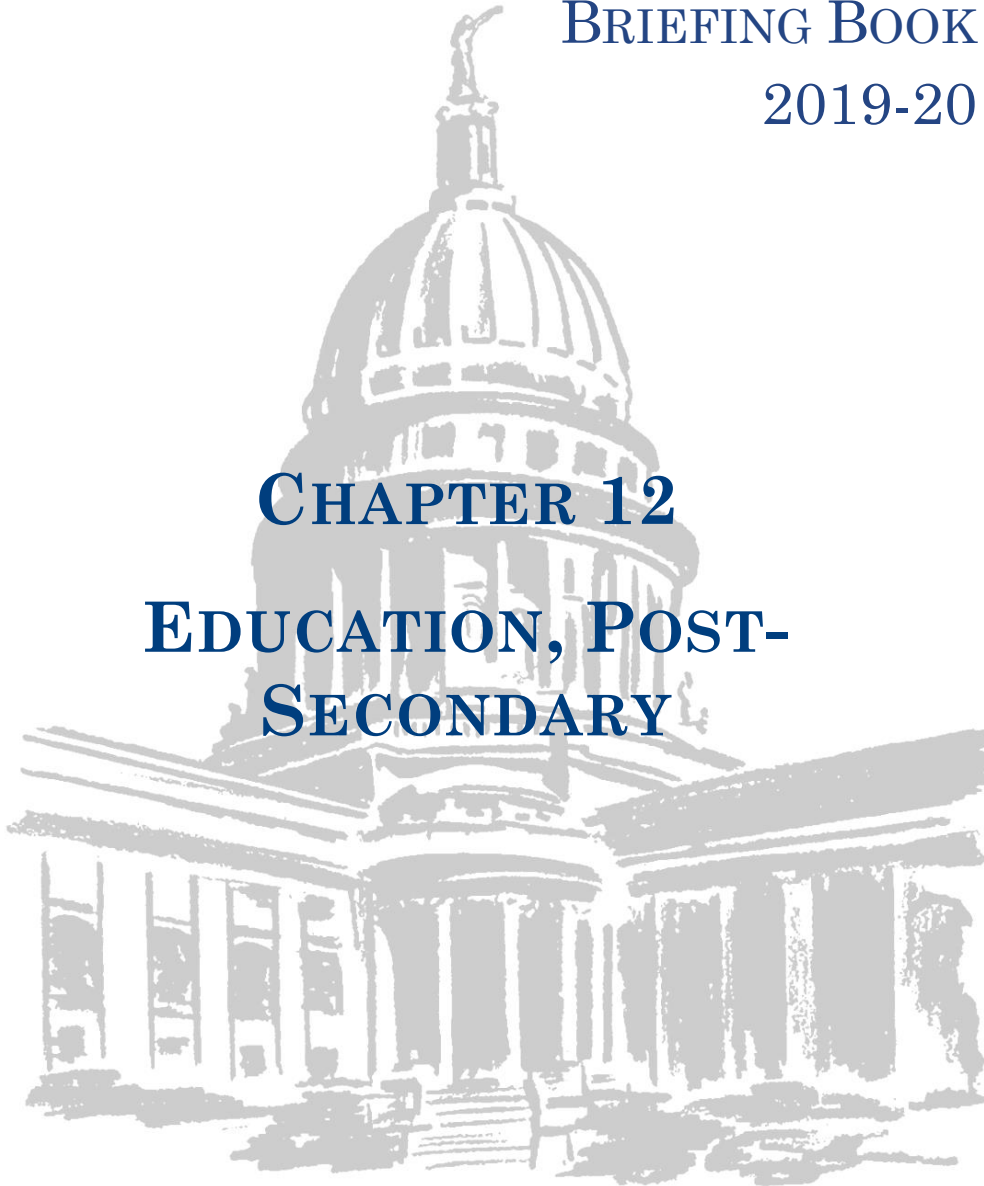


WISCONSIN LEGISLATOR
BRIEFING BOOK
2019-20

CHAPTER 12
EDUCATION, POST-
SECONDARY



Rachel E. Snyder and Julia Norsetter, Staff Attorneys
Wisconsin Legislative Council



TABLE OF CONTENTS

_Toc520813761INTRODUCTION1

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM1

 Campuses2

 UW-Extension.....3

 Restructuring.....3

 Governance of the UW System4

 Admission.....5

 Tuition Rates6

 Residency7

 Fee Remissions7

 Reciprocity.....8

 Return to Wisconsin8

 Midwest Student Exchange Program.....8

 General Principles Governing Transfer Admissions and Transfer of Credits8

 UW Colleges Guaranteed Transfer9

 UW System - WTCS Universal Credit Transfer Agreement9

 Flexible Option 10

 Distance Education..... 10

 Auditing Courses 10

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM 11

 WTCS State Board 12

 District Boards..... 12

 Programs and Degrees 13

 Admission and Tuition 14

 Transfer of WTCS Credits to UW System 14

PRIVATE NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 15

 Admission, Enrollment, and Costs 16

 Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities 17

TRIBAL COLLEGES 17

PRIVATE TRADE, CORRESPONDENCE, BUSINESS, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS 18

 State Regulation 18

 Accreditation 19

FINANCING THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION 19

 Scholarships..... 20

 Grants..... 20

 Loans 21

 EdVest 22

 Tax Treatment 22

 Wisconsin GI Bill 23

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES..... 23

GLOSSARY 23

INTRODUCTION

Wisconsin has a rich history in higher education and offers a broad array of educational options. The University of Wisconsin System (UW System) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) are the two statewide public higher education systems. Wisconsin is also home to over 20 private, nonprofit colleges and universities, two tribal colleges, and over 200 for-profit, post-secondary schools. In support of these educational offerings, Wisconsin provides a variety of financial aid opportunities and tax benefits.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

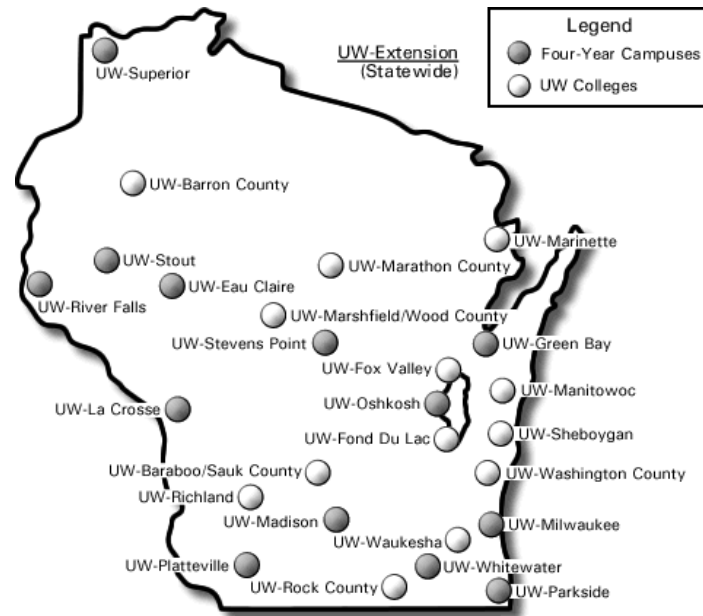
The UW System consists of 13 degree-granting universities, 13 two-year colleges, and the statewide University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension programs. The overall mission of the system includes the development of human resources and the discovery and dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research,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

Campuses

The UW System has 13 four-year campuses and 13 two-year campuses, referred to as “UW Colleges,” as shown on the map below.



The total enrollment at each four-year campus in the Fall 2017 semester was:

- UW-Madison: 43,450
- UW-Milwaukee: 25,381
- UW-Eau Claire: 10,825
- UW-Green Bay: 7,178
- UW-La Crosse: 10,534
- UW-Oshkosh: 13,935
- UW-Parkside: 4,308
- UW-Platteville: 8,558
- UW-River Falls: 6,110
- UW-Stevens Point: 8,208
- UW-Stout: 9,401
- UW-Superior: 2,590
- UW-Whitewater: 12,430

[*Headcount Enrollment by Institution*, Fall 2017-18, available at:

[https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/student-statistics/.](https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/student-statistics/)]

UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee are doctoral campuses that offer bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral, and advanced professional degrees and conduct organized programs of research. The 11 other four-year campuses are known as “comprehensive campuses.” They generally offer associate, bachelor’s, and select graduate programs.

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. 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 2017 semester was 11,608.

[*Headcount Enrollment by Institution*, Fall 2017-18, available at:

[https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/student-statistics/.](https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/student-statistics/)]

As discussed below, effective July 1, 2018, the UW Colleges are subject to a restructuring plan and will become branch campuses of the four-year institutions.

UW-Extension

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.

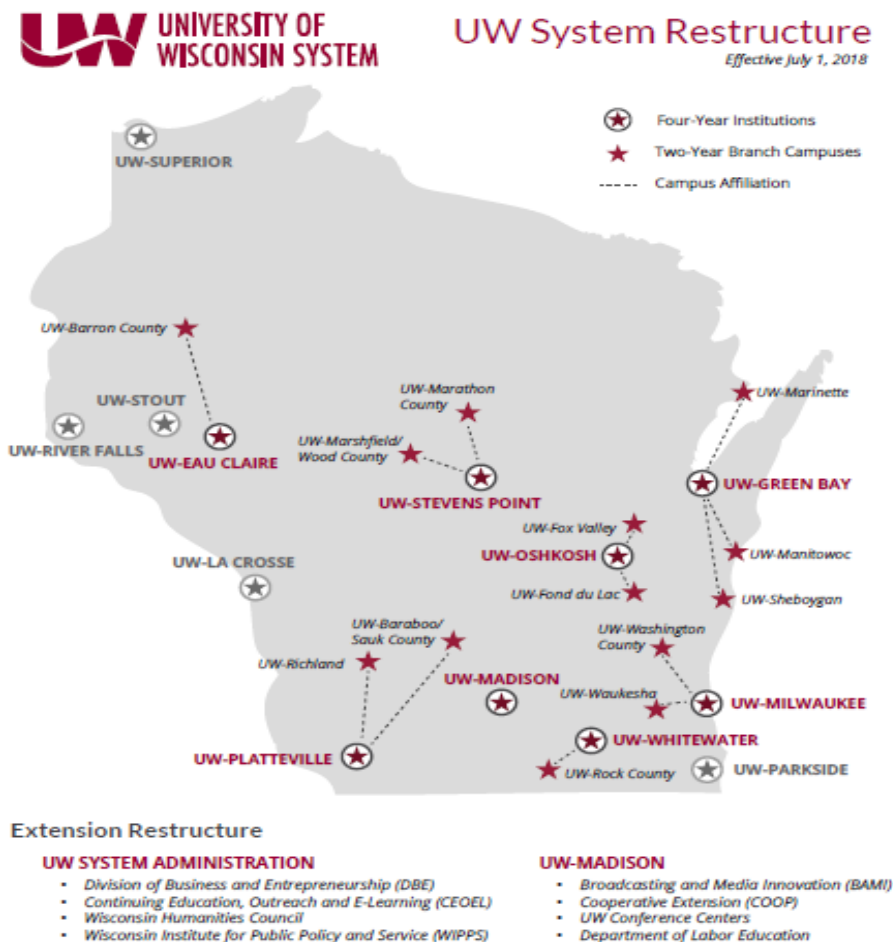
Wisconsin residents participate in UW-Extension programs through various delivery methods, including workshops, one-on-one counseling, interactive networks, and correspondence study.

As discussed below, effective July 1, 2018, the UW-Extension is subject to a restructuring plan and will be divided between UW-Madison and the UW System Administration.

Restructuring

In October 2017, UW System President Ray Cross proposed to restructure the UW System by merging its 13 two-year institutions with nearby four-year universities. The plan would also assign UW-Extension divisions to UW-Madison and UW System Administration. The plan was approved by the BOR in November 2017 and by the Higher Learning Commission on June 28, 2018. The restructuring plan is expected to take place in two phases, from July

1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, and from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. A map of the UW System as restructured is shown below:



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 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.

Specifically, faculty, academic staff, and students of each institution may organize themselves as they determine and may select representatives to participate in institutional governance. Each group is primarily responsible for advising the chancellor at that institution regarding the policies and procedures that concern its respective membership. 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.]

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>

Admission

Specific admission policies for each UW institution are developed by the individual campuses, taking into account that campus’s 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 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.]

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.]

Tuition for resident undergraduate students has been frozen since 2013. 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 extended 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. [2015 Wis. Act 55 SEC. 9148 (4) and (4d).] 2017 Act 59 extended the tuition freeze in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years. [2017 Wis. Act 59 SEC. 9148 (3t).]

Tuition and segregated fee rates per semester for undergraduate students at UW System institutions for the 2017-18 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.

2017-18 UW System Full-Time Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Per Academic Year

Campus	Resident	Nonresident	Minnesota Reciprocity
UW Colleges	\$5,186	\$12,743	\$5,186
UW-Eau Claire	\$8,816	\$16,736	\$8,816
UW-Green Bay	\$7,878	\$15,728	\$8,879
UW-La Crosse	\$9,096	\$17,766	\$9,096
UW-Madison	\$10,534	\$34,783	\$14,060
UW-Milwaukee	\$9,565	\$20,845	\$13,490
UW-Oshkosh	\$7,588	\$15,161	\$8,464
UW-Parkside	\$7,389	\$15,378	\$8,389

Campus	Resident	Nonresident	Minnesota Reciprocity
UW-Platteville	\$7,536	\$15,386	\$8,416
UW-River Falls	\$8,014	\$15,587	\$8,884
UW-Stevens Point	\$8,209	\$16,476	\$8,810
UW-Stout	\$9,457	\$17,424	\$10,104
UW-Superior	\$8,110	\$15,682	\$8,873
UW-Whitewater	\$7,662	\$16,235	\$8,442

For more information regarding the tuition rates above, see <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.

Fee Remissions

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.]

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 each state 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 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 Wisconsin and Michigan enrolled in specific institutions in those states. For more information, see <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.

Midwest Student Exchange Program

Currently, 12 two- and four-year UW System 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.

General Principles Governing Transfer Admissions and Transfer of Credits

Admission of students to UW System institutions 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 System 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. In determining transfer credit, the BOR directs UW System 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.

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/>

In addition, students who transfer to a UW System four-year institution with an associate degree from a UW System two-year institution are considered to have satisfied university, college, or school general education requirements at the transfer campus.

Most UW System institutions require all students to complete a specific number of credits at that institution 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. 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 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) (3.20 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>.

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.

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.] 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 many programs, 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/>

Flexible Option programs are currently offered through UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Extension, and the UW Colleges.

Distance Education

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

distance learning programs. A student may be able to receive an undergraduate degree, a graduate degree, or a certificate through distance learning programs.

Information about distance learning courses and programs at the UW System can be found at: <https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/resources/distance-learning-opportunities>. The UW Colleges offer an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree that is delivered 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.]

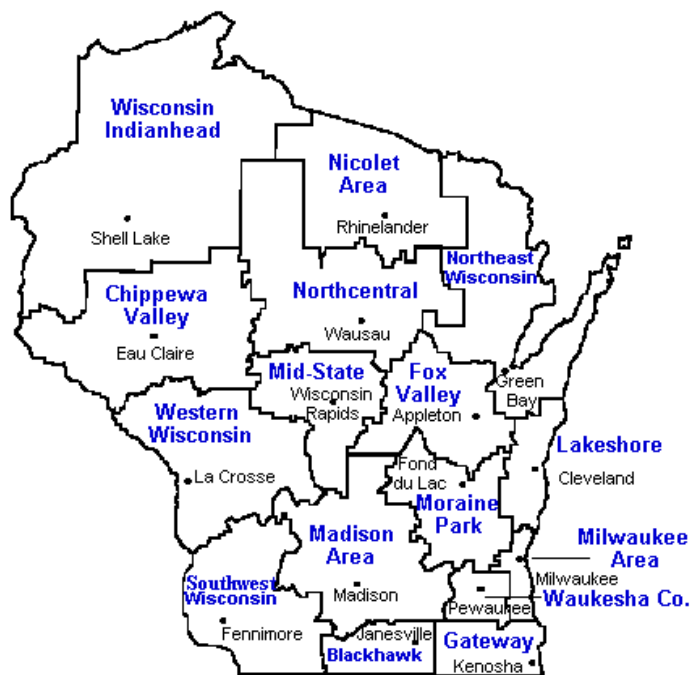
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

In 1911, Wisconsin became the first state to establish a system of state aid and support for industrial education. 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 307,000 people annually.¹

State law establishes the principal purpose of the WTCS as providing occupational education and 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 include providing: educational opportunities for high school age students; a collegiate transfer program; and community services and vocational or self-enrichment activities. [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.

Wisconsin Technical College Districts and Main Campuses



Source: WTCS.

¹ See Wisconsin Technical College Fact Book 2016-17, Wisconsin Technical College System, 2018. [<http://wtcsystem.edu/about-us/resources-publications>.]

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. [ss. 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 requires a minimum of 60 credit hours and provides the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate college education. Sixty to seventy of the credits earned

WTCS Website:

<http://www.wtcsystem.edu>

may transfer to UW System four-year campuses. The liberal arts program is available at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Madison Area Technical College, Nicolet Area Technical College, Chippewa Valley

Technical College, and Western Technical College.

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 and 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 2018-19 tuition costs are the same for each of the 16 technical colleges. For Wisconsin residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs cost \$134.20 per credit and collegiate transfer programs are \$181.50 per credit. For out-of-state residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs are \$201.30 per credit and liberal arts transfer programs are \$272.25 per credit.

The fee remissions discussed above that are available to certain UW System students who are veterans, survivors of veterans, and survivors of certain emergency personnel are also available to WTCS students. [s. 38.24 (5), (7), and (8), Stats.]

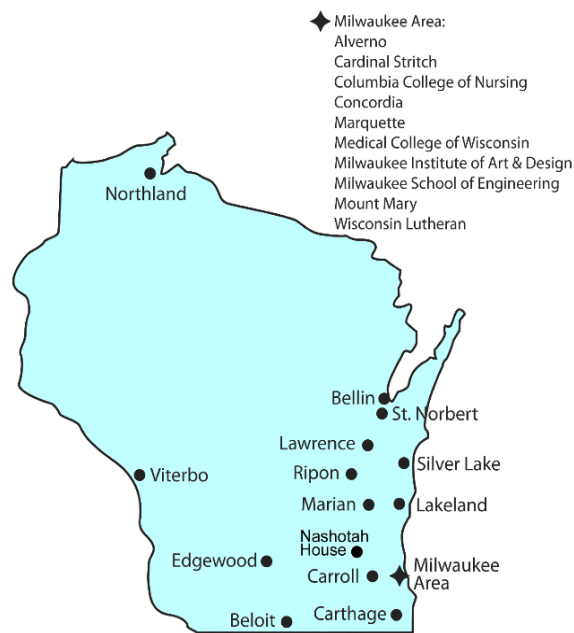
Transfer of WTCS Credits to UW System

Students attending the WTCS Collegiate Transfer program at Madison, Milwaukee, Chippewa Valley, Western 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, the agreement between WTCS and UW System, mentioned above, is reviewed and updated biannually. In 2016, the agreement was amended and increased the guaranteed transfer from 11 to 13 core general education course subjects, which increased the sum of transferrable credits by six, bringing the total to 40-54 transferable credits.

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:



Source: WAICU.

The following WAICU institutions are located in the Milwaukee area:

- Alverno College
- Cardinal Stritch University
- Columbia College of Nursing
- Marquette University
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Mount Mary University
- Wisconsin Lutheran College

The remainder of the WAICU institutions are located around the state as follows:

- 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
- Viterbo University, La Crosse

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

The 24 WAICU-member private colleges and universities in Wisconsin together enroll approximately 55,000 students. They typically award about 24% of the bachelor's degrees in the state, including 27% of engineering degrees, 51% of nursing degrees, and 27% of business degrees. They also typically award about 35% of all the state's graduate degrees, including 41% of business degrees, 100% of dental degrees, 63% of medical doctor degrees, 51% of education degrees, 57% of nursing degrees, and 55% of physician assistant degrees.

The average price for tuition and fees at a WAICU-member private college or university during the 2015-16 academic year was \$30,920. However, 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. Over 78% 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 2015-16 academic year was \$25,420, leaving an average net tuition cost of \$5,500. The costs for room and board at the private institutions are roughly comparable to room and board costs at the public institutions. [WAICU Facts, available at: <http://www.waicu.org/research/waicu-facts>.]

In 2017-18, the Wisconsin Grant program provided \$27.9 million in need-based financial aid for low-income Wisconsin students who attend Wisconsin private nonprofit colleges.

Grant awards ranged from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,150. The Higher Educational Aids Board establishes the minimum and maximum grant awards each year, except that, by statute, the minimum grant may not be less than \$250. [s. 39.30, Stats.; 2017 Wisconsin Act 59; *2017-18 Wisconsin Grant and Continuing TIP Formulas*, available at: <http://www.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 designated by state statute 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 of WAICU member institutions serve as WAICU's Board of Directors.

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 Program Board (EdVest), the Distance Learning Authorization Board, and the Council on Workforce Investment. [ss. 15.185 (5), 15.57, and 15.675, Stats.; 29 U.S.C. s. 3111.]

TRIBAL COLLEGES

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

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

The LCOOCC 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 2016, the total enrollment at CMN was 395, 78% of whom were Native American. The programs with the largest enrollments were business administration, liberal studies, technical education, nursing, and education.

The total enrollment at the LCOOCC in Fall of 2016 was 202, 75% of whom were Native American. Popular areas of study at the college included ethnic and cultural 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 <https://www.lco.edu/>.

PRIVATE TRADE, CORRESPONDENCE, BUSINESS, AND TECHNICAL 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 EAP-approved schools is available at:
<https://www.dspseap.wi.gov/>

Private post-secondary schools, including 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 are regulated under the Educational Approval Program (EAP). Under 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, the Educational Approval Board (EAB) was eliminated and responsibility for operating the EAP was transferred from the EAB to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

Most private post-secondary schools serving Wisconsin students, whether they are located within or outside the state, are required to obtain EAP 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 EAP 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 a private post-secondary school serves a Wisconsin resident, even if only via online programming, it must be EAP-approved unless the school is exempt. However, many schools offering programs and degrees via the Internet do not seek EAP approval. To protect themselves, consumers may contact DSPS before enrolling in schools offering distance learning programs.

The DSPS website contains information about submitting complaints regarding a school and what to do if an EAP-approved school closes. Some EAP-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. 440.52, Stats.; *Frequently Asked Questions*, available at:

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/EducationalApproval/About.aspx>.]

Accreditation

The State of Wisconsin does not accredit schools. Accreditation is not the same as, nor is it necessarily required for, EAP 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.” [EAP Approval Versus Accreditation, available at: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/EducationalApproval/About.aspx>.]

FINANCING THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Wisconsin provides numerous forms of financial aid for higher education, including scholarships, grant programs, loan programs, and tax policies. Eligibility criteria for these financial aid programs are set by statute. The Higher Educational Aids Board 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: <https://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.]

Scholarships

The Higher Educational Aids Board administers the following scholarship programs on behalf of the state:

- The **Academic Excellence Scholarship Program**, which provides scholarships of up to \$2,250 per year to the seniors with the highest grade points average (GPA) from each high school in Wisconsin, including 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, who enroll in a Wisconsin public or private institution of higher education. [s. 39.41, Stats.; ch. HEA 9, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program**, which provides scholarship of up to \$2,250 to Wisconsin high school seniors with the highest demonstrated level of proficiency in technical education subjects who enroll in a WTCS institution. [s. 39.415, Stats.]
- The **Governor’s Dairy Scholarship**, which offers up to \$2,500 to Wisconsin students who have demonstrated an involvement in the state’s dairy industry and who intend to continue in or return to dairying after a period of vocational study in dairy science and dairy issues at a WTCS or UW System institution.

Grants

The state provides for a number of higher education-related grant programs, including the following the Higher Educational Aids Board-administered programs:

- The **Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant** program, which provides grants of \$250 to \$1,800 to the most financially needy and educationally disadvantaged resident students enrolled in Wisconsin public or private nonprofit colleges and universities. [s. 39.435 (2), Stats.; ss. HEA 5.04 and 5.05, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Wisconsin Grant** program, which provides grants of at least \$250, based on financial need, to undergraduate residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at UW System, WTCS, tribal institutions, or private nonprofit colleges or universities in Wisconsin. [ss. 39.30 and 39.435 (1), Stats.; chs. HEA 4 and 5, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Hearing and Visually Handicapped Student Grant** program, which provides grants of \$250 to \$1,800 to residents enrolled at least half-time at in-state or eligible out-of-state public or independent institutions who show financial need and have severe

or profound hearing or visual impairments. [s. 39.435 (5), Stats.; s. HEA 5.06, Wis. Adm. Code.]

- The **Indian Student Assistance Grant**, which provides grants of \$250 to \$2,200 per year to eligible residents who are at least 25% Native American or are recognized as a member of a tribe by the appropriate tribal government. [s. 39.38, Stats.; ch. HEA 6, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant** program, which provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to eligible, resident minority undergraduates enrolled at least half-time in private nonprofit institutions, WTCS, or tribal institutions. [s. 39.44, Stats.; ch. HEA 12, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Contract for Dental Education** program, which provides \$8,753 in tuition subsidization to a finite number of Wisconsin residents for the purpose of attending the Marquette University School of Dentistry. [s. 39.46, Stats.]
- The **Medical College of Wisconsin Capitation Program**, which provides tuition assistance to Wisconsin residents enrolled full-time in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. [s. 39.155, Stats.]

Loans

The Higher Educational Aids Board also administers the following state-funded higher education loan programs that incentivize students to work in certain fields or in certain locations in order to obtain varying levels of loan forgiveness:

- The **Minority Teacher Loan** program provides loans to resident minority undergraduates, up to \$30,000 each, who are enrolled in Wisconsin programs leading to teacher licensure. For each year of teaching in a high demand area of discipline in City of Milwaukee schools, 25% of the loan and interest is forgiven. [s. 39.40, Stats.; ch. HEA 11, Wis. Adm. Code.]
- The **Nursing Student Loan** program provides loans to resident students enrolled in Wisconsin programs to become registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), or nurse educators, up to \$15,000 each. For each of the first two years that the recipient works as a nurse or nurse educator in Wisconsin, 25% of the loan is forgiven. [s. 39.393, Stats.]
- The **Teacher Loan** program provides loans to eligible undergraduates enrolled in programs of study leading to a teacher's license in an area of discipline identified as a teacher shortage, up to \$30,000 each. For each year of teaching in a high demand area related to the student's discipline in a public or private elementary or secondary school in the City of Milwaukee or in a rural Wisconsin county, 25% of the loan and interest is forgiven. [s. 39.399, Stats.]
- The **Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan** program provides loans to resident students enrolled in a program that prepares them to be licensed as teachers of the visually impaired or as orientation and mobility instructors, up to \$40,000 each. For each of the first two years that a loan recipient teaches and meets certain eligibility criteria, 25% of the loan is forgiven. For the third year, 50% is forgiven. [s. 39.398, Stats.; ch. HEA 14, Wis. Adm. Code.]

- The **School Leadership Loan** program provides loans to eligible students enrolled in a school leadership program at a UW System institution. For each year that the recipient is employed in a school leadership position in a Wisconsin elementary or secondary school and receives a rating of proficient or distinguished on the educator effectiveness system or equivalent, 25% of the loan and interest is forgiven. [s. 39.397, Stats.]

EdVest

For more information on the EdVest program, consult:

<https://www.edvest.com/> and <http://529.wi.gov/>

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 Financial Institutions. (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.

Through 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 are not subject to federal and state income tax in Wisconsin, and may also be exempt from state income tax in other states. The funds may then be used to pay for qualified education expenses at any eligible school—including two- and four-year colleges, technical, vocational, and graduate schools.

Qualified withdrawals from EdVest are not subject to federal income tax. Wisconsin residents also owe no state income tax on qualified withdrawals. In 2018, 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 \$3,200 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. 71.05 (6) (a) 26. and (b) 31. and 32. and 224.50, Stats.; ch. DFI-CSP 1, Wis. Adm. Code.]

Tax Treatment

A Wisconsin taxpayer may deduct from his or her state taxable income certain higher education expenses for tuition expenses incurred by the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s dependent. Allowable expenses include tuition paid to any university, college, technical college, or school approved by the EAP that is located in Wisconsin. The maximum amount

of the deduction decreases as income increases and is eliminated when income exceeds a certain amount. The income phase-out levels are generally increased each year based on the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index. [s. 71.05 (6) (b) 28., Stats.]

A Wisconsin taxpayer may also be eligible for various federal tax benefits, including deductions for tuition and interest paid on student loans and tax credits. For more information regarding the options for education tax benefits, see IRS Publication 970 at: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf> or search for “college tuition” at <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/>.

Wisconsin GI Bill

For information regarding tuition benefits under the Wisconsin GI Bill, see Chapter 28, “Veterans and Military Affairs.”

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: <https://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>.
2. The following Legislative Audit Bureau audit report is available at: <https://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>:
 - *University of Wisconsin System* (Reports 17-6 and 18-2).

GLOSSARY

BOR: University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.

CMN: College of the Menominee Nation.

DSPS: Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

EAB: Educational Approval Board.

EAP: Educational Approval Program.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

HEAB: Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board.

LCOOCC: Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.

Post-secondary education: Education at an institution of higher education occurring after the completion of high school, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional education.

UW System: University of Wisconsin System.

WAICU: Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

WTCS: Wisconsin Technical College System.

Wisconsin Legislative Council

One East Main Street, Suite 401

Madison, WI 53703-3382

Phone: (608) 266-1304