

Overview of the Financial Aid Process

The Office of Financial Assistance will assist you on your journey to becoming a UIW Graduate! Our office is committed to helping you understand the services we provide, the financial options available to pay for school, and the academic requirements that must be met to remain eligible for financial aid. Our goal is to assist students so that their education at UIW is affordable, and to provide options that help you manage any financial barriers that you may encounter. A successful partnership will ensure that your aid is delivered timely, and that you are given every opportunity to receive the maximum amount of funding from scholarship, grant, work study and loan programs.

Below you will find information on the financial aid process and resources to help guide you along.

APPLICATION PROCESS (OCTOBER - DECEMBER)

- Create a [Federal Student Aid ID \(FSA ID\)](#) for you and your parent (if dependent). The FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing aid information and electronically signing federal student aid documents. Be sure to keep passwords and answers to challenge questions secure.
- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), as early as October 1, to be considered for federal and state aid. UIW School Code: 003578.
- Apply for [admissions](#).
- Search and apply for private scholarships. Find scholarship information from your high school, local community, and UIW's [Scholarship Resources](#) webpage.

AWARD PROCESS (JANUARY – APRIL)

- After you are admitted, UIW will send your award package which can include scholarships, grants, work-study, and loan options. This will allow you to compare anticipated costs versus your financial aid.
- View your awards and requirements using your [BannerWeb](#) account.
- Turn in any requested documents (e.g., tax returns, transcripts, meningitis record, etc.)

FINAL STEPS (MAY – AUGUST)

- After registering for courses, review your invoice to determine if your aid has covered 100% of your tuition, fees, room & board (if applicable). If not, consider options such as working part-time, enrolling in a payment plan, borrowing loans, veteran education benefits, military discounts, tuition savings plans, etc.
- Submit outside scholarships in person or by mail. Scholarships can be sent to Office of Financial Assistance, 4301 Broadway CPO 308, San Antonio, TX 78209.
- If borrowing Federal student loans, complete the required Loan Entrance Counseling and sign your Loan Agreement for a Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan (MPN) online at studentaid.gov.
- Students interested in working part-time can [view job postings](#) for work-study and student employment online via Cardinal Talent. Students ineligible for work-study (determined by FAFSA) can be hired by a department through student employment.

HELPFUL FAFSA TIPS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Submit your FAFSA early!**
The earlier you submit your FAFSA, the sooner you can expect to receive your financial aid award letter. This will allow more time to understand your awards and complete any missing requirements.
- **Pay close attention to whether you are being asked for student or parent information.**
You want to avoid inputting information in the wrong areas on the FAFSA. Be sure to include parent and student information where requested and not to input parent information into the student sections.
- **Use your 2019 tax information.**
The 2021-2022 FAFSA will request you to enter tax information from **2019**.
- **Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, if you can.**
Most tax filers will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import tax data directly into the FAFSA. If you and/or your parents filed a 2019 tax return, we strongly encourage you to use this tool, as it may prevent you from having to submit further documentation.
- **Be sure to electronically sign your FAFSA.**
To complete your FAFSA, both you and your parent (if dependent) must sign it using your FSA ID. Submitting the FAFSA without signatures can delay the processing of your financial aid application.
- **Pay attention to emails from our office.**
UIW primarily communicates with students through email. Accordingly, all students are provided a university-specific email at the time of admission. Our office uses email to notify students about their awards, outstanding paperwork, scholarship opportunities and account updates. We require a timely response when requesting documents or additional information. Check your Cardinal Mail regularly for correspondence from UIW administrative offices, faculty, and advisors.
- **Stay connected!**
You can follow the Office of Financial Assistance on multiple social media platforms for quick access to additional information and resources. Social media is one of the ways our office informs students about important dates/deadlines, scholarship opportunities, etc.



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