College is right around the corner. In just a few short months, applications open for every University of Wisconsin campus. This is your time.

Ready? You got this!

**No freaking out**
Applications for all UWs open on August 1. Sure, that will come quick, but guess what? If you start now, you can take the whole summer to get it right. Still sound daunting? Don’t worry. This workbook is here to help you break it down. Let’s dive in.

**Early is better**
Why now? The sooner you apply, the sooner you’ll know where you are going to go. That way, you can make the most of your senior year (while everyone else is scrambling to catch up).
This is your step-by-step guide to choosing your UWs, applying, and getting ready for your life after high school.

If you’re ever feeling lost, we’re here to help. It’s literally our name. Call UW HELP at 1-800-442-6459. It’s our job to make it easy for you to find, choose, and apply to the right University of Wisconsin campuses.

PHONE 1-800-442-6459
EMAIL uwhelp@uwsa.edu
WEB uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/contact
EARLY SUMMER

CHOOSE YOUR UWs

If you haven’t already chosen your UWs, your first big job this summer is to find which UWs are right for you. There are 26 UWs to consider, each with its own areas of study and distinct personalities.

How do you decide? There are a ton of things to consider—from the subjects you want to study and activities you want to pursue, to the size and location of the campus. Plus, you shouldn’t forget about housing options, tuition, and proximity to home!

One easy way to narrow down your options is to decide what kind of college education is right for you.

2 THE TWO-YEAR UWS

Our two-year campuses are the perfect place to start, with lower costs and smaller class sizes. They have simpler admission standards, consider non-academic factors in admissions, and let you earn credits that you can transfer directly to UW’s four-year universities.

4 THE FOUR-YEAR UWS

Four-year universities give you a comprehensive, rigorous education that position you for advanced professional careers or graduate-level studies. Four-year campuses have higher standards for admission and take into consideration the full breadth and diversity of your experiences.
4-yr university
2-yr campus
Campus affiliation
CAN'T DECIDE?

There’s an app for that!

UW Journey lets you explore and discover which UWs are right for you.

uwjourney.wisconsin.edu

Free to download, free to use.

WELCOME TO THE UW JOURNEY

Your all-in-one guide to finding the UW campus that’s the right fit for you. Explore and compare, navigate the application process, and learn about options to pay for college.
Write your favorite UWs here when you’ve narrowed things down.

**My Stretch School**
Sure, it might be hard to get into, but it would be amazing.

**My Sweet Spot School**
I can totally see myself here.

**My Safe Bet School**
It has what I need and can launch me to my next step.
Next, it’s really helpful to think about what you might want to major in.

Choosing a major now doesn’t mean it’s set in stone—it just lets you find the schools that will help you explore the things that naturally interest you.

Check out the Career Clusters section in our Fall Workbook to dig a little deeper into matching UWs to your interests: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/career-clusters
Choosing your UWs

Of course, majors are only one of the things you’ll want to consider.

To navigate all the other possibilities, check out the UW Journey app—it is specially made to help you explore, compare, and choose the UWs that are right for you: uwjourney.wisconsin.edu

Once you’ve done a little research, fill out this chart of your favorite schools to see which are best for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus/Location</th>
<th>Does it support my major or areas of interest?</th>
<th>Are the classes the right size for me?</th>
<th>Is the campus size right for me?</th>
<th>Does the campus have the activities and clubs?</th>
<th>Can I meet the academic requirements?</th>
<th>Can I make it work financially?</th>
<th>Do I like the community?</th>
<th>Am I personally drawn to this campus?</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>UW-Eau Claire — Barron County</td>
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<td>UW-La Crosse</td>
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<td>UW-Superior</td>
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<td>UW-Whitewater at Rock County</td>
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Score each campus on a scale of 1 to 5 (1—does not fit me, 5—totally fits me). Then add up the total for each campus to see which might be a good fit.
On August 1, you can apply online—to all your UWs—with a single application in less than 30 minutes.

That means you can use this summer to get ready. You’ll need to gather up some information to complete the application. And you’ll need to write a great essay that tells your UWs why you’re amazing.

Give yourself a little time, take it step by step, and it’ll be easy. Ready? Let’s walk through the details that will help you get it right.

The whole you

Your UWs pride themselves on looking at your application as a complete package. We know you’re so much more than just some grades, facts, and figures. Your essay, background, activities, extracurriculars, and more, make you who you are. We cannot wait to meet you.
Admission guidelines

It’s good to take a look at each campus to see how competitive it will be. Please remember, these are just average numbers. They represent the middle 50% of students. This means 25% of admitted students place below these numbers and 25% place above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UW-EAU CLAIRE</td>
<td>3.29–3.85</td>
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<td>UW-Eau Claire - Barron County</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-GREEN BAY</td>
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<td>UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus</td>
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<td>UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus</td>
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<td>open access</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-LA CROSSE</td>
<td>3.46–3.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-MADISON</td>
<td>3.8–4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-MILWAUKEE</td>
<td>3.02–3.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Milwaukee at Washington County</td>
<td>open access</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha</td>
<td>open access</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW OSHKOSH</td>
<td>3.0–3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW Oshkosh, Fond du Lac Campus</td>
<td>open access</td>
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<td>UW Oshkosh, Fox Cities Campus</td>
<td>open access</td>
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<td>UW-PARKSIDE</td>
<td>2.93–3.67</td>
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<td>UW-PLATTEVILLE</td>
<td>3.18–3.81</td>
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<td>UW-Platteville Richland</td>
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<td>UW-RIVER FALLS</td>
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<td>UW-STEVENS POINT</td>
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<td>UW-STOUT</td>
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<td>UW-SUPERIOR</td>
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<td>UW-WHITEWATER</td>
<td>3.0–3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Whitewater at Rock County</td>
<td>open access</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No ACT or SAT requirement

Your UWs will not require you to submit an ACT or SAT for admissions for the 2022-2023 academic year. You can still submit your scores if you want, but they are optional.
Want a simple thought that might change the way you think about your essay? Your UWs are simply looking for a reason to believe in you.
Most of your application is just a bunch of facts and figures about you.

Your essay is your chance to let your personality come through. It’s your opportunity to give your UWs a glimpse of the whole you—your successes, your challenges, and the lessons you’ve learned—and to show them why college is important to you.

Take your time. Give it some thought. We guarantee it will be worth it.

All UW campuses ask the following question:

This part is all about you. Tell us about something you’ve done—academically or personally—and what you’ve learned from it. Was it a success or a challenge? Did it represent a turning point in your life? How did this particular moment in your life influence you, and how will it continue to influence you as you pursue your college education?

If you’re applying to UW-La Crosse or UW-Madison, you’ll need to answer a second question as well:

**UW-La Crosse**

Please respond to ONE of the following: How will your life experiences, commitments, and/or characteristics enrich the UW-La Crosse campus community? OR Tell us why you are interested in attending UW-La Crosse and what aspects of the campus are especially important to you.

**UW-Madison**

Tell us why you would like to attend the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In addition, please include why you are interested in studying the major(s) you have selected. If you selected undecided, please describe your areas of possible academic interest.
The essay questions aren’t made to weed you out. They’re designed to give you a chance to shine through.

Your UWs realize that you’re still young. You’re still a work in progress. That means no matter how well you did in high school, what matters most is the challenges you faced and how you responded.

Your instincts will probably tell you to puff up your accomplishments, to go big. But have you ever found someone else’s bragging to be interesting? Give yourself permission to just be you when you write. Write about what you’re passionate about. Write like you.

**Essay Tips**

- Tell your UWs something about yourself that you can’t capture in the application.

- Jump off the bandwagon. Don’t write what you think your UWs will want to hear. Let your UWs know about what drives you.

- Use your own voice. Ask someone you trust to read your essay to see if it “sounds like you.”

- Be short and sweet. Clear, concise writing matters more than length.

- Show, don’t tell. Be specific and factual.

- Write about your real life. Don’t exaggerate or embellish. (You’d be surprised at how well your UWs can smell baloney).

- Be confident. Skip all the maybes, sort ofs, I thinks, and so on.

**Essay Basics**

- Write your essay in a program like Word or Google Docs so you can simply copy and paste it into your online application.

- Keep your essay between 250 and 650 words. (UW–Madison requires all essays to strictly follow these guidelines.)

- Ask a friend or teacher to look for inconsistencies, grammatical mistakes, and typos.

- Proofread, proofread, proofread. You don’t want some small mistake to accidentally make it look like you don’t care.

- Proofread again.
Here are some questions to get you thinking.

What are your 2 biggest academic achievements?

What are your 2 biggest personal achievements?

What are your 2 biggest strengths?

What were your 2 biggest challenges?

What are the 2 biggest obstacles you have overcome?

What are your 2 biggest failures? What did you learn?

What beliefs have you challenged? Why? And what did you learn?
EVERYTHING YOU’LL NEED

Use this handy checklist to gather up all the things you’ll need to have on hand when you fill out your application on August 1.

☐ **BASICS**
   - Social Security number
   - City, state, and country of birth
   - Country of citizenship

☐ **PREFERRED MAJOR (OPTIONAL)**

☐ **RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES**
   *Ask your parent or guardian the following questions:*
   - Have they filed Wisconsin income tax returns within the past two years?
   - Do they work in a state besides Wisconsin?
   - Was Wisconsin the last place they registered to vote or voted?
   - Do they hold a valid Wisconsin driver’s license?

☐ **PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION**
   - Do your parents/guardians have college degrees?
   - Have your parents/guardians served in the military?
   - Parent/guardian email (OPTIONAL, BUT HELPFUL)
   - Parent/guardian phone number (OPTIONAL, BUT HELPFUL)

☐ **TRANSCRIPT / COURSE LIST**
   - A PDF copy of your unofficial high school transcript
   - Your senior schedule—either:
     - A PDF copy of your senior year schedule, or unofficial transcript with senior year courses, or
     - A list of your courses for senior year, with credits per course, so you can manually enter them in your application
- **COLLEGE COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL**
  A PDF copy of your unofficial college transcript, or a list of your college courses to manually enter including course title, course number, and course credits
  A PDF copy of your current college course schedule, or a PDF document that lists your current college courses that includes course title, course number, and course credits

- **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
  List of academic activities, sporting activities, etc. Include for each activity:
  - Grades during which you participated
  - Level of participation in each activity
  - Leadership roles in each activity
  - Whether you intend to continue in these activities in college

- **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (OPTIONAL)**
  You can upload a PDF of your resume or enter the information into your online application. Make sure you include the following information for each job:
  - Employer name(s)
  - City and state
  - Job title
  - Whether you are currently employed
  - Start date and average number of hours worked per week

- **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**
  A letter of recommendation is not required for admission to a UW campus except UW-Madison, which requires a single letter from an academic source

- **COMPLETED ESSAY(S)**
  Essay questions can be found in the Write Your Essay section of this workbook

- **APPLICATION FEE**
  Most UWs have a no-cost application fee for new undergraduate students
  The following campuses will require an application fee unless students qualify for a fee waiver based on financial hardship:
  - UW-Eau Claire ($25)
  - UW-Eau Claire — Barron County ($25)
  - UW-La Crosse ($25)
  - UW-Madison ($60)

- **SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS**
  - Campus name: ___________________________ Date submitted: ____________
  - Campus name: ___________________________ Date submitted: ____________
  - Campus name: ___________________________ Date submitted: ____________

*Application fees are effective as of December 2020 and will continue for approximately the next two years.*
While you’re getting your application ready, here are some important dates and information to keep in mind for each of your UW campuses.

**UW-EAU CLAIRE**

**CAMPUS**
- UW-Eau Claire
  - uwec.edu
- UW-Eau Claire — Barron County
  - barron.uwec.edu

**ADMISSION DEADLINE**
- February 1, 2022 — Priority Deadline, UW-Eau Claire
- August 1, 2022 — Priority Deadline, UW-Eau Claire — Barron County

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION**
- 715-836-5415
- admissions@uwec.edu
- 105 Garfield Ave.
  - Eau Claire, WI 54701

**FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE**
- March 15, 2022
- 003917

**UW-GREEN BAY**

**CAMPUS**
- UW-Green Bay
  - uwgb.edu
- UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus
  - uwgb.edu/marinette
- UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus
  - uwgb.edu/manitowoc
- UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus
  - uwgb.edu/sheboygan

**ADMISSION DEADLINE**
- Contact campus

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION**
- 920-465-2111
- uwgb@uwgb.edu
- 2420 Nicolet Dr.
  - Green Bay, WI 54311

**FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE**
- January 15, 2022
- 003899
CAMPUS REFERENCE

STEP 02

UW-STEVENS POINT

CAMPUSES

UW-Stevens Point
uwsp.edu

UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield
uwsp.edu/marshfield

UW-Stevens Point at Wausau
uwsp.edu/wausau

ADMISSION DEADLINE

Rolling admission — will review until full

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

715-316-2441
admiss@uwsp.edu

2108 Fourth Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE

March 15, 2022
003924

UW-RIVER FALLS

CAMPUSES

UW-River Falls
uwrf.edu

ADMISSION DEADLINE

Rolling admission — will review until full

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

715-425-3500
admissions@uwrf.edu

410 South 3rd Street
River Falls, WI 54022

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE

February 1, 2022
003923

UW-PLATTEVILLE

CAMPUSES

UW-Platteville
uwplatt.edu

UW-Platteville Richland
uwplatt.edu/richland

UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County
uwplatt.edu/baraboo

ADMISSION DEADLINE

Rolling admission — will review until full

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

608-342-1125
admit@uwplatt.edu

1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE

February 1, 2022
003921

UW-PARKSIDE

CAMPUSES

UW-Parkside
uwp.edu

ADMISSION DEADLINE

Contact campus

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

262-596-2355
admissions@uwp.edu

900 Wood Road
Kenosha, WI 53144

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE

March 15, 2022
005015
UW-STOUT

CAMPUSES
UW-Stout
uwsuper.edu

ADMISSION DEADLINE
February 1, 2022 — Priority Deadline

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION
715-232-1232
admissions@uwstout.edu
212 Sorensen Hall
Menomonie, WI 54751

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE
March 15, 2022
003915

UW-SUPERIOR

CAMPUSES
UW-Superior
uwsuper.edu

ADMISSION DEADLINE
Rolling admission — will review until full

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION
715-394-8230
admissions@uwsuper.edu
PO Box 2000
Superior, WI 54880

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE
January 15, 2022
003925

UW-WHITEWATER

CAMPUSES
UW-Whitewater
uw.edu

UW-Whitewater at Rock County
uw.edu/rook

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION
262-472-1140
uwadmit@uw.edu
800 West Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190

FAFSA CODE & FILING DATE
January 1, 2022
003926
Once you apply, you can start working on the good stuff. Make your senior year amazing, memorable, and productive.

You can focus on ways to make college more affordable, finish up any special requirements for your UW, and start researching classes, clubs, and places to live.

Your UW journey has just begun!
Once you apply, you can contact your campus admissions office directly if you have any questions. They’ll also let you know about your application status and any additional steps.

Find your campus contacts

Need to talk to somebody at your UW? Start here:
[link](uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/campus-contacts)

Send in your documents

To start with, you’ll need to send some documentation to each of the UW campuses to which you applied:

- Your UW may request your official high school transcript. GED or HSED students should submit a copy of their diploma and test scores.
- Your official college transcripts (if you took college credits in high school).
- ACT or SAT scores are not required, but you can still submit them for consideration, if you prefer. Some campuses will want official scores submitted directly from the test agency.
- A letter of recommendation is not required for admission to a UW campus except UW-Madison, which requires a single letter from an academic source.

Keep track of campus review dates and timelines

See when your campus’ admissions office will start reviewing applications and how long that review process usually takes once all required materials have been received:
[link](uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/application-review-timetable)
You’re on your way. Now you can make the most of your senior year.
GET YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW

No matter what you do your senior year, you should make sure you meet the admission requirements for your UW.

All UW campuses require a minimum of 17 college preparatory credits from high school. You can review the specific guidelines for each campus by clicking on the Requirements tab at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/admission-guidelines/freshman

UW-Madison only

3 SOCIAL SCIENCE
3 NATURAL SCIENCE
4 ELECTIVES
3 MATH
4 ENGLISH
2 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
What’s 15 to Finish?

Let’s start with your end goal in mind—your degree!

Nearly all four-year degrees require 120 credits to graduate. Two-year degrees require 60 credits. Breaking it down, that means you need to complete 30 credits per year—or 15 credits per semester—to finish your degree on time.

Why is 15 to Finish important?

It’s a fact. Students who take 15 credits each semester or 30 credits each year have momentum on their side, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate. By staying on track for graduation, you get a leg up by saving money on your education and can begin launching your career and pursuing your dreams.

Learn more at at:
wisconsin.edu/15tofinish
Earning college credits in high school can be an amazing way to save money in college (and keep yourself challenged during your senior year).

Consider taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, or enrolling in college courses through Wisconsin’s Early College Credit Program (ECCP). Every credit you earn will transfer directly to any UW campuses.

You can find out more about high school college credit opportunities at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/prep-for-college/credits
College is a huge investment. But there are quite a few ways to make it more affordable.

Let’s start by figuring out how much you need to budget. You can use this worksheet to calculate your budget. Visit UW HELP’s Budget Builder to get up-to-date costs for tuition, housing, meal plans, and supplies at:

uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/budget-builder
Non-Resident Tuition Agreements

Wisconsin and Minnesota have a tuition reciprocity agreement. This means residents of one state can attend a public college in the other state for the same tuition as an in-state resident.

Some UW campuses also participate in other non-resident tuition-reduction programs. Learn more at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/nonresident-tuition

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Total $ $ $
Now that you know how much you need, let’s explore ways to make college affordable.

**Start here**

The federal government is the largest source of student financial aid. We recommend you start by seeing if you qualify for federal assistance—complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at:

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

You’ll find a unique FAFSA code and preferred filing date for each campus in the Campus Reference section of this guidebook. Applications open on October 1.

**GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Grants and scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academic merit, or other specific criteria and do not require you to repay. You can find grants and scholarships in your local community, at your campus, or through private organizations.

Almost every campus awards some aid to FAFSA applicants, as well as to some students based on their application for admission. Your high school counselor is a great person to talk to about finding other grants and scholarships.

There are a variety of grants and scholarships out there. Make sure to seek them out at:

[www.heab.state.wi.us/programs.html](http://www.heab.state.wi.us/programs.html)

• **PELL grants**: awarded to almost 10 million students annually, based on financial need.

• **SEOG**: special grants for students with strong financial need, with priority given to PELL awardees.

• Another reputable resources for exploring scholarship opportunities is at: [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)

• Check with organizations in your community, churches, businesses, foundations, and even your parents’ employers. It never hurts to ask about what’s available.
**LOANS**

Loans are money you borrow. They must be repaid in full and typically include interest payments. Government loans typically have lower interest rates than private loans.

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND WORK STUDY**

Talk to your campus financial aid office about finding work study. Wages vary, of course, but most students average 15 hours/week and earn about $3,000/year.

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Community service jobs like AmeriCorps can provide stipends for education in exchange for a commitment to serve in your community after graduation.

**RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**

ROTC programs offer more than military training and experience. Participants in Army, Air Force, or Navy-Marine ROTC programs may be eligible for scholarships and monthly stipends. Learn more at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/rotc

**Tips**

- Start soon, and plan to give it some time. Applying can take a while, so it pays to get started as early as you can!
- Keep your head up. The more you apply, the more chances you have to succeed. And expect more than a few nos on your way to all your yeses.
- Line up your letters of recommendation early.
- Remember the smaller scholarships — they can add up.
- Sharpen your writing pen — a lot of scholarships require essays. Sure, that makes it harder. But that means fewer people apply and you’ll have a better chance of succeeding. Plus, don’t be afraid to rework your essays for multiple applications. Fair is fair.
- Stay organized! Deadlines count. Make a schedule and stick to it.

For more information, check out your campus Financial Aid office or visit us at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/pay-for-college/financial-resources

**Watch for scams**

In general, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Watch out for organizations without contact information, guarantees, unsolicited offers, limited-time offers, or any application that asks for very personal information (like your Social Security number) up front. Most importantly, avoid fees; legitimate scholarships never cost money to apply.
We’re so excited to see you on your UW journey. If you have any questions, you can always reach out to us at UW HELP. That’s why we’re here.

PHONE 1-800-442-6459

EMAIL uwhelp@uwsa.edu

WEB uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/contact