



Discover What to Expect

Financial Aid at WIU



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The Financial Aid Office

- Process financial aid applications
- Determine eligibility for:
 - » Federal/state grants
 - » Federal Work Study (FWS)
 - » Federal loans
 - » Certain federal/state military programs
- Provide student employment support
- Provide financial literacy education on campus



The Cost of College

- Direct costs = billed by the school
- Generally includes:
 - » Tuition
 - » Fees
 - » Room/Board
 - » One-Time Fees
- Individual costs are determined by individual decisions



The Cost of College

- WIU Cost Estimator
 - » Online calculator to help provide a best-estimate of YOUR semester bill
- WIU Cost Guarantee
 - » Our students pay the same rate for four straight years!
 - » Only Illinois university that “freezes” the rate charged for *tuition, fees, room, and meal plan*



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- FREE online at www.fafsa.gov
- Must be completed each year for the upcoming academic year
- Complete as soon as possible after **October 1** for 2017-18 school year
- Does NOT require your taxes to be done
 - » *Tax information may be estimated*
 - » *Once taxes are completed, then correct estimates with actual tax information*



The Financial Aid Process

- Communication is key
- **WIU Zimbra Email**
 - » Notifications
 - » Documentation requests
- **Student/Alumni Records System (STARS)**
 - » Application status
 - » Financial aid award letter
- Notifications are sent to the student



The Financial Aid Process

- Your *award letter* will list the financial aid available to you for each semester
 - » Available to view on STARS
 - » WIU email notification sent
 - » A copy will be mailed to home address
- Review directions
- Compare your financial aid to anticipated costs for each semester
- Notify our office of any enrollment changes, other expected aid, or special circumstances affecting your family



WIU Net Price Calculator Family of Four with One in College

<i>Adjusted Gross Income</i>	<i>15,500</i>	<i>34,000</i>	<i>58,000</i>	<i>125,000</i>
Federal Loan	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Federal Work Study	2,800	2,800	0	0
Federal Grants	5,730	4,280	0	0
State Grants	4,700	4,500	0	0
Other Grants/Scholarships	1,000	1,000	0	0
TOTAL AID	19,730	18,080	5,500	5,500

**What to Expect:
WIU Net Price Calculator**



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What to Expect: WIU Scholarships Office

- Scholarship Application for Entering Freshman Students
 - » ACT 30 or higher: deadline is December 1
 - » All ACT scores: deadline is February 15
- Students are encouraged to contact the department of declared major
- Scholarship Application Tips



What to Expect: WIU Scholarship Office

- **Start early and don't stop!**
- No scholarship is too small
- Avoid scholarship scams
- Don't forget about private scholarships:
 - » www.fastweb.com
 - » www.scholarship.com
 - » www.collegeboard.com



What to Expect: Student Privacy

- **Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act**
 - » Protects the privacy of student records
 - » Student must provide a University release for each specific parent/guest who needs access
- Parent/Guest Account on STARS
 - » Student specifies what information is shared



What to Expect: Important Reminders

- Review our [Getting Started](#) section online
- Get started on your scholarship search
- File your FREE FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov as soon as possible after October 1
- Activate and monitor your WIU accounts
- Provide Parent/Guest access as needed



Financial Aid Office

Sherman Hall 127

P (309) 298-2446

F (309) 298-2353

- Admissions Office
- Scholarship Office
- Billing & Receivables Office
- Veterans Resource Center
- Disability Resource Center

WIU Resources



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