



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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TO: Representative Katrina Shankland
Room 119 North, State Capitol

FROM: Emily Pope, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Funding for the Wisconsin Grants Programs for UW System and Technical College Students

At your request, I am providing information regarding appropriations and waitlists for the Wisconsin Grants programs for UW System and Wisconsin technical college students.

The Wisconsin Grants programs provide need-based grants to resident undergraduate students enrolled at least half-time at UW institutions, Wisconsin technical colleges, private, non-profit colleges and universities located in this state, and tribal colleges located in this state. The Wisconsin Grants programs are administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) and are funded through four separate appropriations: one for UW System students; one for technical college students; one for private, non-profit college students; and one for tribal college students. In general, the first three of these appropriations are funded with state general purpose revenue (GPR) while the appropriation for tribal college students is funded with tribal gaming revenues. In some years, including in 2013-14, the Wisconsin Grant program for UW System students has been funded program revenues transferred from the UW System instead of with state GPR.

Table 1 shows the amounts appropriated for the Wisconsin Grants programs for UW System and technical college students from 2010-11 to 2016-17. As shown in the table, the amount appropriated for the Wisconsin Grant program for UW System students has been flat over that period. The amount appropriated for the Wisconsin Grant program for technical college students was increased on a one-time basis by \$2,000,000 in 2013-14 but has otherwise been flat over the time period shown.

TABLE 1

**Appropriations for the Wisconsin Grants Programs for UW System and
Technical College Students, 2010-11 to 2016-17**

	<u>UW System Amount</u>	<u>Technical Colleges Amount</u>
2010-11	\$58,345,400	\$18,797,900
2011-12	58,345,400	18,797,900
2012-13	58,345,400	18,797,900
2013-14*	58,345,400	20,797,900
2014-15	58,345,400	18,797,900
2015-16	58,345,400	18,797,900
2016-17	58,345,400	18,797,900

*Wisconsin Grants for UW System students were funded with program revenues transferred from the UW System in 2013-14.

An applicant's eligibility for a Wisconsin Grant, as well as the amount of that grant, is determined by inputting the applicant's expected family contribution (EFC), which is a measure of the applicant's financial need, into a formula approved by HEAB. The applicant's EFC is determined by the federal Department of Education using financial and other information provided by the applicant on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applicants who are eligible for grants based on their EFCs but who cannot be awarded a grant due to lack of funds are placed on the program waitlist.

Table 2 shows the number of applicants who were on the waitlist for the Wisconsin Grant program for UW System students and the Wisconsin Grant program for technical college students at the close of the 2014-15 fiscal year. The table also shows the amount of additional funding that would have been required to provide grants to all of the applicants on the waitlists based on the average grant amount for each of the programs in that year.

TABLE 2

**Amount Required to Fund Wisconsin Grant Waitlists for UW System and
Technical College Students Based on 2014-15 Waitlists and Average Awards**

	<u>Applicants Waitlisted</u>	<u>Average Award Amount</u>	<u>Amount Required to Fund Waitlist</u>
UW System	1,633	\$1,773	\$2,895,300
Wisconsin Technical Colleges	34,725	802	<u>27,849,500</u>
			\$30,744,800

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

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