

Chapter E

Education, Post-Secondary

There are three nonprofit higher educational sectors in Wisconsin: the public University of Wisconsin System (UW System), the public Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and 20 private colleges and universities. In addition, there are over 100 proprietary, or for-profit, post-secondary, schools in the state.

UW System

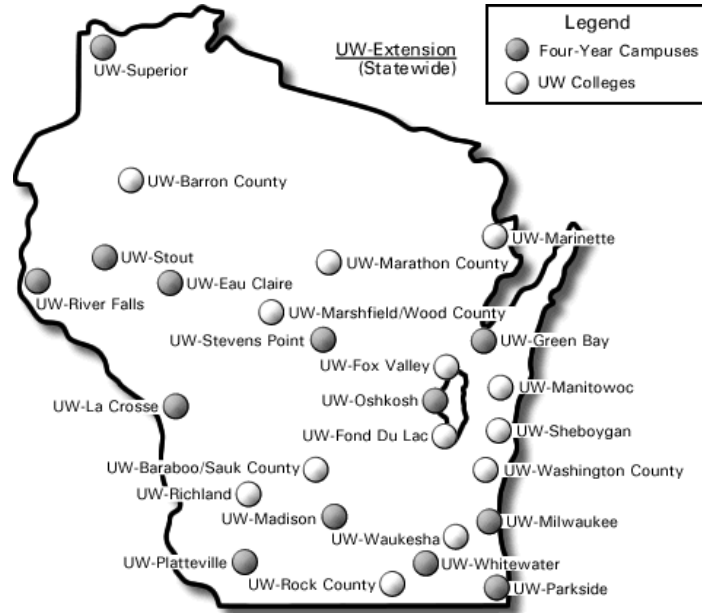
The UW System consists of 13 degree-granting universities, 13 two-year colleges, and the statewide University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension programs. The overall mission of the system, as set forth in s. 36.01 of the statutes, includes the development of human resources and the discovery and dissemination 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 Robert La Follette. 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.

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Campuses

The UW System has 13 four-year campuses and 13 two-year campuses, as shown on the map below.



**UW System
Four-Year
Campuses:
Headcount
Enrollment
(Fall 2009)**

- UW-Madison: 41,654
- UW-Milwaukee: 30,418
- UW-Eau Claire: 11,216
- UW-Green Bay: 6,638
- UW-La Crosse: 10,009
- UW-Oshkosh: 13,192
- UW-Parkside: 5,303
- UW-Platteville: 7,803
- UW-River Falls: 6,728
- UW-Stevens Point: 9,209
- UW-Stout: 9,017
- UW-Superior: 2,794
- UW-Whitewater: 11,139

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 other four-year campuses listed are known as “comprehensive campuses,” which offer associate, bachelor’s, and selected nondoctoral graduate programs. Their mission is to emphasize teaching excellence; provide a base of liberal studies as a foundation for its degrees; offer programs of preprofessional curricular offerings; engage in outreach and continuing education for citizens in each service region; and engage in scholarly activity integral to, and supportive of, instructional programs and teaching excellence.

**UW System
Two-Year
Campuses:
“UW Colleges”**

- UW-Barron County
- UW-Marquette County
- UW-Marathon County
- UW-Marshfield/Wood County
- UW-Fox Valley
- UW-Manitowoc County
- UW-Fond du Lac
- UW-Sheboygan County
- UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
- UW-Washington County
- UW-Waukesha County
- UW-Rock County
- UW-Richland

The mission of the UW System two-year campuses, known as the “UW Colleges,” is to offer general education associate degrees; to serve primarily as freshman-sophomore liberal arts transfer institutions; to place major emphasis on teaching excellence and support the development, testing, and use of effective teaching methods; and to cooperate with other UW institutions, technical colleges, private colleges, and public schools to maximize educational opportunity and resources for the citizens in the campus service area.

The total enrollment of all UW Colleges campuses in Fall of 2009 was 13,789.

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 institutions and the Wisconsin counties, 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 three UW-Extension divisions: Cooperative Extension, Continuing Education Extension, and Broadcasting and Media Innovations, and a separate unit, Business and Manufacturing Extension.

Cooperative Extension faculty, based in the 72 county Extension offices and on six UW campuses, respond to the needs of farmers, businesses, communities, families, and youth. **Outreach and E-Learning Extension** faculty, based on the 26 UW campuses, offer continuing education and credit and noncredit outreach. The **Broadcasting and Media Innovations** division provides educational, informational, and cultural programming for people throughout Wisconsin via 27 Wisconsin Public Radio Stations and six Wisconsin Public Television Stations, in partnership with the state Educational Communications Board. The **Business and Manufacturing Extension** unit focuses on technical, managerial, and general business education and support to Wisconsin businesses, including the Small Business Development Centers at 13 UW campuses.

Each year more than one million Wisconsin residents participate in Extension programs, through various delivery methods, including workshops, one-on-one counseling, interactive networks, and correspondence study.

For more information about UW-Extension, including course catalogs and information on how to contact Extension agents throughout the state, consult the Extension’s website at: <http://www.uwex.edu/>.

UW-Extension
<http://www.uwex.edu/>

Governance of the UW System

Board of Regents

The statutes vest primary responsibility for governance of the UW System in the **Board of Regents**, which consists of 18 members: 15 are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for seven-year staggered terms; two are students who serve two-year terms, also appointed by the Governor; and two are *ex officio* members: the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the president (or a designee) of the WTCS.

The Board of Regents is directed by law to enact policies and promulgate rules for governing the system, to plan for the future needs of the state for university education, to ensure the diversity of quality undergraduate programs while preserving the strength of the state's graduate training and research centers, and to promote the widest degree of institutional autonomy within the system. Some of the specific powers of the board 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.
- Determining admission policies.
- Granting degrees.

The president and chancellors of the UW System are charged with implementation of regent policies and administration of the institutions. Under statutory "shared governance," the faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities of the board, the president, and the chancellor, have responsibility for the immediate governance of the institution and actively participate in institutional policy development. The faculty has primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. Academic staff have similar responsibilities regarding policies and procedures concerning academic staff members. Likewise, the students of each institution have primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests.

Admission

UW System admission policies are developed by the individual campuses, taking into account their mission and resources and guidance from the Board of Regents. In order to qualify for admission to a 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.

Class rank is the primary determinant for admission to UW institutions. According to Regent policy, the UW System will admit all immediate Wisconsin high school graduates who ranked in the top quartile of their class, somewhere in the system. Most UW campuses establish automatic admission based on class rank or a combination of class rank and ACT/SAT scores if the applicant has satisfied the other basic requirements and has applied before a specified date. Additional applicants may be admitted upon further scrutiny as space permits. In addition, an applicant may seek consideration for special admission on the basis of minority group status,

UW System Application
<http://apply.wisconsin.edu>

physical or learning disability, veteran status, age group, or economic or educational disadvantage.

Online application to all UW System institutions may be found at: <http://apply.wisconsin.edu>.

Under Wisconsin's **Youth Options** program, public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements may take post-secondary courses at a UW System or other post-secondary institution and receive high school and college credit. Subject to a limit on the maximum number of credits, the school board must pay for the course if it determines the course qualifies for high school credit and is not comparable to a course already offered in the school district. A student interested in participating should talk with staff at his or her high school and the post-secondary institution. For more information consult: <http://dpi.wi.gov/youthoption/>.

Tuition Rates

Tuition and segregated fee rates for UW System institutions for the 2010-11 academic year are set forth in the table below. The term "segregated fees" describes charges in addition to instructional fees assessed to all students for services, programs, and facilities that support the primary mission of the university.

UW System 2010-11 Tuition and Fee Schedule for Full Academic Year

	<i>Annual Tuition and Fees</i>		<i>Annual Tuition and Fees</i>
UW-Madison			
Resident		Nonresident	
Undergraduate	\$8,983	Undergraduate	\$24,233
Graduate	\$10,937	Graduate	\$25,104
Law School	\$18,045	Law School	\$37,582
Medical School	\$24,017	Medical School	\$34,754
Veterinary School	\$18,135	Veterinary School	\$25,819
UW-Milwaukee			
Resident		Nonresident	
Undergraduate	\$8,151	Undergraduate	\$17,880
Graduate	\$10,447	Graduate	\$23,734
UW Comprehensive Universities			
Resident		Nonresident	
Undergraduate	\$6,479-7,910	Undergraduate	\$12,676-14,933
Graduate	\$7,906-9,156	Graduate	\$15,953-18,085
UW-Colleges			
Resident	\$4,544-4,755	Nonresident	\$11,544-11,739

Source: UW Board of Regents.

UW System resident tuition and fees are substantially lower than resident tuition and fees at most other public universities of similar size and mission. In particular, undergraduate tuition at UW-Madison, the system's flagship campus, is second lowest among Big Ten institutions.

Nonresident Tuition

The assessment of resident versus nonresident tuition is based on s. 36.27 (2), Stats., and ch. UWS 20, Wis. Adm. Code. Nonresidents must pay the nonresident rate with the exception of Minnesota residents under the Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement and residents of Menominee County, Michigan, enrolled in the UW Center-Marquette County. There are also reciprocal agreements for residents of Iron County, Wisconsin, enrolled at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Michi-

gan, and residents of Marinette County, Wisconsin, enrolled at Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan.

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 citizens of countries other than the United States, among others.

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.

Reciprocity With Minnesota

The Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement allows residents of the two states to attend public post-secondary institutions in the adjacent state without having to pay nonresident tuition. Participating students pay a reciprocal fee that cannot exceed the higher of two states' resident tuition rates. The agreement is negotiated and administered jointly by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) 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.

Transfer of Credits Between UW System Campuses

The UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy (ACIS-6.0, Revised) sets general transfer policy for all UW System campuses and may be found at: http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/acis/ACIS_6.0rev.pdf. Two guiding principles of the transfer policy are: (1) academic policies should apply to transfer students in the same way they apply to students who are continuing at the same UW campus; and (2) a course that fulfills a general education requirement or an ethnic studies requirement at one UW campus should count as general education or ethnic studies at the transfer campus.

UW Colleges Guaranteed Transfer Program

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) (2.60 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.

In addition, students who transfer with a UW associate degree are considered to have satisfied university, college, or school general education requirements at their transfer campus.

Most institutions require all students to complete a specific number of credits in residence at that institution in order to obtain a degree. Transfer students are responsible for fulfilling any such residency requirements.

Upon being admitted to an institution, transfer students receive a credit evaluation showing how transferred courses equate to courses at their new campus. They also receive information showing how their courses apply toward a particular program and degree requirements. Students have the right to appeal credit evaluations.

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 at: <http://www.uwsa.edu/tis>.

Distance Education and Adult Learners

Distance Education Clearinghouse
<http://www.uwex.edu/disted/>

The UW System provides a wide variety of courses via distance education, which is instructional delivery that does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor. Historically, distance education meant correspondence study. Today, audio, video, and computer technologies are more common delivery modes.

The Distance Education Clearinghouse is a comprehensive and widely recognized website maintained by the UW-Extension that contains distance education information from Wisconsin, national, and international sources. It is located at: <http://uwex.edu/disted/>.

UW System Policy (ACIS-5.4, Revised) provides that UW System institutions are “encouraged to develop innovative programs to serve adult learners unable to attend on-campus during the week.” The policy defines a “program” as a series of courses linked together that lead to a certificate or a degree. The UW System maintains a website devoted to providing information to assist adult learners returning to college or enrolling for the first time at: <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/students/adults.aspx>. The site contains a complete listing of courses designed to be accessible by adult learners.

Auditing by Senior Citizens

UW System Regent Policy 90-9 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.

WTCS

Overview

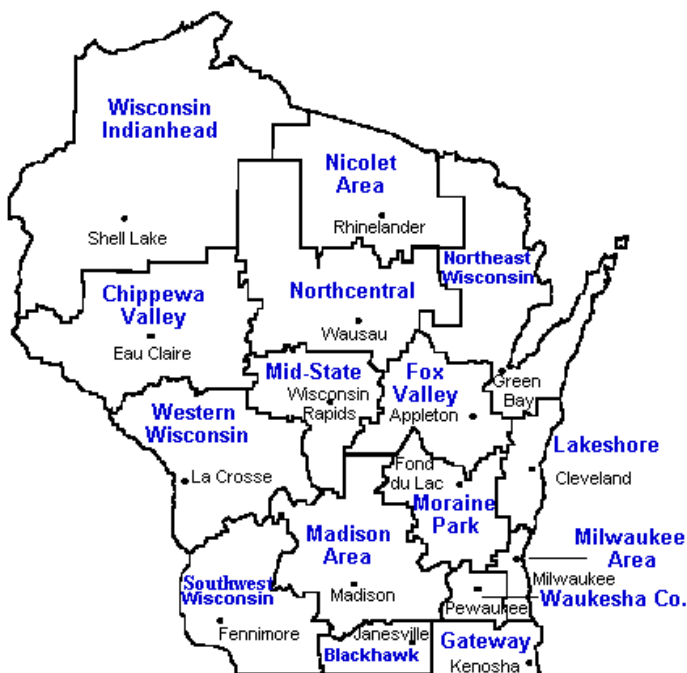
In 1911, Wisconsin became the first state to establish a system of state aid and support for industrial education. The current WTCS consists of 16 technical college districts which encompass every area of the state, with 48 main and satellite campuses that serve approximately 460,000 people annually.

State law establishes the principal purpose of the WTCS as providing occupational education and training and retraining programs and customized 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 are to provide educational opportunities for high school age students; provide a collegiate transfer program; provide community services and avocational or self-enrichment activities; provide basic skills education; and provide education and services to minorities, women, and handicapped or disadvantaged individuals to enable them to participate in the workforce.

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.

Governance and Administration

The **WTCS Board** is the coordinating agency for the technical college system. 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 Board of Regents or a designee from among the Board of Regents; six public members; and one technical college student.

The board establishes statewide policies and standards for the educational programs and services provided by the 16 technical college districts that cover the state. The 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. It 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.

Each technical college district is headed by a **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.

The district boards are responsible for the direct operation of their respective schools and programs. They are empowered to levy property taxes and develop an annual budget, provide for facilities and equipment, hire a district director, staff, and teachers, determine programs to be offered, with board approval, admit students, and provide financial aid, guidance, and job placement services.

Educational Programs

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 provides the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate college education. Credits readily transfer to four-year institutions. The Liberal Arts program is available only at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Madison Area Technical College (also called Madison College), and Nicolet Area 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 from two to five years. There are hundreds of apprenticeship programs available in construction, service, and industrial occupations.

Advanced technical certificates are used in response to employers' needs for highly skilled employees, 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 for adults (grades 9-12). 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 labor training is offered in partnership with employers. The training is delivered in various formats including:

- On-site training at the company or business during regular hours or various shifts.
- Training which uses the distance learning network and provides two-way audio and visual communication.
- Training through interactive computer/video or on the Internet.

The WTCS also offers part-time programs that are comprised of vocational-adult, basic skills education, and district and community services, which include avocational or hobby courses and activities offered with community groups.

Admission and Tuition

WTCS Website

<http://www.witechcolleges.org/>

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.

The 2010-11 tuition costs are the same for each of the 16 technical colleges. For Wisconsin residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs cost \$106.00 per credit; collegiate transfer programs are \$142.20 per credit. For out-of-state residents, degree, diploma, and certificate programs are \$161.00 per credit; liberal arts transfer programs are \$213.30 per credit.

Transfer of WTCS Credits to UW System

Students attending the WTCS Collegiate Transfer program at Madison, Milwaukee, or Nicolet Area Technical College may generally transfer up to 72 credits to any UW campus. For students taking occupational courses, a maximum of 15 credits from approved general education courses in social science, behavioral science, and communications plus a total of two courses in math or natural science may transfer. Also, UW and WTCS campuses have over 400 transfer agreements that permit WTCS students enrolled in specific associate degree programs to transfer additional occupational credit.

More information about the WTCS can be found on its website located at: <http://www.witechcolleges.org/>.

Private Colleges and Universities

Locations and Overview

Wisconsin has 20 private, nonprofit, accredited degree-granting colleges and universities. As shown on the map below, the institutions and their locations are as follows: Alverno College, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mount Mary College, Wisconsin Lutheran College and Marquette University in Milwaukee; Beloit College, Beloit; Carroll College, Waukesha; Carthage College, Kenosha; Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon; Edgewood College, Madison; Lakeland College, Sheboygan; Lawrence University, Appleton; Marian University, Fond du Lac; Northland College, Ashland; Ripon College, Ripon; St. Norbert College, De Pere; Silver Lake College, Manitowoc; and Viterbo University, La Crosse.



Source: Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).

Each institution has a distinct mission and emphasis such as engineering, art and design, elementary and secondary education, health care, international education, or environmental liberal arts. Many of the institutions are religiously affiliated but 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://wisconsinmentor.org/Select_a_School/Comparative_View.aspx.

Private colleges and universities receive no direct funding from the state. They are governed by private boards of trustees. All private colleges and universities in Wisconsin are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Enrollment and Costs

The 20 private colleges and universities of Wisconsin awarded 26% of the bachelor's degrees in the state, including 29% of engineering, 30% of computer science, and 33% of business degrees. They produced 51% of all the state's new graduates with four-year nursing degrees.

The average price for tuition and fees at a Wisconsin private college or university during the 2007-08 academic year was \$22,033, and the average freshman financial aid package was \$16,797, leaving average net tuition costs of \$5,236. (Additional costs for room and board are roughly comparable in the public and private sectors.) Grants comprised 70% of the average private aid package. More than 90% of the full-time undergraduates at private colleges in Wisconsin receive financial aid, the majority of which is provided by the institutions themselves. In 2008-09, the Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program provided \$26.1 million in means-tested financial aid for low-income Wisconsin students who attend private colleges, with an average grant of approximately \$2,500.

WAICU

Private colleges and universities in Wisconsin have organized themselves into the WAICU. WAICU is recognized in state statutes as the official representative of Wisconsin's private colleges and universities (e.g., ss. 14.57, 15.67 (1) (b), and 560.27 (2) (a), Stats.). The president of WAICU or his or her designee, with the president of the UW System and the state director of the WTCS, is a member of the executive committee of the PK-16 Leadership Council, the Educational Communications Board, the Wisconsin Technology Council, the College Savings Board (EdVest), the Wisconsin International Trade Council, and Forward Wisconsin, Inc.

Admission

Each private institution sets its own admission policies. The admission policies for private colleges and universities tend to be somewhat more individualized than admission policies of the UW System. 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.

WisconsinMentor is an on-line resource maintained by the WAICU to help students and their families select a private college or university and apply for admission. It contains information and admissions applications for all independent degree-granting colleges and universities within Wisconsin. The site is located at: <http://www.wisconsinmentor.org/>.

Tribal Colleges

There are two tribal colleges in Wisconsin—The College of Menominee Nation, located in Keshena, <http://www.menominee.edu/>, and the Lac Courtes Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in Hayward, <http://www.lco.edu/>. 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. The colleges have an open enrollment policy (nontribal members may enroll). Both tribal colleges are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

In 2008-09, the total enrollment at the College of Menominee Nation was 512, 81% of whom are Native American. The programs with the largest enrollments were education, business, natural resources, public administration, and social services.

The total enrollment at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College averages approximately 550 students per year. The most popular areas of study at the college were area, ethnic, cultural, and gender studies, health professions and related clinical sciences, business, and education.

Proprietary Schools

Overview; Training Offered

A proprietary school is generally any entity, including an individual, business, or institution, which charges for post-secondary education or training and which is for-profit.

There are about 120 proprietary schools in Wisconsin which train people in a great variety of occupations ranging from taxidermist and auto mechanic to systems engineer and massage therapist. The majority of the schools are for-profit businesses owned by an individual or by a corporation. The schools vary greatly in size but most provide small classes and individualized instruction.

Some proprietary 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.

Regulation

The Educational Approval Board (EAB) regulates for-profit post-secondary schools (except cosmetology) and in-state nonprofit post-secondary institutions incorporated after January 1992. Most private post-secondary schools serving Wisconsin students, whether they are located within or outside the state, are required to obtain the EAB's approval prior to advertising or providing training. Training which leads to employment or ongoing education is approved. The following types of training are exempt from EAB oversight: religious or strictly sectarian training; professional development; training provided for a business with limited access to nonemployees; and employers training their own employees.

The State of Wisconsin does not accredit schools. Accreditation is 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."

A listing of all schools which have been approved by the EAB is available on the EAB's website at: <http://eab.state.wi.us/>. The site also contains information about submitting complaints about a school and what to do if a proprietary school closes. Some proprietary 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.

Financing the Costs of Higher Education*

HEAB is responsible for the management and oversight of the state's student financial aid system for Wisconsin residents attending institutions of higher education. HEAB administers programs of student financial aid, including grant and loan programs, and the Minnesota-Wisconsin tuition reciprocity agreement.

Academic Excellence Scholarships

Academic Excellence Scholarships are awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest grade point average in each public and private high school throughout Wisconsin. To resolve cases where there are ties among students' GPAs, a high school should have a written policy stating the tie-breakers to be used, and the order in which they will be used. Typical tie-breakers are ACT scores, or the number of honors courses students have taken.

The number of scholarships each high school is eligible for is based on total student enrollment. Schools with 80 through 499 students enrolled in grades 9-12 are allocated one scholarship, schools with 500 through 999 students in grades 9-12 are allocated two scholarships, and so on.

In order to receive a scholarship, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis by September 30 of the academic year following the academic year in which he or she was designated as a scholar, at a participating UW System, WTCS school, or independent college or university in the state. The value of the scholarship is \$2,250 per year, to be applied towards tuition. Half of the scholarship is funded by the state, while the other half is matched by the institution.

Grants

The **Lawton Undergraduate Minority Retention Grant** is administered by the UW System. It is available to American citizens or permanent residents eligible for financial aid and who demonstrate financial need. Students must be Wisconsin or Minnesota residents holding tuition reciprocity and be members of a statutorily underrepresented group (African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or Southeast Asian students of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, or Hmong descent) who entered the United States after December 31, 1975. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per year.

* This section discusses only state-funded financial aid programs. Other financial aid may be available from the federal government, individual higher educational institutions, or private organizations.

For more information about financial aid available to post-secondary students in Wisconsin, consult HEAB's website located at: <http://heab.state.wi.us/>.

The **Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant** program provides grants of \$250 to \$1,800 to the most financially needy and educationally disadvantaged resident students attending colleges and universities in the state. First-time freshmen students are nominated for the TIP Grant by the school financial aid offices or by counselors of the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities program. To continue to receive the TIP Grant, students must be enrolled for consecutive terms and continue to show financial need. Eligibility cannot exceed 10 semesters.

The **Wisconsin Higher Education Grant** program provides grants to undergraduate residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at UW System, WTCS, and tribal institutions. Awards are based on financial need and range from \$250 to \$3,000 per year. Eligibility cannot exceed 10 semesters.

The **Wisconsin Tuition Grant** program provides grants to undergraduate residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at nonprofit, independent colleges or universities in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need and amounts are partially calculated based on the portion of tuition in excess of UW-Madison tuition. Eligibility cannot exceed 10 semesters.

The **Hearing and Visually Handicapped Student Grant** program provides funding for residents enrolled at least half-time at an in-state or eligible out-of-state public or independent institution, who show financial need, and have a severe or profound hearing or visual impairment. Students are eligible to receive from \$250 to \$1,800 per year for up to 10 semesters.

The **Indian Student Assistance Grant** program provides grants of \$250 to \$1,100 to residents who are at least 25% Native American and are enrolled in degree or certificate programs at UW System, WTCS, independent colleges and universities, or proprietary institutions in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need with a limit of 10 semesters of eligibility.

The **Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant** program provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to resident minority undergraduates, excluding first-year students, enrolled at least half-time in independent, WTCS, or tribal institutions. "Minority student" includes a student who is an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam. Awards are based on financial need and eligibility is limited to eight semesters or 12 quarters.

The **Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant** was established in 2006 with the intent to inspire young people to plan early for a successful high-school career that will ultimately lead to higher education. Wisconsin eighth graders are invited to sign the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge, a promise that they will:

- Earn a high-school diploma.
- Maintain at least a "B" average in high school.
- Complete the classes they need to prepare them for higher education.
- Demonstrate good citizenship and participate in their community.
- Apply for state and federal financial aid in a timely manner.
- Take the necessary steps to gain admission to a UW System institution, a Wisconsin Technical College, and/or a Wisconsin private college or university.

In return for meeting these goals and keeping the pledge, students who are Wisconsin residents may receive a grant if they are enrolled at least half-time and registered as a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in a public or private, non-profit, accredited institution of higher education, or in a tribally controlled college, in Wisconsin.

Eligible students may receive grants for up to 10 semesters of undergraduate education provided they meet acceptable academic standards as prescribed by their higher education institution.

Wisconsin Covenant grants are based on financial need. For 2010, Wisconsin Covenant Scholars grants ranged from \$250 to \$1,500, depending on the average family income of the applicant. Additional foundation grants were awarded to certain applicants with average family incomes of less than \$25,000.

Loans

The **Minority Teacher Loan** program provides loans to resident minority undergraduate juniors or seniors who are enrolled full-time in programs leading to teacher licensure at an independent or UW System institution. Loans range from \$250 to \$2,500 per year, with an overall maximum of \$5,000. A minority student is either an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam. The recipient must agree to teach in a Wisconsin school district with at least 29% minority enrollment or a district participating in the interdistrict pupil transfer (Chapter 220) program. For each year of such teaching, 25% of the loan is forgiven. If the student does not teach in an eligible district, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

The **Nursing Student Loan** program provides loans to residents who are enrolled at an eligible in-state institution that prepares them to be licensed as either registered nurses (RNs) or licensed practical nurses (LPNs) or to work as a nurse educator. The maximum annual award is \$3,000 with an overall maximum of \$15,000. For each of the first two years the recipient works as a nurse or nurse educator, 25% of the loan is forgiven. The balance remaining after forgiveness must be repaid at an interest rate not to exceed 5%. If the recipient does not work as a nurse or a nurse educator, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate not to exceed 5%.

The **Teacher Education Loan** program provides loans to residents enrolled in the teacher education programs at the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center. The loan amount ranges from \$250 to \$3,500 per year. A recipient must agree to teach in the Milwaukee Public Schools. For each year of teaching, 50% of the loan is forgiven. If the student does not teach in the eligible district, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

The **Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan** program provides loans to residents enrolled in a program that prepares them to be licensed as teachers of the visually impaired or as orientation and mobility instructors. The maximum award per year is \$10,000 with an overall maximum of \$40,000. A recipient must agree to work as a licensed teacher or an orientation or mobility instructor in Wisconsin. For each of the first two years the student teaches and meets the eligibility criteria, 25% of the loan is forgiven. For the third year, 50% is forgiven. If the student does not teach and meet the eligibility criteria, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

The **Wisconsin Health Professions Loan Assistance** program provides loan repayment assistance to health and dental professionals who agree to work in rural and underserved communities. Generally, physicians and dentists are eligible for up to \$50,000 in repayment assistance. Other health and dental professionals (physician assistants, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and dental hygienists) are eligible for up to \$25,000 in repayment assistance. Following 2009 Wisconsin

Act 190, a physician who agrees to work in a qualifying rural area is eligible for up to \$100,000 in repayment assistance. Under the program, repayment assistance is payable over three years of qualifying service, with 40% of the repayment award provided in each of the first two years and 20% of the repayment award provided in the third year.

The EdVest Program

The EdVest program is administered by the Office of the State Treasurer and managed by Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC. EdVest is designed to encourage parents and others to save money for a child's future post-secondary education expenses.

EdVest Program

<http://www.wellsfargoadvantagefunds.com/wfweb/wf/ev/index.jsp>

Under 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 grow federal and state tax-free in Wisconsin, as well as potentially tax-free in other states, until the time the beneficiary is ready to go to college. The funds are then available to be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses at any eligible school—including two- and four-year colleges, technical, vocational, and graduate schools.

Qualified withdrawals from EdVest are federal and potentially state tax-free. Wisconsin residents owe no state income tax on qualified withdrawals. Contributions of up to \$3,000 per dependent, grandchild, great-grandchild, niece, or nephew, per tax year, are deductible from Wisconsin taxable income.

For more information, consult the EdVest website at: <http://www.wellsfargoadvantagefunds.com/wfweb/wf/ev/index.jsp>.

Higher Education Tax Deduction

A Wisconsin taxpayer may deduct from his or her taxable income allowable higher education expenses of up to \$3,000 per student per year for tuition expenses incurred by the taxpayer or a taxpayer's dependent. Allowable expenses include tuition paid to any university, college, technical college, or a school approved by the EAB that is located in Wisconsin. The deduction also applies to tuition paid by a Wisconsin resident to attend a Minnesota school under the Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity program. The maximum amount of the deduction phases out as income increases and is eliminated when income exceeds \$60,000 for single taxpayers and \$100,000 for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

EdVest Tax Deduction

A qualified taxpayer may deduct from his or her taxable income up to \$3,000 per year per beneficiary for amounts paid into an account in the EdVest program if the account beneficiary is the taxpayer, or taxpayer's dependent child, the claimant's grandchild, great-grandchild, niece, or nephew.

Student Loan Interest Deduction

An individual may deduct from his or her taxable income up to \$2,500 for interest paid on student loans during the first 60 months in which interest payments are required. The deduction is phased out for single filers with taxable income between \$40,000 and \$55,000 and for joint filers with taxable income between \$60,000 and \$75,000.

GI Bill

For information regarding tuition benefits under the GI Bill, please refer to Chapter T, *Veterans and Military Affairs*.

Additional References

1. At the beginning of each legislative session, the **Legislative Fiscal Bureau** prepares Informational Papers that describe various state programs. Among the Informational Papers prepared for the 2009-10 Legislative Session are the following titles: *Wisconsin Technical College System* (Paper #35); *University of Wisconsin System Overview* (Paper #36); *University of Wisconsin Tuition* (Paper #37); and *Student Financial Aid* (Paper #38). These papers may be found online at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/informationalpapers/info.html>.
2. The Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) published several audits and letter reports pertaining to post-secondary education in recent years. These reports are described below:

- a. **Medical College of Wisconsin** (letter report, September 2007), <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/07-MCoWLtrRpt.pdf>.

LAB completed a limited-scope review for fiscal year (FY) 2004-05 and FY 2005-06, related to the medical education contract between the state and the Medical College. LAB found the Medical College was in compliance with statutory requirements related to state tuition aid and requirements related to state funds provided for a family practice residency program.

- b. **Marquette School of Dental Education Contract** (letter report, August 2007), http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/07_DentalEducationContract_ltr.pdf.

In administering both a dental education contract that provides state tuition aid for Wisconsin residents and a grant to provide dental services to low-income individuals at clinics throughout Wisconsin, LAB found that Marquette University complied with contract and statutory requirements in FY 2004-05 and FY 2005-06.

- c. **Technical Colleges Personnel Policies and Practices** (report 07-2), <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/07-2Full.pdf>.

The 16 technical college districts are local units of government that establish their own personnel policies. LAB found that, in March 2006, they employed 7,181 full- and part-time faculty and 5,664 support staff and administrators. Most district costs are for personnel. Full-time faculty earned an average of \$74,598 in FY 2004-05, in part because of compensation for work exceeding a full-time workload of 32 to 40 hours per week. Policies regarding leave use vary by district.

- d. **UW System Personnel Policies and Practices** (report 06-12), <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/06-12Full.pdf>.

LAB conducted this evaluation at the request of the Legislature and the president of the UW System. In 2005, UW System's unclassified staff—and particularly faculty—reported using considerably less sick leave than other UW System employees. At retirement, they also converted more accumulated sick leave to fund their health insurance premiums. Policy changes intended to limit

the job protections offered to “at will” employees require continued scrutiny, and more complete reporting is needed on staff with the position title of consultant.

- e. **UW System Staffing** (report 04-10),
<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/04-10Full.pdf>.

In March 2004, 1/4 of UW System’s 31,971.8 full-time equivalent employees had administrative duties. Reductions in GPR-funded positions have nearly been offset by growth in program revenue-funded positions, and staff pay increases have generally been larger than in other state agencies. LAB included recommendations for UW System to streamline its position reporting and provide specific proposals to reduce administrative expenditures and increase operating efficiencies.

3. Additional information about the **UW System** may be found on its website at: <http://www.uwsa.edu>. A map with links to the individual website of each UW System campus may be found at: <http://www.wisconsin.edu/campuses/>.
4. Additional information about the **WTCS** may be found on its website at: <http://www.witechcolleges.com/>.
5. Additional information about private colleges and universities in Wisconsin may be found on the **WisconsinMentor** website at: <http://www.wisconsinmentor.org/>. Links to every private college and university in Wisconsin may be found at: http://wisconsinmentor.org/Select_a_School/Comparative_View.aspx.
6. Additional information about proprietary schools in Wisconsin can be found on the **EAB's** website at: <http://eab.state.wi.us/>. A directory of all approved for-profit schools in Wisconsin may be found at: <http://eab.state.wi.us/resources/schoolsprogram.asp>.
7. Additional information about financial aid programs may be found on the **HEAB** website at: <http://heab.state.wi.us/>.

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