



BRIEFING SHEET

Report 18-16
November 2018State Auditor
[Joe Chrisman](#)**UW-Extension
Student Financial Aid
Attestation****Fiscal Year 2017-18****Background**

The University of Wisconsin (UW) Flexible Option program allows enrolled students to earn a degree or certificate through a self-paced, competency-based education format. In fiscal year (FY) 2017-18, UW-Extension was the third-party servicer that administered federal student financial aid for certain students who participated in the UW Flexible Option program. As a third-party servicer, UW-Extension is required to have an examination of its administration of federal student financial aid. Our examination included obtaining assertions from UW-Extension related to its compliance with applicable requirements, testing internal controls, and determining whether UW-Extension complied with applicable requirements for the administration of federal student financial aid.

Examination Results

We provided an unmodified opinion on UW-Extension's compliance with applicable requirements described in the 2016 edition of the U.S. Department of Education's Guide for Audits of Proprietary Schools and For Compliance Attestation Engagements of Third-Party Servicers Administering Title IV Programs for the year ended June 30, 2018. We provide an unmodified opinion when evidence supports the conclusion that the entity complied with applicable requirements.

Key Findings

During our examination, we found:

- For FY 2017-18, UW-Extension entered into contracts with UW Colleges and UW-Milwaukee to administer federal student financial aid for students participating in the UW Flexible Option program.
- During FY 2017-18, UW Flexible Option degrees and certificates were offered at UW Colleges, UW-Extension, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Parkside. However, federal student financial aid was only available for degrees offered at UW Colleges and UW-Milwaukee.
- During FY 2017-18, UW-Extension disbursed nearly \$1.4 million in federal student financial assistance to 41 students from UW Colleges and 269 students from UW-Milwaukee who participated in the UW Flexible Option program.

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