WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

There are many reasons why people go to college. One reason is that a person who goes to college usually earns more money. According to the U.S. Social Security Administration, those who attend some college are estimated to earn about $1.54 million over their lifetime, some college to earn about $1.76 million. A bachelor’s degree holder may earn around $2.43 million. Add more college to earn a graduate degree and that could increase to about $3.05 million. A college education is a long-term investment. With careful planning you can find the school and funding options that work best for your situation and put you on the path to success.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics research found that, on average, college graduates with a bachelor’s degree typically earn up to almost 65% more per year than those with a high school diploma or its equivalent and almost 40% more than those with an associate degree. When we compare national median annual earnings of someone with a bachelor’s and someone with a high school diploma, that’s a difference of almost $24,000 each year in expected gross income. Don’t want a bachelor’s? An associate degree graduate typically earns about 6.5% or $6,500 more each year than those with a high school diploma. That difference starts to add up after a short while.

Below is a list of the UW, WAICU, and WTC colleges/universities located in Wisconsin:

### WI Association Of Independent Colleges & Universities
- Alverno College - Milwaukee
- Bellin College of Nursing - Green Bay
- Beloit College - Beloit
- Cardinal Stritch University - Milwaukee
- Carroll University - Waukesha
- Carthage College - Kenosha
- Concordia University - Mequon
- Edgewood College - Madison
- Herzing University - Madison
- Lakeland College - Sheboygan
- Lawrence University - Appleton
- Marian University of Fond Du Lac
- Marquette University - Milwaukee
- Medical College of WI - Milwaukee
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Mount Mary University - Milwaukee
- Nashotah House Theological Seminary
- Northland College - Ashland
- Ripon College - Ripon
- St. Norbert College - De Pere
- Silver Lake College - Manitowoc
- Viterbo University - La Crosse
- WI Lutheran College - Milwaukee

### WI Technical College System
- Blackhawk Technical College - Janesville
- Chippewa Valley Technical College - Eau Claire
- Fox Valley Technical College - Appleton
- Gateway Technical Colleges
- Lakeshore Technical Colleges - Cleveland
- Madison College - Madison
- Mid-State Technical College - WI Rapids
- Milwaukee Area Technical College
- Moraine Park Technical College - Fond du Lac
- Nicolet Area Technical College - Rhinelander
- Northcentral Technical College - Wausau
- Northeast Technical College - Green Bay
- Southwest Technical College - Fennimore
- Waukesha County Technical College - Pewaukee
- Western Wisconsin Technical College - La Crosse
- Wisconsin Indian Technical College - Rice Lake College of Menominee Nation - Kenosha
- Lac. Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College - Hayward

### University Of WI System
- UW - Eau Claire
- UW - Eau Claire - Barron County
- UW - Green Bay
- UW - Green Bay - Manitowoc
- UW - Green Bay - Marinette
- UW - Green Bay - Sheboygan
- UW - La Crosse
- UW - Madison
- UW - Milwaukee
- UW - Milwaukee - Washington County
- UW - Milwaukee - Waukesha
- UW - Oshkosh
- UW - Oshkosh - Fond du Lac
- UW - Oshkosh - Fox Cities
- UW - Parkside
- UW - Platteville
- UW - Platteville - Baraboo/Sauk County
- UW - Platteville - Richland
- UW - River Falls
- UW - Stevens Point
- UW - Stevens Point - Marshfield
- UW - Stevens Point - Wausau
- UW - Stout
- UW - Superior
- UW - Whitewater
- UW - Whitewater - Rock County

### Need Help?
There are many people that you can contact for help as you begin to think about your future. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Your high school counselor.
2. A college financial aid office.
3. Call the FAFSA processing agency 1 800 4FED AID.
4. Email collegegoalwi@gmail.com.
Why take the ACT or SAT Test?
The ACT and SAT test are college entrance tests. Check with the college you plan to attend to see if they require the ACT or SAT.

What can you do now to plan for your future?
1. Complete the right high school courses.
2. Work hard to get good grades.
3. Make good decisions so you have more choices after high school.
4. Take the ACT or SAT test in 11th grade.
5. Periodically check with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate from high school and taking the right classes to be admitted to the college of your choice.
6. Apply for admission to college in the fall of your senior year of high school.
7. Apply for financial aid the fall of your senior year of high school.
8. Graduate from high school or earn a GED.

What degrees can I earn?
A technical college offers a certificate, diploma, apprenticeship, or associate degree. Two-year colleges in Wisconsin are now affiliated with a four-year university so can offer an associate degree and may offer other types of degrees. A four-year college offers an associate or bachelor’s degree. A university offers a bachelor’s degree along with a master’s or PhD.
The amount of time it takes to complete a degree depends on how many credits you take each semester and how many credits it takes to earn that degree.

What courses should you take in high school to go to college?
• 4 years of English including composition and literature
• 3 years of social science including world history and US history
• 3 years of math including algebra, geometry, and higher math
• 3 years of natural science including one or more units of lab science like biology, chemistry, and physics
• 4 or more courses from the above subjects as well as foreign language, fine arts, computer science, and other areas
• 2-3 years of a foreign language

What is financial aid?
Financial aid comes in the form of grants, loans, need based scholarships, and/or work-study jobs.

Is financial aid free money?
Yes, some financial aid is free. Grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid. Loans need to be repaid. Work study is a job through the college where you will earn money.

How do you apply for financial aid?
You must complete a form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid. The form is available on October 1 for the upcoming school year. You must apply for financial aid every year you plan to continue your college education. There is no cost to complete the FAFSA.

How can you pay for college?
Parents and students may be expected to help pay for college. The federal and state governments as well as the college can provide resources to families who are eligible for financial aid.

What does college cost?
College costs can include tuition, books, room and board, personal expenses, fees, transportation, and daycare. Each college has a different cost of attendance (COA).

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What are my college choices?
Check the back panel for a full list of WI colleges:
• 13 Four-year public universities within the University of Wisconsin System (UW)
• 13 Two-year public colleges which have merged with the four-year UW System campuses
• 23 Private, independent colleges which are a part of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
• 16 Technical colleges which are part of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTC)