



# 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	\$ 8,883.00
» Fees	\$ 2,783.50
» Room/Housing	\$ 9,800.00
» <u>One-Time Fees</u>	\$ 115.00

**TOTAL = \$ 21,581.50**

- 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 per credit hour rate for four straight years!
  - » Only Illinois university that “freezes” the per credit hour rate charged for *tuition and fees and room, and meal plan*



# The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- FREE online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Must be completed each year for the upcoming academic year
- Complete as soon as possible on or after **October 1** for 2020-21 school year
  - » *Tax information from 2018*



# The Financial Aid Process

- Communication is key
- **WIU 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	3,000	3,000	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
<b>TOTAL AID</b>	<b>19,730</b>	<b>18,080</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>

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



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# What to Expect: WIU Scholarships Office

- President's Scholarship Application
  - » ACT 30/SAT 1390 or higher: deadline is December 1
- General Scholarships
  - » All ACT/SAT scores: deadline is February 15
- Students are encouraged to contact the department of declared major
- Visit [www.wiu.edu/scholarships](http://www.wiu.edu/scholarships) - all updates, resources and links posted here



# 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](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - » [www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)
  - » [www.collegeboard.com](http://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](http://www.fafsa.gov) as soon as possible after October 1<sup>st</sup> .
- 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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