

2020-21 Scholarship Checklist for New Freshmen Students

Western Illinois University
www.wiu.edu/scholarships

- Prepare to do your best!** Review our [scholarship application tips](#).
- Accepted @ WIU? Then you were automatically considered for the [Western Commitment Scholarship](#), which is renewable up to four years!
- But don't forget – all other WIU scholarships require additional application.** Beginning October 1, 2019 you can apply for our new freshmen scholarship opportunities using the [WIU Scholarship Portal](#).
 - One application for most new freshmen scholarships.
 - Login using your [WIU ECOM username](#) and password.
 - ACT 30+ should submit by **DECEMBER 1, 2019** for President's Scholarship consideration.
 - All other new freshmen applications due by **FEBRUARY 15, 2020**.
- File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** Scholarships and financial aid go hand in hand – students should complete their FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1, 2019 at www.fafsa.gov. Have questions? Contact the WIU Financial Aid Office for assistance or to schedule an appointment!
- Review our [New Freshmen Scholarships Requiring Separate Application](#).** Pay attention to deadline dates and where to submit your completed applications.
- Check for WIU scholarship opportunities available through your [department or college](#).** Opportunities and deadlines vary, so check early to avoid missed deadlines!
- Seek out local scholarship opportunities** through community organizations, employers, etc.
- Search for private scholarship opportunities** – get started by using our [Private Scholarships](#) postings.
 - Use reputable online scholarship searches like [FastWeb](#) and [Collegellinois!](#)
 - [Learn how to spot a scholarship scam](#).
 - Pay attention to deadlines and requirements!
- Give thanks!** If you are awarded a scholarship, it is important to take a moment to thank your scholarship donor. If you're not sure how to get started, check out our tips on [How to Write a Thank You Letter](#).

Now That You're Enrolled...

- After registering for classes, calculate your expected charges** using the [WIU Cost Estimator](#).
 - The first bills of the semester are sent during the first week of August and January.
 - Most scholarships will display on your first billing statement. Monitor your day-to-day university account activity on [STARS](#) by selecting *Financials > Account Detail* and clicking "Account Details".
- Complete the [Direct Deposit Authorization](#) on STARS if you will receive a book award or anticipate a financial aid refund.
- Need to submit a scholarship check?** Checks should be sent to or dropped off at the WIU Scholarship Office, Sherman Hall 308, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455 (M-F, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm).
- Mark your calendar for October 1, 2020!**
 - 2021-22 scholarship opportunities will open on the [WIU Scholarship Portal](#).
 - 2021-22 FAFSA application will be available at www.fafsa.gov.