

Financial Aid Chat 2/20/2018

Q: When do we find out how much we get for the scholarship from going on the interview?

A: Our suggestion would be to speak to the student's admissions counselor regarding this process. The admissions counselor would be the first point of contact. They can be reached at (540) 654-2000 or by email at admit@umw.edu. We believe these were also posted today.

Q: How do I register for the Campus or Federal Work Study program?

A: You can register for all Campus Employment through the UMW Careers system after you receive your UMW username and password. All jobs are posted in this system <https://careers.umw.edu/>.

Q: Are there scholarships provided by the school for having a 3.5+ GPA after your first year semester?

A: UMW offers many scholarship opportunities! There are about 400 scholarship programs through our UMW Foundation and the list grows each year. They are based on a variety of criteria, for both need-based and merit. Look into our scholarship search tool at <https://umw.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com>. You don't need to log in to search scholarship opportunities. You will need to pay your admissions deposit to access the application.

Q: If I purchase a parking pass, will I get my own parking spot?

A: Unfortunately not. However, you will avoid expensive parking tickets!

Q: How do I register as a commuter? When I filled out the student questionnaire it assumed I'd be staying on campus:(

A: No problem, I would direct you to speak to our office of admissions, and they can update your status. You can give them a call at (540)654-2000 or email them at admit@umw.edu.

Q: Regarding campus employment, does the money I make go towards my tuition or do I get a paycheck?

A: Great question! You become an employee of the University so you would actually receive a paycheck.

Q: When will the final financial aid packages be sent?

A: We have already begun sending out award letters for the 18/19 Aid year if you have submitted the 18/19 FAFSA. We'd encourage you to send an email to our office with your information and we'll be happy to look into if you have been awarded. If you have any financial aid requirements, they will be listed at the bottom of your Award Letter. That would be your next step. Some FAFSA's are selected for the Federal Verification process, which requires the family to submit additional documentation. This would be listed at the bottom of your award letter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 540-654-2468 or finaid@umw.edu.

Q: On my financial aid form it says that I need to complete a "Scholarship Certificate Form", where would I find that form? I am a first year student.

A: It is found through the admissions website.
<http://www.umw.edu/admissions/youarein/firstyear-scholarship-acceptance/>

Q: Can we choose to have that money go towards our tuition directly?

A: You can't technically do that. However, you could set up a payment plan and schedule your paycheck funds to be automatically withdrawn each month.

Q: What is parent PLUS?

A: It is a Parent PLUS Loan. It is a Federal Student loan that a parent can take out on behalf of a student. It would be in the parent's name but the parent does not have to start repayment until after the student graduated. It is something that many families use to cover the gap between the cost of college and financial aid.

Q: Can I use the UMW student loans and then use my paycheck to automatically pay that back?

A: That is the best idea I have heard today! Yes! In fact, any repayment that you make in the first 180 days after the loan has disbursed does not accrue any interest.

Q: We received an award letter but it said it was not the final amount. Also there was a discrepancy between the amount in the financial package and my EFC.

A: EFC stands for Estimated Family Contribution. Your EFC is a number that determines the types of financial aid that you would be eligible for. The lower your EFC, the more financial aid you may be potentially eligible for. Each school uses the EFC to create student aid packages. For example, while all students may receive Direct Loans, Pell grants have a maximum EFC of around 5800. If you are selected for the verification process, your Federal aid package is not confirmed until the verification is complete as we have to verify the information on your FAFSA. To add, your financial aid package will not be the same amount as your EFC. The EFC will be the same at each school. However costs and financial aid packages will vary.

Q: Can both the parent and the student pay off the loan directly?

A: The loan is in the student's name. The student will be given a loan servicer. You can set up payments with them. The payments could be made by whoever the student sets up as an authorized payer.

Q: Shouldn't the EFC and the amount in my financial aid package equal the cost of tuition?

A: The EFC is utilized to determine how much need a student has. No, this would only work this way if you are planning to attend a school that will cover up to 100% of a student's financial need. UMW has many opportunities through various sources to assist with your tuition and fees such as Federal and State Aid (Loans and Grants), Foundation & Departmental Scholarships as well as Admissions Merit scholarships. You as well have the option to apply for Private Loans and the Student Accounts Office does offer payment plans to cover any shortfalls that you may encounter.

Q: Can I just use my eagle card instead of getting the dinning meal plan during the STP? (Since I will be using my eagle card for mostly meals throughout the school year)

A: That is a good question... I am not sure. I would suggest contacting the STP office 540-654-1939 and I'm sure they will be happy to help you out with that question!

Q: For a variety of scholarships that we saw on the website, is there a separate scholarship application for the scholarships that are reviewed and determined in June?

A: UMW has a Scholarship Application that puts students in the running for all of our Endowed Foundation scholarships. It is one application and can be found at <https://umw.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com>. Students can access this application after they receive their UMW username and password for online systems. If you have not done so yet, you can still go in and look at some of the different scholarships. There are over 500 scholarship programs, many with multiple recipients.

Q: Does UMW accept DE credits?

A: I apologize but I am not sure of that one. I searched the Office of the Registrar's website, but did not see anything about DE credits. You can reach them by phone tomorrow at (540)654-1063.

Q: I've applied for FASFA, but am now at a loss as to how to move forward. Is it possible to meet with someone and go through the process step by step?

A: To begin, I would suggest sending your general information to finaid@umw.edu and let them where you are in the process. They can get you started on next steps and set up an appointment with one of our Assistant Directors.

Q: Does the school provide information on how to apply for the loans that are included in the financial aid package?

A: When we receive your FAFSA, we package you for any Federal Loans that you may be eligible for (Subsidized & Unsubsidized). In addition, your parent can also apply for the Parent Plus. The lender`s website you can view these at is: www.studentloans.gov . You will be required to complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling through the lender`s website. Our financial aid webpage on the UMW website has a list of various private loan lenders that students have used the past as well:
<https://www.umw.edu/financialaid/types/loans/private/>

Q: For the scholarship application with scholarship determination is made in June, when is that available to complete the form?

A: When a student pays their admissions deposit, they are given their Username and password after several days. The Scholarship Application is available now and will be open through May 1.

Q: Is FAFSA the required for the general scholarship application?

A: No, the FAFSA is not required. However, we suggest that all students complete the FAFSA to be considered for maximum eligibility

Q: Can we complete the FAFSA now even though it's after the due date?

A: Yes you can definitely still complete a FAFSA. You can actually complete one at any time up through the end of the 2018-19 year.

Q: How much is the admission enrollment online payment?

A: I believe it is \$300. Also, if you will be residential, there is a \$250 housing deposit which is non-refundable after May 1st. Please reference the following admissions link online: <http://www.umw.edu/admissions/youarein/next-steps/enrollment-deposit/>.