

# Best Online Colleges and Universities in Wisconsin

Currently, 25 percent of Wisconsin residents have earned a college degree. In an effort to increase that number the University of Wisconsin launched its eCampus program which provides degree programs completely online. An arm of the program is the Flex Option. This facet of the program provides assessment testing for adults to test out of training in skills they have already proven to master.

Working adults, many with children, need the luxury of a flexible learning environment. The best Wisconsin online programs offer career counseling and an online library. At the top of the list of top-rated online Bachelor's degree programs are Maranatha Baptist University and the University of Wisconsin (UW).

The most highly rated UW eCampus locations are:

- Stout
- Green Bay
- La Crosse
- Stevens Point
- Whitewater

## How Much More Can You Make by Having a Degree

It's difficult to measure the value of an education. Although many have found success without a college degree, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) consistently reports that degrees increase lifetime earnings. BLS data shows that a bachelor's degree can increase average weekly earnings from \$907 to \$1,173, a 29 percent average increase.

Furthermore, BLS tracking shows that a Bachelor's degree drops the average individual's unemployment rate from 3.6 to 2.7 percent.

## The most popular online Bachelor's degrees offered in Wisconsin

According to University of Wisconsin statistics, business-related fields top the list of popular college majors. Specialty areas of a business degree include marketing, accounting, and project management. With the growing need for quality in the field of education, teaching is another common choice. Other sought-after online degree programs among Wisconsin students include various disciplines of science, technology, communications, and engineering. The healthcare industry is also booming, in Wisconsin as well as nationwide.

The most common fields of study chosen in Wisconsin colleges are:

- Business
- Education
- Science
- Healthcare
- Communication

## Top Careers in Business

Occupations requiring a Bachelor's degree in Business are projected to grow very quickly over the next decade. The growth of the global economy, complex regulations, and constant revision of tax laws are expected to continue the strong demand for educated business professionals. The increased use of data and market research practices is also creating a demand for research analysts.

#### Average Income

| Career Name       | Number of Jobs | Entry Level | Mid      | Late Career |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Business analyst  | 11,120         | \$44,000    | \$59,000 | \$81,000    |
| Financial analyst | 4,280          | \$45,000    | \$59,000 | \$80,000    |
| Marketing manager | 11,880         | \$41,000    | \$64,000 | \$98,000    |

#### Best Wisconsin Schools for Business

- University of Wisconsin
  - Madison
  - Eau Claire
  - La Crosse

#### Top Careers in Education

A Bachelor's degree in Education will open the door to work in both public and private school systems. An Education degree can be general or specialized. Bachelor's degree holders can become teachers, coaches, and in some cases even principals where a master's degree is not required.

#### Average Income

| Career Name       | Number of Jobs | Entry Level | Mid      | Late Career |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Early Childhood   | 805            | \$23,000    | \$35,000 | \$57,000    |
| Elementary        | 93,135         | \$31,000    | \$45,000 | \$68,000    |
| Special Education | 1,580          | \$31,000    | \$46,000 | \$68,000    |

#### Best Wisconsin Schools for Education

- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- St. Norbert College - De Pere
- Concordia University – Wisconsin – Mequon
- Maranatha Baptist University

#### Top Careers in Computer Science

A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science opens the door to a wide range of career opportunities. Computer technology affects every industry in our economy, as well as our daily lives. Graduates have choices in a variety of rewarding jobs.

#### Average Income

| Career Name         | Number of Jobs | Entry Level | Mid      | Late Career |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Software Developers | 15,840         | \$49,000    | \$70,000 | \$103,000   |
| Systems Analyst     | 14,270         | \$46,000    | \$65,000 | \$ 94,000   |
| Security Analyst    | 1,260          | \$45,000    | \$67,000 | \$ 99,000   |

#### Best Wisconsin Schools for Computer Science

- University of Wisconsin Madison
  - Madison
  - La Crosse
  - Eau Claire
  - Whitewater

#### Top Careers in Healthcare

The Healthcare industry may be the fastest growing field in the country. Healthcare careers also offer a variety of job opportunities. The population is growing, people are living longer, and the need for qualified, degreed candidates is a constant.

| Career Name        | Number of Jobs | Entry Level | Average Income |             |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
|                    |                |             | Mid            | Late Career |
| Pharmacist         | 5,390          | \$77,000    | \$112,000      | \$134,000   |
| Physical Therapist | 4,730          | \$58,000    | \$ 70,000      | \$ 89,000   |
| Registered Nurse   | 55,940         | \$42,000    | \$ 64,000      | \$ 90,000   |

#### Best Wisconsin Schools for Healthcare

- University of Wisconsin
  - Whitewater
  - Milwaukee
  - Superior
- Maranatha Baptist University

#### Top Careers in Communication

A Communications degree is very flexible, providing a broad range of career opportunities. These include public relations, broadcasting, marketing, social media management, and even more.

| Career Name           | Number of Jobs | Entry Level | Average Income |             |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
|                       |                |             | Mid            | Late Career |
| Public Relations      | 3,460          | \$41,000    | \$65,000       | \$97,000    |
| Marketing Coordinator | 3,615          | \$33,000    | \$43,000       | \$57,000    |
| Human Resources       | 2,410          | \$45,000    | \$65,000       | \$92,000    |

#### Best Wisconsin Schools for Communication

- University of Wisconsin
  - Madison
  - Eau Claire
  - Milwaukee
- Marquette University

#### Career Growth in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's economy has grown steadily since the last recession. The labor market has attained the most apparent growth. Unemployment has fallen to an all-time low. In recent years Wisconsin has focused on policies that would increase its labor force. Wisconsin business has diversified, but manufacturing remains a large part of the economy and has grown substantially in the past decade.

As the business world evolves to keep up with technology, many jobs that were once popular are extinct today. To keep up, researchers use current trends to predict which positions will not only survive but thrive into the next decades. Many jobs will morph into the landscape, while new positions will arise. Analysts have compiled data to determine which careers will grow the fastest over the next 10 years.

#### The highest forecasted growth rate for top occupations in Wisconsin

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Computer and Mathematical          | 14.3%  |
| Management                         | 10.9%  |
| Business and Financial             | 10.4%  |
| Architectural and Engineering      | 11.9%  |
| Community and Social Service       | 11.9%  |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science | 11.2%  |
| Healthcare                         | 10.65% |

## Average Wisconsin Tuition and Fees at 4 Year Institution

The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents sets tuition prices and fee schedules. Fee recommendations are submitted by individual student bodies for Chancellor review, followed by approval by the Board of Regents. Tuition and fees are due at time of registration or may be able to enter a credit agreement. UW Online Colleges, as with on-campus students, are considered full-time when registered between 12 and 18 credits. New students are also subject to non-refundable placement test fees as well as other new student fees.

### Wisconsin Public Institutions

| In-state Total | Tuition & Fees | Room    | Board   |
|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| \$16,194       | \$8,504        | \$4,558 | \$3,132 |

### Wisconsin Out-of-state

\$24,354

### National

|          |         |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| \$19,189 | \$8,778 | \$5,850 | \$4,561 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|

### Wisconsin Private Institutions

| In-state Total | Tuition & Fees | Room    | Board   |
|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| \$39,363       | \$29,777       | \$5,465 | \$4,121 |

### National

|          |          |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| \$39,529 | \$27,951 | \$6,463 | \$5,116 |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|

### Wisconsin Out-of-state

\$21,327

## Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Aid

Financial aid programs have made it possible for multitudes of undergraduate students to attend secondary institutions. Grants and loans are available for those proving financial need. The largest grant program is the Pell Grant. Federal loan programs are also available.

Federal grants were received by 46 percent of Wisconsin's undergraduate students. That accounts for 80,894 Pell grants. Grants and loans combined accounted for 69 percent of the federal financial aid awarded in the University of Wisconsin (UW) system.

The State of Wisconsin also provides financial aid for students in the UW education system. Wisconsin state sources accounted for eight percent of student aid in 2017. Institutions in the UW System provided 10 percent while 12 percent was acquired from private and other community sources.

On a national level, 85 percent of full-time students seeking a Bachelor's degree attained financial aid. Public institution students received 83 percent while private nonprofit and for-profit schools received 89 and 87 percent, respectively. The number of students receiving financial aid has grown dramatically since 2001 and seems to be rising steadily.

| Financial Aid            | Wisconsin | Nationally |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Received Federal Grants  | 37%       | 37.7%      |
| Average \$ per Recipient | \$9,490   | \$10,927   |

## Scholarships & Grants

Money is often a deciding factor for college-bound individuals. Postsecondary tuitions climb annually increasing the financial pressure. Along with financial aid, national and state scholarships are available. Many public and private

institutions in Wisconsin offer a variety of scholarship opportunities. Requirements are based on academic history, the field of study, family background, financial need, and other factors.

The following is a list of some of the best opportunities for college scholarships in Wisconsin.

**1. The Kohler Foundation Scholarships**

Amount: Up to \$100,000 over 4 years  
Deadline: March 1  
Link: <http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/scholarships/>

The Kohler Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, philanthropic organization that focuses on art preservation and supporting the performing arts in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin and beyond. The foundation awards two scholarships annually with a maximum award of \$100,000, distributed over four years. The two scholarships are the Herbert V. Kohler Scholarship, awarded to a student based on outstanding leadership abilities. The second is the Ruth DeYoung Kohler Scholarship for artistic ability. Eligible students must be county residents but are not required to attend a Wisconsin institution.

**2. The WRA Education Foundation Scholarship**

Amount: 35 @ \$1,000 to \$2,250  
Deadline: April 1  
Link: <https://www.wirerestaurant.org/education-foundation/scholarships>

The Wisconsin Restaurant Association (WRA) awards the WRA Education Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship is geared toward the hospitality industry and is awarded to students enrolled in a Wisconsin culinary or hospitality programs. Applicants must be enrolled, with a minimum of six credit hours, in a program focused on the restaurant and hospitality industries. Hospitality Management, Culinary Arts, Food Science, and others are acceptable, with a goal of entering the hospitality industry. Each year 35 scholarships are awarded to Wisconsin residents. Applications must include official high school transcripts and a letter of recommendation. It is preferred that the recommendation is written by a hospitality or food service professional or instructor.

**3. The Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundations**

Amount: \$250-\$3,000  
Deadline: March 15  
Website: <http://www.glfh.org/what-we-do/scholarships>

The Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation's (GLHF) mission is to improve the quality of the lives of those diagnosed with bleeding disorders. GLHF offers programs that "educate, support and advocate" for those affected by these disorders, including family members. The Foundation awards scholarships to Wisconsin residents who suffer from bleeding disorders. Applicants must submit their high school transcripts along with three letters of reference, and a 500- to 750-word essay outlining their educational goals and summarizing the challenges they face from their disorder.

**4. The Roma Lodge Merit Scholarship**

Amount: 1 @ \$4,000; 3 @ \$500  
Deadline: March 30  
Link: <https://www.romalodge.com/members/roma-lodge-merit-scholarship>

The Roma Lodge is a fraternal organization. Members share an appreciation for their Italian heritage and the contributions of Italian-Americans to the nation. Roma Lodge awards four scholarships to children of Lodge members each year. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors that have been accepted for full-time college enrollment. Applications require high school transcripts and SAT or ACT scores, along with two letters of recommendation.

**5. The Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship**

Amount: \$2,250 per year for 4 years  
Deadline: September 30  
Link: [http://www.heab.state.wi.us/academicexcellence/hard\\_copy.html](http://www.heab.state.wi.us/academicexcellence/hard_copy.html)

Earning the highest GPA in a Wisconsin private or public school entitles students the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship. One student is chosen from each high school in the state. Recipients must be accepted and attend a Wisconsin post-secondary institution to qualify; WI Technical College, University of Wisconsin, or other eligible institution within Wisconsin. Students must be enrolled by September 30th of the year awarded.

**6. The Indian Student Assistance Grant**

Amount: \$250 to \$1,100  
Deadline: Not specified  
Link: <http://heab.state.wi.us/docs/finadmin/forms/form-indian.pdf>

Wisconsin residents with a high school diploma or equivalent who are of 25 percent or more Native American descent are eligible for the Indian Student Assistance Grant. The grant, issued by the Higher Educational Aids Board, is available to both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in colleges and universities, including tribal colleges, in the state of Wisconsin. Grants are distributed according to financial need and can be renewed for up to 10 semesters.

**7. The Wisconsin Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant**

Amount: \$250 to \$2,500  
Deadline: Not specified  
Link: <http://heab.state.wi.us/programs.html>

Wisconsin Minority Undergraduate Retention Grants are awarded to minority undergraduate students who are Wisconsin residents. Applicants must be African American, Native American, Hispanic, and Southeast Asian from Vietnam, Cambodia, or Laos (admitted after 1975). Grant amounts are issued according to financial need. Applicants must be enrolled, at least half-time, in an eligible Wisconsin postsecondary institution. These Retention Grants can be renewed for up to eight semesters.

**8. The Wisconsin Women's Alliance Foundation Scholarship**

Amount: \$1,000  
Deadline: Not specified  
Link: [https://www.lawrence.edu/mfhe/www\\_core\\_sub\\_admiss/Everyone/WBPW%20Guidlines%202012.pdf](https://www.lawrence.edu/mfhe/www_core_sub_admiss/Everyone/WBPW%20Guidlines%202012.pdf)

Female students, age 25 and older, who have been accepted to a Wisconsin college or university are eligible for the Wisconsin Women's Alliance Foundation Scholarship. Recipients are chosen based on financial need, employment history, volunteer activity, and career goals. The number of recipients and monetary value varies annually, with a maximum of \$1,000 awarded.

**9. The Wisconsin Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Scholarship**

Amount: \$500  
Deadline: February 18  
Link: <https://www.wisconsincattlemen.com/resources/scholarships>

The Wisconsin Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Scholarship (WCA) is awarded to graduating high school seniors accepted and planning to attend an eligible Wisconsin institution. The scholarship is available to Wisconsin residents who have some background in the beef, veal, or dairy industries. Preference is afforded to students planning to major in an agricultural field in a Wisconsin-based school and family members of WCA members. Several scholarships are awarded annually.

**10. Richard Weinreis Memorial Scholarship**

Amount: \$300 (Available twice annually)  
Deadline: March 31  
Link: <https://www.cfoncw.org/index.cfm?pid=33&pageTitle=Scholarships>

Residents of Marathon County in Central Wisconsin are eligible for the Richard Weinreis Memorial Scholarship. Rick Weinreis was a local social worker who was tragically killed in a car accident. His passion was to serve the children and families of the county. This scholarship, in his memory, is geared toward individuals who have had formal court contact with the Department of Social Services juvenile intake system in Marathon County in the past seven years. Applicants must provide an education plan, references, and an essay expressing an attitude for change through personal career advancement.

**Sources:**

[University of Wisconsin](#)

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[Career One Stop](#)

[The Center for Education Statistics](#)

[Payscale.com](#)