
WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

FACT SHEET FALL 2010

The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) is the official organization of the twenty private, or independent, nonprofit accredited degree-granting colleges and universities in Wisconsin.

Enrollment

WAICU-member colleges and universities currently enroll more than 60,000 students. More than two-thirds of WAICU students are from Wisconsin.

Racial/Ethnic Diversity

In 2009, 13 percent of Wisconsin private college students were members of minority groups; 40 percent of enrolled students were non-traditional (age 25 or over). The UW System had an 11 percent minority enrollment and 23 percent of its students were age 25 or over.

Educational Opportunity

Students who qualify for the federal Pell Grant (by definition, those with significant financial need) constitute a higher percentage of enrolled students at Wisconsin private colleges (21 percent) than at 4-year UW System institutions (18 percent).

Transfer students are also welcomed. In 2009, 26 percent of the entering class at Wisconsin private colleges was composed of transfer-in students, compared to 19 percent at UW 4-year schools.

Financial Aid

The average price for tuition and fees at a Wisconsin private college or university during 2008-2009 was \$23,215. The average freshman financial aid package was \$18,478, leaving net tuition costs of just \$4,737. (Additional costs for room and board are comparable in the public and private sectors.)

More than 90 percent of full-time undergraduates at private colleges in Wisconsin receive financial aid. Grants, which do not have to be paid back, make up 71 percent of the average financial aid package.

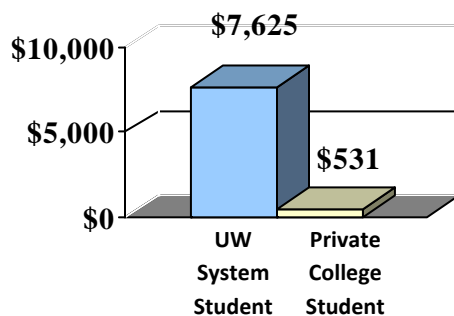
State Funding

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) is the primary state-funded need-based financial aid program for students attending private colleges. The 2009-10 WTG appropriation of \$26.3 million represents less than two percent of all state funds appropriated for higher education.

Leveraging State Tax Dollars

Private higher education is a bargain for state taxpayers. Each full-time-equivalent student attending the UW System is supported by a state taxpayer subsidy of \$7,625 per year, while the comparable support for a full-time-equivalent student at a private nonprofit college is just \$531 per year.

Taxpayer Support to Individual Students



Educational Productivity

Each year, Wisconsin's private institutions produce more than 12,000 graduates, the majority of whom remain in Wisconsin. WAICU members grant 25 percent of Wisconsin's bachelor's degrees and 33 percent of the advanced degrees.

Among the bachelor's degrees, the private colleges produce 26 percent of Wisconsin's computer science graduates, 30 percent of the engineering graduates, 32 percent of the business graduates, and 48 percent of the nursing graduates.

At the graduate level, WAICU members produce 44 percent of the business degrees, 46 percent of the nursing degrees, 71 percent of the physician assistant degrees, and 100 percent of the dentistry degrees.

Personal Attention

The average class size in Wisconsin's private colleges is just 17 students and the student/faculty ratio is 13:1. This personal interaction is just one reason that the majority of students graduating from private colleges do so in four years.

For more information, contact the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities at:
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