

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 56,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month, Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU-member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

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Carthage transfer student finds calling in community service

Nathan Clark knew to be smart and strategic when it came to financing his higher education.

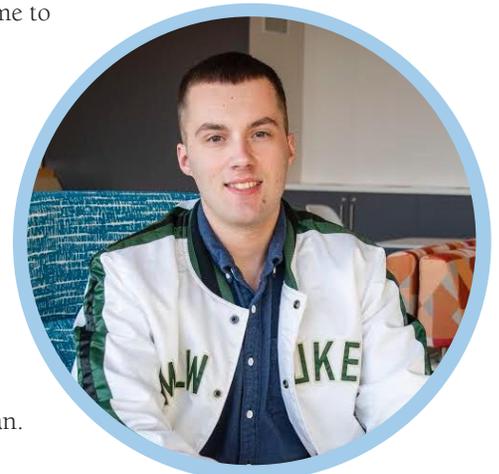
He began his studies at a public university, joining the Wisconsin Army National Guard to help him pay for tuition. Through military aid, scholarships for transfer students, and the Wisconsin Grant, Nathan found it possible to move on to the school of his choice, Carthage College.

"I'm very thankful they allowed me the opportunity to show what I had to offer the college and receive such a generous award. I would never have been able to experience some of the events that have changed my life and are shaping my future without this help," said Nathan.

At Carthage, Nathan joined Enactus, a nonprofit organization that allows students to engage in free enterprise. In his first semester, Nathan and his peers earned third place at the national exposition — although Nathan modestly insists that he didn't contribute that much as a newcomer.

His confidence is more brightly seen in regard to his volunteer work in South Africa. Nathan caught wind of a fundraiser some students were planning for a school they had visited on a previous study

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Nathan Clark

Viterbo University student Nicole Sanders ready for a career in nursing

There was never any doubt about the chosen career of Viterbo University student Nicole Sanders.

"My mom is a nurse, and I used to play with my toy medical kit 'treating' people when I was a kid," said Nicole, a senior from Belleville. "I always knew I wanted to be a nurse."

Nicole discovered Viterbo University on a visit to campus during Wisconsin Private College Week, an annual event organized by WAICU. Her father had attended a nearby public university, and her mother knew the reputation of Viterbo's nursing program. The visit to Viterbo began with the president of the university leading the group in prayer.

"That's when I knew Viterbo was different than other universities," Nicole said. "I fell in love with the hospitality I experienced from everyone, and the School of Nursing building was so nice and had the latest technology."

Four years later, Nicole will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She is very happy with her choice to attend Viterbo.

"Viterbo has become my second home, and I have developed close relationships with my professors, who have great contacts in the medical community," Nicole said.

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Nicole Sanders

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tour to the country. They had seen what the Nkume Primary School was lacking: a safe play area, water, hygienic products, and much more.

Inspired, Nathan helped his peers raise \$10,000, and he traveled with the group to South Africa the following summer. A new play yard was built, the sanitation system was repaired, and desks and classrooms were repurposed. Afterward, Nathan and his fellow students saw that there was still much they could do to help.

What started as a small volunteer group in the summer evolved into a new Carthage student organization: The Future of Africa. In spring 2019, Nathan was elected president of the club.

“The club and its work are my number one priority,” he said. “We are going back to Nkume this June, having fundraised over \$14,000 so far in my first year as president of the organization, and I am extremely excited for its future potential.”

Nathan entered Carthage as a biology and neuroscience double-major, but as a result of experience in Africa, he changed his major to international political economy. After his graduation (anticipated in 2021), Nathan intends to go into public service, either local or international. His decision depends on where the need is greatest and where he can help the most.

“I never would have been able to have been given this amazing opportunity to lead such an important mission if I were not given the financial aid to continue my educational journey to Carthage,” he said. “Everything I was able to experience within my first semester as a Carthaginian, such as going to nationals with Enactus, going to South Africa, and starting a club, shows me that I made the right choice in investing in my education.”

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If she had to choose, Nicole’s favorite class has been “Health, Healing, and Christian Spirituality,” which was taught by both a nursing and a religious studies faculty member. The class allowed students to see the health field “in a different light,” she said.

In addition to her nursing studies, Nicole is the president of Residence Hall Association, is very active in campus ministry, and works as a Voyager campus tour guide.

“I love Viterbo, and I love talking with and meeting new people,” said Nicole about serving as a tour guide for three years. “Viterbo is a very special place, and I like being able to share that with others.”

The close community of a private university also resulted in Nicole becoming a member of the women’s soccer team. During a chance conversation with the university president, Nicole stated she enjoyed playing soccer in high school. The president referred her to the coach, and she ended up joining the team.

Like most students, financial aid such as the Wisconsin Grant is crucial in helping Nicole to afford a college education. After graduation, she hopes to work as a medical/surgical nurse at one of the hospitals in La Crosse or at St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison where her mother worked.

“One of Nicole’s key qualities is her joyful spirit and willingness to approach any situation with positivity,” said Lynne Kuhl, assistant professor of nursing. “I believe Nicole brings a genuine ability to connect to people and will be a compassionate nurse focused upon patients, families, and living Franciscan values in all she does.”



Wisconsin's Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

Alverno College - Milwaukee
 Bellin College - Green Bay
 Beloit College - Beloit
 Cardinal Stritch University - Milwaukee
 Carroll University - Waukesha
 Carthage College - Kenosha
 Concordia University Wisconsin - Mequon
 Edgewood College - Madison

Herzing University - Milwaukee
 Holy Family College - Manitowish
 Lakeland University - Plymouth
 Lawrence University - Appleton
 Marian University - Fond du Lac
 Marquette University - Milwaukee
 Medical College of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design - Milwaukee

Milwaukee School of Engineering - Milwaukee
 Mount Mary University - Milwaukee
 Nashotah House - Nashotah
 Northland College - Ashland
 Ripon College - Ripon
 St. Norbert College - De Pere
 Viterbo University - La Crosse
 Wisconsin Lutheran College - Milwaukee

FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU institutions award 46 percent of nursing (BSN) degrees in the state.

Source: IPEDS 2017-18