

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 nearly 55,000 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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122 W. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703-2723;
608.256.7761;
mail@waicu.org.

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Rebecca Larson
Senior VP for Advocacy

Cassandra Krause
Director of Communications
and Marketing, Editor

Nursing major finds his fit at Marian University

Adam Sydow walks to the beat of his own drum.

Beginning his educational career seeking a degree in radiologic technology, Adam changed course and decided to pursue nursing after his first semester. "Given the job market, it seemed like a good decision to change my major," said Adam. He has now completed his second year at Marian and still stands by his decision to change his major.

Adam grew up in Columbus, Wisconsin. He enjoys collecting records, listening to vinyl, hiking, photography, bird-watching, trivia, Star Wars, and watching Sir. David Attenborough on Planet Earth. He also enjoys running and is a member of Marian's cross country and track teams. On campus, he is a student worker in the Office of Marketing and Communications and a resident hall assistant.



Adam Sydow

"I'm the Marian University 3000-meter steeplechase record holder. Well, I was the first one to do it, thus I'm the record holder," laughs Adam. "I never ran track in high school. I joined track and cross country at Marian for the team atmosphere and to stay in shape. I have enjoyed getting to know everybody that I've met here. Between my jobs and the athletic community, everybody is really warm and lets you into the big

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Lawrence student finds special meaning in campus community

Although both of her parents attended Lawrence University, Arianna Cohen had no intention of being a second generation "Lawrentian."

"Growing up, I never wanted to go to Lawrence," said Arianna. "For as long as I can remember, my parents hosted a freshmen welcome dinner for Milwaukee-area students who were going to Lawrence. They told people they would host the dinner until I was a freshman. I'd laugh and say, 'I'm not going to the same place you went so you'll be hosting this forever.'"

The adage "never say never" rang true when Arianna's college-decision time came.

"Coming here on my own prospective visit, something clicked," Arianna recalled. "I got the behind-the-scenes tour from my parents. That really sold it for me, knowing they loved this place so much and there was so much history for the two of them here. It felt like the right fit."

That "right-fit" feeling remained with Arianna throughout her four years at Lawrence.

"The friends I made my first week freshman year were my friends my final week senior year," said Arianna, who graduated in June with a major in

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Arianna Cohen

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community of athletes and students which has really helped my transition into college.”

The Wisconsin Grant is critically important in Adam’s path to success. “The grants and scholarships available through Marian are a big part of the reason I’m able to attend. A small, private college is the right choice for me, as it allows me the opportunity to engage in things I may not have been able to at a big school.”

The nursing program is rigorous and requires focus, determination, and discipline. Adam carries a full course load, is involved in athletics, and holds two on-campus jobs. In his third year, he will soon begin his clinical portion of his degree, where he will gain more in-depth, hands-on experience.

Adam also has a passion for photography. In his role in the Office of Marketing and Communications, he takes pictures at a variety of events and creates videos. “I knew a lot about taking pictures before I came to Marian,” said Adam. “My on-campus job has offered me so many ways to increase my knowledge in this area, as well as in video. I can actually say that I love my job.”

Through his job and classroom connections, Adam has met and made many friends. He commented, “This campus is so kind. Everyone here really does want the best for you.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU, WTCS, and the UW System have partnered with the Lumina Foundation on a goal of moving Wisconsin to a postsecondary education attainment rate of 60 percent by 2027.

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English. “That’s something I don’t think I could have gotten at a big school. I was able to really spend a lot of time with them and create lasting friendships.”

Fueling her interest in communications, Arianna spent three years on the staff of the student newspaper, including a year as sports editor. She also spent her senior year as a special intern in the communications office. Those experiences helped her land a job at St. Francis Children’s Center, which she started two days after commencement.

While that position will allow her to flex her communications skills, her goal is to write.

“I’ve always loved writing, especially personal, narrative stuff,” said the wannabe author. “By the end of my life, I want to have written at least one book, preferably a memoir. I’ve had an interesting life, and I think a lot of people could relate to some aspects of my life.”

“Interesting” does not necessarily mean easy, though, which is why the Wisconsin Grant has been important to Arianna during her college years.

“I grew up with an older brother with non-verbal autism,” she explained. “He has developed epilepsy, anxiety, and OCD in addition to the autism. That’s a lot of medical bills. My junior year of high school, my father was diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. He was given six months to live, but I ended up having him until my sophomore year of college, which was a blessing. But again, a lot of medical bills. When the recession hit, my dad lost his job and his company. We were struggling financially. Receiving the Wisconsin Grant and applying it toward my education at a school that’s so important to my family has been huge for me and my family.”



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*
 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*
 Neshotah House *Neshotah*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*