

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-three 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 53,000 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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Accessibility outreach helps junior on her Lawrence University journey

Madison Clark, a junior from Kaukauna, is pursuing a double major in creative writing and psychology at Lawrence University. It's a big step on a path she hopes will lead to a doctorate in English and a career in teaching.

The opportunity to study at a university with a stellar reputation in both creative writing and psychology drew Madison to Lawrence. She says the availability of financial help via a Wisconsin Grant played a big role in allowing her to come to Lawrence.

"By having this grant, I feel more at ease knowing that some of my expenses are covered, thus enabling me to concentrate on my education," she says. Madison also was drawn to Lawrence for its small campus size and its academic rigor. Due to a visual impairment, Madison says she was nervous that navigating campus and finding friends would prove challenging, but she happily discovered that the Lawrence community is supportive and welcoming.

"The biggest compliment I heard is that Lawrence has a friendly community," continued on page 2



Madison Clark

Wisconsin Grant allows Bellin College student to pursue dream

Teagan Baeten, Bay Port High School graduate of 2020, was inspired to pursue a career in healthcare after her dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She will graduate from Bellin College in 2024 with her bachelor's degree in nursing.

"I've always wanted to pursue a career in healthcare," she says. "After my dad was diagnosed with cancer, we always had great nurses around to help, which further sparked my interest in nursing." Bellin College specializes in health science education and emphasizes a focused curriculum with hands-on learning. Teagan says her favorite part of her college experience so far is how personable the college is.

"There are about 25 people in my cohort, and we all know each other very well," she says. "It's also nice to know my professors are there to help me whenever I need it."

According to the American Hospital Association, job vacancies for nursing personnel increased by 30 percent between 2019 and 2020, and healthcare systems will need to hire at least 200,000 nurses per year to meet this increasing demand. The Wisconsin Grant makes it possible for students like Teagan to fill these vacancies and remove financial barriers to achieve their career goals in high-demand fields.



Teagan Baeten

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Madison Clark continued from page 1

Madison says of the university located just 10 miles from her home. “After attending my first year, I discovered that this was true.”

Beginning her junior year this fall, Madison says she feels fully immersed in life at Lawrence. She has found the faculty and staff supportive. She connected with staff members in Accessibility Services, who have been helpful in answering questions and helping her navigate campus life.

A campus working group -- Lawrence University Disability Working Group (LUDWiG) -- provides important resources and outreach for students like Madison and for faculty and staff living with disabilities. Its mission is to foster the inclusion and equity of disabled individuals at Lawrence by establishing a self-sustaining platform providing mentorship, education, and equitable access, with the goal of empowering all to be fully engaged members of the Lawrence community.

Madison says Joanna Morey, an accessibility services and academic skills specialist, has been particularly instrumental to her journey at Lawrence. She adds that Ms. Morey’s support has helped her to grow in confidence, both in the classroom and elsewhere on campus. “My Lawrence experience also has allowed me to develop as a person,” adds Madison. “Since I arrived at Lawrence, I have learned how to be more independent and less shy around new people.”

With her passion for writing and her growing interest in the field of psychology, Madison plans on pursuing a PhD in English or psychology and hopes to eventually teach at a college or university. But, like many students, she appreciates the wide array of interdisciplinary courses offered at Lawrence and says her goals are subject to change as she explores more interests.

Exploration, after all, is a big part of a liberal arts education. “I’m striving to become a professor,” says Madison. “I hope that my experiences and education at Lawrence will open the doors to many future opportunities.”

Teagan Baten continued from page 1

“The Wisconsin Grant means so much to me, and I am very grateful to have received it.” she says. “It allows me to work less hours during the school year so I can focus more on studying and my clinicals.”

Bellin College partners with more than 120 clinical agencies around Wisconsin, and helps students find placements within their fields of interest, to prepare them to be confident and successful in their careers. In fact, many students find full-time employment prior to degree completion. Upon graduation, Teagan would like to continue her studies to become a nurse practitioner. She is interested in working in oncology, labor and delivery, or the emergency department.

Bellin College strives to provide Teagan and other students an intellectually stimulating environment through hands-on learning and clinical experience to promote excellence in health care practice.



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
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

Students' chances of graduating in four years are 49 percent higher at WAICU members than at public four-year Wisconsin institutions.

Source: IPEDS, Completions Survey, 2020-21