



NEWS RELEASE

For release: August 25, 2009
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UW Colleges Gets Excellent Grade in Student Financial Aid Audit

An audit by Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education has found the University of Wisconsin Colleges to be in full compliance with the student financial aid portions of the Higher Education Act, according to a letter from the Department of Education received last week.

[David Wilson](#), chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin Extension, said the audit result affirms the UW Colleges' commitment to making higher education accessible to everyone. "Our mission is to be a stepping stone for those who might not otherwise be able to go to college for any number of reasons, including lack of money," Wilson said. "We have a strong commitment to being good stewards of financial aid because we know how important that money is to our 13,000 students."

In the 2008-2009 academic year, 55 percent of students at UW Colleges received some type of financial aid, including \$6.4 million in Wisconsin Higher Education Grants and other state grants, \$8.9 million in Pell Grants and \$23 million in Stafford Loans. Pell Grants do not have to be repaid. Stafford Loans must be repaid after a student leaves school.

Title IV of the Higher Education Act governs federal student financial aid, including Pell Grants, the Direct Loan Program, Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Federal Work-Study, the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

The University of Wisconsin's 13-campus [University of Wisconsin Colleges](#) network offers an [associate degree in arts and science](#) and prepares students of all ages and backgrounds for baccalaureate and professional programs. The [University of Wisconsin-Extension](#) includes Cooperative Extension offices in 72 counties and three tribal nations, 12 Small Business Development Centers and Outreach and E-Learning programs delivered via the 26 UW System campuses and distance-learning channels, as well as the statewide networks of Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television.

For information about financial aid, contact the UW Colleges [Financial Aid Office](#).

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