

ACTION
November 12, 2025

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #26-08

26-27 WI Grant Formula Private Non-Profit Colleges Request

Alverno College
Bellin College
Beloit College
Carroll University
Carthage College
Concordia University Wisconsin
Edgewood University
Herzing University
Lakeland University
Lawrence University



Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities
working together for educational opportunity

Marian University of Wisconsin
Marquette University
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mount Mary University
Ripon College
St. Norbert College
Viterbo University
Wisconsin Lutheran College

November 12, 2025

Robert Bode, Chair
Tammie DeVooght, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board
4822 Madison Yards Way, Seventh Floor
P.O. Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Dear Chair Bode and Executive Secretary DeVooght,

As directed by Wisconsin statute, we are submitting the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) recommendation for the Wisconsin Grant funding formula for low-income Wisconsin students attending private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

WAICU's goal in recommending the formula components continues to be in alignment with WAICU's mission: "working together for educational opportunity." While WAICU institutions do not receive operating dollars from the state as do public institutions, our low-income students do receive support through the Wisconsin Grant which is the primary state-funded, need-based financial aid program for Wisconsin students attending private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

Wisconsin Grants are a proven, cost-effective vehicle for expanding opportunity. By providing state grant aid and targeting those who, without help, could not attend a college or university, Wisconsin will expand its qualified workforce. Additionally, state appropriations for need-based aid also help ensure that low-income students who do enroll in college emerge with an on-time degree and manageable debt levels.

WAICU remains focused on prioritizing our lowest income students. Given this, we are recommending a formula that will maintain the maximum grant at \$4,850 for our lowest income students while reducing funding in the additional Student Aid Index (SAI) eligibility tiers of our formula. We are also recommending an additional tier of funding that can be implemented, only if sufficient funding is available. Please see our formula recommendation attached to this letter.

WAICU is committed to the public-private partnership between member institutions and the State of Wisconsin. In addition to the state and federal aid low-income students may receive, WAICU members support students by:

- Raising funds. Ninety-five percent of grant aid distributed to students enrolled in Wisconsin private, nonprofit colleges or universities are private funds raised/provided by the institutions themselves.

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- Educating more than 52,000 students each year and graduating 23 percent of the state's bachelor's degrees and 33 percent of the state's graduate degrees.

Investments in state aid also serve as an incentive for students to remain in Wisconsin for college. While WAICU is grateful for the recent increase in our appropriation, we remain hopeful there will be continued investments in the Wisconsin Grant Private Nonprofit appropriation, given Wisconsin continues to rank last among our Great Lakes counterparts in need-based aid for students in our sector. WAICU will continue to advocate for increased support for this critical program.

We extend our thanks to the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) staff, specifically Sherrie Nelson and Joy Dyer, for working with WAICU members and WAICU staff, particularly given the complexities of moving from the old main frame system to the new Grants, Loans and Student Scholarships (GLASS) System.

WAICU is hopeful that, going forward, fully implementing the GLASS System will make it possible for HEAB to better project appropriation spending and to share with schools an expected waitlist period that will enable institutions to effectively communicate that information with students. Given this uncertainty with appropriation spending, WAICU reserves the right to recommend modifications in the formula, particularly if new information becomes available and/or if additional funds are allocated for the Wisconsin Grant.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this WAICU recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Eric W. Fulcomer, PhD
President and CEO

Attachment

cc: WAICU Presidents
WAICU Financial Aid Directors Group

Private, Nonprofit Wisconsin Grant Formula 2026-2027

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
SAI Tier	-1,500	8,001	10,001	12,001	14,001
	8,000	10,000	12,000	14,000	9,999,999
2026-2027 full-time, full-year award	\$4,850	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0

Additional tier only if funds are available: students with SAI between 14,001 and 16,000 receive \$1,000.

**PROPOSED 2026-27 FORMULA
WISCONSIN GRANT – PRIVATE NON-PROFIT (WG-PNP)**

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Recommendation 2026-27 WG-PNP Formula:

Recommendation of Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU):

Maximum award: \$4,850

Maximum SAI to receive the maximum WG-PNP award: 8,000

SAI tier	-1,500 – 8,000	8,001 – 10,000	10,001 – 12,000	12,001 – 14,000	14,001 – 9,999,999
Full-year, full-time WG-PNP award	\$4,850	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0

Additional tier only if funds are available to students with SAI between \$14,001 - \$16,000 receive \$1,000.

Current 2025-26 WG-PNP Formula

Maximum award: \$4,850

Minimum award:

Maximum SAI to receive the maximum WG-PNP award: 10,000

Highest SAI tier to receive the minimum WG-PNP award: 16,001-18,000

SAI tier	0 – 8,000	8,001 – 10,000	10,001 – 12,000	12,001 – 14,000	14,001 – 16,000	16,001 – 18,000
Full-year, full-time WG-PNP award	\$4,850	\$4,850	\$3,567	\$2,283	\$1,000	\$1,000 (only if funds are available)

Other Information:

2026-2027 Appropriation: \$32,472,600

2025-2026 Appropriation: \$30,394,100

2024-2025 Appropriation: \$28,504,600