



Office of Student Financial Aid Financial Aid Facts 2008–09

This is the ninth issue of *Financial Aid Facts*.
The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) hopes that you find this information enlightening and useful.

The Numbers for 2008–09 (So Far ...)

As we head into the wonderland that is Wisconsin in the winter, the mid-point of the school year approaches. This gives us the opportunity to show you a snapshot of where the undergraduate awarding process is as far as numbers of awards and dollar amounts.

- 19,012 students filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 17,071 were awarded some form of aid.
- 9,864 students were awarded scholarships totaling \$48,515,130.

- 7,067 students were awarded need-based loans totaling \$34,014,881.
- 7,009 students were awarded need-based grants totaling \$30,493,131.
- 3,565 students were awarded work-study funds totaling \$8,123,109.

Please Note: The figures above are totals through 10/22/08. They do not reflect the entire 2008–09 academic year.

The Credit Crunch — How Will It Affect Students?

The current credit crunch has everyone wondering how they will be affected. Our office doesn't anticipate that federal loans, specifically the Stafford student loans, will be very affected by the current situation. Congress has recently passed the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 which is providing assistance to education lenders so they can continue to offer federal Stafford Loans to students. Due to this action by congress we anticipate few problems with UW–Madison students obtaining federal Stafford Loans through the 2009–10 school year. If this current credit crisis lasts beyond the 2009–10 academic year, this situation may change.

The problems with accessing credit may be with consumer loans that might be used for funding post-secondary education. These loans may include home equity loans or private, alternative educational loans. The alternative loans are not federally insured and lending institutions set their own terms. If the cost of credit goes up, then the lending institutions will either have to raise their

terms, such as interest and fees charged, to higher levels or they will decide they can no longer make a profit on these types of loans and will suspend lending. At UW–Madison, about 10 percent of students with financial aid access alternative loans. These are the students that may find it more difficult to obtain alternative loans due to higher costs or locating a lender who is willing to lend to them.

Is there a best way to protect a student's ability to borrow? If we had an answer to that question, we would certainly pass it along to our students. There are two things that we always tell students who are interested in alternative loans: (1) pay all your bills on time to keep a good credit rating, and (2) be sure to access all of the federal loans you can before you look for other means of funding your education.

If you have specific questions, feel free to contact our student loan office at 262–4987.

The “Big Move” is Here

In the last issue of *Financial Aid Facts* in June the move of our office to a new location was discussed. At that time, the move still seemed a long way off. Now we're looking at those dates and watching them approach very quickly.

As previously mentioned, we are moving to the ninth floor of the University of Wisconsin student services tower at 333 East Campus Mall, part of the new University Square building. The move is scheduled for December 8 and 9. During this time, we are going to do everything we can to maintain our normal service to our customers, but please bear with us as we move a whole department and try to adapt to new surroundings.

At this same time, we will be changing the name of our department to the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA). This is a return to our roots.

Our new address will be:

Office of Student Financial Aid
333 East Campus Mall, Suite 9701
Madison, WI 53715–1382

All phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

Fund Raising Update — Great People, Great Place

In the last issue of *Financial Aid Facts*, we highlighted the various initiatives in place to raise money for need-based aid. One of these initiatives is the Great People. Great Place Scholarship Drive, which is being conducted by the UW Foundation.

In 2007, the Board of Directors of the UW Foundation voted unanimously to allocate \$20 million for a need-based financial aid challenge program. Unrestricted campus-wide gifts will be matched dollar for dollar. Endowment level gifts directed to a specific college or school will be matched 50 cents on the dollar.

The intent of need-based financial aid is to include it as a part of the total package of gift aid (grants) and work-study programs so

that qualified, economically disadvantaged students can afford to attend UW–Madison and graduate on time with a manageable loan debt.

Our office estimates that there is an unmet need in excess of \$20 million for students who have financial need at UW–Madison. Specifically, the gap between the amount UW–Madison students have with all available funding packages and the cost of tuition, housing, and supplies increased nearly 28 percent between 2000 and 2005. Academically talented students can be accepted by the UW but the unmet need gap may keep them from attending.

Remembering the (Mostly) Good Times at 432 North Murray Street

Now that the move to brand new offices is almost here, the employees in the OSFA office have been taking some time to reminisce about our home for almost 40 years at 432 North Murray Street. As you can imagine, with so many years spent in one building, there are a mixture of good and bad memories.

There are two staff members who win the prize for having worked at 432 N. Murray for the entire time the office has been located at this address. One is Director Emeritus Wally Douma, the other is Program Assistant Diana Richard. Wally started the office in 1964. Diana came onboard in 1968. In 1969, the office moved to the current 432 North Murray Street location.

Wally recalls having to close the office during the Vietnam War–era because of tear gas fumes. The Athletics Department loaned us red benches in the early days so that students waiting to see counselors had something to sit on other than the floor. He recalls with pride that our office was one of the first on campus to get window air conditioners and fluorescent lights to replace the bare bulbs that hung from the ceiling, and the year everyone got his/her own calculator.

Diana's memories focus more on the changes that have taken place in processing financial information. She remembers having to

use a typewriter to type the entire *OSFA Need Analysis Manual* and then having it xeroxed at the (now torn down) Peterson Office Building. She recalls when authorization of aid was done manually with cards and typed sheets, paper files, and a file room (instead of an imaging system), long lines of students and "fee waivers" for students whose aid award arrived late. One particularly interesting fact is that there were still elderly men living in the building when OSFA moved in. These men rented rooms from the University Club. The crack of billiard balls could be heard during lunch breaks.

Now OSFA does most everything electronically and there are no long lines of students. It's hard to imagine those times when paper was the only mode of communication.

Other memories shared by OSFA staff include at times over the years sharing office space with bats, bugs, and other vermin. There has been the hiss and clatter of ancient radiators, confrontations between student demonstrators and police, the sounds of rallies and mini-musical concerts on the Library Mall, and the risk of riding in an elevator that worked most of the time but not always.

While we look forward to moving to our new offices at 333 East Campus Mall, the unique and character-filled offices at 432 North Murray will be sorely missed.

New Faces in OSFA

Anna Kerns has joined our staff as a financial aid counselor. Prior to coming to UW–Madison, she worked for four years at Duke University as a financial aid counselor and manager of the work study program. Anna received her bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and her master's degree from North Carolina State University.

Lauren Moser is an associate student services coordinator for award reconciliation. This is a joint appointment between OSFA and the Athletics Department. Lauren was the assistant director of compliance at the University of North Texas and compliance assistant at Tulane University before coming to UW–Madison. This is a homecoming for Lauren—she graduated from UW–Madison in 2002. As an undergraduate Lauren was a member of the UW crew team.

John Whitt has joined our staff as a financial aid analyst. He, too, is a UW–Madison graduate, where he majored in ancient and medieval history. John worked for the State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board for the past 10 year, and he also worked at the University Book Store prior to taking his current OSFA position.

If You Have Questions

For more information, please contact **Jim Buske**, 263–1364 or james.buske@finaid.wisc.edu.

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