

# 2011-2012 Financial Aid Checklist for New Undergraduate B-W Students



**Welcome to the B-W family!** Receiving your Award Letter and reviewing the helpful information that accompanies it is just the first step to securing your financial aid at B-W. Many of the financing options available to you require additional steps before funds can be credited to your B-W student account.

**The items on this checklist should be completed between June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>** (exceptions: direct payments and payment plans).

Determine which financing option, or combination of options, works best for you and your family:

- Direct payments** can be made to B-W, through the Bursar's Office (also called the "Billing Office" or Cashier's Office"), directly from their website: [www.bw.edu/resources/cashier](http://www.bw.edu/resources/cashier). If resources are available, payments of each semester's balance can be made in August and January, once you receive your billing statement from the Bursar's Office. Otherwise, consider payments in conjunction with other financing options.
- If you're interested in using a **payment plan** to finance your education, contact the Bursar's Office directly: [cashier@bw.edu](mailto:cashier@bw.edu) or 440-826-2217.
- Federal Direct Loans** require you to complete Entrance Counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note before any funds can be applied to your student billing account. You can complete both of these requirements online: [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
  - **Important notes about Federal Direct Loans:**
    - If you want to reduce the amount of Federal Direct Stafford Loan(s) offered to you, or if you do not want to borrow any amount of the Federal Direct Stafford Loan(s) listed on your Award Letter, you must complete the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Change Form, #4 on our website: [www.bw.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/forms)
    - There is a 0.5% fee taken by the government for these loans. If you borrow a total of \$5500 in Federal Direct Stafford Loans, you will receive \$5,472.50 (or \$2,736.25 per semester). More information about this fee can be found here: [www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/direct](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/direct)
- A Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students or PLUS Loan** requires your

parent to fill out a loan application through the U.S. Department of Education. PLUS loan quick facts: approvals are credit-based, the interest rate is 7.9%, repayment starts 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed (for a term of typically 10 years), and a loan fee of 2.5% is deducted from the amount you borrow, meaning B-W will receive 2.5% less than the amount you've requested, so be sure to plan accordingly. More information about PLUS loans and the online application can be found here:

[www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/PLUS](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/PLUS)

- **How do we determine how much to borrow?** You need to consider the amount needed to pay *Your Financial Responsibility*, as shown on your Award Letter, as well as any eligible school expenses you need loan funds to cover. Resident students generally do not need to finance more than their financial responsibility. Commuter students, on the other hand, may need to borrow for books, travel expenses, meals, etc. It is important to review the amount needed before applying for this loan. You may also wish to use a the 11/12 Financing Worksheet, #9 on our website: [www.bw.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/forms)
- Students whose parents **apply for and are denied a PLUS loan** are eligible for additional Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan funds. The amount is based on class standing: incoming freshmen with 0-56 earned credits can receive up to \$4,000 additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan funds due to a PLUS denial. The additional unsubsidized loan funds are not automatically included when a PLUS loan is denied. Students must formally request the loan by completing the 11/12 PLUS Denial/Additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan Form, #6 on our website: [www.bw.edu/finaid/forms](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/forms)
- Private education loans** should only be used when all other Federal student loan options available to you (Direct Loans, Perkins) have been exhausted and your parents are unwilling or unable to borrow a Federal PLUS loan. Private loans are credit-based and, in most cases, a credit-worthy cosigner will be required. The interest rate for a private loan is based on the credit record of the cosigner. Private education loans take up to 8 weeks to process, so be sure to apply by July 15<sup>th</sup>. More information about private loans can be found here: [www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/private](http://www.bw.edu/finaid/loans/private). **How do I determine how much to borrow?** See the answer under the PLUS loan section above.
- Federal Perkins Loans** also require a Master Promissory Note (MPN). If you have been offered a Federal Perkins Loan, the B-W Perkins Loan Office will contact you in August with instructions on how to complete your Perkins Loan MPN.

**Baldwin-Wallace College ♦ Office of Financial Aid**

Phone: 440-826-2108 ♦ Fax: 440-826-8048

Email: [finaid@bw.edu](mailto:finaid@bw.edu) ♦ Web: [www.bw.edu/finaid](http://www.bw.edu/finaid)

Facebook: B-W Financial Aid ♦ Twitter: BWFinAid