

## IMPORTANT FALL SEMESTER FINANCIAL AID UPDATE

Please review the following information regarding financial aid disbursement for the Fall 2009 semester. If you do not receive financial aid, you may disregard this message.

### ***“WHAT DO I OWE?”***

Billing statements will be viewable on PAWS (they are NOT mailed) on approximately July 31. Your anticipated financial aid is included on your electronic billing statement. If the amount of anticipated aid is LESS than the amount owed, you will have to make arrangements to pay the balance.

Billing/payment plan questions should be directed to the Bursar Office: (414) 229-4914. Any questions regarding cancellation should also be directed to that department. You should also review their website for important information < <http://www.bfs.uwm.edu/depts/AcctsRec.HTM>>

Questions regarding bills for University Housing should be directed to either the Bursar or Housing Office: (414) 229-4065.

### ***“WHEN WILL MY AID DISBURSE?”***

Financial Aid will begin disbursing August 24, ten days before classes begin. You will be able to see aid posted on your PAWS account after 12 noon that day. Our office will send you an email either confirming your aid has disbursed or explaining why it has not disbursed.

When disbursement begins, call volume in our office is extremely high. You may experience difficulty in speaking with a financial aid representative. The easiest way to verify your funds have disbursed is by checking your PAWS account and reading email sent to your UWM account.

If you are expecting an excess cash check, please make sure that your mailing address on PAWS is correct. The Bursar's Office will begin mailing these on Wednesday, August 26.

### ***“WHAT COULD PREVENT MY AID FROM DISBURSING?”***

Even when disbursement runs smoothly, some students experience delays in receiving their funds. The most common problems are listed below:

- **CREDIT LEVEL:** Regardless of what you may have indicated on your FAFSA form, all financial aid awards are based on the assumption of full time enrollment. **If you are an undergraduate student planning to enroll for less than 12 credits or a graduate student taking less than 8 credits, you must notify us of your fall semester credit level before your aid can disburse.** (In most cases, a minimum of six undergraduate credits or four graduate credits is required to receive any amount of financial aid.) If you have not previously provided our office with this information, please send an email to [finaid@uwm.edu](mailto:finaid@uwm.edu) telling us how many credits you will take. (Please indicate CREDIT LEVEL in the subject line and also make sure you include your STUDENT ID # in the body of your email.) You may also contact us by submitting a “Counselor Request” via your PAWS account. Failure to notify our department by **July 31, 2009** may result in a delay in the disbursement of your aid.
- **STAFFORD AND/OR GRAD PLUS LOAN MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE (MPN) and ENTRANCE LOAN COUNSELING:** Both are required for these types of funds to disburse. If this is your first time receiving one of these loans, you will need to complete a MPN (which is the actual loan

application.) First-time borrowers are also required to go through Entrance Loan Counseling (a tutorial and quiz.) Please visit the **"ONLINE LOAN APPLICATIONS"** <<http://www4.uwm.edu/financialaid/LoanProcess/ffelp1.cfm>> section of our website to complete these requirements online.

***"WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?"***

If you change your credit level after your aid disburses, an adjustment to your award may be required. For details, please refer to the **"Census Date"** section of the online version of the 2009-2010 Financial Aid Handbook < <http://www4.uwm.edu/financialaid/pdf/FinancialAidHandbook0910.pdf>>.

You are encouraged to use the **"Ask the Panther,"** feature found on our website. This allows you to submit your questions 24/7 and most questions will be answered immediately. You can contact us by phone at (414) 229-4541, or email [finaid@uwm.edu](mailto:finaid@uwm.edu), or in person in Mellencamp Hall, room 162. Our office is open from 8am to 6pm on Mondays and 8am to 4:30pm Tuesday through Friday. Advisors are available to assist with more complex issues via phone as well as in person. Please call in advance to schedule an appointment.

Wishing you a safe and restful summer and a successful fall semester,

UWM Department of Financial Aid, Student Employment, and Military Education Benefits

<http://www4.uwm.edu/financialaid>