Commonly Asked Questions

What is a Life Coach?
A life coach is someone who can support you in all areas of your life. A life coach can help you decide on a major and career choice. They can assist you in personal decisions, such as how to find support for your family, how to communicate effectively with professors, and how to work through relationship issues. The Life Impact Program life coach can also connect you to resources on and off campus. The program resources can be for basic family needs, academic help, professional guidance, and other support services.

What does “open” application mean?
The Life Impact Program has an open application process. This means that we accept applications year-round. If someone should submit an application after the selection committee has made their final selections for 2015-2016, the application may be considered for a spring alternate position, if space becomes available.

Is the Life Impact Program competitive to get into?
Yes. Every year we receive more applications than there are spaces available to fill. In order to stay competitive, please be sure you have another person proof read your personal statement, submit a complete application and inform the program of any changes in your contact information.

What if I’m not admitted to UWM yet? Can I still apply to Life Impact?
Yes. You can apply to UWM while also applying to the Life Impact Program. However, your acceptance to the program is contingent on your admission to UWM. Therefore, if you don’t get into UWM or are unable to register for Fall 2015 classes, or Spring 2016 classes if you are applying for Spring 2016, any offer to enter the Life Impact Program would be withdrawn. See the UWM Admissions website for further information on re-applying to UWM after being declined.

My FAFSA application is incomplete? Can I still apply to Life Impact?
Yes. You can complete your FAFSA application while also applying to the Life Impact Program. However, completing the FAFSA is required to be considered and admitted to the Life Impact Program. Your application to Life Impact cannot be considered if you fail to complete this process within a timely fashion.
Can I still apply if I do not have a 2.5 GPA?

Yes. Students who may not have the preferred GPA of 2.5 are still eligible to apply. Students are selected for more than their GPA. A person who does not have a 2.5 GPA is encouraged to indicate in their personal statement the reasons for why they did not do well academically in the past and what they think they can do in order to improve their academics in the future. It is also highly recommended that if you do not have a 2.5 GPA that your letter of recommendation be from someone who feels confident in your ability to do better in school than what you have done in the past. A high school, GED or college instructor would be a good example of someone that you could consider.

What happens if I enter on probation?

Students who are accepted into the Life Impact Program and have a GPA lower than a 2.5 will generally be placed on program probation. This means that the student will need to meet with the life impact staff more often to monitor the student’s academic progress throughout the semester. It also means that they must receive a 2.5 TERM GPA the semester you enter the program in order to continue in the program the following semester.

How does Life Impact define full-Time?

For the purposes of Life Impact, full-time means 24 credits in an academic year. This means these credits can be spread over the fall, spring, winterim and summer terms. A student, for example, can be registered for 12 credits in the fall, 8 in the spring, and 4 in the summer instead of doing 12 credits in the fall and 12 credits in the spring. Please note that UWM defines full-time differently than Life Impact. In order to be considered full-time as an undergraduate with the university, a student must be enrolled for 12 credits during the fall and spring semesters. Financial aid also defines full-time as being enrolled for 12 credits.

What does disadvantaged mean?

In order to be eligible to apply for the Life Impact Program, you must be considered financially disadvantaged. In order to determine if an applicant is financially disadvantaged, all applicants to Life Impact must complete a FAFSA. In general, students who are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, are considered financially disadvantaged. Several other factors may also be considered when determining a student’s financial status. If appropriate, a person may choose to describe other special financial circumstances in their personal statement. Examples of this may include, receiving Foodshare, using WIC services or having children eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Can dependent students apply for the program?

Either independent or dependent students can apply to the Life Impact Program. All applicants are viewed the same way in that we look at whether or not the applicant is financially disadvantaged. In general, we review the applicant’s Pell eligibility. For a dependent student, the parent(s) financial information will be used, along with the applicant’s financial information.
My family dynamics are unique. Am I able to apply to the program?

If you are uncertain about whether you can apply for any reason, you are welcome to call the Life Impact Program to speak to the Program Manager. You can discuss your circumstances confidentially and get clarification on your eligibility to apply.

What if I already have an undergraduate degree?

There is a preference for applicants pursuing a first bachelor’s degree. We do consider applicants that already have an undergraduate degree, however, an applicant in this situation may want to explain in their personal statement why they are pursuing another undergraduate degree.

Can I apply to the program as a Graduate or PhD Student?

No. The Life Impact Program does not accept applications from students pursuing masters or doctoral degrees.

Does the Life Impact Program exist at other Universities or Colleges?

No. The Life Impact Program is exclusive to UWM.

Who Should I Ask to Write my Letter of Recommendation?

A good person to ask to write your letter of recommendation is someone who you feel will be able to easily write about the kind of person, parent, employee, community member and/or student that you are or hope to be. They should also be able to say why they feel strongly that you would be a good candidate for the Life Impact Program. It is advisable that you select someone that is familiar with your academic ability, your work ethic and/or your long-term academic and career goals. It would be beneficial if the person knew you well enough to include personal stories that demonstrate your strengths. Teachers, supervisors and religious or community leaders for whom you have known for a considerable amount of time generally meet these criteria. Try to ask the writer at least a month or two in advance so they can write the best possible letter in your honor. It may also help the writer if you told them about the Life Impact Program and why being part of Life Impact is important to you.

You are able to submit the letter of recommendation with your application or you may have the writer submit it separately. If the writer submits the letter separately, be sure they are aware of when they must have it submitted to our office. Asking a family member or friend is not advisable.

When and how are applicants informed of their application status?

Applicants will be informed of their status with the program on July 1st, 2015, if applying for Fall 2015 and January 26th, 2016, if applying for Spring 2016. All applicants will be informed of their status in writing. For this reason, if you should happen to move, please contact the Life Impact Program and provide your new address information. In some cases we may reach you via phone or email, for instance to schedule a finalist interview, get clarification on your application and/or provide follow-up pertaining to an incomplete
application. Therefore, it is in your best interest to also update your contact information with us immediately.

What are the program requirements I have to complete if I am accepted into the Life Impact Program?

*The Life Impact Program is much more than a scholarship.* Each year, program participants are required to complete several activities, including, but not limited to the following examples:

- Attend a Welcome Orientation
- Attend one student parent workshop per semester
- Attend several individual appointments with the Life Coach Team
- Attempt to complete 24 credits in an academic year
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA each semester
- Complete various online surveys
- Complete yearly FAFSA by the priority deadline
- Enroll in and pass Econ 110

Where can I get more information about the program?

Go to [www.lifeimpact.uwm.edu](http://www.lifeimpact.uwm.edu). You may also email us questions at mycoach@uwm.edu or call us at 414-229-6626.

Thank you for your interest in the Life Impact Program!