

High school seniors who signed the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge need to realize the program is not a victim of state budget cuts. Jamin Whitman, UW-La Crosse's new Wisconsin Covenant Coordinator, says the program is full steam ahead for the initial class who signed the covenant as eighth graders and entering college this fall.

She says it's important for high school seniors who signed the pledge four years ago to realize they must take action by April 1st. To be recognized as a Covenant Scholar and to receive grant money, students must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Wisconsin Covenant Confirmation Form by April 1st. Approved scholars will receive at least \$250 for each of the next four years, with potential for more depending on financial need.

While the program is set to expire under the governor's current budget proposal, Whitman says current eighth graders are still eligible, but they must sign the pledge by September 30th.

Whitman says along with providing financial aid, the Wisconsin Covenant program at UW-La Crosse will provide other assistance when the scholars arrive on campus. The services include:

- Referrals to appropriate campus resources
- Workshops on transitioning to college and overall success
- Financial literacy opportunities
- Community service experiences
- Social and cultural activities
- Communication with families.

Complete details on the program are at: wisconsin covenant.wi.gov