

Due Date Update

Underpayment interest may not be required for certain 2020 income tax returns. For information on determining if your 2020 income tax return does not require underpayment interest, see the article [2020 Wisconsin Tax Return Due Dates and Payments](#).

2020 Wisconsin Schedule U Instructions

Purpose of Schedule U

Use Schedule U to see if you owe interest for underpaying your estimated tax and, if you do, to figure the amount of interest you owe. It may be used by individuals, partnerships, estates, and trusts (except trusts subject to the Wisconsin tax on unrelated business income must use Form U, *Underpayment of Estimated Tax by Corporations*).

Who Must Pay Underpayment Interest

If you did not pay enough estimated tax by any due date, or if you did not have enough Wisconsin income tax withheld, you may be charged interest on the underpayment. This is true even if you have a refund when you file your tax return. Underpayment interest is figured separately for each due date. Therefore, you may owe underpayment interest for an earlier payment due date, even if you pay enough tax later to make up the underpayment.

In general, you may owe underpayment interest for 2020 if you did not pay at least the smaller of

- 90% of your current year (2020) tax liability, or
- 100% of your prior year (2019) tax liability if you filed a 2019 return that covered a full 12 months.

Note: The alternative to pay 100% of prior year tax liability does **not** apply to an estate or trust with taxable income of \$20,000 or more.

Exception Codes

You will not owe underpayment interest if the total tax shown on your 2020 return minus the amount of tax you paid through withholding is less than \$500. To determine whether you qualify for this exception, complete lines 1 through 6.

If this exception does not apply to you, see below for other exceptions which may apply.

Following are the exception codes to enter on your income tax return if they apply. If more than one exception code applies to you, enter the lowest applicable code number in the space.

Code 02 Prior full-year resident 12-month tax return was zero (page 1)	Code 07 Active duty stationed outside U.S. (page 2)
Code 03 Estate or grantor trust-within 2 years of date of death (page 1)	Code 08 Tax not withheld evenly throughout the year (page 3)
Code 04 Farming or fishing (page 1)	Code 09 Net operating loss (page 5)
Code 05 Casualty, disaster, or other unusual circumstance (page 2)	Code 10 Federally-declared disaster or terroristic military action (page 1)
Code 06 Retired or disabled (page 2)	

Exceptions

You will not have to pay underpayment interest if any one of the following applies:

- (1) You were a Wisconsin resident for the **entire** 2019 year, your tax liability for 2019 was zero, and your 2019 tax return was (or would have been had you been required to file) for a full 12 months. If you (and your spouse if filing a joint return) qualify for this exception, enter exception code "02" in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.
- (2) The taxpayer is an estate or grantor trust funded on account of a decedent's death and the tax return is for a tax year that ends within two years after the date of death. Enter exception code "03" in the space on the underpayment interest line of Form 2.
- (3) Your gross income from farming or fishing during 2019 or 2020 is at least two-thirds of your total gross income and you file your 2020 Wisconsin return and pay the balance due on or before March 1, 2021. Enter exception code "04" in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

Note: Total gross income is the joint total gross income of a married couple filing a joint return.

- (4) You qualify for an extension of time to file your 2020 federal return or make any of your federal estimated tax payments because of a federally-declared disaster or terroristic or military action. Enter exception code "10" in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

Waiver of Underpayment Interest

If you have an underpayment on line 20 for any payment due date, you may apply for a partial or total waiver of the interest for that underpayment if:

- You underpaid because of a casualty, disaster, or other unusual circumstance and exception (4) on page 1 does not apply to you (use exception code "05").
- In 2019 or 2020 you retired after age 62 or became disabled and your underpayment was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect (use exception code "06").
- You were on active duty with the United States armed forces and were stationed outside the continental United States (use exception code "07").

To apply for a partial or total waiver, enter the appropriate exception code in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

If applying for a **partial waiver**, also complete lines 1 through 8 and 16 through 29 of Schedule U. Enclose Schedule U and an explanation of how you qualify for the waiver and how much of the underpayment interest should be waived with your return.

If applying for a **total waiver**, do not complete Schedule U. Instead, enclose an explanation with your return titled "Application for Waiver of Interest on Underpayment of Estimated Tax."

Part I – Required Annual Payment

Complete lines 1 through 8 to figure your required annual payment.

Note: If you file an amended 2020 return, use the amounts shown on your amended return to figure your underpayment.

Line 2

Fill in on line 2 the total of the refundable credits from your 2020 return (lines 27 through 32 of Form 1, lines 61 through 66 of Form 1NPR, or lines 14 and 15 of Form 2).

Line 7

Prior Year Tax Figure your 2019 tax. Use the net tax from your 2019 return (line 28 of Form 1, line 53 of Form 1NPR, line 10 of Form 2, or line 1 of Form 3), less any refundable credits (from lines 36 through 41 of Form 1, lines 61 through 66 of Form 1NPR, or lines 14 and 15 of Form 2).

If your 2019 return was adjusted either by the department or by the filing of an amended return, use the adjusted amounts when determining your prior year tax.

CAUTION Do not complete line 7 if any one of the following applies. Instead, fill in the amount from line 4 on line 8.

- Your 2019 tax was for less than 12 months, or
- The taxpayer is an estate or trust and has 2020 taxable income of \$20,000 or more.

Filing Status Change If you are filing a joint return for 2020, but you did not file a joint return for 2019, add the tax shown on your 2019 return to the tax shown on your spouse's 2019 return and fill in the total on line 7.

If you filed a joint return for 2019 but you are not filing a joint return for 2020, your 2019 tax is your share of the tax on the joint return. To figure your share, first figure the tax both you and your spouse would have paid had you filed separate returns for 2019. Then multiply your joint tax liability by the following fraction:

$$\frac{\text{Your separate tax liability}}{\text{Both spouses' separate tax liabilities}}$$

Line 8

If the amount on line 5 is equal to or more than the amount on line 8, do not complete the rest of Schedule U. You do not owe underpayment interest.

Part II – Short Method

You may use the short method if:

- You made no Wisconsin estimated tax payments (or your only payments were withheld Wisconsin income tax), or
- You made estimated tax payments in four equal amounts by the due dates.

New **Note:** Any due date that is on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020.

Note: If any payment was made early, using the short method may cause you to pay more interest than the regular method. If the payment was only a few days early, the difference will generally be small.

Do not use the short method if:


- You made any of your estimated tax payments late, or
- You want to use the annualized income installment method (see Part IV), or
- You treat withholding as paid when it was actually withheld, instead of in four equal amounts, or
- You claim a waiver for any period (see “Waiver of Underpayment Interest” on page 2).

If you can use the short method, complete lines 9 through 15 and do not complete the rest of Schedule U. Otherwise, go on to Part III.

Part III – Regular Method

Complete lines 16 through 29 to compute underpayment interest using the regular method.

Line 16

 **Required Installments** Divide the amount on line 8 by four (4) and fill in the result in each column.

CAUTION Any due date that is due on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020. If your first due date is July 15, 2020, enter the total of the first two payments in column (b) and the remaining two payments in columns (c) and (d). **Example:** The amount on line 8 is \$1,000. Divide \$1,000 by 4 (\$250). Enter \$500 in column (b) and \$250 in columns (c) and (d).


Exceptions

- If you did not receive your income evenly throughout the year, you may be able to lower the amount of your required installment for the due dates by using the annualized income installment method. See Part IV for further information.
- If your gross income from farming or fishing for 2019 or 2020 is at least two-thirds of your total gross income, fill in the amount from line 8 in the last column of line 16. Fill in 0 (zero) in the first three columns. Also, enter exception code “04” in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return. **Note:** A partnership cannot use exception code “04”. Under sec. 71.09(1) (a), Wis. Stats., a farmer or fisher must be an individual, estate, or trust.

Line 17


Estimated Tax Paid Fill in the estimated tax that you (and your spouse if filing a joint return) paid for each installment period. Do not fill in on line 17 any payment made after January 15, 2021. Any payment made after January 15, 2021, and before April 15, 2021, should be entered on line 22 as a late payment.

Exception If you file your 2020 income tax return and pay the balance due by January 31, 2021, that payment will be accepted as your January 15 installment payment.

 **Note:** Any due date that is on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020.

Line 18

Tax Withheld You are considered to have paid one-fourth of any withheld Wisconsin income tax on each payment due date unless you can show otherwise. Fill in one-fourth of any withheld Wisconsin income tax in each of the four columns.

 **Note:** Any due date that is on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020. If your first due date is July 15, 2020, divide the amount on line 5 by four (4). Enter the total of the first two amounts in column (b) and the remaining two amounts in columns (c) and (d). **Example:** The amount on line 5 is \$800. Divide \$800 by 4 (\$200). Enter \$400 in column (b) and \$200 in columns (c) and (d).

If your tax was not withheld evenly throughout the year, you may fill in the amounts actually withheld during each period. Also, enter exception code “08” in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

Line 20


Underpayment If line 20 is zero in all four columns, do not complete the rest of Schedule U. You do not have an underpayment. If there is any amount in any column of line 20, complete the rest of Part III.

Lines 22 and 23

Complete lines 22 and 23 only if you have an overpayment on line 21 for one or more installment periods. If you carry back more than one overpayment to a prior installment period, fill in separately on line 22 each carryback used. Overpayments should be carried back and/or carried forward in the following order:

1. Any overpayment on line 21, column (a), should be carried forward to the next installment period with an underpayment and entered on line 23. Any remaining excess should be carried forward to the next installment period with an underpayment and entered on line 23, etc.
2. Any overpayment on line 21, column (b), should be carried back to an underpayment in column (a) and entered on line 22. Any remaining excess should be carried forward to the next installment period with an underpayment and entered on line 23.
3. Any overpayment on line 21, column (c), should be carried back to underpayment(s) in column (b), then column (a) and entered on line 22. Any remaining excess should be carried forward to an underpayment in column (d) and entered on line 23.
4. Any overpayment on line 21, column (d), should be carried back to underpayment(s) in column (c), then column (b), then column (a) and entered on line 22.

Exceptions

- If you made an estimated tax payment after January 15, 2021, but before April 15, 2021, fill in the amount of that payment on line 22 in column (c). However, do not fill in more than the amount on line 20. Any excess may be carried back to the next prior period, etc.
-  • Any due date that is on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020. If your first due date is July 15, 2020, add the amounts in columns (a) and (b) and enter the total in column (b).

CAUTION If you have an overpayment in more than one column, see “Example of Carryforward and Carryback” for clarification of how to apply the overpayments to any underpayments.

Example of Carryforward

Column (a), line 21, has an overpayment of \$1,000. Columns (b), (c), and (d), line 20, each have underpayments of \$400. First, carryforward \$400 of the overpayment from column (a) to column (b) by entering \$400 on line 23. Second, carryforward \$400 of the overpayment from column (a) to column (c) by entering \$400 on line 23. Lastly, carryforward the remaining overpayment of \$200 from column (a) to column (d) by entering \$200 on line 23.

	Column (a)	Column (b)	Column (c)	Column (d)
Line 20		\$400	\$400	\$400
Line 21	\$1,000			
Line 22				
Line 23		\$400	\$400	\$200

Example of Carryback

Columns (a), (b), and (c), line 20, each have underpayments of \$500. Column (d), line 21, has an overpayment of \$1,200. First, carryback \$500 from column (d) to column (c) by entering \$500 on line 22. Second, carryback \$500 from column (d) to column (b) by entering \$500 on line 22. Lastly, carryback the remaining overpayment of \$200 from column (d) to column (a) by entering \$200 on line 22.

	Column (a)	Column (b)	Column (c)	Column (d)
Line 20	\$500	\$500	\$500	
Line 21				\$1,200
Line 22	\$200	\$500	\$500	
Line 23				

Example of Carryforward and Carryback

Both columns (a) and (c), line 21, have an overpayment of \$500. Both columns (b) and (d), line 20, have an underpayment of \$600. First, carryforward the overpayment of \$500 from column (a) to column (b) by entering \$500 on line 23. Second, carryback \$100 from column (c) to column (b) by entering \$100 on line 22. Lastly, carryforward the remaining overpayment of \$400 from column (c) to column (d) by entering \$400 on line 23.

	Column (a)	Column (b)	Column (c)	Column (d)
Line 20		\$600		\$600
Line 21	\$500		\$500	
Line 22		\$100		
Line 23		\$500		\$400

Lines 25 through 29

Complete lines 25 through 29 to determine the amount of interest due on the underpayment. Only complete lines 25 and 27 when an overpayment or late payment is carried back on line 22. If you apply more than one payment to a given installment, enclose a statement showing a separate computation for each payment.

Part IV – Annualized Income Installment Method Worksheet

If your income varied during the year, you may be able to lower or eliminate the underpayment interest for one or more installments by using the annualized income installment method. Use the worksheet in Part IV to figure the amount to fill in on line 16 of Schedule U. Enter exception code “08” in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

Exception If you have a net operating loss (NOL) carryforward or carryback on line 33, do not enter exception code “08.” Instead, enter exception code “09.”

Line 30

Income Nonresident and part-year resident individuals, fill in the larger of Wisconsin or federal income for each period. Partnerships should enter the entity’s Wisconsin net income for each period. **Note:** For any period Wisconsin income is zero or less, fill in 0 (zero).

Line 33

Standard Deduction Use the amount on line 32 to determine your standard deduction from the Standard Deduction Table in the 2020 Form 1 instructions. Nonresidents and part-year residents must use their annualized federal income to determine the standard deduction from the table in the 2020 Form 1NPR instructions. Partnerships, estates, and trusts, fill in 0 (zero) on this line.

Net Operating Loss If you have an NOL carryforward or carryback, determine the amount allowable for each period. Enter exception code “09” in the space on the underpayment interest line of your return.

Fill in on line 33 the total standard deduction and NOL carryforward or carryback for each period.

Line 35

Deduction for Exemptions Fill in the deduction for exemptions from line 8c of your 2020 Form 1 or line 36c of your 2020 Form 1NPR. Partnerships, estates, and trusts, fill in 0 (zero) on this line.

Line 37

Tax Use the tax table in the instructions for your 2020 Wisconsin tax form to compute the amount of tax to fill in on line 37. Partnerships must multiply the amount on line 36 by 7.9%.

Line 38

Nonrefundable Credits Fill in the total credits from line 18 of your 2020 Form 1 or lines 42 and 52 of your 2020 Form 1NPR in all four columns. Estates and trusts should fill in the amount of credit from line 9 of the 2020 Form 2 in all four columns. Partnerships should fill in the amount of credit from line 20 of the 2020 Schedule 3-ET in all four columns.

Line 39

Proration Nonresident and part-year resident individuals, prorate the amounts to be filled in by the ratio of your annualized Wisconsin income to your annualized federal adjusted gross income.

Line 40

Refundable Credits Fill in the total credits from lines 27 through 32 of your 2020 Form 1 or lines 61 through 66 of your 2020 Form 1NPR in all four columns. Estates and trusts should fill in the total credits from lines 14 and 15 of your 2020 Form 2 in all four columns. Partnerships should fill in 0 (zero) in all four columns.

Line 44

Add the amounts from line 50 in all preceding columns and enter this amount on line 44. **Example:** Line 50 shows \$500 in the first column and \$800 in the second column. The amount to enter on line 44, column 3, is \$1,300 (\$500 + \$800).

Line 50



Any due date that is on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, is extended to July 15, 2020. If your first due date is July 15, 2020, fill in the total of the first two columns in column (b) on line 16.

Applicable Laws and Rules

This document provides statements or interpretations of the following laws and regulations in effect as of November 20, 2020: 26 USC 7508A and ch. 71, Wis. Stats.