GUIDELINES
ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
2020-2021

The purpose of the Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) is to expand the number of historically marginalized students who receive graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Individuals who are residents of the State of Wisconsin and members of an ethnic minority group which traditionally have been under-represented in the advanced levels of major fields of study offered at UW-Whitewater are given highest priority for receiving AOP awards. The University is committed to recruitment, support, retention and graduation of AOP recipients. AOP awards are offered subject to availability of funds.

A. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be:

1. U.S. Citizen or permanent resident at the time of application.
2. Members of traditionally under-represented minority groups (African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native or statutorily designated Southeast Asian) or non-minority, financially disadvantaged students.
   Students who are considered disadvantaged must have a financial need and meet one of the following criteria:
   a) Come from a family that receive any type of public assistance, including eligibility for school lunch program;
   b) Are first generation college students;
   c) Have participated in special services for disadvantaged students including TRIO programs such as Student Support Services, McNair Scholars Program, Upward Bound, Talent Search, etc.; and/or have not had the expectation and encouragement to pursue post graduate education as a viable option.
3. Must be admitted into a graduate degree program and enrolled in graduate level courses at UW-Whitewater.
4. Registered for classes at UW-Whitewater
5. Graduated with an Undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher.

B. PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING

To apply for an AOP award, applicants must:

1. Submit two letters of reference from faculty/staff members knowledgeable about their academic potential.
2. Submit a 1 page Personal Goal Statement.
3. Request and return a completed AOP application to Samantha Fett in the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity, Engagement and Success

New Applicants must also:
1. Apply for admission to a degree program by completing the Graduate Application for Admission form, submitting the $56 fee and arranging for having their official post secondary transcripts forwarded to the Graduate Office.

C. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Completed applications are due by May 31, 2020 for priority consideration.

D. SELECTION:

The selection of recipients among eligible applicants is prioritized by:

1. Continuing UW-Whitewater students previously awarded AOP
2. Students enrolling in graduate studies for the first time who have not previously attained a Master's degree. An exception is allowed for students pursuing School Psychology (M.S.E.) and Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degrees, as well as those pursuing a Doctorate of Business Administration (D.B.A.)
3. Demonstrates financial needs as determined by Federal and State guidelines
The following criteria will be used to rank applicants:

1. Application Date Stamp
2. Letters of Reference
3. Personal Goal Statement
4. Admission to Graduate school
5. FAFSA Completion
6. Undergraduate Grade Point Average

E. TERMS FOR THE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM GRANT:
1. All recipients must pay the in-state fee. A non-resident fee remission is available to out-of-state AOP recipients. AOP award recipients are encouraged to apply for other assistantships and other department funded programs. However, tuition cannot be paid by both. This way we can support other students in need. Awards are contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Wisconsin State Legislature.
2. AOP award recipients are expected to pursue and meet the graduate academic requirements of the University. The credit load and the award may be modified pending circumstances and availability of funds.
3. All AOP recipients will be reviewed at the end of each academic year by the AOP Committee. A 3.00 cumulative grade point average must be maintained and/or recipient must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.
4. Funding is not available during Summer or Winterim.
5. Please be advised AOP funds will only pay towards the standard tuition and fees. Students who take online courses are responsible for the difference.

6. AOP provides funding for D.B.A. students based on M.B.A. credit fees.
7. Recipients are expected to notify the selection committee if receiving tuition reimbursement or other sources of funding for tuition.
8. Funding is limited to a maximum of 8 semesters contingent upon funding.
9. *Proof of submission of Federal Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) must be done to be considered for AOP funding.

F. NOTIFICATION:
Applicants will be notified by the end of August 2020. Financial Aid disbursement of funds should occur first week of September. This will be posted on your Student Accounts.

G. CHECK LIST FOR NEW APPLICANTS:
__1. Graduate Application for Admission form completed and $56 fee paid to the Graduate Office.
__2. Official transcripts sent directly to the Graduate Office by other institutions of higher education attended.
__3. AOP application completed. This includes the application, two letters of recommendation, and a 1 page personal goal statement.
__4. Proof of submission of Federal Application for Financial Student Aid.

H. CHECK LIST FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS:
__1. *Applicants must submit a Federal Application for Financial Student Aid.

Deadline: May 31, 2020
FOR GRADUATE APPLICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
School of Graduate Studies
Online Graduate Application Link
https://apply.wisconsin.edu
(262) 472-1006

To receive an AOP application contact:
Samantha Fett
Student Diversity, Engagement & Success
226 McCutchan Hall
800 W. Main Street
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
(262) 472-4985
Application Information

A. Admission to Graduate School: Each applicant for a scholarship or grant must first have been admitted to the Graduate School. Transcripts for admission to the Graduate School will be evaluated for all applicants. Transcripts must be in the hands of the Dean of Graduate Studies before the applicant is considered.

B. Graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater will be expected to submit only transcripts of credits earned elsewhere.

C. All application materials, including 2 letters of recommendation and your personal goal statement must be received by May 31, 2020

D. Notification of AOP Awards: Applicants will be notified concerning the award by Aug. 2020

Instructions: Please complete items 1-26 below. Return this form to Samantha Fett in the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor, 226 McCutchan Hall, UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI 53190 by May 31, 2020. Call (262) 472-4985 if you have questions or need additional information.

1. I am applying for ____ Academic Year 2020-21 ____ 1st Semester Only ____ 2nd Semester Only

2. Name_________________________________________ ID#________________________ Date________________

3. Permanent Address_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Street and Number, Box #   City         State          Zip

4. Telephone Number ____________________________________   Date of Birth_______________________________

5. Place of Birth ____________________________________________________________ ______________

6. Single ______   Married _____    No. of Dependents ______

7. Are you a first generation student? _____ Yes _____ No

8. Military Service?  _______ Yes  _______ No      Date __________________________

9. Will you be using veteran's benefits?  _____ Yes    _____ No

10. Will your employer reimburse you for tuition? _____ Yes    _____ No

11. High School and Graduation Date     _______________________________________________________________________
    City               State         Zip        Grad Date

12. Wisconsin Resident?        _____ Yes ______ No   How long have you lived in Wisconsin? _____ Years

13. List in Chronological order colleges and/or universities attended: Date          Date Graduated            Degree Obtained
    Attended

14. Undergraduate Cumulative GPA: ___________________
15. Extra-Curricular Participation in College

                                                                                                                                   

                                                                                                                                   

16. Please list previous participation in Programs for disadvantaged students:

                                                                                                                                   

                                                                                                                                   

17. Whitewater Address/Email: _____________________________________________ Phone

                                                                                                                                   

18. Work Experience

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<th>School or Company</th>
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19. Notable Contributions to Society in Teaching/Business-Hobbies, etc.

                                                                                                                                   

20. References:

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21. I plan to complete graduate study at this University? _____ Yes _____ No

22. I plan to begin Fall, 20____; Spring, 20____

23. I plan to do graduate work in:

- __ Accounting (M.P.A.)
- __ Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- __ Communication (M.S.)
- __ Communication Sciences and Disorders (M.S.)
- __ Computer Science (M.S.)
- __ Counselor Education (M.S.)
- __ Doctorate of Business Administration (D.B.A.)
- __ Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis (M.S.)
- __ Environmental Safety & Health (M.S.)
- __ Finance (M.S.)
- __ Professional Studies (M.S.E.)
- __ School Business Management (M.S.E.)
- __ School Psychology (M.S.E. & Ed.S.)
- __ Social Work (M.S.W.)
- __ Special Education (M.S.E.)

24. I have submitted a Federal Application for Financial Student Aid for the current academic year. _____ Yes _____ No

25. I certify that this is my first Master’s Degree (please initial) ____________

26. ETHNICITY: (please check one) ____ Southeast Asian   ____ White

- ____ African American   ____ Latino   ____ Native American/Alaskan Native   ____ Other