The purpose of the Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) is to expand the number of minority/disadvantaged 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/disadvantaged students.

   Students are considered disadvantaged if they meet any of the criteria including but not limited to one or more of the following:
   
   a) Have a financial need;
   b) come from a family that receive any type of public assistance, including eligibility for school lunch program;
   c) Are first generation college students;
   d) 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. Admitted to a graduate degree program at UW-Whitewater.
4. Registered for classes at UW-Whitewater.

B. **PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING**

To apply for an 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 the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Multicultural Affairs & Student 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 **March 27, 2016** for priority consideration.

D. **SELECTION:**

The selection of recipients among eligible applicants is based upon the following priorities:

1. Continuing UW-Whitewater students previously awarded an unconditional AOP award.
2. Students enrolling in graduate studies at UW-Whitewater for the first time who have not previously attained a master's degree.
3. Continuing UW-Whitewater graduate students not previously selected as an AOP award recipient.

Among applicants within each of the three groups above, priority will be given as follows:

1. Wisconsin residents who have met the **March 27, 2016** deadline.
2. Non-residents who have met the **March 27, 2016** deadline
3. Wisconsin residents & non-residents who have not met the **March 27, 2016** deadline.
The following criteria will be used to rank applicants:
1. Application Date.
2. Admission to graduate school.

E. TERMS FOR THE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM ASSISTANTSHIPS:
1. The maximum AOP award for the 2015-16 academic year is $10,000.00 (based on graduate program). 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 allowed to participate in assistantships and other department funded programs. 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 semester 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. Summer awards are not guaranteed. Specific summer selection criteria are announced each year depending on the availability of funds.
5. Please be advised given the cost differential, AOP funds are not available for online courses. AOP funds will only pay the standard tuition and fees. Students are responsible for the difference.
6. AOP is available for tuition ONLY.
7. AOP Recipients are expected to notify the selection committee if receiving tuition reimbursement or other sources of funding for tuition.
8. AOP funding is limited to a maximum of 8 full-time equivalent semesters.
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 July 1, 2015. (Or when tuition is set for 2015-2016).

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.
___4. Graduate Assistantship application completed for the current year.
___5. 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: March 27, 2015

FOR APPLICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
To receive the Graduate application for Admissions write to:
School of Graduate Studies, Dean Graduate Studies
2015 Roseman Hall
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
(262) 472-1006

To receive AOP applications write to:
Advanced Opportunity Program
Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Multicultural Affairs & Student Success
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
226 McCutchan Hall
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
(262) 472-4985
(262) 472-1659 (fax)
Application Information

A. Admission to Graduate School: Each applicant for a scholarship or assistantship 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 must be received by March 27, 2015.

D. Notification of AOP Awards: Applicants will be notified concerning the award by July 1, 2015 or when tuition is set for 2015-2016.

Instructions: Please complete items 1-24 below. Return this form to the Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor, 226 McCutchan Hall, UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI 53190 by March 27, 2015. Call (262) 472-4985 if you have questions or need additional information.

1. I am applying for ____ Academic Year 2015-15 ____ 1st Semester Only ____ 2nd Semester Only

2. Name_________________________________________________ ID#_________________ Date_________________

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

4. Telephone Number ________________________________ 5. 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

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

14. Undergraduate Major(s)________________________________________Minor(s)________________________________
15. Extra-Curricular Participation in College
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

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

17. Whitewater Address: (if known) ___________________________ Phone________________
________________________________________________________________________________

18. Work Experience

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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Name and Location of School or Company</th>
<th>Exact Nature of Position (if teacher, subject, grades, admin/superv)</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.)  ____ Guidance & Counseling (M.S.)
____ Business Administration (M.B.A.)  ____ Management Computer Systems (M.C.S.)
____ Business Education (M.S.)  ____ Public Administration (M.P.A.)
____ Communication (M.S.)  ____ Reading (M.S.E.)
____ Communicative Disorders (M.S.)  ____ Safety (M.S.)
____ Counseling (M.S.)  ____ School Business Management (M.S.E.)
____ Curriculum & Instruction (M.S.)  ____ School Psychology (M.S.E.)
____ Educational Administration (M.S.)  ____ 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 (Cambodian, Laotian, Vietnamese)

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

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE: UC No: __________

Undergraduate overall grade point average: _______
Undergraduate grade point average: _______ (last two years; 60 or more credits)
Graduate grade point average: _______ (credits)
Eligibility status: (Remarks) ____________________________