

GUIDELINES
ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITewater
2023-2024

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, or professional references, knowledgeable about your academic potential.
2. Submit a personal goal statement explaining how the Advanced Opportunity Grant can help you. One page minimum. Three pages maximum.
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

C. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Completed applications are due by **March 19, 2023** 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.
3. Demonstrates financial needs as determined by Federal and State guidelines

The following criteria will be used to rank applicants:

1. *Applying for funding for FIRST Master's Degree*
2. *McNair Scholar at UW-Whitewater*
3. *Personal Goal Statement Essay*
4. *Letters of Recommendation*
5. *Undergraduate Grade Point Average*
6. *Admission to Graduate school*
7. *FAFSA Completion*

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. Priority will be given to applicants who have never earned a Master's degree.
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 April 17, 2023. Financial Aid disbursement of funds should occur during the first week of September. This will be posted on your Student Account within WINS.

To receive an AOP application contact:

Samantha Fett
Fettsm27@uww.edu
(262) 472-4985

or visit:

Student Diversity, Engagement and Success
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800 W. Main Street
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