



Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) Fellowship Application 2025-2026

A. Purpose

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 – Stevens Point. Individuals who are residents of the State of Wisconsin and members of a community which traditionally have been under-represented in the advanced levels of major fields of study offered at UW-Stevens Point are given highest priority for receiving AOP awards. The University is committed to the recruitment, support, retention and graduation of AOP recipients. AOP awards are offered subject to availability of funds.

B. Eligibility/Applicants must be:

1. Citizens or permanent residents at the time of the application
2. Members of traditionally under-represented minority groups (African-American, Hispanic, American Indian/Indigenous, Alaskan Native, or statutorily designated Southeast Asian) or a **non- minority/disadvantaged student***.
*Students are considered **disadvantaged** if they meet any of the criteria including, but not limited to one or more of the following:
 - i. have a financial need;
 - ii. come from a family that received any type of assistance, including eligibility for school lunch program;
 - iii. are first generation college students
 - iv. have participated in special services for disadvantaged students including TRIO programs such as Upward Bound, McNair, Talent Search, etc.; and /or have not had the expectation and encouragement to pursue post graduate education as a viable option.
 - v. other extenuating circumstances such as a disability which affects academic functioning.
3. Admitted to a graduate degree program at UW-Stevens Point
4. Graduated with an Undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher

C. Application Deadline: **DEADLINE TO APPLY: JUNE 30, 2025**

Applicants are expected to submit a new application each academic year. Funding is based on the cohort applicant pool for each academic year.

1. **Decisions towards summer funding will begin as completed applications are received, and are contingent on availability of funds.**
2. **Recipients will be notified by July 30, 2025**

D. The following criteria will be used to rank applicants:

1. Applying for funding FIRST Master's degree
2. Personal Essay
3. Letter of Recommendation
4. Undergraduate Grade Point Average
5. Admission to Graduate School
6. FAFSA Completion
7. Copy of your resume



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E. TERMS FOR THE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM GRANT

1. 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 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 3.0 cumulative GPA must be maintained and/or recipient must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.
4. Funding is not available for Winterim, and Summer award is contingent on availability of funds
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 students 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. Funding priority is given to full time students; funding for part time students contingent upon availability of funds.
10. *Proof of submission of Federal Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) must be done to be considered for AOP funding.*
11. Agree to participate in DCA programming at least once a semester OR mentor an undergraduate for an academic year.

F. Check list for Applicants:

1. [Graduate Application](#) for Admission form completed and fee paid
2. Official transcripts sent directly to the Graduate Office by other institutions of higher learning attended
3. This AOP application completed, which includes the application, letter of recommendation, resume, and personal statement
4. Submitted Federal Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2025-2026 academic year

G. Procedures for Applying. To apply for an award, applicant must:

1. Submit one letter of recommendation from a professor or individual knowledgeable about your academic potential.
2. Please submit an essay describing why you are interested in Graduate School. Please limit your essay to no more than 1500 words in length.
3. Submit the completed AOP Application to the Department using one of the options below:
 - a) **Email completed application packets to DCA@UWSP.EDU**
 - b) **Upload to the Qualtrics survey [HERE](#)**
 - c) **Or mail to:** Diversity and College Access Department/AOP
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
1108 Fremont Street, SSC 204
Stevens Point, WI 54481

For questions about AOP please contact:

Diversity and College Access Department
DCA@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3225