

Call for Proposals: Universities of Wisconsin Student Success Mini Grants Academic Year 2024–2025

The Universities of Wisconsin is pleased to announce a call for proposals to extend one-time funding to facilitate the adoption, expansion, or improvement of practices to support student success. The goal of this funding is to promote collaborative approaches that advance student success strategies, enhance efficiencies and effectiveness, and/or implement process improvements to support holistic well-being, increase student retention, success, timely degree completion, and close equity gaps. Proposals should align with unit/institutional strategic goals and priorities and advance the strategies in the [Universities of Wisconsin 2023-28 Strategic Plan](#) to champion student success across the higher education life cycle and achieve more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments in which students can succeed. The 2024-2025 Universities of Wisconsin mini grant initiative has a total pool of \$75,000 available, and **one grant proposal per campus** will be accepted for consideration of up to \$15,000.

Areas of focus may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic and career advising
- Mental health/well-being
- Specific student populations (e.g., veteran/military connected, first-generation college students, rural students, part-time students, student parents, dual enrollment students, adult learners, online learners, re-enrolling students, underrepresented students, etc.)
- New student orientation/onboarding and First Year Experience
- Engaging parents and families
- Faculty engagement in student success
- Student basic needs
- Academic recovery, probation/suspension, and academic support
- Re-enrollment initiatives
- Increasing student engagement

Proposal Requirements:

- Only one proposal can be submitted per campus per grant cycle.
- Proposals should address the relevant evaluation criteria below and include a clear and concise project plan that outlines the objectives, methods, expected outcomes, and timeline of the project.
- Proposals should include a detailed budget and justification (support from literature, research, best practices, etc.) for the requested funds. If additional funding or institutional support is anticipated, then the proposal should include evidence that the funding and/or support has been secured.
- Awarded funds are intended to be spent within the fiscal year. If your project requires a longer timeline, please include this in your proposal justification.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Student Impact:** What is the project's target population(s) and what is the anticipated impact on student success? What evidence exists to support the project's approach?
- **Budget:** Does the proposal meet the budget limitation of \$15,000 or include a justification if it exceeds the amount?
 - All funds must be used for direct project costs; indirect costs are not allowed.
 - Direct project costs cannot include anything that is part of routine office operations and is, or should be, covered by internal funding sources. Examples include general office supplies, technology equipment for staff, office supplies, and office furniture.
- **Feasibility:** Can the proposed project and plan be accomplished within the specified timeframe and within budget?
- **Goal Alignment:** How does the proposal work to meet the goals of the UW university's strategic plan, the [Universities of Wisconsin 2023-28 Strategic Plan](#), or other student success goals?
- **Assessment:** How will success be defined and what is the process and tools for assessment? What are the clear and measurable outcomes to be evaluated?
- **Collaboration:** What is the extent and nature of any collaboration? Does the proposal include a partnership with more than one department or office with shared goals for student success? Does the proposal include collaboration with other UW universities, or other educational or community partners? How does collaboration enhance the project goals and objectives?
- **Sustainability:** How will the project create lasting change or positive outcomes? How is this project, including funding, sustainable in future years?

Application, Award Notification, and Mini Grant Distribution Schedule:

- **Application Opening:** The 2024-2025 mini grant cycle will open the week of June 17, 2024.
- **Application Deadline:** The deadline for submitting proposals is Monday, August 5, 2024. Proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/student-success-leadership-groups/student-success-mini-grants/>. Applications must conform to the Proposal Requirements listed above.
- **Review Process:** Grant proposals will be reviewed by a team at the Universities of Wisconsin Administration, based on the evaluation criteria listed above.
- **Notification:** Award recipients will be notified in mid-August 2024.
- **Grant Funding Distribution:** Once award notifications have been sent, the fund transfer process will commence. Mini grant awards should reach universities in September 2024.
- **Grant Reporting:** A progress report must be submitted to the Office of Enrollment & Student Success no later than May 31, 2025. A final report of outcomes will be due in December 2025.

We look forward to receiving your proposals. Please feel free to direct any questions to Kristen Jasperson at kristen.jasperson@wisconsin.edu.