



## Office of Enrollment & Student Success

Van Hise Hall  
1120 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

[www.wisconsin.edu/offices/student-success](http://www.wisconsin.edu/offices/student-success)

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TO: UW University Veterans Services Coordinators & School Certifying Officials  
FROM: Dennis Rhodes, Director for Student Veterans Affairs  
RE: Mini-Grant Program Overview and Eligibility Criteria

### **Purpose**

The UWSA Office of Enrollment & Student Success is pleased to announce a [mini grant program](#) to support institutional efforts that enhance the academic and college experience of veterans and military-connected students. We encourage you to share this opportunity with others at your university to explore the possibility of submitting a collaborative application with other individuals/units/departments. Preferred proposals will support and reflect the purpose, values and objectives embedded in the UW System's 2023-2028 [Strategic Plan](#). Campus initiatives around academic advising, career advising, and mental health support clearly align with the Strategic Plan's focus on success across the higher education life cycle.

### **Current Environment**

UW universities implement the broadest and most far-reaching set of veteran and military-connected benefits in the country. These benefits are focused on financial support for tuition and fee costs. At the same time, there is less consistency around programs and services that increase the chances of academic, social, and professional success for the military-connected student population. While the goal of this grant initiative is to promote innovation, there is research suggesting programming in the areas listed below has the potential to be effective.

### **Areas with Potential**

- Targeted assistance to military-connected students and transfer staff around maximizing transferable credit and credit for prior learning. For example, UW-Eau Claire's Military Transcript Advising Guide.
- Facilitating access to mental health services so that services are well-communicated and accessible
- Projects with student veterans that explore their military experiences in a context that builds academic skills and facilitates teaching and learning for the broader campus community. For example, [See Me for Who I Am | youtube.com](#), UW Steven Point's former book project featured on Wisconsin Public Television.
- Veteran-specific tutoring and related academic advising.
- Structured peer support programming that connects incoming student veterans with experienced student veteran peers. Nationally, the PAVE program out of the [University of Michigan](#) is a model.
- Community building programming that targets smaller groups (e.g., women) within the veteran community as well as children and spouses of veterans. UW-Madison's [women veterans coffee club](#) is an example.
- Veteran student-specific career planning and employer outreach.

### **Funding**

A total of \$25,000 has been allocated for mini-grants for AY 2023-24. Successful applicants will receive a grant of up to \$5,000 for use during the academic year. Campuses should follow their own

**Funding (cont.)**

policies regarding purchasing procedures. Please note that funds awarded to campuses must be expended during the current fiscal year. Each campus will be given the opportunity to submit one grant application. One individual must be designated as the project lead and serve as the point of contact.

**Guidelines for Mini-Grant Applications**

Successful applicants will receive a mini-grant for use during the academic year to implement effective, and equitable strategies or programming.

Applications must achieve at least one of the following two goals:

- Advance holistic and proactive programming to support student success.
- Support the development and piloting of approaches that are responsive to student needs and aligned to institutional strategic priorities and the UW System 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.