

**Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion (COBE) Grant Program  
2011-13 Request for Proposals**

**Proposals Due: March 15, 2011**

The University of Wisconsin System Administration is seeking proposals to support the development and implementation of new programs or projects to implement one or more of ten baccalaureate expansion strategies established by the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion (COBE). The strategies are as follows:

- **Baccalaureate of Applied Science or General Studies for Career Advancement:** Develop UWS degree completion programs in Applied Science or General Studies targeted to working adult students with an associate degree who want or need a general baccalaureate degree for their career advancement.
- **Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs in Fields with High Student and Labor Market Demand:** Develop new or expand existing UWS baccalaureate degree completion programs (2+2 or similar models) in areas of high student and labor market demand.
- **Expand Availability of Existing UWS Baccalaureate Programs to WTCS and UW Two-Year Institutions:** Offer UWS baccalaureate degree programs in specific majors to students at WTCS and UW College campuses who are unable to attend a four-year institution.
- **Graduation Completion Project:** Identify, encourage, and provide incentives to students who have completed a substantial portion of credit requirements but have dropped out of college, to come back and complete their associate or baccalaureate degrees.
- **Comprehensive Access Gateway to Learning:** Develop communication and outreach strategies to inform prospective students, parents, and employers about educational opportunities in Wisconsin.
- **Credit for Non-Traditional Learning Experiences:** Develop a coordinated mechanism to assess and assign college credit for learning gained through work, military service, and other educationally related experiences.
- **Alternative Delivery Options and Coordination:** Explore approaches to developing, coordinating, and promoting on-line learning and other delivery alternatives to residential, on-campus degree programs.
- **Pre-College Programs:** Assess, enhance, and promote pre-college programs to determine how best to encourage underserved populations to aspire to and prepare for college.
- **Early Assessment and Intervention Programs to Promote College Readiness:** Develop and implement early assessment and intervention programs to encourage high school students to assess and enhance their preparation for postsecondary education.
- **Expanded Academic and Career Advising Initiatives:** Expand academic and career advising programs and services, such as those focused on helping students make successful transitions within and between postsecondary institutions, to support and encourage retention to degree completion.

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University of Wisconsin baccalaureate institutions and Colleges are eligible to receive funding during this competitive phase. Collaborative projects between UW institutions and between UW and WTCS institutions are encouraged and are eligible for funding. Institutions may submit more than one proposal. Multiple submissions must be ranked in priority order by the provost.

Each year, \$250,000 will be allocated to fund new 2011-2013 two-year projects. Institutions may request up to \$75,000 per project per year. Funds will be available starting July 1, 2011. Year-two of project funding will be awarded contingent on evidence that the institution has made measurable progress toward completing program activities in year one.

The UW System COBE grant program does not include FTE positions. Institutions requiring additional positions to develop or implement their projects will need to provide the FTE.

### **Requirements for Application**

To be considered for funding, a proposal must:

1. Articulate well-defined, measurable outcomes that relate to increased production of baccalaureate degree holders.
2. Impact at least one of the target populations identified by COBE (working adults, low income students, students of color).
3. Have the potential to be replicated at other institutions.
4. Employ sound evaluation methods.
5. Detail specific strategies for sustaining the initiative beyond the funding period, including exploration of extramural funding.
6. Include a concrete plan for dissemination of project results.

### **Proposal Components**

Cover Page: All proposals should be signed by the institution Provost. Collaborative proposals should include signatures of the Provost or Vice President of each collaborating institution. Provosts of institutions who submit more than one request for new funding must submit a cover letter indicating the institutional priority for each project.

Project Summary: Provide a brief (200 words or less) summative paragraph describing the project and project goals and objectives.

Project Narrative: The length of the narrative should be up to five double-spaced pages in 12 point font. The narrative should include the following sections:

- **Intended project outcomes:** Describe the overall purpose and intended measurable outcomes of the project and how they would impact one or more of the target populations. Indicate how the project could be replicated at other institutions.

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- Describe the project: Describe how you will carry out the project including major features and activities. Explain how those address the project's intended outcomes. Describe strategies for sustaining the project after grant funds have expired.
- Assessment: Outline a specific plan for evaluating the project outcomes.
- Schedule: Include a timetable of the project activities.
- Dissemination: Outline a concrete plan for dissemination of project results to other institutions.

Budget and Narrative: Place the attached budget form and a budget narrative immediately following the body of the proposal. Specify how you arrived at the dollar figures included in the budget and how the money is to be used.

Proposals may request support for the types of expenses listed below:

- Replacement costs for faculty or academic staff release time (Please note that, in order to maximize grant funds, fringe benefits will not be funded through the COBE Grant Program)
- Student and/or clerical help
- Supplies and expenses (e.g., travel, meetings)
- Consultant fees

### **DEADLINE**

Proposals must be postmarked or submitted electronically to UW System no later than **March 15, 2011**. Submit electronically via email to [saass@uwsa.edu](mailto:saass@uwsa.edu).

### **QUESTIONS**

If you have questions regarding this RFP, contact Diane Treis Rusk by phone, (608) 261-1115, or e-mail, [dtreisrusk@uwsa.edu](mailto:dtreisrusk@uwsa.edu).