



GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

Access • Affordability • Growth

UW-Whitewater: Recruiting and Retaining Multicultural, Disadvantaged and Disabled Students

UW-Whitewater requests funding to support a series of initiatives focused on increasing access and success for multicultural, disadvantaged and disabled students.

What are the initiatives for multicultural, disadvantaged and disabled students?

These six campus initiatives will support efforts related to Plan 2008 and the Equity Scorecard project and include: (a) recruiting multicultural, disadvantaged, and disabled students to UW-Whitewater and into individual programs, (b) providing intensive transitional support for these students both during the summer before their freshman year as well as during the freshman academic year, (c) providing a learning community program that includes smaller class sizes for students during their freshman year, (d) providing both smaller class sizes and supplemental instruction in specific “gateway courses” across the university, (e) providing faculty mentors/resource persons in targeted academic areas of education, business and science, and (f) providing on-campus employment and experiential opportunities.

What are the benefits of the initiatives for multicultural, disadvantaged and disabled students?

The proposed initiative is based on activities that UW-Whitewater has found to be successful in the recruitment and retention of targeted students. The campus currently has three successful summer programs which bring students to campus to provide academic preparation and other transitional help to ensure a successful start to their academic career. Students who have participated in this program have a higher first-to-second-year retention rate than other entering students with similar profiles who do not participate in the program. UW-Whitewater has seen the same result for students who participate in learning communities on the campus. While UW-Whitewater does not currently have any supplemental instruction specifically for “gateway courses,” it has been seen nationally that programs that target “gateway courses” have proven to not only be effective in helping students to be successful in those courses, but to also allow access to a wider variety of majors.

What would the initiatives for multicultural, disadvantaged and disabled students mean for Wisconsin?

Measurable outcomes of the proposed initiatives will include: (1) increasing by 50 the number of minority, disadvantaged, and/or disabled students enrolled at the university per year, (2) the retention of 40 additional second year students per year, and (3) an eventual six-year graduation rate of 50 percent for this group of students, which equates to 25 additional graduates per year.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$381,500 (\$248,000 GPR / \$133,500 Fees)

For more information: Contact Provost Richard Telfer, 262-472-1672