FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT INVESTMENT: WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
Financial aid funding is critical to student success as it plays an integral role in student access, retention, graduation, and ultimately, employment.

DATA POINTS
- In 2020-21, almost two-thirds (63 percent) of UW System undergraduates, or 99,000 students, received some form of financial aid. Undergraduate and graduate students received nearly $1.4 billion in financial aid in 2020-21 (the most recent year for which data are available), including $569 million in grants, $665 million in loans, and $9 million in work-study funding.
- In the UW System during the 2020-21 academic year, 59,000 undergraduates and 8,700 graduate students received a student loan. The Pell Grant program provided $118 million to over 27,000 Wisconsin resident undergraduates (23 percent of resident undergraduates), with an average grant over $4,000.
- In 2020-21, Wisconsin resident undergraduates in the University of Wisconsin System faced an unmet need of $5,631 after accounting for family contributions and financial aid.
- In 2020-21, the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program awarded over $12 million in grants to almost 19,000 students.
The University of Wisconsin System supports Congressional efforts to “Double the Pell,” expand the program to include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, and ensure continued funding increases throughout the annual appropriations and budget process; continuing support for federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG); and increasing authorization levels and access for TRIO and GEAR UP.

RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS:
INVESTING IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System is committed to research that helps promote economic, social, and cultural development on all our campuses. To remain globally competitive, the United States needs to increase investments in research and development.

DATA POINTS
- The University of Wisconsin System is home to two Research I institutions, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.
- The University of Wisconsin System is a major source of research and innovation, with more than $1.5 billion of sponsored research activity annually across our 13 institutions.
- See charts (page 4) with federal awards data.

ASK
The University of Wisconsin System supports institutional efforts that provide more opportunities for student participation in research, as well as expanding capacity-building initiatives and undergraduate research. Sustaining – and, where appropriate, increasing – funding for basic and applied research is also of critical importance, as are reconciliation and eventual passage of legislation like the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act and the COMPETES Act.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION: PROMOTING ACCESS AND DEGREE COMPLETION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to modernize the Higher Education Act to reflect a 21st-century model of higher education and to increase student access to an affordable, quality education.

ASK
As Congress continues efforts to reform and reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the University of Wisconsin System hopes to be a resource on matters of higher education policy including on areas of regulatory reform and innovation.
GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System values programs that increase college participation and completion by students from all walks of life. We support policies that attract the brightest international students, faculty, and researchers, making them feel welcome on our campuses and in our communities and encouraging them to remain and contribute post graduation.

ASK
The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which includes support for students brought to the United States as young children and talented international students who want to remain in the country after graduation.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Allison Steil
Director of Federal Relations
608-263-3362 | asteil@uwsa.edu

wisconsin.edu

UW SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD
Visit wisconsin.edu/accountability for more data on UW System's performance and service to Wisconsin
These four charts are from State Fiscal Year 2021 and exclude federal funding for the Direct Student Loan program.