



WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT 2021 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Applications due June 15, 2021

PURPOSE

The Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) Undergraduate Scholarship program is designed to provide financial support for women who wish to pursue careers in public service, public administration, or government affairs. The scholarship is available to current college or university students who likely would have difficulty continuing their education without financial assistance. The purpose of the program is to make post-secondary education more accessible to women by relieving some of the financial burden.

Note that students from a wide variety of majors are encouraged to apply, including, but not limited to political science, government, legal studies, criminal justice, public safety, etc. Students must demonstrate interest in pursuing a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs.

The WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship program is funded through an annual fundraising gala in Madison, Wisconsin.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

Scholarships of up to \$3,000 will be awarded to students who will be attending any college or university that is part of the UW System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, or any in-state private college affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, school supplies, childcare, and to reduce loan burden.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Wisconsin who identifies as female;
- Have a financial need as determined by the receiving school based on applicant's eligibility for Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) eligible grants such as the Federal Pell Grant Program, Wisconsin Grant (WG), or Talent Incentive Program (TIP);
- Be enrolled, at the time of the application, as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at any of the eligible institutions; and
- Plan to be enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at any of the above institutions for the fall semester.

Scholarships are available for current college or university students who will be enrolled during the 2021 Fall Semester. Students who will receive their degree prior to September 1, 2021 are not eligible for this scholarship. Students in the process of transferring should apply through the institution where they will be enrolled for the fall semester.

CRITERIA

Students must:

- Have a C grade point average (2.0) or better and maintain at least a C average (2.0) throughout the academic year during which receiving the scholarship;
- Demonstrate leadership potential, initiative, and excellent communication skills; and
- Demonstrate an interest in public service, government, and/or the political process.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following items **in a single pdf:** ¹

- A completed application form including answers to all questions;
- A copy of her current transcript (this need not be a certified copy);
- A letter from the financial aid office at her school confirming her eligibility for financial aid as defined in the “Eligibility” section; and
- Two letters of recommendation (+ completed recommendation form for each) from people who are familiar with the applicant and her skills, personality, work habits, etc. Recommendations must come from:
 - a teacher, a school counselor or advisor; or
 - an employee or individual with whom she has worked in a business, community, or charitable effort.

SELECTION PROCESS

Completed application and accompanying documents should be submitted **as a single pdf** to the school the applicant will attend during the scholarship year, as follows:

- **UW System** applicants should submit applications directly to the UW System Office of Academic Programs and Faculty Advancement via apfa@uwsa.edu.
- **Wisconsin Technical College System** applicants should submit applications to the financial aid director at their respective schools.
- **Private College** applicants who attend a college that is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities should submit applications to the financial aid director at their respective schools.

The school to which the applicant seeks admission shall first determine whether the applicant is eligible for the scholarship based on a process administered by the institution, which considers the criteria mentioned above. The UW System, Wisconsin Technical College System, and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities each may forward the application materials of **up to six** applicants for review and final selection by WWIG.

¹ Contact Hilary Shager (hilary.shager@wisc.edu) if you need assistance in compiling your materials into a single pdf.

Completed applications and accompanying documents should be submitted to your school as instructed above no later than June 15, 2021.

Please include letters of recommendation, transcripts and proof of financial aid eligibility as defined above with the original application. These materials will not be considered if sent separately. Please submit all application materials **as a single pdf**.

In its review of the scholarship applications, the WWIG Scholarship Committee will look for women who show promise of making a positive contribution to society through a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs. In addition, scholarship recipients will be selected based on their leadership, demonstrated ability to handle responsibility, initiative, communication skills, academic achievement, community involvement, and commitment to public service.

Scholarship recipients will be determined by the end of August 2021.

TERM

Scholarships are effective for the academic year immediately following selection as the recipient (2021-2022). WWIG anticipates distributing half of the award for each semester (or term).

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship recipients must provide GPA evidence of their continuing eligibility at the end of each semester. Scholarship recipients must notify WWIG of any change in their enrollment status during the term of the scholarship. If the scholarship recipient discontinues her studies during the academic year, she will not be eligible to receive any further scholarship funds.

Scholarship recipients must provide two essays, ~250 words each, one per semester, addressing the following:

- *Essay 1:* How has receiving the WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship helped you achieve your goals during the Fall 2021 semester?
- *Essay 2:* How has receiving the WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship helped you achieve your goals during the Spring 2022 semester?

Essays will be requested approximately one to two months before the end of each semester and should be sent to the WWIG Scholarship Committee Chair (contact information to be provided). Excerpts from the essays may be used in WWIG promotional and funding application materials.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Scholarship recipients are expected to attend and will receive one complimentary ticket to WWIG's annual fundraising gala in Madison. If needed, as determined by the WWIG Scholarship Committee, scholarship recipients may be eligible to receive a nominal stipend to defray travel and/or lodging costs to attend the gala.



WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT 2021 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please be sure to include the following: 1) this completed application form; 2) a copy of your transcripts; 3) a letter of financial eligibility; 4) two letters of recommendation + recommendation forms. This information should be submitted to the school that you attend during the scholarship term in a single pdf.

If you are a UW System applicant, please submit application materials directly to the UW System Office of Academic Programs and Faculty Advancement via apfa@uwsa.edu. If you are enrolling in the WI Technical College System or a private college, please return application to the Financial Aid Director at your school.

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Race & Ethnicity (optional): _____

School Year Address: _____

School Year City/State/Zip: _____ **School Year Phone:** _____

Permanent Address: _____

Permanent City/State/Zip: _____ **Permanent (or Cell) Phone:** _____

Name of School: _____

Major Field of Study and Grade Level: _____

List Any Awards or Other Recognition of Achievement: _____

The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire women to consider careers in public service, public administration, and government affairs. Complete answers on the application are important to the evaluation process. Please answer the following questions in no more than three (3) total single-spaced typewritten pages. *By submitting this application, you permanently grant WWIG permission to use your answers or portions of those answers in promotional materials.*

1. Tell us about yourself. What accomplishments are you most proud of and why? Include obstacles you have had to overcome, if any, in pursuing your education.
2. Describe any school, volunteer, community, or political activities in which you have participated. Please include any leadership roles you held, and how you helped plan or implement any activities. Describe why participation in these activities have been important to you. (Such activities may include, but are not limited to activities with student government, political or public awareness campaigns, or volunteer organizations.)
3. Explain how you plan to use your degree to pursue a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs.
4. Provide a brief 4-5 sentence biography of yourself. Describe your path of study, any extracurricular involvement, and your interest in a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs. If you are selected for this scholarship, we plan to use this biography to help us describe you in the written program for the fundraising gala, as well as on our website.

I certify that this application contains accurate information.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



**WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
2021 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION FORM
(Please complete a separate form for each letter writer)**

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Person Making Recommendation: _____

Title of Person Making Recommendation: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for taking the time to support this applicant with your recommendation and for helping Wisconsin Women in Government make its decision. The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire and support women considering careers in public service, public administration, and government affairs. Please include all of the following information in your recommendation, and submit your response attached to this document.

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? In what ways have you seen the applicant grow during the time you have known her?
2. In your opinion, please describe the applicant's capacity for academic success in post-secondary education.
3. In what ways do the applicant's achievements distinguish her from her peers? If she has been a positive role model for peers, please describe how she has done so.
4. In what ways has the applicant shown her ability to follow through on goals, commitments, and responsibilities?
5. In your opinion, please describe the applicant's capacity for a successful career in public service, public administration and/or government affairs.
6. Please add any additional information you think would be important in evaluating this applicant.