

Distinguished Graduate Scholars Program

2024 – 2026

Announcement Date: 10/17/23

The School of Graduate Education is pleased to announce a new graduate assistantship program, the Distinguished Graduate Scholars (DGS) program, to recruit and mentor exceptional scholars whose strengths have been demonstrated and enhanced by overcoming adversity. UW recognizes the important role the university and its graduate programs play in a diverse, multicultural society, and globally connected world. All graduate programs are strongly encouraged to nominate eligible candidates for these awards. **UW graduate programs & departments may nominate candidates for Distinguished Graduate Scholar positions for new graduate students who will begin their studies at UW in Fall 2024.**

The goal of the Distinguished Graduate Scholars (DGS) initiative is to seek excellent graduate scholars who have demonstrated resilience and success despite hardships and to support their completion of graduate study at UW. UW's mission is to unlock the extraordinary in every person through education, scholarship, innovation, engagement, and service. Students awarded DGS positions will contribute to UW's community in which scholars with diverse perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn and collaborate productively and positively. UW values a welcoming and supportive learning community fostered by integrity, inclusivity, freedom of expression, and respect. The DGS program emphasizes the importance of lived experiences and overcoming adversity as the primary criteria on which to base recruitment and awarding of DGS positions.

Eligibility: Eligible candidates must be planning to enroll in a U.W. graduate degree program. Candidates must demonstrate high academic achievement and a record of overcoming adversity.

Nomination deadlines: Nominations for incoming doctoral students should be submitted by January 31, 2024. Nominations for incoming master's students should be submitted by March 15, 2024. Nominations after these dates will be considered if funding is still available.

Advisors

All Distinguished Graduate Scholars must have an advisor upon enrollment (the advisor may or may not be the student's dissertation advisor), and this must be recorded in Banner. Advisors will be expected to complete a status update each semester.



Stipends and Benefits (for awards beginning Fall 2024)

Academic Year	Master’s Level	Doctoral Level
2024-25	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$15,318 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$21,258 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance
2025-26	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$15,318 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$21,258 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance

Additional Funding

Summer Funding: Awardees’ academic units are strongly encouraged to provide full summer funding for Distinguished Graduate Scholar awardees. Dependent on availability of funding, the School of Graduate Education may provide one month (June) of graduate assistantship support to Distinguished Graduate Scholar awardees.

Nominations

U.W. graduate programs seeking to nominate eligible candidates should complete and submit the online nomination form (see link, below) by January 31, 2024 (for doctoral) or March 15, 2024 (for master’s). *Please note that part of this submission includes a set of short essay responses written by the candidate.* Nominations following these dates will be considered if funding is still available.

Selection

All nominations will be reviewed by the Distinguished Graduate Scholar selection committee comprising three members of Graduate Council (at least one will be a faculty representative), and one representative of the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The selection committee will make award recommendations to the Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Education who will decide on final awarding. Programs will be notified of awards by February 28, 2024 for doctoral nominees and by April 10, 2024 for master’s nominees.



Distinguished Graduate Scholar Program Nomination Form

(submissions will be made via an online form which will be announced in the coming weeks)

1. Nominee's full name
2. Nominee's Salesforce App-ID number
3. Specific graduate degree program name
4. Intended completion date for nominee's graduate degree
5. Please describe the nominee's exceptional qualifications and promise and include what contributions the nominee is likely to make to the program and discipline.
6. Describe how your program will mentor graduate students from diverse backgrounds, including those who have overcome significant adversity. Please include how the program will provide professional development for faculty mentors and program staff that will bolster the program's ability to support students with diverse lived experiences.
7. Describe (and provide links to, as appropriate) all policies, procedures, and resources communicated to your program's graduate students. Usually, these are in the form of a Graduate Handbook that is given to students, available on the program's website, and updated annually.
8. Describe how your program transparently and equitably communicates and awards graduate students with research, funding, and professional development opportunities.
9. Please upload the candidate's written responses to the following questions (please upload as a single PDF file) (each 250 words, maximum):
 - a. Please describe any experiences and/or challenges that may have shaped your intellectual and personal development.
 - b. Provide insight into your potential to contribute to a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect in which scholars with diverse perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn and collaborate productively and positively.
 - c. Please address any concerns you may have in your application. If, for example, you do not believe that your academic credentials demonstrate your true capabilities, please explain why. Also, describe any gaps in your academic career and work experience or any extenuating circumstances in your profile which the review committee should be aware of.
 - d. If there is something that you would like to highlight that you have yet to discuss in other areas of the application, please do so here.