

AD report: scholarships and fellowships

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2018 showed steep declines in the number of applicants for the UG scholarships for 2-year college students, and for graduate research fellowships. The number of applicants for UG scholarships was comparable to previous years. Our goals for 2019 are to determine the cause of this decline, work to get the word out to qualified students, and aim to bring our applicant numbers back up to 2017 levels.

For the undergraduate scholarship program, we received 25 total applicants, down slightly from 28 applicants last year and well short of our goal for 36 applicants this year. Only two students applied for the Fall deadline (2-year colleges only) and both received awards, though this could be in part to an uptick in applicants for the STEM bridge scholarships (4 applicants and 2 awards, up from 0 the previous year). 19 applied for the general Spring deadline, of which 17 received awards. Our awardees came from 10 different institutions, unchanged from last year. One of the two 2-year school awardees was female (neither is from an underrepresented group), 35% of the undergraduate scholarship awardees (general pool) were female (12% underrepresented), while both awardees for STEM bridge were from underrepresented groups (neither female).

UG Scholarships (2-year, Fall): 2 applicants, 2 awards, \$2000/each

STEM bridge scholarships: 4 applicants, 2 awards, \$2000/each

UG scholarships (Spring): 19 applicants, 17 awards, \$2000/each

For next year we hope to add two new 4-year campuses (and one new 2-year campus) to the applicant pool to improve the distribution of awards around the state. Our goal is to award 3 SBS awards, 4 UGS awards to students from 2-year colleges (Fall), and 14 UGS awards to applicants from 4- and 2-year colleges (Spring).

We only received 4 applications for graduate fellowships this year, well down from last year's 11 and far short of the 21 applications we had hoped to receive. We funded all four awards, all to students from Madison. This drop off in applications is precipitous and worrying, and we need to determine if this was a fluke or a trend. Better advertising for this opportunity is needed, especially for potential applicants from disciplines outside of Astronomy (e.g., Engineering, Environmental, Geosciences), as applications from these fields and from UW Milwaukee were down disproportionately. We received only one applicant for the Laurel Salton Clark award, down from 3 last year (but up from 0 the previous year); fortunately it was a good one and we were thus able to offer this award, but this is another award that needs to be better advertised in the future. Three of the four graduate fellowship awardees, and the LSC awardee, were female, and one of the graduate fellowship awardees was from an underrepresented group.

Grad fellowships: 4 applicants, 4 awards, \$5000/each
LSC research fellowship: 1 applicant, 1 award, \$5000.

We need to improve our recruitment of students in general (especially for the 2-year colleges, and graduate programs), and for underrepresented minority in particular, especially at the undergraduate level. At present the demographics for our UG awards fail to meet expectations (for underrepresented groups), though we exceed expectations with the number of awards we grant to female students in all categories. We need to enlist the help of instructors at member institutions to identify and recruit likely candidates and encourage them to apply. The SBS program in particular will need applicants from this student population.