

AD report for Graduate and Professional and UG Scholarships, and Women in Aviation  
WSGC 2023 Spring AC meeting

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We did not set new, specific goals for 2022-2023, but are instead comparing against the goals we set in 2021 (and the WSGC 2019 strategic plan). Objective 1: Deliver a competitive Fellowship and Scholarship program that is characterized by effectiveness at increasing retention in STEM fields among first- and second-year college and university students through direct marketing, outreach, and effective communication. Objective 2: Increase the number of students from two-year colleges applying for and receiving WSGC scholarships and fellowships by at least 10% over 2015 levels to a combined annual pool of 6-8 applicants. We struggled with both objectives this year.

The total number of applications for 2023 Graduate and Professional Program (GPP) was 17, much higher than the 10 applicants from 2021 but still less than the 2020 pool (22 applicants), with only one applicant for the Laurel Salton Clark (LSC) award. Spring applications for the UG scholarships were up slightly from the 2020 and 2021 numbers (17, up from 13 and 15), though still significantly lower than in previous years.

Funding decisions have not yet been made for GPP or LSC. The application pool includes 8 from UWM, 8 from Madison, and 1 from Marquette. The pool is demographically diverse, with 9 male and 7 female applicants (plus one unspecified), seven applicants identifying as Black (2), Hispanic (1), Asian (2), Native American (1), or Native Hawaiian (1), and one listing a disability. In terms of disciplines represented, 9 report Physics, 2 Geosciences, 1 Mechanical Engineering, 1 Industrial Engineering, 1 Environmental Science (LSC applicant), 1 Astrophysics, 1 Mathematics, and 1 Astronomy.

One student (from Ripon) was awarded a Women in Aviation (WIA) scholarship.

The Stem Bridge scholarship opportunity (Fall 2022) had four qualified applicants, all of whom were funded. Students in this group came from UWM (3) and Madison (1). This is a big improvement over 2021, when no one applied for SBS.

For the Fall Undergraduate scholarships (open to students at 2-year schools) we funded two students, both from UW Oshkosh- Fox Valley.

Funding decisions have not yet been made for the Spring UGS applicants. Of the 17 applications under review, 5 are from Carthage, 5 from Madison, 2 from UWSP, 2 from UWO, and 1 each from Whitewater, Lawrence, and Marquette. The applicant pool included 9 female and 8 male students. Three identified as Hispanic/Latino, 1 as Asian, and 1 as disabled. This applicant pool is more diverse than the 2021 pool, which contained fewer female students and no one identifying as non-white.

While it is too early to tell (since funding decisions have not yet been made), the number of applicants and the demographics appear to be headed in the right direction. The GPP had a good number of applicants, with a good balance between advanced-degree offering schools, different fields of study, female and male students, and students from underrepresented groups. The LSC scholarship could use more applicants and perhaps we could reach out to potential advisors in the Bio, Geo, and Environmental Sciences to try to get the word out next year. The various UG scholarship offerings need more applicants. Many WSGC affiliate schools had no applicants this year in any scholarship programs, and only one 2-year campus had qualified applicants. Getting the word out and individually encouraging students to apply (especially those who are first generation or underrepresented) will be an important job for Institutional Reps, Faculty, and Staff.