

LeaRN Menu of Donor Opportunities — Academic Programs

The Learning Resource Network (LeaRN) provides academic support, mentorship, and enrichment opportunities for students of all levels and majors. We connect students and faculty through **learning communities, tutoring, supplemental instruction, first-year experience programs, and initiatives for underprepared students**. As part of Academic Affairs, we collaborate closely with Student Affairs to ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive.

1. Opportunities to support first-generation student programs

Education abroad for limited-income and first-generation students

Who We Support:

LeaRN offers life-changing **education abroad** opportunities for students who face financial and academic barriers—including limited-income, first-generation, and academically underprepared first-year students. Current programs include a **Costa Rica college transition course**, with plans for an **Iceland folklore course** in the future. While we work hard to keep costs low, many students still can't afford these experiences—your support can make them possible!

How You Can Help:

- **Sponsor a Student:** Give an interested student the chance to study abroad | **\$5,000 per student**
- **Contribute to a Scholarship:** Make study abroad possible for more students | **\$3,000–\$10,000+**

Your Impact:

- Increase college retention rates for first-generation and limited-income students (studying abroad has shown to significantly increase UW students' persistence in college).
- Provide students with global experiences that foster cultural appreciation and inspire lifelong learning.
- Encourage a lasting commitment to education and travel beyond their local communities.

First-generation student scholarships

Who We Support:

LeaRN supports dedicated, full-time, first-generation undergraduate students who are working toward their degree—but financial challenges can derail their college goals. A sudden financial setback shouldn't jeopardize a student's future. By funding **emergency support** or **scholarships**, you can help first-gen students stay in school, stay on track, and achieve their goal of earning a degree.

How You Can Help:

- **Provide Emergency Support:** Help first-gen students stay in school when unexpected financial challenges arise | **\$5,000–\$25,000**
- **Fund Scholarships:** Support second- and third-year students who are committed to earning their degrees and making academic progress | **\$5,000–\$25,000**

Your Impact:

- Keep first-gen students on track to graduate by removing financial barriers.
- Inspire students whose success can motivate future generations in their families to pursue college.
- Boost confidence for first-gen students who are on-track to graduate.

Mentoring & undergraduate research opportunities for first-generation students

Who We Support:

LeaRN houses the **First-Gen Scholars Program**, which offers mentoring opportunities and resources to UW's first-generation students (those students for whom neither parent nor guardian has earned a bachelor's degree).

How You Can Help:

- Fund staff and faculty mentors who meet weekly with a student for two semesters | **\$5,000–\$10,000**
- Provide a book scholarship for student participants | **\$250 scholarship per student**
- Fund research support for faculty/student pairs: travel, speakers, conference attendance | **\$5,000+**

Your Impact:

- Help first-gen students experience mentorship and guidance from a first-gen faculty or staff member.
 - Improve first-gen students' participation in campus resources and research opportunities.
 - Prepare first-gen students to be successful applicants for McNair Scholars opportunities.
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2. Opportunities to support academic tutoring for students

Who We Support:

LeaRN's **STEP Tutoring** and **Writing Center** provide essential academic support to all students both in person and online. Each year, STEP tutors lead **2,000 appointments**, and the Writing Center facilitates **1,800 writing consultations**. Students consistently ask for more available appointments and subjects, and we need your support to expand our services and meet this growing demand!

How You Can Help:

- **Support Tutors & Writing Consultants:** Fund peer and professional tutors who provide critical academic assistance | **\$1,000–\$20,000**
- **Fund Supplemental Instruction Leaders:** Help students succeed in challenging courses through peer-led support | **\$5,000–\$20,000**
- **Fund Tutor Development:** Provide professional growth opportunities, including conference travel and advanced training | **\$250–\$10,000**
- **Create a named student support center:** We welcome the opportunity to turn our academic support center into a donor-sponsored opportunity for many years!

Your Impact:

- Students who use tutoring or supplemental instruction at least three times see big improvements in their grades.
 - Help students get one-on-one support to understand difficult subjects.
 - Make sure every student has access to the help they need to stay in school and succeed.
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3. Opportunities to support students in their exit and re-entry to UW

Who We Support:

LeaRN is currently offering pilot support for undergraduate students who are on probation and/or need to temporarily leave UW due to family, health, or academic challenges—and who plan to return within 1–3 years. A successful component of the pilot includes **training volunteer faculty and staff to help students regain academic footing** or navigate their transition out of and back into college. These academic life coaches offer guidance on academic planning, financial aid, and goal setting to enable a smooth re-entry and path to graduation.

How You Can Help:

- **Support Academic Life Coaches:** Fund faculty and staff volunteers who guide students back to strong academic footing, including through re-entry to UW | **\$1,200 per volunteer**
- **Provide Re-Entry Scholarships:** Help returning students continue their education | **\$5,000–\$25,000+**
- **Fund Advisor & Coach Training:** Ensure staff have the tools to support students through transitions | **\$10,000 - \$20,000**

Your Impact:

- Help students receive the coaching needed to regain academic standing or continue college goals.
 - Support students in returning to college after a break, ensuring they have the guidance to re-enroll successfully.
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4. Opportunities to support first-year students in STEM Majors

Who We Support:

LeaRN supports students in **high-challenge, introductory STEM courses** that serve as critical gateways to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) majors. Many capable students struggle in these foundational courses, putting their STEM ambitions at risk. With your help, we can remove barriers to learning.

How You Can Help:

- **Fund smaller class sections** for 1000- and 2000-level biology and chemistry courses, giving students more individualized attention | **\$10,000–\$25,000+**
- **Expand tutoring and supplemental instruction** for introductory STEM courses | **\$5,000–\$20,000**
- **Strengthen STEM writing support** by funding Writing Center initiatives, including a STEM satellite center, cross-training, and stipends for participation in science narrative learning communities | **\$5,000–\$20,000**

Your Impact:

- Improve retention in STEM majors by helping students persist.
- Positive impact STEM learning, problem-solving, and critical thinking.
- Empower faculty to develop innovative, effective teaching strategies for future STEM leaders.