



Distinguished Graduate Scholars Program 2026 – 2028

Announcement Date: 11/17/25

The School of Graduate Education is pleased to announce the continuation of the Distinguished Graduate Scholars (DGS) program, intended to recruit and mentor exceptional scholars whose **strengths have been demonstrated and enhanced by overcoming adversity**. All graduate programs are strongly encouraged to nominate eligible candidates for these awards. **UW graduate programs & departments may nominate candidates for Distinguished Graduate Scholar (graduate teaching assistantship) positions for new graduate students who will begin their studies at UW in Fall 2026.**

The goal of the Distinguished Graduate Scholars (DGS) initiative is to seek excellent graduate scholars who have demonstrated resilience and success despite hardships. The DGS program emphasizes the importance of lived experiences with overcoming adversity as the primary criteria on which to base recruitment and awarding of DGS (GTA) positions.

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

Nomination deadlines: Nominations will be considered on a rolling basis between January 15, 2026 and March 15, 2026. Priority will be given to nominations for individuals who will enroll in Ph.D. programs.

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 must contribute a letter of support with the application. Advisors will be expected to complete a status update each semester.

Summer Funding

Awardees' academic units are strongly encouraged to provide full summer funding for Distinguished Graduate Scholar awardees. SGE will not be able to provide summer funding.



Stipends and Benefits

Academic Year	Master's Level	Doctoral Level
2026-27	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$18,612 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$25,893 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance
2027-28	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$18,612 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance	<u>FT Graduate Teaching Assistantship:</u> - \$25,893 stipend - up to 12 cr. hrs. of graduate resident tuition - all mandatory student fees - full student health insurance

AWARD PROCESS

1. Nominations

U.W. graduate programs seeking to nominate eligible candidates should submit the online nomination form (see link, below) by no later than March 15, 2026. Nominations will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning January 15, 2026. *Please note that part of this submission includes a short essay that is written by the candidate. Mentors are encouraged to assist applicants in writing this essay.* Nominations following these dates will be considered if funding is still available.

2. Department Support

As part of the nomination packet, programs/departments must provide a plan describing how they will provide mentorship and support for the student receiving the award.

3. Selection

All nominations will be reviewed by the Distinguished Graduate Scholar selection committee comprising three members of Graduate Council. 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 on a rolling basis. Please allow for 3-4 weeks for a decision to be made.



Distinguished Graduate Scholar Program Nomination Form

Please submit nominations via the online form:

https://uwyo.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cC773GdiCzgKTBk

Nomination

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. Letter of support from faculty mentor: Please describe the nominee's exceptional qualifications and promise and what contributions the nominee is likely to make to the program and discipline.
6. Please upload written responses to the following questions. Please note that part of this submission includes a short essay that is written by the candidate. Mentors are encouraged to assist applicants in writing this essay. (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. Please explain how these experiences have prepared you for graduate education.
 - 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.

Evidence of departmental support

Programs are required to provide the following information along with the nomination.

1. Describe how your program will mentor graduate students, including those who have overcome significant adversity.
2. 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.
3. Describe how your program transparently communicates and awards graduate students with research, funding, and professional development opportunities.