



**WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
2026 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

Applications are due July 3, 2026

PURPOSE

The Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) Undergraduate Scholarship program is designed to provide financial support for female-identifying students who wish to pursue careers in public service, public administration, or governmental affairs. The scholarship is available to current college or university students who likely would have difficulty continuing their education without financial assistance. The purpose of the program is to make post-secondary education more accessible to individuals who identify as female by relieving some of the financial burden.

Note that students from a wide variety of majors are encouraged to apply, including, but not limited to political science, government, legal studies, criminal justice, public safety, etc. The key is that a student must demonstrate a commitment to a career in public service, public administration, or governmental affairs.

The WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship program is funded through an annual fundraising gala in Madison, Wisconsin.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

Scholarships of up to \$4,000 will be awarded to students who will be attending any college or university that is part of the UW System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, or any in-state private college affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, school supplies, childcare, and to reduce loan burden.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Wisconsin who identifies as female;
- Have a financial need as determined by the receiving school based on applicant's eligibility for Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) eligible grants such as the Federal Pell Grant Program, Wisconsin Grant (WG), or Talent Incentive Program (TIP);
- Be enrolled, at the time of the application, as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at any of the eligible institutions; and
- Plan to be enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at any of the above institutions for the fall semester.

Scholarships are available for current college or university students who will be enrolled during the 2026 Fall Semester. Students who will receive their degree prior to September 1, 2026 are not eligible for this scholarship. Students in the process of transferring should apply through the institution where they will be enrolled for the fall semester.



CRITERIA

Students must:

- Have a C grade point average or better, and maintain at least a C average throughout the academic year during which receiving the scholarship;
- Demonstrate leadership potential, initiative, and excellent communication skills; and
- Have an interest in public service, government, and/or the political process.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following items **as a single PDF**:

- A completed application form including answers to all questions;
- A copy of their current transcript (this need not be a certified copy);
- A letter from the financial aid office at their school confirming their eligibility for financial aid as defined in the “Eligibility” section; and
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (along with the completed recommendation form for each) from people who are familiar with the applicant and their skills, personality, work habits, etc. Recommendations must come from:
 - a teacher, a school counselor or advisor; or
 - an employee or individual with whom they have worked in a business, community, or charitable effort.

SELECTION PROCESS

Completed application and accompanying documents should be submitted **as a single PDF** to the school the applicant will attend during the scholarship year, as follows:

- **Private College** applicants who attend a college that is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities should submit applications to the financial aid director at their respective schools.
- **UW System** applicants should submit completed scholarship applications directly to WWIG via email at wwigquestions@gmail.com.
- **Wisconsin Technical College System** applicants should submit applications to the financial aid director at their respective schools.

If the school to which the applicant seeks admission is part of the Wisconsin Technical College System or Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the institution shall first determine whether the applicant is eligible for the scholarship based on the criteria mentioned above and may then forward the names of **up to six** applicants for review and final selection by WWIG. For UW System applicants, the WWIG Scholarship Committee conducts the review and final selection.



Completed applications and accompanying documents should be submitted as a single PDF and as instructed above no later than July 3, 2026.

Applications are due July 3, 2026

Please include letters of recommendation, transcripts, and financial aid rulings with the original application. These materials will not be considered if sent separately. Please submit all application materials **as a single PDF**.

In its final review of the scholarship applications, the WWIG Scholarship Committee will look for students who show promise of making a positive contribution to society. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their leadership, demonstrated ability to handle responsibility, initiative, communication skills, academic achievement, community involvement, and commitment to public service.

Scholarship recipients will be notified by September 20, 2026.

TERM

Scholarships are effective for the academic year immediately following selection as a recipient (2026-2027). WWIG anticipates distributing half of the award for each semester (or term).

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship recipients must provide GPA evidence of their continuing eligibility at the end of each semester. Scholarship recipients must notify WWIG of any change in their enrollment status during the term of the scholarship. If the scholarship recipient discontinues their studies during the academic year, they will not be eligible to receive any further scholarship funds.

Scholarship recipients must provide two essays, 250-500 words each, one per semester, addressing the following:

- **Essay 1:** How has receiving the WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship helped you achieve your goals during the Fall 2026 semester?
- **Essay 2:** How has receiving the WWIG Undergraduate Scholarship helped you achieve your goals during the Spring 2027 semester?

Essays will be requested approximately one to two months before the end of each semester and should be sent to the WWIG Scholarship Committee Chair (contact information to be provided). Excerpts from the essays may be used in WWIG promotional and funding application materials.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Scholarship recipients will be invited to attend and will receive one complimentary ticket to WWIG's annual fundraising gala in Madison, Wisconsin.



**WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
2026 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Please be sure to include the following: 1) this completed application form; 2) a copy of your transcripts; 3) a letter of financial eligibility; 4) two letters of recommendation and the recommendation forms. This information should be submitted as a single PDF. Please see the *Selection Process* section on page two for submission instructions.

Applicant Full Name

Birthdate

School Year Street Address

City

State

Zip

Major or Field of Study and Grade Level

School Year Phone

School Name

Permanent Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Permanent (or Cell) Phone

List Any Awards or Other Recognition of Achievement:

The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire female-identifying individuals to consider careers in public service, public administration, and government affairs. Complete answers on the application are important to the evaluation process. Please answer the following questions in no more than three (3) total single-spaced typewritten pages. *By submitting this application, you permanently grant WWIG permission to use your answers or portions of those answers in promotional materials.*

1. Tell us about yourself. What accomplishments are you most proud of and why? Include obstacles you have had to overcome, if any, in pursuing your education.
2. Describe any school, volunteer, community, or political activities in which you have participated. Please include any leadership roles you held, if any, and how you helped plan or implement any activities. Describe why participation in these activities may have been important to you. (Such activities may include, but are not limited to: student government, political or public awareness campaigns, and volunteer organizations.)
3. Explain how you plan to use your degree to pursue a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs.
4. Provide a brief 4-5 sentence biography of yourself. Describe your path of study, any extracurricular involvement, and your interest in a career in public service, public administration, or government affairs. If you are selected for this scholarship, we plan to use this biography to help us describe you in the written program for the fundraising gala, as well as on our website.



I certify that this application contains accurate information.

Applicant Signature

Date

**WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
2026 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Name of Applicant

Date

Name of Person Making Recommendation

Title of Person Making Recommendation

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Phone Number

Thank you for taking the time to support this applicant with your recommendation and for helping Wisconsin Women in Government make its decision. The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire and support female-identifying individuals considering careers in public service, public administration, and government affairs. Please include all of the following information in your recommendation, and submit it to the applicant along with this form.

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? In what ways have you seen the applicant grow during the time you have known them?
2. In your opinion, please describe the applicant's capacity for academic success in post-secondary education.
3. In what ways do the applicant's achievements distinguish them from their peers? If they have been a positive role model for peers, please describe how they have done so.
4. In what ways has the applicant shown their ability to follow through on goals, commitments, and responsibilities?
5. Please add any additional information you think would be important in evaluating this applicant.



Wisconsin Women
in Government

Please provide your responses to the five questions and this completed recommendation form to the applicant.

Applicants must submit all materials as a single PDF by July 3, 2026.