Nontraditional Student Scholarships for Returning Adults and Single Parents

Please answer the questions listed below. Be sure to note the required questions (indicated by red asterisks) and the maximum word count. Responses may be revised until the time you submit your application. You may wish to copy/paste your responses from an application with a grammar/spell checker.

These scholarships are designed for single-parent students, returning adults, and other nontraditional students. Awards are competitive and are administered by the office of Adult Career and Special Student Services (ACSSS), a part of the Division of Continuing Studies (DCS). Consideration for these scholarships is based on the eligibility criteria for each type of award and the following factors:

1) financial need and FAFSA, 2) academic success or potential, 3) educational and career goals, 4) commitment and dedication, and 5) community involvement or aspirations.

EDUCATION

All questions refer to your UW-Madison student status for the upcoming fall. Please answer the following questions with that Fall semester in mind (unless otherwise directed).

*Please indicate your Student Status at UW-Madison for the fall semester; (if you will be starting a new degree program in the fall, indicate your anticipated student status):

- Undergraduate
- Graduate
- Professional

*Please indicate your Admission Status at UW-Madison for the fall semester:

- CONTINUING (presently enrolled and continuing the SAME degree program next Fall)
- ADMITTED (admitted to a UW-Madison degree program for next Fall)
- APPLICANT (applied but still waiting for admission decision for degree program in Fall)
- No DEGREE status yet for Fall (have not yet applied to a degree program for Fall)

*If you have applied to a UW-Madison degree program for the fall but have not yet been admitted to that program, please estimate the date that you anticipate receiving an admission decision for Fall (e.g., March 5, 2016). State "not applicable" if already admitted for Fall.

Word count: 5 maximum

For all new DEGREE APPLICANTS: If you receive confirmation of your admission to UW-Madison after submitting this scholarship application, please let us know immediately (advising@dcs.wisc.edu) since that information will add weight to this scholarship application.
*Please list and identify the semester GPA, date, and school for your MOST RECENTLY completed term (e.g., 3.05, Spring 2012, MATC):

Word count: 10 maximum

*How many degree credits do you intend to enroll in for the fall? (0 - 18)

*How many degree credits do you intend to enroll in for the spring? (0 - 18)

*Do you plan to study abroad or will you be off campus for any part of the next academic year? If so, will it be a UW-Madison sponsored program? Include as many details as possible to clarify the nature of any off-campus plans for next year. If you will be ON campus all of next year, state "NO" or "not applicable."

Word count: 150 maximum

*What major will you be pursuing in the fall?

Word count: 10 maximum

*What is your degree goal for the program that you will be pursuing in the fall? (e.g., BA, BS, MA, MS, MFA, MPAS, PhD, PharmD, DPT, JD, MD, DVM, etc)

Word count: 5 maximum

*In the fall, will you be pursuing a UW-Madison UNDERGRADUATE degree program that is PRIMARILY ONLINE? (for example, the NCP Nursing Collaborative program or BSN@Home?)

- Yes
- No

*In the fall, will you be pursuing your FIRST undergraduate/bachelor's degree or a SECOND (or additional) undergraduate/bachelor's degree? If you will be a graduate or professional degree student, choose N.A. for "Not Applicable."

- First
- Second
- N.A.
*How many total UNDERGRADUATE credits will you have completed by the end of this academic year? Indicate N.A. for "not applicable" if you are a graduate or professional student.

Word count: 3 maximum

If you are a PhD candidate, when did you successfully complete your preliminary exams -OR- when do you anticipate completing your prelims?

Word count: 5 maximum

*When do you anticipate graduating from the degree program that you will be starting or continuing this next Fall? An estimated graduation date is sufficient.

Word count: 5 maximum

*If you will be an undergraduate in the College of Letters & Science this next Fall, do you plan to graduate from L&S or are you planning to transfer to another school or college before graduation?

- I plan to complete my undergraduate degree in L&S
- I plan to complete my undergraduate degree in a different school or college
- As a grad or prof degree student next fall, this will not be applicable to me

TRANSCRIPTS

Your UW-Madison transcripts can be retrieved by this system. However, if you are a new degree applicant or a newly admitted student to UW-Madison, please upload a transcript of your most recent college-level course work if not from UW-Madison. An unofficial copy is acceptable for this purpose. This transcript is not required but it is strongly recommended. Use the DOCUMENT UPLOADS button to add a copy of your most recent transcript to this scholarship application.

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

*When did you graduate from high school, or when did you complete a high school equivalency such as the GED? (e.g., June 1995)

Word count: 5 maximum

*What is the highest level of education that you have successfully completed thus far?

- High school diploma or GED
- Associate degree
- Bachelors degree
- Masters degree
☐ MFA degree  
☐ Doctoral degree (PhD)  
☐ Professional degree (JD, MD, DVM, PharmD, DPT, MPAS, etc)

*Please itemize all schools of higher education that you have attended, including UW, and list each one on a separate line. Include each school's NAME, specific DATES of attendance, MAJOR or program, and DEGREES with GRADUATION dates if any. [For example: Madison College, Fall 2003-Spring 2005 and Fall 2011, Liberal Arts program, A.S. degree in December 2011]

Word count: 100 maximum

*Did you experience any breaks in your education, particularly in your pursuit of a degree? If so, please indicate the duration of the break:

☐ 0 or less than a year  
☐ 1 year  
☐ 2 years  
☐ 3 years  
☐ 4 years  
☐ 5 years  
☐ More than 5 years

*Please indicate the TOTAL number of YEARS of your educational break(s), particularly if it was significant or comprised five or more years: (0 - 99)

*Educational Break Essay: If you experienced one or more significant breaks in your education, please describe in detail the specific points in your education when those breaks occurred. Include the LEVEL of your education at each point, and the specific DATES and DURATION of each break. Explain the reasons for each break, and describe your preparedness to resume your education now. (If no break occurred or if the break was not significant, state "not applicable.")

Word count: 1000 maximum
FAMILY

Some of our scholarships support single parents who are the head of their household or the primary economic supporter as defined by the IRS (www.irs.gov/publications/p501/ar02.html#d0e2164). The following questions are related to eligibility for these single-parent scholarships.

* What is your marital status?
  - Single
  - Married
  - Separated
  - Divorced
  - Other

* Are you the sole head of your household AND a single parent of at least one dependent child (i.e., UNDER the age of 18 or disabled, who is living with you and financially dependent upon you)?
  - Yes
  - No

* If you are a single parent now, what is your anticipated status for the next academic year?
  - Single parent with one or more dependent children
  - Single parent with independent children
  - Anticipating marriage or partnership in which my partner will be contributing to the financial needs of my or our children
  - Not applicable

* How many dependent children do you have? (0 - 99)

* What are the ages of your children or dependents? (For example: 2,7,17. Enter 0 if you have no children)

Word count: 15 maximum

FINANCIAL NEED

Financial need is demonstrated by your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please submit a FAFSA application even if you do not intend to accept financial aid.

* Have you submitted your FAFSA for next year?
  - Yes
No

*When did you submit your FAFSA for the next academic year, or when do you anticipate submitting it? (Be as specific as possible—for example, February 14, 2016)

Word count: 5 maximum

*Have you ever received one of our ACSSS-DCS Scholarships or Continuing Education (CE) Grants?

☐ No
☐ Yes, one CE grant
☐ Yes, two CE grants
☐ Yes, one ACSSS Scholarship
☐ Yes, two or more ACSSS Scholarships

*What sources of funding support do you have this year? Check all that apply.

☐ Grants
☐ Student Loans
☐ Veterans Benefits
☐ Scholarship or Fellowship
☐ Graduate Assistantship
☐ Graduate Traineeship
☐ Tuition Remission
☐ Personal Resources
☐ None of the Above

*What sources of funding support do you anticipate next year? Check all that apply.

☐ Grants
☐ Student Loans
☐ Veterans Benefits
☐ Scholarship or Fellowship
☐ Graduate Assistantship
☐ Graduate Traineeship
☐ Tuition Remission
☐ Personal Resources
☐ None of the Above

*What was your Adjusted Gross Income for this past year? (i.e., your combined family income)
*What is your anticipated Adjusted Gross Income for the upcoming year? (i.e., your combined family income)

*Will you be receiving Veterans' benefits for the upcoming academic year?

- Yes
- No

*If you will be receiving Veterans' benefits next year, please indicate what will be included in those benefits, checking all that apply (or check "Not applicable").

- Full tuition
- Partial tuition
- Living Expenses (food, housing, etc)
- School supplies (books, computer, etc)
- Other (transportation, etc)
- Not applicable, or not a Veteran

*If you will be receiving Veterans' benefits, please provide more specific details about those benefits. Include a projected date or an estimate of how long those benefits will continue; for example, "through Spring 2016," or "they will end in December 2017." Indicate "not applicable" if you are not a Veteran.

*If you are receiving child support, please list that here and indicate the amount of child support you are receiving PER YEAR (e.g., $11,000/year). If you are receiving other forms of non-taxable support (AFDC, etc), please identify the type of support and the amount PER YEAR. If this question is not applicable, enter 0.

*What is your household's total cash and savings? (Enter 0 if your total household or combined family's cash and savings are none.)
*Please list and identify the amounts of any investments not included in the cash & savings total up above (real estate, stocks, bonds, significant assets, etc); enter 0 if none.

Word count: 100 maximum

*What is your household’s Average MONTHLY Expenses total? Please include the average total amount you and your family (i.e., your household) spend on food, housing, transportation, health care, child care, education, etc. each month (e.g., 2700).

Word count: 10 maximum

OTHER FINANCIAL FACTORS? One of the scholarship criteria for award consideration is financial need. In most cases, your 2016-2017 FAFSA will provide this information. However, if you have any financial circumstances which might not be reflected in your FAFSA (such as a change in income not evident in your new FAFSA for next year) or if you have a significant or unusual debt (such as medical expenses), please list or describe that here especially if it is affecting your degree progress.

Word count: 300 maximum

PERSONAL ESSAY
* Personal Essay Instructions: Please review the scholarship criteria and eligibility factors listed in this application AND on our scholarship website at continuingstudies.wisc.edu/advising/nontrad-scholars.htm, especially the "Tips Sheet." Then describe how you fit those criteria. In addition, describe your reasons or motivation for starting or returning to school, your academic success or potential, your educational goals, career aspirations, and commitment. Outline the challenges and opportunities you face as a student, and address the meaning of this scholarship in contributing to your goals. List or describe any financial challenges you face—either as a single parent, returning adult, or other nontraditional student. This essay is a very significant part of your application. Please provide a detailed statement for full consideration.

Word count: 1700 maximum

RECOMMENDATION

Please ask a reference or recommender to submit a letter of recommendation supporting your application and addressing your eligibility or potential for this competition, the "Nontraditional Student Scholarships for Returning Adults and Single Parents." A letter of recommendation is not required but it will almost certainly add strength to your application. You may ask either one or two recommenders to submit letters of support. Use the RECOMMENDATIONS button to add your recommender’s name and email address AND to initiate your request for their letter of recommendation for this competition. Check the status of your recommendation periodically and resend the request to your recommender if they fail to respond.

AWARD RECEPTION

*If selected as a scholarship recipient, can you attend the annual Awards Reception for our new scholars, held on a Tuesday night at the end of April?

☐ Yes
*Please write a short biographical statement that you approve for printing in our Awards Reception program if selected as a scholarship recipient (approximately 100-120 words). For examples of bios, see the “Tips Sheet” link found on our website at http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/advising/nontrad-scholars.htm

Word count: 150 maximum

EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEER WORK and other ACTIVITIES

*Please provide a description of your employment history, volunteer work, and your participation in any relevant activities or organizations on or off-campus. For example, are you currently employed? Full-time or part-time? What is your job title and duties or role? If you are not currently employed, do you anticipate being employed next Fall? -OR- Upload a copy of your resume using the DOCUMENT UPLOADS button and fill in this question box with the statement, "I am uploading my resume to this application."

Word count: 300 maximum

POST-GRADUATION

*What is your primary goal or intention after graduation (i.e., after graduating with the degree that you will be pursuing)?

☐ I will seek employment in my field

☐ I will continue my education, pursuing another degree or certificate

*Describe in detail your career goals or career plan (including any future educational goals if applicable).
CLOSING QUESTIONS

*If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, would you be interested in helping to publicize our scholarships through an interview or story by our writing staff here in the Division of Continuing Studies and, if so, may we share your bio and contact information with those staff members?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

*How did you hear about the ACSSS/DCS "Nontraditional Student Scholarships for Returning Adults and Single Parents"? Please check all that apply:

- ACSSS or DCS website
- Email message
- Poster
- Advisor
- Listserver
- Scholarships@UW-Madison
- Newspaper
- Word of Mouth
- TV or Radio

Are you a member of The University League?

- Yes
- No

*If another campus unit or a recognized philanthropic organization contacts us for potential candidates who might be eligible for their scholarships or grants, may we share your name, contact information, and eligibility information with them?

- Yes
What is the best phone number for contacting you?

*Word count: 5 maximum

What is the best email address for contacting you?

*Word count: 5 maximum

If there is any additional information you wish to share with the scholarship committee, please include that here, especially any factors not addressed in other parts of this application (Maximum: 500 words)

I certify that the information I have provided in this application is true, accurate and complete, and that the essays are my own work. I further certify that I am not delinquent in the payment of court-ordered child support and/or maintenance. If granted assistance, I will use it only for educationally related costs while enrolled at UW-Madison. I authorize the reviewing committee to obtain additional information concerning my academic record and financial record in order to complete the processing of this application. I further authorize the release of information on this application to parties involved in the determination of my eligibility and qualifications, and to all scholarship reviewers who will be considering my application for these specific awards. I understand that this scholarship application process is competitive and that eligibility alone is not sufficient to receive an award. If I accept the offer of a scholarship, I will make every effort to attend the awards ceremony, and I will write a letter of appreciation to the scholarship donors.

Even after completing all questions, you may return to this “Questions” section to make changes. However, once you SUBMIT your application, you cannot return to any part of it. So delay that final submission until you are satisfied with the completion of your online scholarship application.