

## Call for Proposals: Universities of Wisconsin Innovation Grant Academic Year 2024–2025

The Universities of Wisconsin are pleased to announce a call for proposals for innovations that aim to develop and apply advancements in human knowledge and/or promote economic prosperity in the state of Wisconsin. Priority will be given to projects that involve either collaborations across UW institutions, collaborations with non-profits or other Wisconsin education institutions, or collaborations with industry partners. Grant proposals must align with the Universities of Wisconsin strategic plan as well as the strategic priorities of the respective UW institution(s). The Universities of Wisconsin Innovation Grant is an annual competition for five years, with this call being the second of five. The Academic Year 2024–2025 call for proposals will result in three funded proposals each receiving seed funding totaling up to \$175,000 over two years. At the close of the second year, Academic Year 2024–2025 grant recipients will submit a progress report about their efforts and a vision for future project development and application. From these reports, a Review Panel will select a “big idea” project to receive additional funding totaling up to \$400,000 distributed over three years.

### Areas of Focus may include, but are not limited to:

- Basic or applied research in fields pursued across UW universities.
- Development of new technologies, products, or services that have the potential to create economic value and promote prosperity in Wisconsin.
- Development of innovative teaching methodologies, educational programs, or education technologies that enhance learning outcomes, improve instruction development or delivery, or improve student success outcomes.
- Development of initiatives that have the potential to increase access to higher education and/or enhance student success, retention, student belonging and well-being and/or degree completion.

### Proposal Requirements:

- Proposal submissions are limited to 12 pages including graphs and other supporting content. The 12-page limitation does not include supporting collaboration letters, which are limited to one page per collaboration. Proposal text must be one of three font types (Times New Roman, Calibri, Verdana) at 12 points. Single spacing is acceptable. Page margins cannot be smaller than ½ inch.
- Proposal submissions should start with: proposal name, submitting UW institution, principal investigator(s), and contact information.
- Proposal descriptions should clearly describe the innovative idea and its impact on one or more of the Areas of Focus. The proposal should address, as relevant, the below Evaluation Criteria.
- Proposals should include a clear and concise project plan that outlines the objectives, methods, expected outcomes, and timeline of the project.
- Proposals should include a detailed budget and justification for the requested funds. For budget salaries, please include estimated fringe. If additional funding or institutional/industry supports are anticipated (e.g., course release, lab space/resources, etc.), then the proposal should include evidence that the funding and/or support has been secured. We recommend using the Innovation Grant Budget Template available for download on the [UW Innovation Grant Proposal Round 2 page](#). Submitting the budget using the provided Excel template will not count toward the 12-page limit.
- Proposals should demonstrate the applicant's and collaborator's qualifications, expertise, and ability to deliver on the proposal outcomes.
- Proposals involving collaboration should detail:
  - The nature and scope of the collaboration and what each partner brings to the project, and
  - The collaborator's commitment to the proposal objectives and outcomes.
- Proposals should be submitted through the respective UW's Chancellor's Office. Collaborations across UW institutions should determine which institution will submit the proposal as lead. To aid in institutional prioritization and reduce workload, no more than two proposals should be submitted from each lead institution.

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**Evaluation Criteria:** Given the diverse range of possible proposals, evaluation criteria may vary.

- **Innovation & Impact:** What is the project’s potential to create transformative change? Are there new technologies, methodologies or approaches that advance human knowledge, fill gaps, or address important problems at the institution level, or in society, business, or industry? What is the project’s anticipated impact in its identified area(s), including evidence in support of that impact and who/what will benefit? Have experts in the field/industry been consulted to determine the project’s likely impact?
- **Feasibility:** Is the proposed project and plan one that can be accomplished within the specified time frame and within budget?
- **Sustainability:** How sustainable is the proposed project and will it produce lasting change or positive outcomes? Is there a plan for project sustainability beyond the funding period?
- **Measurability:** Does the project have clear and measurable outcomes that can be tracked and evaluated over time? Are these metrics aligned with the project’s defined impact?
- **Collaboration:** What is the extent and nature of any collaboration? How does the collaboration enhance the project, its outcomes, and those who benefit?
- **Strategic Plan Alignment:** How does the project align with the Universities of Wisconsin and respective UW university strategic plans?

### **Application, Award Notification, and Grant Distribution Schedule:**

- **Application Deadline:** The deadline for submitting proposals is October 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Proposals must be submitted electronically to [wisconsin.edu/grants-awards/uw-system-innovation-grant-proposal-round-2/](https://wisconsin.edu/grants-awards/uw-system-innovation-grant-proposal-round-2/). Applications must conform to the submission limitations detailed in the Proposal Requirements. Submissions should be one file in PDF format and smaller than 20MB.
- **Review Process:** Grant proposals will be reviewed by a team of UW and external reviewers. The selection criteria will include the quality and originality of the proposed project, demonstration of the collaborative nature of the proposal if applicable, the feasibility of the project plan, and its alignment to the Evaluation Criteria. Review Teams will make recommendations to the Universities of Wisconsin President for final selections.
- **Notification:** Award recipients will be notified in late December 2024.
- **Grant Funding and Distribution Schedule:**
  - The grant amount is up to \$175,000 total for each funded proposal (up to three proposals) paid out over two years. Planned distribution is \$100,000 the first year and \$75,000 the second year.
  - The one “big idea” project from each academic year competition will receive up to an additional \$400,000 total distributed over the next three years (\$133,333 per year).
  - Grant funds will be disbursed the month after award notification and will repeat at the start of each calendar year for the award term.
  - Indirect costs are not allowed, although facilities and administrative costs may be considered if essential to the project and described in detail in the proposal and budget.
- **Two-Year Progress Report:** By November 1 of the second year of the initial seed–funding award (2026), grant recipients will submit a two-year report detailing the current status of their project, work completed, and the recipient’s vision for future research or project development. Additional details will be provided to award recipients as part of the award contract.

Innovation Grant information and a link to FAQs can be found at [wisconsin.edu/grants-awards/innovation-grant/](https://wisconsin.edu/grants-awards/innovation-grant/). We look forward to receiving your proposals and supporting your innovations. Please direct questions to Stephen Schmid, [stephen.schmid@wisconsin.edu](mailto:stephen.schmid@wisconsin.edu).