The Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) Fellowship is provided by the State of Wisconsin and intended to provide financial support for minority and disadvantaged graduate students allowing them to focus attention on their graduate studies and to complete their degrees in a timely fashion.

Eligibility: A graduate student who is admitted to a degree-seeking graduate program at UW-River Falls and who is a US citizen or permanent resident is eligible to apply for the AOP Fellowship if he/she meets any of the following criteria, which have been established by the UW System:

- Traditionally under-represented minority (Black/African-American, Hispanic or Latino/a, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Southeast Asian of Vietnamese, Cambodian, or Laotian descent who entered the US after 12/31/1975);
- Has financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- From family that received any type of public assistance, including eligibility for school lunch program;
- First-generation college student;
- Participant in TRIO pre-college or undergraduate programs for students, such as Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, McNair, etc;
- Has not had the expectation and encouragement to pursue post-graduate education as a viable option.

Award: The AOP Fellowship provides a grant that covers the tuition/fee charges (at the WI resident rate) plus an amount for book/supplies each fall and spring semester; summer grants are dependent on remaining funding. The amount is based on the individual recipient’s credit-load each semester only for the courses that are required for their program. AOP Fellows remain eligible to receive the grant in future semesters as long as they are continuously enrolled, meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, continue to have financial need as determined by their FAFSA, and submit this application by the priority deadline each year. Grant amounts for summer and for future years, however, will be contingent on funding from the State of Wisconsin. The UW-River Falls AOP Selection Committee will try to provide sufficient support for a degree to be achieved with the resources that are available.

How To Apply: A complete application consists of:

- This AOP Fellowship Application;
- Copy or printout of Unofficial Transcript;
- Completed FAFSA for the upcoming academic year (online at www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Applications will be reviewed by the committee after the priority deadline of May 1. All submitted applications will be reviewed and considered; however, preference is given first to continuing AOP Fellows, and then to new applicants who plan to enroll full-time. If you ARE a continuing AOP Fellow, please provide updated responses to the two essay questions. Letters of recommendation, while not required, may be considered an asset. Later applications will be reviewed if funding is available.

Submit completed AOP Fellowship Application to: Enrollment and Student Success Office
University of Wisconsin River Falls
103 North Hall
410 South Third Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Student Name: ____________________________________________ ☐ New Applicant  ☐ Continuing Fellow
Address: ____________________________  City: ______________  State: _____  Zip: _________

Degree Program: ________________________________  Falcon ID: W_______________________________

Anticipated Graduation Date (month/year): ________________  Academic Year this application is for: 20____ – ____

Will your employer provide you with tuition reimbursement?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes, % of tuition they will pay: _____ %
Complete the following:

Ethnicity: ☐ Black/African-American ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐ Other, specify: ______________
☐ Hispanic or Latino/a ☐ Southeast Asian (check one): ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Cambodian ☐ Hmong ☐ Laotian

Check all that apply:
☐ I have financial need and have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
☐ I come from a family that has received a type of public assistance, including eligibility for school lunch program
☐ I am a first-generation college student
☐ I was in TRIO pre-college or undergrad programs, such as Upward Bound, Student Support Services, McNair, etc
☐ I have not had the expectation and encouragement to pursue post-graduate education as a viable option
☐ I have received an AOP Fellowship Grant at another school (if yes, semesters received: ______________)

Please describe the following. Feel free to attach a separate sheet if you need more room:
Describe your career goals:

Describe how the AOP Fellowship grant will help you achieve the career goals you described:

Indicate your anticipated enrollment:
List the courses you plan to take each semester during the academic year this application is for:

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<th>Fall 2014</th>
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<th>Summer 2015</th>
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Total Fall credits ______ Total Spring credits ______ Total Summer credits ______

I certify that the information provided by me on this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.
I understand that the University has the right to terminate any award if information has been misrepresented. I agree to notify the Financial Aid Office, in writing, if there is a change to any of this information.

Student Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

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