the following requirements: receive a teaching assistantship, candidates for admission must meet
The most common source of support is a teaching assistantship. To
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS
fellowships provide a
can usually purchase on their own. Additionally, assistantships and
health insurance program
eligibility for an excellent
health insurance program, an extremely valuable benefit that provides
single or family coverage that is more comprehensive than individuals
can usually purchase on their own. Additionally, assistantships and
fellowships provide a stipend for living expenses.
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS
The most common source of support is a teaching assistantship. To
receive a teaching assistantship, candidates for admission must meet
the following requirements:
• evidence (usually from the undergraduate transcript) of an
appropriate background in the relevant subject matter of the
course(s) to which appointment is being considered;
• evidence (usually from letters of recommendation or verbal
communication) of the candidate's potential as a teaching assistant;
• an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale); and
• for students whose native language is not English, evidence of
competence in spoken English through the SPEAK test that is
administered by UW–Madison. International applicants should note
that a TA appointment is not normally possible during the first year of
graduate study.

Current students who apply for their first teaching assistantship are
also subject to the above criteria, as well as their performance as a
graduate student. Reappointment as a teaching assistant depends upon
satisfactory progress as a graduate student, satisfactory performance as a
teaching assistant, and completing the Equity/Diversity TA Training.
Teaching assistants may be eligible for UW–Madison teaching awards
(https://grad.wisc.edu/taawards/), including the Early Excellence in
Teaching Award, Exceptional Service Award, Innovation in Teaching
Award, Capstone Ph.D. Teaching Award, and the College of Letters &
Science Teaching Fellow Award.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS
Research assistantships are made possible by grants awarded to
faculty for particular research programs. Recipients are selected by
the individual professor concerned, and the student’s interests and
experience must match the needs of the funding project. Availability of
research assistantships varies.

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY FELLOWSHIPS
Advanced Opportunity Fellowships (AOF) are granted to the UW–Madison
Graduate School by the State of Wisconsin and are combined with other
graduate education funds to support the recruitment and retention of
highly qualified underrepresented students in UW–Madison graduate
programs. Fellowships are competitive and merit-based. AOF funding
is intended to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the graduate
student population, as well as to support economically disadvantaged
and first generation college students. AOF fellowships are paid through
the Graduate School by the College of Letters & Science's Community
of Graduate Research Scholars (http://ls.wisc.edu/current-students/
graduate-students/cgrs/) (CGRS) program.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS
Fellowships from professional societies and outside agencies provide
another important source of aid for which students may apply either
before or after commencing graduate work at UW–Madison. If necessary,
external fellowships can often be supplemented with university funds up
to prevailing university fellowship rates.

All qualified students who are US citizens or permanent residents are
urged to apply to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate
Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Students apply directly to NSF; the
closing date is usually in early November. Please check the NSF (http://
www.nsf.gov/) website for the application instructions and deadline.