

Cofrin Center for Biodiversity's

Call for Student Grant Applications

Overview

The Cofrin Center for Biodiversity (CCB) offers an exciting, annual student grant opportunity that provides funds to students to gain experience in the fields of ecology, biology, geology, water science, environmental policy, engineering, exercise fitness, photography, art, history, First Nations studies, education, and inclusivity/diversity/equity. Funds awarded to undergraduate or graduate students are used to complete a project in collaboration with a UW-Green Bay faculty or staff member. Students may propose to work on a new project of interest to them or help fund existing work (e.g., master's thesis, independent study). They may apply for multiple grant opportunities outlined in the CCB Student Grant Application.

Eligibility

Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at any UW-Green Bay campus may apply.

Deadlines

- April 28 - Grant applications due to biodiversity@uwgb.edu by 11:59PM
- May 9 - Applicants are notified of the decision, with official award letter to follow.
- May 19 - Awardees will attend a full day training for CCB student employees. Please mark this on your calendar.
- March or April of following year - Grant recipients are required to present at the annual Cofrin Student Grant Symposium.
- May 15 (for those graduating) or May 31 (for those not graduating) of the following year - Grant recipients are required to turn in an archive of the project (e.g., raw data files, photographs, metadata), borrowed or purchased equipment (unless otherwise instructed), and a final report to the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity.

How to Apply

Students interested in applying should first contact an appropriate UW-Green Bay faculty or staff member to discuss or develop a project. Once the project has been planned, the student must email their completed CCB Student Grant Application (form on the last page of this document) and a brief (2–5 pages) grant proposal containing the following information (biodiversity@uwgb.edu; CC your advisor to the email submission):

- *Basic Information:* Student name, student email, student advisor's name, and a descriptive project title.
- *Introduction:* Literature review and project objectives.
- *Proposed Methods:* Must clearly explain the field, lab, or project methodologies, location of study, expected data analysis, and project schedule and duration.
- *Anticipated Outcomes or Results:* Describe what you expect your project to produce.
- *Proposed Budget:* Please itemize with associated costs and links (when appropriate):
 - Equipment and supplies.
 - Estimated mileage or fleet vehicle rentals (will be billed at current state rates, \$0.70/mi); to drive fleet vehicles or request mileage reimbursement, student must be **authorized to drive**.
 - You may put your stipend in as a lump sum, and the CCB will calculate the hourly allotment plus fringe for you. Roughly, hourly wage + fringe will be \$16.35 for undergraduate and \$17.38 for graduate students, but this number will vary slightly between fiscal years.
- Proposals should be submitted as a .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf files.

See an **example proposal** for more guidance on writing the proposal. Note that the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity can loan students the following equipment: GPS units, binoculars, spotting scopes, compasses,

water thermometers, plant presses, writing utensils, hand lens, dbh tapes, trail cameras, SD cards, and counters. We also have a reference library for you to browse.

Research Project Examples

Students may propose any project of their choosing as long as the project meets the criteria outlined in the CCB Student Grant Application. This year, we are particularly interested in funding biological monitoring projects in the Cofrin Memorial Arboretum and Point au Sable Natural Area that focus on taxa that are deemed priority populations in the [Lower Green Bay/Fox River Area of Concern \(LGBFR AOC\)](#). These areas are slated for intensive restoration work over the next several years, and baseline monitoring within the AOC boundary will be invaluable for assessing the impacts of restoration. Priority populations found in these natural areas include:

- Anurans
- Marsh Breeding Birds
- Migratory Waterfowl
- Wooded Wetland Birds
- Breeding Coastal Birds
- Breeding Shorebirds
- Coastal Wetland Mustelids
- Muskrat
- Stream Macroinvertebrates
- Turtles
- Wetland Terns
- Bats
- Coastal Terrestrial Macroinvertebrates
- Migratory Landbirds
- Migratory Shorebirds
- Freshwater Unionid Mussels
- Tributary Fish (Target Species: larval/juvenile and adult yellow perch, adult redhorse spp.)

We will also consider a range of other projects. The projects below are examples, but do not represent an exhaustive list of possibilities.

- Biological inventories of any of our natural areas across any taxa (e.g., birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, mosses, ferns, plants).
- Photography, illustration, or video project of birds at Point au Sable and Wequiock Natural Areas.
- Natural and cultural history of Indigenous People from one of UW-Green Bay's natural areas.
- Curation and databasing of specimens from CCB natural areas in Richter Museum or Fewless Herbarium.
- Building outreach materials (e.g., laminated quick guide on mammals/birds/insects of a natural area).
- Work with our natural areas team on adaptive management of vegetation communities.
- Understanding the genetics of a plant species at Kingfisher Farm Natural Area.
- Monitor water clarity and oxygen levels using an environmental sensor at Mahon Creek.
- Curation and databasing of fern and lycophyte specimens collected at Toft Point Natural Area.
- Development of K-12 student curriculum for the Cofrin Memorial Arboretum.
- Mindfulness study or the psychology of spending time outdoors.
- Environmental engineering and technology.
- Peatland bryophyte survey of Toft Point Natural Area.
- Drone video project capturing our natural areas across the seasons.
- Fungal diversity study at Wequiock Creek Natural Area.

Cofrin Center for Biodiversity Student Grant Descriptions

Cofrin Student Research Grant (up to \$2,500)

The proposed student project must take place at one or more of the six UW-Green Bay Natural Areas (Cofrin Memorial Arboretum, Kingfisher Farm, Peninsula Center, Point au Sable, Wequiock Creek, and Toft Point) and/or involve work completed in the Fewless Herbarium or Richter Museum of Natural History. Projects may focus on any number of topics, including traditional scientific research from any discipline but may also focus on the arts, photography, mental health, wellness, equity/diversity/inclusion, history, outreach, education, etc. These grants are made possible thanks to a generous endowment from the family of Dr. David Cofrin and the late John Cofrin. A \$1,500 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe), and \$500 is granted for supplies, equipment, mileage, or vehicle rentals. If a project includes Kingfisher Farm Natural Area, the student will receive an additional \$250 for travel costs.

Krischan Grant for Botanical Research (up to \$400)

This grant is named in memory of Thomas Krischan, donated by his widowed wife. This grant supports students conducting botany-related research that supports management and conservation of Toft Point Natural Area. Projects must strive to increase botanical knowledge of plant species at Toft Point as their major goal. Acceptable topics include plant biodiversity surveys, invasive plant control, plant population genetics, microbial and mycorrhizal associations with plants, pollination, plant predation, plant competition, plant pathology, or similar topics. A \$200 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe), and the remaining \$200 can be used for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Friends of Toft Point Grant (up to \$4,250)

The Friends of Toft Point Grant provide two awards that support students conducting traditional ecological research, as well as research or activities that support the human dimensions of conservation at Toft Point Natural Area. Acceptable projects include traditional research in ecology, conservation biology, biodiversity, sociology, and archaeology as well as projects related to environmental history, literature, or art that support the management, history, or aesthetic appreciation of Toft Point Natural Area. A \$1,000 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for

undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students). The remainder of the grant can be used for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, lodging, as well as additional student wages for the primary applicant and/or a field assistant.

Roy and Charlotte Lukes Research Award (up to \$800)

The Roy and Charlotte Lukes Research Award is available to support conservation research in Door County, WI by a UW-Green Bay student whose proposed project will involve student research conducted within the Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands, designated in 2015 as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance (which may or may not include Toft Point Natural Area). In addition to fostering original research on the natural history, ecology, and biodiversity conservation of these important places, this annual award is intended to provide valuable hands-on research opportunities for students. This research award commemorates the important contributions to conservation and environmental education by Roy and Charlotte Lukes, two of Wisconsin's most influential and beloved naturalists. The award was created by a generous endowment from the late West Bend philanthropist Ron Horn. The Roy and Charlotte Lukes Research Award extends the legacy and unselfish values that these two important Door County leaders have championed for >50 years. A \$500 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe). The remaining \$300 can be used for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Point au Sable/Wequiock Creek Grant (up to \$500)

The proposed student project must involve the Point au Sable or Wequiock Creek Natural Area in some way, though the project may involve other locations. Like Cofrin Student Research Grants, projects may focus on any number of topics, including traditional scientific research from any discipline but may also focus on the arts, photography, mental health, wellness, equity/diversity/inclusion, history, outreach, education, etc. This funding is made possible thanks to a generous endowment from a group of Fox River businesses. A \$300 stipend (including fringe) is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe), and \$200 is granted for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Keith White Prairie Restoration Ecology Grant (up to \$3,000)

This grant is made possible by a generous endowment by Professor Emeritus Keith White and his late wife, Betty White. This grant supports a full-time environmental science student conducting work in the Keith White Prairie on the UWGB campus. Projects that focus on increasing the diversity of plants within the prairie through planting native species or managing invasive species are particularly encouraged, but related ecological research projects conducted within Keith White Prairie will also be considered. Proposals that focus on the restoration and/or enhancement of the prairie should include a species list, a map of proposed planting locations, and a plan for tracking plant survival within the methods section.

Students may obtain technical advice on appropriate species and planting techniques from the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity. A \$2,250 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work will be awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe), and the remaining \$750 is granted for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation Grant (up to \$4,000)

This grant funds a student research project at Kingfisher Farm Natural Area and is made possible by a generous gift from the Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation. The West Foundation supports humanitarian, educational, cultural, and civic or public projects in Manitowoc and surrounding counties. Projects may focus on research in any scientific field. A \$1,500 stipend (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (\$16/hr for undergraduates and \$17/hr for master's students plus fringe). Remaining funds can be budgeted for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Cofrin Center for Biodiversity Student Grant Application

Instructions

Please complete basic information about yourself below. Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*). Then, submit this page along with your remaining materials (as described above) via email (biodiversity@uwgb.edu).

Project Title:*

First Name:*

Last Name:*

Preferred Gender Pronouns:

Expected Month/Year of Graduation:*

Degree:

Major:

What is the name of your project advisor?*

What grant(s) are you applying for?* You may check all that apply.

Cofrin Student Research Grant (up to \$2,500)

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Keith White Prairie Restoration Ecology Grant (up to \$3,000)

Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation Grant (up to \$4,000)

Will you be observing animals? Check if yes.

If so, you will need an IACUC Wildlife Waiver.

Will you be handling animals? Check if yes.

If so, you will need an approved IACUC full proposal.