TEACH Grant

Contact regarding application: A`ha Vuong, ttvuong@wisc.edu
Contact regarding grant disbursement and financial aid: Pade Thao, pthao5@wisc.edu

Federal TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) Grants are available to UW-Madison teacher education students who are admitted formally to a "high-need" teacher education program and who meet specific academic requirements.

Eligibility

Officially-designated "high need fields" include Master of Science with Secondary Teaching & ESL Certification, Bilingual Education; Communication Sciences and Disorders; English as a Second Language; Mathematics; Reading Specialist; Science certification areas; Art; Music; Health ; Physical; Special Education; and World Language Education certification areas. Students completing the Elementary Education and Special Education dual program, Elementary Education with ESL minor or Early Childhood Education minor program options are also eligible for a TEACH Grant.

To be eligible for the grant, students in these programs must have scored above the 75th percentile on a nationally-normed admissions test or have earned at least a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average (GPA). Students typically use their ACT, SAT or GRE scores. As long as a portion of the exam indicates a student has scored above the 75th percentile they would meet the nationally-normed admissions test requirement. If students are not eligible through that method, they need to have earned a 3.25 cumulative GPA on ALL undergraduate and graduate level coursework. This does include coursework from other institutions. Students who become eligible for the program via GPA must continue to earn a 3.25 GPA to maintain their eligibility.

Regrettably, because of the structure of our programs and federal regulations, students with a previous degree who are earning certification only (usually referred to as post-baccalaureate or "Education Special" students) are explicitly prohibited from receiving TEACH Grants. However, students earning a second undergraduate or graduated degree are eligible for TEACH Grants, as are students completing certification work in ESL, Bilingual Education, or Reading.

Students may receive up to $4,000 per year. The maximum aggregate for undergraduates is $16,000 and for graduate students is $8,000. Students need not be enrolled on a full-time basis; the award amount will be proportionally reduced. Applicants must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Requirements

All TEACH Grant recipients must meet a specific service requirement after completing their teacher preparation program. Recipients must be a full-time teacher in a "high-need field" in a "low-income" school for a total of four academic years. This must be accomplished within eight years after completing a teacher preparation program. "Low-income school" is defined as a public or private nonprofit elementary, secondary school, or educational service agency eligible for assistance under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. There are over 1000 schools so designated in Wisconsin. Please see the Low Income Directory here https://studentaid.gov/app/tcliDirectorySearch.action

Important: Failure to meet the service requirement or to maintain the GPA eligibility requirement results in a TEACH Grant converting to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education, with interest charged from the date the TEACH Grant was disbursed. Anything less than the required four full years of service results in grant conversion to loan—even if students take less than the full grant or voluntarily leave a teacher education program or are not permitted to continue.

Application

UW-Madison students must take the following steps to apply for a TEACH Grant:
1. Read the U.S. Department of Education synopsis of the TEACH Grant program (https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach). Make sure all eligibility requirements are met.
2. Students who have not completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must do so (www.fafsa.ed.gov).
3. Complete the online "Initial Counseling" located on the My TEACH Grant Homepage and pass all quizzes. Print the counseling completion page to hand in with your application.
4. If still interested in the grant, complete and submit the "Agreement to Serve" (ATS) also located on the My TEACH Grant Homepage. Print pages that include sections A, B C and F of the ATS to hand in with your application. **All three types of counseling (Initial, subsequent and exit and the ATS) are here: https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action**
5. Complete the UW-Madison TEACH Grant Application Form.
6. Submit a copy of the counseling completion, the ATS sections A, B, C and F, and the TEACH Grant application form to A`ha Vuong via email at ttvuong@wisc.edu or via mail to School of Education Student Services, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706.

Student Services staff will verify that applicants meet all grant requirements, including formal admission to a program and minimum test scores or grade-point average. If we are unable to verify a student meets the test score OR grade point average requirement based on the records' available to us we may ask the student to provide the required documentation. Applicants will be informed if requirements are not met or when the application has been forwarded to the UW-Madison Financial Aid Office for further processing.

Students who, after reading the U.S. Department of Education synopsis and viewing the online initial counseling, have additional questions about the TEACH Grant program can contact A`ha Vuong by email at ttvuong@wisc.edu. For questions about financial aid please contact Financial Aid Advisor Pade Thao at pthao5@wisc.edu.