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

Eligibility includes all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any UW–Green Bay campus. Incoming graduate students who have been accepted for admission are also eligible.

Deadlines

- February 11, 2026: Grant applications due to biodiversity@uwgb.edu by 11:59 PM CDT.
- February 27, 2026: Applicants are notified of the decision, with official award letter to follow.
- May 18, 2026: Awardees will attend a full day training for CCB student employees. Please save the date.
- March or April 2027: Grant recipients are required to present at the annual Cofrin Student Grant Symposium.
- May 14, 2027 (for those graduating) or May 31, 2027 (for those not graduating): 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), a resume or CV, and a brief (2–5 pages) grant proposal containing the following information (biodiversity@uwgb.edu; CC your advisor to the email):

- *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 (if appropriate for your project), 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 state rates, currently $0.70/mi); to drive fleet vehicles or request mileage reimbursement, student must be **authorized to drive**.
  - Student Wages. Hourly wages follow the CCB student compensation plan (typically $15–$18/hr). For budgeting purposes, please estimate **$16.50/hr**. *Please note that your final wage may be higher or lower than this estimate*, depending on your education and experience. If your project includes fieldwork, you may also include wages for a field assistant for safety purposes.
- 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 free of charge: 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 priority populations or habitats 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 and habitats found in these natural areas include:

Priority Population	Natural Area(s)
Anurans	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Marsh Breeding Birds	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Migratory Waterfowl	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Wooded Wetland Birds	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Breeding Coastal Birds	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Breeding Shorebirds	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Coastal Wetland Mustelids	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Muskrat	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Stream Macroinvertebrates	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Turtles	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Wetland Terns	Pt. Sable
Bats	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Coastal Terrestrial Macroinvertebrates	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Migratory Landbirds	Pt. Sable
Migratory Shorebirds	Pt. Sable
Freshwater Unionid Mussels	Pt. Sable
Tributary Fish (larval/juvenile and adult yellow perch)	Pt. Sable

Priority Habitat	Natural Area(s)
Great Lakes Beach	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Hardwood Swamp	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Emergent Marsh	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Southern Dry Mesic Forest	Arboretum
Northern Mesic Forest	Pt. Sable
Other Forest	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Surrogate Grassland (Old Field)	Arboretum, Pt. Sable
Wet Meadow	Pt. Sable
Submergent Marsh	Pt. Sable
Riparian Marsh	Pt. Sable
Southern Sedge Meadow	Pt. Sable

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

The descriptions below are meant to give you a general idea of available grant opportunities. Final award amounts may vary depending on the applications we receive each year. For example, if two smaller-budget proposals are submitted, a single grant may be split between them. Conversely, if a project requires more funding than a single grant provides, awards may be combined to support it. To help us plan, please submit a complete budget and indicate **all opportunities you are eligible for** in your application.

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

The proposed student project must focus on one or more of the five UW-Green Bay Natural Areas (Cofrin Memorial Arboretum, Kingfisher Farm, Point au Sable, Wequiock Creek, and Toft Point) and/or involve work completed in the Fewless Herbarium or Richter Museum of Natural History. A range of topics are acceptable, including traditional scientific research from any discipline as well as 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 Cofrin family. At least $1,500 in wages (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages), and the remainder can be granted for supplies, equipment, mileage, or vehicle rentals.

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. $200 in wages (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages), and the remainder can be used for supplies, equipment, mileage, vehicle rentals, or additional student wages.

Friends of Toft Point Grant (up to $3,800 each)

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. $1,000 in wages (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages). 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. $500 in wages (including fringe) for project-related work is awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages). The remainder 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 other natural areas may be included. 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. $300 in wages (including fringe) is awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages), and the remainder 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. $2,250 in wages (including fringe) for project-related work will be awarded to the student (see note in instructions above about budgeting wages), and the remainder is granted 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?* Awards may be combined so please select all that apply.

- ☐ Cofrin Student Research Grant (up to $2,500)
- ☐ Krischan Grant for Botanical Research (up to $400)
- ☐ Friends of Toft Point Grant (up to $3,800)
- ☐ Roy and Charlotte Lukes Research Award (up to $800)
- ☐ Point au Sable Grant (up to $500)
- ☐ Keith White Prairie Restoration Ecology Grant (up to $3,000)

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.