Though OSFS awards the majority of its financial aid to undergraduate students, it assists graduate and professional students as well. UW–Madison offers more than 160 graduate-degree programs—from African languages and literature to zoology—and professional degrees in medicine, law, and veterinary medicine, which help make UW–Madison an outstanding university.

While the opportunities are many, the cost for graduate school, just like the cost of undergraduate programs, continues to rise. The current cost of attendance (2007–08 academic year) is $22,992 for resident graduate students and $38,262 for non-residents. This makes financial aid an important consideration for students seeking a graduate degree. OSFS offers financial aid in the form of loans and work study to assist graduate students achieve their goals.

To apply for Federal Work Study and Federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) a student must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Eligibility is based on financial need as calculated by OSFS. Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service (GAPSFAS) forms are not used or accepted at UW–Madison. By checking “yes” to loans and work-study on the Graduate School admission application, students will automatically receive information from OSFS.

One new option available to graduate and professional students is GradPLUS Loans. These federal loans are not need-based, though the amount of the loan cannot exceed the cost of education minus other financial aid. For more information on GradPLUS Loans visit www.finaid.wisc.edu/gradplus.html.

There is no deadline for applying for financial aid; however, students should apply as early as possible.

Graduate students also have the opportunity to work as teaching assistants, program and project assistants, or research assistants: these and other aid opportunities available through the individual schools and colleges go a long way in making graduate school affordable.

The Numbers for 2007–08 (So Far…)

As we head into the wonderland that is Wisconsin in winter, the midpoint of the school year approaches. This gives us the opportunity to show you a snapshot of where the undergraduate awarding process is in terms of the number of awards and dollar amounts.

- 19,414 students filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 17,071 were awarded some form of aid.
- 9,424 students were awarded scholarships totaling $34,857,303.
- 7,567 students were awarded need-based grants totaling $27,494,773.
- 7,472 students were awarded need-based loans totaling $41,403,334.
- 3,713 students were awarded work-study funds totaling $8,797,696.

Please note that the above figures are totals through December 1, 2007. They do not reflect the entire 2007–08 academic year.

OSFS Helps Grad and Professional Students Get Financial Aid Too

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New Faces in OSFS

Yvonne Campbell was recently hired as the OSFS loan manager. She comes to us from the School of Engineering. Before coming to Madison, Yvonne worked in financial aid at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Darren Martin is now working in our award reconciliation area as an assistant student services coordinator. Prior to coming to OSFS, he worked as a student services coordinator–African American student academic services. Darren received his master’s of science degree from UW–Madison in 2004.

David Sandra is the new imaging and records supervisor in OSFS. David worked in the UW–Madison Department of Political Science prior to plunging into the field of financial aid.

Karla Weber is our new front desk counselor. Before joining our staff, Karla worked in the Visitor and Information Programs here on campus. She graduated from the UW in 2006.
There are many ways that OSFS helps financially needy students. One of the lesser known ways is the use of work-study partnerships. At UW–Madison, there are two such partnership programs—America Reads and America Counts—and as their names imply, America Reads helps young people develop reading skills and America Counts helps them to develop math skills.

These programs are part of a national grassroots campaign to encourage every American to help children with reading and math. It is a collaboration of community groups, educators—especially preschools and elementary schools, and colleges. There are more than 1,100 colleges and universities that participate in these programs that have tutored, taught, mentored more than 2 million children.

At UW–Madison America Reads and America Counts are administered through OSFS, which partners with the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), the Urban League, and the School of Human Ecology (SoHE). This allows a limited number of work-study students to earn work-study funds through these certified employers as they participate in the Jumpstart program.

MMSD participates in America Reads and employs 40 work-study students to tutor kids from preschool through 3rd grade.

The Urban League participates in America Counts and employs 40 work-study students to tutor middle school students. In addition, 22 students from SoHE are employed through an affiliated program called Jumpstart.

In 2006–07, work-study students from diverse backgrounds and 22 different majors worked one-on-one with children throughout the academic year at three low-income preschools in the Madison area—South Madison Head Start, Claudi’s Kids (on Madison’s east side), and Eagle’s Wing.

America Reads and America Counts are wonderful examples of programs that help UW students earn money for their education while providing needed services to the Madison community. We would like to offer a big "thank you" to the students who participate.

If You Have Questions…

... or want more information, please contact Jim Buske, 263–1364 or james.buske@finaid.wisc.edu. This is the August 2007 issue.