

INFORMATION
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HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #26-05

2024-2025 MURG Annual Report



State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board

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Tony Evers
Governor

Tammie DeVooght Blaney
Executive Secretary

October 15, 2025

Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld
Department of Administration
P.O. Box 7864
Madison, WI 53707-7864

Dear Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld:

Enclosed is the 2024-2025 Annual Status Report for the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Program. Submission of the report is in compliance with Section 39.44 (5) of the Wisconsin Statutes, which requires an annual report on the effectiveness of this program.

If you have any questions about this report or about the Minority Undergraduate Retention Program, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at tammie.devooght@wisconsin.gov or phone at (608) 267-2206.

Sincerely,

Tammie DeVooght Blaney
Executive Secretary

CC: Deputy Secretary Anne Hanson, Department of Administration
Assistant Deputy Secretary Diana Maas, Department of Administration
Sara Hynek, Department of Administration
Bryan Kirschbaum, Department of Administration

MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board
October 2025

**MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT
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Higher Educational Aids Board**

The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant (MURG) Program was established by the State of Wisconsin Legislature in the 1985-87 biennial budget. The first award was made in the 1986-87 academic year. Minority Undergraduate Retention Grants are awarded to Wisconsin resident minority undergraduates, excluding first year students, enrolled at least half-time in Wisconsin Technical College System schools, non-profit independent colleges/universities, and tribal colleges.

Awards are based on financial need, with a minimum grant of \$250 and a maximum grant of \$2,500 per year. According to statute, a minority student is defined as a student who is a Black American, American Indian, Hispanic, or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam admitted to the United States after December 31, 1975. If eligible, a student may receive the grant for up to eight semesters or 12 quarters.

Funds are allocated to the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Independent/Tribal Colleges and Universities based on the prior year's minority student population as reported by each participating school. For the 2024-25 academic year, fifteen technical colleges, nineteen independent, non-profit colleges/universities, and both tribal colleges received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allocation. The University of Wisconsin System Administration has a similar program, the Lawton Grant, for students attending a University of Wisconsin institution.

During the 2024-25 academic year, 757 students received a Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award. 236 grant recipients attended a non-profit, independent college/university or tribal college, and 521 recipients attended a Wisconsin Technical College. To gauge the effectiveness of the program, surveys were sent to both the participating schools and the grant recipients. Results of the participating school survey are found on page 2, and the grant recipient survey results are found on page 7.

The graph and tables throughout this report detail the 2024-25 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Program:

- Table I: Educational Progress of Grant Recipients as Reported by Participating Schools
- Table II: Top Five Colleges or Universities Based on Funding Provided to Students
- Tables III and V: Spending by Independent/Tribal Schools and WTCS
- Tables IV and VI: Recipient Demographics for Independent/Tribal Schools and WTCS
- Table VII: 2024-25 Minority Retention Grant Recipient Survey Results

The data collected and the results of the grant recipient survey demonstrate that the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant is highly successful. Participating schools reported that 74.24% of grant recipients either completed their degree/certificate programs or will continue to work towards degree/certificate completion during the 2025-26 academic year. Ninety-seven percent of the grant recipients who responded to the survey indicated that they either earned a degree or certificate during the 2024-25 academic year or will return to school to continue to pursue their educational goals. In addition, 94.74% of the recipients indicated that they planned to spend the majority of their working life in the State of Wisconsin.

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TABLE I: Educational Progress of Grant Recipients as Reported by Participating Schools

Independent Colleges and Universities/Tribal Colleges/Technical Colleges

COMBINED DATA:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 24-25	283	37.38%
Students enrolled for 25-26 and continuing toward degree/certificate	279	36.86%
Students not enrolled for 25-26 who did not complete degree/certificate	195	25.76%
COMBINED TOTALS	757	100%
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/TRIBAL COLLEGES:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 24-25	70	29.66%
Students enrolled for 25-26 and continuing toward degree/certificate	121	51.27%
Students not enrolled for 25-26 who did not complete degree/certificate	45	19.07%
TOTALS	236	100%
TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SCHOOLS:	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Students who completed a degree/certificate in 24-25	213	40.88%
Students enrolled for 25-26 and continuing toward degree/certificate	158	30.33%
Students not enrolled for 25-26 who did not complete degree/certificate	150	28.79%
TOTALS	521	100%

Note: The students reported as “students not enrolled for 25-26 who did not complete degree/certificate” were not enrolled in the reporting institution at the time the data were collected. The students may have enrolled at a later date or enrolled in a different institution.

TABLE II: TOP FIVE COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES BASED ON FUNDING PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 135,845	162	\$ 839
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 91,000	113	\$ 805
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 86,640	45	\$ 1,925
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 85,425	132	\$ 647
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 41,464	18	\$ 2,304
TOTALS	\$ 440,374	470	\$ 937

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TABLE III: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR INDEPENDENT/TRIBAL SCHOOLS

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
ALVERNO COLLEGE	\$ 41,464	18	\$ 2,304	11.30%
BELLIN COLLEGE	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0.00%
BELOIT COLLEGE	\$ 5,640	4	\$ 1,410	1.54%
CARROLL UNIVERSITY	\$ 31,225	23	\$ 1,358	8.51%
CARTHAGE COLLEGE	\$ 19,950	8	\$ 2,494	5.44%
COLLEGE OF THE MENOMINEE NATION	\$ 5,640	13	\$ 434	1.54%
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0.00%
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE	\$ 15,664	8	\$ 1,958	4.27%
HERZING	\$ 13,265	6	\$ 2,211	3.61%
LAC COURTE OREILLES	\$ 17,900	16	\$ 1,119	4.88%
LAKELAND COLLEGE	\$ 16,230	18	\$ 902	4.42%
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY	\$ 3,135	3	\$ 1,045	0.85%
MARANATHA	\$ 1,050	3	\$ 350	0.29%
MARIAN UNIVERSITY	\$ 7,500	7	\$ 2,500	2.04%
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$ 86,640	45	\$ 1,925	23.61%
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN	\$ 11,175	11	\$ 1,016	3.05%
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING	\$ 19,215	8	\$ 2,402	5.24%
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE	\$ 32,935	21	\$ 1,568	8.98%
NORTHLAND COLLEGE	\$ 2,820	3	\$ 940	0.77%
RIPON COLLEGE	\$ 5,745	5	\$ 1,149	1.57%
ST NORBERT COLLEGE	\$ 11,800	5	\$ 2,360	3.21%
VITERBO UNIVERSITY	\$ 8,145	6	\$ 1,358	2.21%
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE	\$ 9,815	9	\$ 1,091	2.67%
TOTALS:	\$ 366,953	236	\$ 1,555	100%

2024-25 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipient:

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allowed me to attend the university with less financial burden on myself and my family.”

---Ashley, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University

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TABLE IV: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR TRIBAL AND INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2 ND YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 101,697	65	\$ 1,565	27.71%
3 RD , 4 TH , & 5 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 265,256	171	\$ 1,551	72.29%
TOTAL	\$ 366,953	236	\$ 1,555	100%
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	\$ 287,999	178	\$ 1,618	78.48%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 78,954	58	\$ 1,361	21.52%
TOTAL	\$ 366,953	236	\$ 1,555	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
BLACK AMERICAN	\$ 108,147	65	\$ 1,664	29.47%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 30,942	34	\$ 910	8.43%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 12,908	7	\$ 1,844	3.52%
HISPANIC	\$ 214,956	130	\$ 1,654	58.58%
TOTAL	\$ 366,953	236	\$ 1,555	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY SECTOR				
INDEPENDENT	\$ 343,413	207	\$ 1,659	93.59%
TRIBAL	\$ 23,540	29	\$ 812	6.41%
TOTAL	\$ 366,953	236	\$ 1,555	100%

2024-25 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

“As a minority, it is already difficult to attend school due to many barriers, and the financial barrier is one of the biggest ones. Without receiving this Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant, it would have been nearly impossible for me to attend college.”

---Patricia, Madison College

“I am a mother of two children, and I pay over \$1,550 in just rent. I work a full-time job, and I can barely get by. Without the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant, I would not have been able to further my education.”

---Maria, Fox Valley Technical College

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TABLE V: SPENDING BY SCHOOL FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 8,940	12	\$ 745	2.13%
CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 18,390	14	\$ 1,314	4.39%
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 14,520	17	\$ 854	3.46%
GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 85,425	132	\$ 647	20.37%
LAKESHORE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 4,630	5	\$ 926	1.10%
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 135,845	162	\$ 839	32.40%
MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0.00%
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 91,000	113	\$ 805	21.70%
MORAINES PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 5,020	6	\$ 837	1.20%
NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,204	4	\$ 301	0.29%
NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 2,220	5	\$ 444	0.53%
NORTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 28,000	28	\$ 1,000	6.68%
NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 2,855	2	\$ 1,428	0.68%
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 1,145	1	\$ 1,145	0.27%
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 14,460	12	\$ 1,205	3.45%
WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 5,645	8	\$ 706	1.35%
TOTALS:	\$ 419,299	521	\$ 805	100%

2024-25 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

“The Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant is important to me because the tuition at my school is pretty hefty, but being a first-generation student, it was important for me to go to school and receive my education. Without this grant, I would not be able to attend the school that I go to.”

---Rey, Edgewood University

“Receiving the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant is important to me because it provided essential financial support that allowed me to continue my education without added stress. It also affirmed that my academic journey and identity are valued, motivating me to stay focused and succeed.”

---Marion, Lakeland University

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TABLE VI: RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

	DOLLARS SPENT	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT
YEAR IN SCHOOL				
2 nd YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 294,814	358	\$ 824	70.32%
3 RD & 4 TH YEAR STUDENTS	\$ 124,485	163	\$ 764	29.69%
TOTAL	\$ 419,299	521	\$ 805	100%
STATUS OF RECIPIENTS				
DEPENDENT	\$ 115,818	140	\$ 827	27.62%
INDEPENDENT	\$ 303,481	381	\$ 797	72.38%
TOTAL	\$ 419,299	521	\$ 805	100%
MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT BY GROUP				
BLACK AMERICAN	\$ 198,798	245	\$ 811	47.41%
AMERICAN INDIAN	\$ 35,647	46	\$ 775	8.50%
ASIAN-AMERICAN	\$ 24,996	26	\$ 961	5.96%
HISPANIC	\$ 159,858	204	\$ 784	38.13%
TOTAL	\$ 419,299	521	\$ 805	100%

2024-25 Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant Recipients:

“Receiving the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant allowed me to attend college and take a significant weight off my school and work/life balance. Without the grant, I would not have been able to apply myself to my studies and achieve the high honors that I did. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. As a minority, receiving this grant empowered me to try new things, make good decisions, and set goals.”

---Isabel, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

“As an older, non-traditional student, getting the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant was important to me, so I could set an example and show my kids, and the youth in my community, that education is important and it’s never too late to learn.”

---Gena, College of Menominee Nation

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TABLE VII: 2024-25 MINORITY RETENTION GRANT RECIPIENT SURVEY RESULTS

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
How did the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant award influence your decision to attend college during the 2024-25 academic year?		
The award allowed me to attend school. Without it, I would not have been able to attend.	51	43.59%
The award positively influenced by decision to attend school. Without it, it would have been difficult for me to attend school.	55	47.01%
The award had no influence on my decision to attend school. Without it, I would have still attended school.	11	9.40%
Did you earn a Bachelor, an Associate Degree, or a certificate during the 2024-25 academic year?		
Yes	38	32.48%
No	79	67.52%
If you did not earn a degree or certificate during the 2024-25 academic year, how soon do you anticipate earning a degree or certificate?		
2025-26 academic year	42	53.85%
2026-27 academic year	27	34.62%
2027-28 academic year	6	7.69%
I do not plan on completing a degree or certificate	0	0.00%
Other (please explain):	3	3.85%
If you did NOT earn a degree or certificate during the 2024-25 academic year, will you be attending a college or university during the 2025-26 academic year?		
Yes	75	97.40%
Enrollment Status: Full-time: 53 Part-time: 23		
No	2	2.60%
Were you employed during the 2024-25 academic year?		
Yes	71	71.17%
32 hours/week or more: 28 Less than 32 hours/week: 64		
No	21	22.83%
Do you plan to be a Wisconsin resident for most of your working career?		
Yes	108	94.74%
No	6	5.26%