

Experiential Learning Grant Application

The ASUMW Student Senate created the Experience One Grant fund to support students at the University of Montana Western who are seeking to further their education outside of the traditional boundaries of the University. Activities qualifying for this grant include, but are not limited to, conferences, seminars and study abroad opportunities.

Guidelines:

1. All allocations are made at the discretion of the ASUMW Student Senate and are based on the merit of each individual proposal. Requested amounts are NOT guaranteed.
2. Individual grant requests may not exceed \$500. Students are allowed one grant request per semester and a maximum of \$1,000 in total grant money during their enrollment at UMW.
3. Deadline for all application materials:
 - a. Fall Semester: last day of Block 3 by 5 pm
 - b. Spring Semester: last day of Block 7 by 5 pm
 - c. Summer Semester: X-1 grants are NOT awarded during the summer term
4. Allocation will likely be dispersed in Block 4 for fall applications and Block 8 for spring applications.
5. Decisions will be publicly announced during Block 4 for fall semester and during Block 8 for spring semester, and recipients will be notified by e-mail.
6. ASUMW reserves the right to request evidence of actual expenses and may require reimbursement of any or all funds not related to direct expenses.

Requirements:

1. Student must submit a written grant proposal letter that includes the following information (one page maximum):
 - a. Must be individually written for the given year (no plagiarism or duplicating previous letters)
 - b. Thorough explanation of proposed experiential learning project
 - c. Educational benefits
 - i. Positive contribution to the educational experience of the student will be the primary criteria for grant approval, but students may include a statement of financial need and/or academic achievement in support of their application
2. Anticipated expenses.
3. Any other information you wish to include for the Student Senate to consider.
4. Student must fully complete the X-1 online application.
5. Student must submit the application signature page.

If applicant is requesting financial aid for a study abroad trip, applicant must file a request for study abroad with the Financial Aid Office.

Upon request, the University of Montana Western provides written materials in alternative formats for persons with disabilities. For more information about this or other disability services and accommodation needs, please contact the Student Affairs Disability Office at (406) 683-7388.

Sample Letter

For Block 3, I am enrolled in Environmental Interpretation. This course is not only a necessity to my major to graduate, but also an opportunity of immeasurable value. It provides two certifications that will inevitably prove useful in my field. A national certification as an interpretation guide and a Yellowstone Naturalist Guide certificate.

I am a junior here at UMWestern studying the field of Environmental Science. In my field we learn the skills of data collection, data analysis, public communication of findings, and many more. This class ties directly to the public communication and environmental themed presentations for colleagues and the community. As an environmental science student, this Environmental Interpretation class offers a priceless opportunity to create lasting connections with Yellowstone Forever and the National Park Service as well as making a significant addition to my resume. While the class is a requirement for me to graduate as it is the only interpretation credit that is available, my desire to attend goes beyond the need to fill a credit requirement.

The class is a wonderful example of experiential learning that is offered at the University of Montana Western as we will be travelling to Gardiner, MT to work with professionals from Yellowstone Forever. The experience gained by working in Yellowstone National Park will be invaluable both academically and professionally. Academically I will learn how to better connect with a varied audience and convey complex science both clearly and concisely. Professionally, I will be able to work in a team and individually to prepare interpretive talks, just as I would if I was a professional interpreter. I aim to make a good impression with Yellowstone Forever as I may hope to work for them after graduation. provides experience in connecting with a varied audience and conveying ideas clearly and concisely. Professionally the class offers the same advantages as to the academic side, as well as team exercises, professional development, and an overall expansion of knowledge in the field. This opportunity could bring students to the forefront of any prospective hiring authorities. This class will also provide a wealth of knowledge that I can use to strengthen my communication in future classes.

I am applying for this grant because I would greatly benefit from the financial assistance to help me complete my degree and further my training in interpretation. The additional cost of this class on top of the regular tuition adds a level of difficulty to the semester for me. I spent my summer laboring for the Army Corps of Engineers, but the salary I made is being used to cover living expenses and regular tuition. The class includes a lab fee of \$900 in addition to regular tuition. For that reason, I am requesting \$500 from the ASUMW's X-1 Experiential Learning Grant to help cover the additional costs and am willing to contribute the remaining \$400 for my education.

I would be remiss to forsake this opportunity due to an inability to cover the costs of the class. I ask that the Student Senate seriously consider my proposal for the grant. I will use the knowledge gained during this class to help inspire future generations of scientists and hopefully benefit many others, not just myself.