



## LEARNING ANALYTICS COMMITTED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### MS in EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY - LEARNING ANALYTICS

The MS in Educational Psychology - Learning Analytics program helps graduates improve teaching, learning, and educational policy by harnessing the power of ‘big data’ to tackle a broad range of challenges: improving individual student learning, raising graduation rates, and addressing equity gaps for historically underrepresented groups of learners. The online master’s program seeks to attract a diverse student cohort with a variety of professional backgrounds and personal interests. Students are encouraged to work with data sets and on problems that are meaningful to them and will be supported in pursuing research and practice agendas centered around equity and inclusivity.

The Learning Analytics program’s Commitment to Equity initiative, which emphasizes coursework throughout the program designed to illuminate opportunities for improving learning outcomes in historically underrepresented populations, is aligned with the School of Education’s pledge to improving learning outcomes, especially in underserved populations. The Department of Educational Psychology is proud to offer the Committed Scholars Program to further advance the Commitment to Equity initiative.

**Scholarship Name:** Learning Analytics Committed Scholars Program (CSP)

**Description:** The CSP seeks to address inequities in education by supporting graduate students throughout and after completion of their Learning Analytics program. The CSP will build Scholar-leaders who are committed to working with diverse populations and tackling education achievement gaps. These types of challenges include the persistent disparity in academic performance or educational attainment between different groups of students, such as white students and minoritized students, or students from higher-income and lower-income households. These Scholars will engage in capacity-building activities that contribute to their own, and their graduate student cohort’s, educational and occupational development and success. The CSP aims to attract Scholars with high potential who aspire to become culturally

responsive leaders in their chosen learning analytics-related field. As such, the program is open to Scholars from various professional backgrounds who are committed to increasing the representation and success of underserved and historically underrepresented populations in education. Up to 2 scholarships will be awarded within each cohort.

**Components:** The CSP scholarship is intended to not only alleviate the financial burden of enrolling and completing the Learning Analytics program, but to also increase the impact of the program's Commitment to Equity by encouraging Scholars to be leaders within their Learning Analytics program student cohort and participate in the Department of Educational Psychology's diversity and inclusion initiatives. CSP benefits include:

- A 1-year, renewable scholarship that covers 3 credits each in the fall and spring (up to \$12,000 over two years)
- A community of academic support, including mentorship from a School of Education faculty member who is actively pursuing an equity-based research agenda

In order to retain the scholarship and be eligible for CSP renewal, honorees must:

- Maintain program requirements (enroll in required courses; maintain >3.0 GPA)
- Participate in regular student cohort meetings and co-plan one equity workshop for Learning Analytics program students per academic year
- Serve as a student liaison to the program director, engaging in one check-in meeting per semester

**Goals:**

1. To help build a pipeline and community of culturally competent leaders in learning analytics
2. To provide significant positive impact in education – for learners, teachers, administrators, and policy makers – through the field of learning analytics
3. To encourage scholarship and service that embraces and engages the full measure of the diversity of our society
4. To enrich and enhance the experiences and diversity of the educational community within the Department of Educational Psychology
5. To embody the Wisconsin Idea by building educational leaders who are dedicated to serving traditionally underrepresented populations in education

**Qualifications:** The CSP will consider students with demonstrated interest in working towards bridging achievement gaps in education. Both Wisconsin residents and non-residents are eligible. Scholarships are renewable for scholars who maintain good academic standing and effectively matriculate through their Learning Analytics program curriculum.

**Application:** Using the [APPLICATION LINK](#), students should submit a Statement of Intent of approximately 500 words that:

1. describes their interest in equity issues within learning analytics, including *related prior work and/or volunteer experience*, and
2. describes how they foresee using their knowledge and skills from the Learning Analytics program in their future professional endeavors.

Applications will be reviewed and selected by the program's Faculty Admissions Committee and the CSP will be granted in partnership with staff from UW Admissions and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

**Application and Award Timeline:**

May 1: CSP applications due. *Note: The full program application must also be submitted to The Graduate School by May 1 to be eligible*

May 15: Award notifications sent

June 19: Summer session begins

August: 50% of the funds will be awarded for the fall semester

January 2024: The remaining 50% of funds will be awarded for the spring semester

**Questions:** All queries regarding eligibility, deadlines, Statement of Intent details, etc. should be directed to the Learning Analytics program director, Dr. Julia Rutledge: [jrutledge@wisc.edu](mailto:jrutledge@wisc.edu)