STEM Scholar Master’s Program Goals:

The goal of the UW-Platteville STEM Scholar Master’s Program is to increase the number of graduate students entering and completing online STEM programs. Students entering the program must pursue an online STEM-related master’s degree, exhibit high academic ability and demonstrate financial need. Emphasis is placed on providing scholarships to students from underrepresented populations including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in order to foster diversity. The STEM Scholar Master’s Program students will be required to participate in activities as identified in the scholarship criteria.

The STEM Scholar Master’s Program Leadership Team will oversee all aspects of this program. UW-Platteville administration, School of Graduate Studies faculty, and Distance Learning Center (DLC) employees have also committed to assisting with the program goals and objectives.

The objectives of this program are:

- To attract and retain academically talented graduate students in STEM fields, with an emphasis on students from underrepresented groups.
- To provide a structure of support services that facilitates a strong STEM student cohort which is especially important for online students who may be taking virtual courses for the first time.
- To require participation in structured networking opportunities including peer mentoring, faculty/student research, and interactions with STEM professionals and alumni.
- To promote professional development and networking opportunities.
- To support STEM career selection that matches students’ career preferences upon graduation.
- To serve the broader community through student outreach and service activities.

The STEM Scholar Master’s program is a five-year program that awards scholarships to full-time University of Wisconsin-Platteville graduate students pursuing their degree online in: Engineering, Project Management, or Integrated Supply Chain Management. The range of scholarships is a guideline to accommodate attrition and changes in academic major. The number of scholarships is determined, in part, to give a similar number of scholarships each year with the funds available.

Each recipient will be awarded up to $10,000 throughout their program. While our focus will be on full-time students taking nine credits, consideration will also be given to students taking a total of 12-18 credits throughout Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Full-time students will typically receive $6,000 for the first year and $4,000 the second year of their two-year program, although flexibility will be a hallmark of this program. Student Services personnel will work with students to ensure that financial obstacles and opportunities are utilized, recognized, and considered throughout each student’s program.

Over a five-year period, up to 50 scholarships will be awarded to students in the online STEM Scholar Master’s Program. The UW-Platteville Financial Aid Office and the DLC indicate that a $10,000 scholarship is significant as compared to other graduate scholarships. Specific criteria, such as undergraduate grade point average and the student’s personal statement, will provide the selection committee with the means to assess a student’s academic ability, financial need, and motivation to become a STEM scholar.

STEM Scholar Master’s Program students will be expected to participate in cohort programming, which includes mentoring, monthly meetings, online events and other networking opportunities. Additionally, the project leadership will utilize UW-Platteville programs currently in place, which may include DLC units, Career and Professional Development Office and other student support services as needed and available.