

GRADUATE SCHOOL EXPLORATION PROGRAM (GRADx)

ABOUT GRADx

The Graduate School Exploration (GRADx) program expands the reach of the Undergraduate and Faculty Fellows Program to Diversify the Professoriate, enabling more ACM undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds to learn about graduate school opportunities.

A year-long program, GRADx consists of two forums hosted at a partner Big Ten Academic Alliance campus – one in the fall and one in the spring. Each seminar has a primary theme: we focus on "People & Relationships" in the fall and "Money& Tools" in the spring. Over the year, students will learn about various aspects of graduate study, including:

- What is graduate school and what does an R1 research university look like?
- What can I do with an advanced degree? What transferable skills will I gain by pursuing one?
- What does academic research look like in the humanities, humanistic social sciences, and arts?
- How can I identify and build relationships with good mentors and sponsors?
- What are the financial options to covering my graduate school education?

All qualified undergraduates from racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in the academy are encouraged to apply, including: Alaska Natives; African Americans; Arab Americans; Asian American and other Pacific Islanders; Latinx; Native Americans; Native Hawaiians; first-generation college students; and individuals who have followed non-traditional pathways to college due to exceptional talent and motivation in the face of adversity, such as societal, economic, or academic disadvantages.

GRADx FELLOW RESPONSIBILITIES

GRADx students are expected to fully participate in the two campus forums at a Big Ten Academic Alliance university. The dates for the two forums for 2023-24 are:

- FALL 2023 at University of Wisconsin-Madison: September 21-23, 2023
- SPRING 2024 at University of Minnesota: April 2024

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for the GRADx program:

- Have a first-year, sophomore, or junior standing at an ACM college
- Express an interest in pursuing graduate work in the humanities, humanistic social sciences, and/or the arts
- First-year students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale at their secondary institution. A letter of recommendation from a professor in one of their first-year courses is also advised.
- Students with sophomore or junior standing must demonstrate a cumulative GPA of 2.65 or higher on a 4.0 scale in their college course work. Students who have a GPA that is near, but not at, this minimum GPA should contact their campus GSEF coordinator to discuss their candidacy.
- Students who are selected for this opportunity may not participate in an off-campus study program that would cause them to miss either of the two GRADx forums.

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To apply for the program, please submit the following information and materials to your campus coordinator. Due dates will vary by college, so make sure to check with your coordinator for information specific to your institution.

- Personal information
- Academic information and transcript
- Answers to the following questions* (please limit each answer to 250 words or less):
 1. What academic disciplines interest you? If you had the opportunity to design your own college class or course, what types of content would you want to include? What would be on your syllabus?
 2. Why are you interested in learning more about graduate programs? What kinds of questions do you have about applying to and attending graduate school?

**Each campus coordinator may supplement and/or replace these questions to ensure the best process for each campus cohort.*

QUESTIONS?

For campus-specific deadlines, questions, and support for GRADx applications please reach out to the appropriate campus contact listed below:

ACM Institution	GRADx Contact(s)	Email Address
Beloit College		
Carleton College	Marynel Ryan Van Zee	mryanvanzee@carleton.edu
Coe College	Katie Rodgers	krodgers@coe.edu
Colorado College	Lisa Schwartz	lschwartz@coloradocollege.edu
Cornell College	Laura Farmer	lfarmer@cornellcollege.edu
Grinnell College	Mark Peltz	peltzm@grinnell.edu
Knox College	Lisa Harris	lkharris@knox.edu
Lake Forest College	Daw-Nay Evans	daevans@mx.lakeforest.edu
Lawrence University	Claire Kervin	claire.e.kervin@lawrence.edu
Luther College	Elizabeth Steding	stedel01@luther.edu
Macalester College	Karin Velez	kvelez@macalester.edu
Monmouth College		
Ripon College	Rebecca Matzke	matzker@ripon.edu
St. Olaf College	Melissa Melgar	melgar@stolaf.edu

You may also consult the Frequently Asked Questions page at www.ACM.edu/GRADx, or contact Allen Linton II, Senior Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives, at alinton@acm.edu or 312.561.5921.