



Graduate Student Scholarships for Research, Outreach, and Training on Cooperatives

The UW Center for Cooperative, School of Human Ecology and Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics are offering Graduate Student Scholarships for Research, Outreach, and Training on Cooperatives. Awards are available to recognize graduate students' pursuit of research, outreach activities, or further knowledge related to cooperative businesses and associations in all sectors, both domestic and international and including credit unions.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scholarship program, you must be a graduate student in good standing who is enrolled in an advanced degree program (MS, PhD, MFA, JD, MBA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Scholarship Descriptions

Up to three awards will be given each year. Students may apply for scholarships in one or both of the following categories:

Scholarships for research, outreach, and other scholarship on cooperatives – \$4,000

Two scholarships, each in the amount of \$4,000, will be awarded—one in honor of Dr. Ann Hoyt and one in honor of Barbara and Thomas Lyon. Students may request funds to begin or continue research, outreach, or scholarship related to cooperatives. To apply for this category, please submit a proposal of no more than 3 pages that includes the following:

- The nature, purpose, and significance of the planned or ongoing research, outreach, and/or community-based scholarship relating to cooperatives. *If ongoing, describe achieved results. If this is new scholarship, discuss anticipated results. If the proposed work is a joint project, describe the nature of your contribution to the project.*
- How the work will enhance or contribute to a cooperative organization
- Your interest in the cooperative business model and any research, outreach, or scholarship you have already completed related to cooperatives
- A budget outlining how funds will be used
- A letter of support from the faculty advisor (does not count toward 3-page limit)

Scholarship for conference travel or professional development on cooperatives – \$1,000

One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded in honor of Dr. Ann Hoyt. Students may submit a request to attend a conference or similar professional development opportunity. To apply for this category, please submit a proposal of no more than 2 pages that includes the following:

- Statement on how the conference or professional development or training relates to the student's career goals or professional development
- Description of how the proposed activity enhances cooperative organizations
- Itemized conference travel budget

Application Process

Applications are due December 15, 2023. Recipients will be notified no later than February 1, 2024. Materials should be submitted via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub:

https://wisc.academicworks.com/users/sign_in.

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated and ranked by a committee made up of representatives from the UW Center for Cooperatives, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and the School of Human Ecology. Please note that your application may be read by someone from *any* discipline. Strong applications are able to convey the importance of an applicant's research and/or travel plans to a non-expert or person outside your field. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- 1) clarity and quality of materials,
- 2) overall impact and significance of the proposed research, outreach, scholarship or of the conference or professional development described,
- 3) extent to which the student's participation in the proposed activities will enhance both cooperative organizations and the student's own professional development.

About the School of Human Ecology

The School of Human Ecology ([SoHE](#)) has pioneered work that improves the lives of children, families, consumers, and communities. The School is a leader among peer schools and beyond, for our innovative, human-centered approach to education, research, and public service. Faculty engage in a range of [research and scholarship](#) that relates to cooperatives. SoHE is also home to several [centers and initiatives](#) that conduct a variety of scholarly, research, and outreach efforts. SoHE encourages opportunities to build synergies and collaborations between SoHE faculty, staff, and students and those working across UW-Madison campus.

About the UW Center for Cooperatives

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives ([UWCC](#)) was founded in 1962. We are a trusted and unbiased voice on the cooperative business model serving the needs of cooperatives in Wisconsin and beyond. With a strong public service orientation and access to world-class university resources, we leverage research, education, and outreach capabilities to foster critical thinking and understanding about cooperatives. As the only U.S. university-based center that studies and supports all forms of cooperative business, UWCC provides valued education and research to a diverse range of communities.

About the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

The [Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics](#) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was the first specialized applied economics department in the world. Growing from its original focus on issues of land, agriculture, forests and farm management, the department is continually evolving to address the needs of students, the state of Wisconsin, the nation, and the world. With research, teaching, and outreach focused on environmental and resource economics, agricultural economics, international development, and community economic development, the faculty's work addresses some of the world's most pressing current problems.

About Dr. Ann Hoyt

Dr. Ann Hoyt is internationally recognized for her innovative research and contributions to co-op education. Her work, including nearly 30 years as a professor in consumer science at the University of Wisconsin Madison, has had an indelible impact on cooperatives and the cooperative movement. Her extension work and research focused on consumer cooperatives, with an emphasis on governance and management particularly in food cooperatives and cooperatives in international development. She promoted governance methods that delineate clear board and management responsibilities, incorporate transparent accountability and emphasize strategic focus. These methods are now the predominant model used by contemporary consumer food cooperatives.

Ann is an active author, reviewer, teacher, researcher and consultant on a wide variety of issues related to cooperatives, national and international cooperation, and cooperative governance. She is a dedicated cooperative practitioner, having served on numerous cooperative and foundation boards, including 22 years with the National Cooperative Business Association, two as chair; six years with the National Cooperative Bank; and 20 years, nine as chair, with the University of Wisconsin Credit Union.

Thanks to the dedication of Professor Emerita Ann Hoyt and her colleagues in the Department of Consumer Science, the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) has had a long association with cooperative businesses and organizations. In honor of Dr. Hoyt's impact on the field, and in order to continue to advance research, teaching, and outreach related to cooperatives, these funds support graduate student education, research, and professional development in this area.

About Barbara and Thomas Lyon

Thomas Lyon was an agriculturalist, a cooperator, and a former University of Wisconsin Board of Regents president. Lyon began his career at Midwest Breeders Cooperative in 1967 and helped expand the business beyond its regional base. Through several mergers, the company evolved into a nationwide cooperative known as 21st Century Genetics, which quickly became an international force in the cattle breeding industry. In 1991, Lyon initiated the formation of Cooperative Resources International, creating an organization with more than 1,250 employees, 50,000 farmer-members and more than \$100 million in revenue. The Shawano-based cooperative included Genex Cooperative (cattle breeding services), AgSource Cooperative Services (milk recording and data management services) and the Central Livestock Association (cattle marketing services).

A former member of the UW System Board of Regents, Lyon served as the board's president from 1990-92. He presided over the hiring of two of the most influential women in the history of higher education in Wisconsin, former UW-Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala and former UW System President Katharine Lyall. Lyon also served on the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Board of Visitors and on the UW Extension Board of Visitors. The Barbara and Thomas Lyon Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to support graduate students with an expressed interest in cooperative business. Thomas passed away in March 2021.

What is a Cooperative?

A cooperative is a business that is owned and controlled by its members. The cooperative is operated to benefit its members, not to maximize profits for outside investors. Cooperatives also differ from other business structures in that they operate on a shared set of [cooperative principles and values](#) that encompass broader social or community, as well as business, concerns.