

## **APLUS<sup>1</sup> Research Award – UW-Madison & UMN-Twin Cities**

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**The APLUS research award is designed to promote multidisciplinary research and policy discourse on the financial well-being of young adults through scholarly publications.**

**This is a competitive award to provide emerging scholars with financial support and mentoring to develop, present, and publish a manuscript using longitudinal data on a young adult cohort**

### **The Award**

- Up to 4 awards of \$10,000, awarded as follows: \$3000 in September 2017, \$3000 in January 2018, \$3000 at the time of manuscript submission (prior to Aug 31, 2018), and \$1000 revise-resubmit.
- Authorship: Author(s) + Advisor (for PhD Student Author) + Serido + Shim
- Up to \$1000 per award to offset conference travel to present the results

### **The Process**

- Submit letter of intent and qualifications by **June 1, 2017** to [jserido@umn.edu](mailto:jserido@umn.edu)
- Participate in briefing webinar to learn about the data and the resources available **June 12, 2017**
- Submit Full Proposal Application by **September 1, 2017**
- Notification of Award by **September 15, 2017**
- Submit Abstract for ACCI 2018 conference (by ACCI deadline)
- Present at ACCI 2018
- Submit manuscript to peer-reviewed journal by **Aug 31, 2018**
- Revise-resubmit
- Check in calls / Q & A scheduled upon award notification

### **Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:**

Minimum required – Assistant Professor, Research PhD, and/or Doctoral students with Advisor as co-author

Preference given to:

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<sup>1</sup> More information about Arizona Pathways to Life Success for University Students (APLUS) can be found at <http://aplus.arizona.edu>

- Authors with publications within financial domain and/or young adult sample
- Statistical skills (particularly SEM and/or experience with longitudinal data)
- Excellent conceptual background and writing skills

**Application Materials: One pdf file submitted to**

Joyce Serido (jserido@umn.edu)

- A concept proposal (3-5 pages single space):
  - Introduction, statement of problems, and research questions
  - Theoretical background/conceptual framework
  - Literature review
  - Proposed data analysis
  - Expected outcomes
  - Time frame
  - Potential outlets for publications and conferences
- Curriculum vita
- For PhD author proposal: Letter of Recommendation and support from faculty advisor

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***Arizona Pathways to Life Success for University Students (APLUS)***

APLUS is a longitudinal study that since 2008 has captured the changing financial knowledge, practices and life choices of these Millennials, now in their late 20s, drawing data from the same group of participants every two-three years.

While much research examines how young adults develop social, psychological and academic competencies, the Arizona Pathways to Life Success for University Students (APLUS) project focuses on the financial knowledge and skills that young adults need to successfully navigate life choices.

Wave 1 of APLUS data, collected early in 2008 during the participants' first year of college, demonstrated the important role that parents play in a smooth transition to college.

The data collected in spring 2009 — an unplanned-for opportunity, since designated "Wave 1.5" — documented the immediate impact of the 2008 financial crisis on participants (then sophomores) with respect to their financial attitudes and behaviors.

Wave 2, completed in the fall of 2010 at the start of participants' fourth year of college, showed how financial knowledge, skills and behaviors change over time and what factors contribute to those changes.

Wave 3, completed in summer 2013, demonstrated that financial education lays a solid foundation for greater financial self-awareness and personal agency as well as more responsible financial behaviors, differentiating young adults who thrived after college from those who struggled.

Wave 4 data was obtained in summer 2016. Our overarching goal for this study was to examine how financial capability over time affected participants' journeys towards adult status and what factors influenced their wellbeing and life outcomes.

Note that our participants are diverse in their ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds but share important common ground. First, all began the study as freshmen in college and range in age today from 26 to 29, placing them squarely in the middle of the Millennial generation. Second, nearly all went on to graduate: Only 3% of Wave 4 participants had no college degree.

Reports on findings from each wave of APLUS are available online:  
<http://aplus.arizona.edu/resources.html>.