



## What to Bring to Campus

A student's first year in college is often his or her first time living away from home or sharing a room. Students often bring items to campus based on personal preference, but keep in mind that your student can purchase or bring additional items from home after moving in. Along with packing the essentials, your student should be sure to bring a sense of self, a sense of purpose, and a sense of humor. Please visit [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu) for information and suggestions about what to bring to campus, including which items are provided in University Residence Halls, which appliances are not allowed, additional items you may wish to bring, and school supplies.

## The Wisconsin Idea and the Wisconsin Experience

For you and your student, the decision to attend UW–Madison presents changes, new experiences, and opportunities. During your student's college years, you will hear about an aspect of the university's history that continues to guide the campus today — the Wisconsin Idea. A long-held philosophy pioneered by former UW President Charles Van Hise, the Wisconsin Idea charges the university to stretch beyond the borders of the campus, and to share ideas and knowledge. The Wisconsin Experience interprets that philosophy for students, encouraging them to apply learning inside and outside the classroom to make the world a better place. Here are just a few examples of the Wisconsin Idea in action:

- UW–Madison is consistently a national leader in producing Peace Corps volunteers, members of Teach for America, and CEOs who head Standard & Poors 500 Index companies.
- The Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery is a public-private partnership that brings together scientists from a broad spectrum of disciplines to improve human health and harness advances in technology. It also includes extensive public spaces in its Town Center, which promotes dialogue as a crossroads for ideas through events like the Wisconsin Science Festival, After-school Expeditions, Saturday Science at Discovery, and more.
- The Wisconsin Idea Undergraduate Fellowship allows students to propose a project that addresses a need identified by the community, including economic development, health-related issues, the arts, and more.
- The Badger Volunteers Program, sponsored by the Morgridge Center for Public Service, sends more than 700 students to schools, community centers, food banks, and more to promote citizenship and learning through service.

For other examples, as well as a database of the Wisconsin Idea in action, visit [wisconsinidea.wisc.edu](http://wisconsinidea.wisc.edu).

## Attend a Badger Send-Off Celebration

Every summer, alumni chapters throughout the country host Badger Student Send-Off Celebrations, bringing together incoming students, their parents, and alumni.

For incoming students, it's a day to make new friends, get the inside scoop on beloved Badger traditions, and meet their "fan club" of alumni who reside in their hometown.

For parents, it's a day to learn about UW–Madison from local alumni, and a way to discuss issues and share concerns with other parents.

For alumni who raise funds for their local scholarship fund, it's a day to meet and congratulate the students they help to support. For more information, contact the alumni chapter nearest you by visiting [uwalumni.com/chapters](http://uwalumni.com/chapters).

## About Downtown Madison

UW–Madison is connected to Madison's downtown area via State Street, a six-block, pedestrian mall that offers many Madison must-do's for students and parents. Downtown Madison offers more than 370 shops, boutiques, galleries, museums, restaurants, and cafes, many locally owned, on the pedestrian mall that links the UW–Madison campus with the tree-lined Capitol Square. From spring through fall, the Capitol Square features the Dane County Farmers' Market, the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country. It's also where you'll find Concerts on the Square in the summer—a Madison tradition that combines a Capitol Lawn picnic with Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra performances.

For more information, visit the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau website at [visitmadison.com](http://visitmadison.com). View details on upcoming events at [visitmadison.com/events](http://visitmadison.com/events).

## Getting Connected

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) is here to help your student "get connected" on campus. DoIT provides the computing and technology resources your student will use, from the wireless campus network to email and My UW–Madison.

If you are thinking about purchasing a graduation computer or tablet for your student, check the DoIT Tech Store ([techstore.doit.wisc.edu](http://techstore.doit.wisc.edu)) for educational discounts on Apple and Dell. DoIT also provides many free software options, and savings of up to 85 percent on other academic software. To see a full list of the recommended technology for your student, visit [doit.wisc.edu/students](http://doit.wisc.edu/students).

Keep your student's computer and personal identity safe with free Symantec Anti-virus software. All students are required to run anti-virus software and keep security patches up

to date. Download the software at [doit.wisc.edu/students](http://doit.wisc.edu/students). It's free and fully supported by the DoIT Help Desk.

Remember, DoIT is here to help your student with any technology need he or she may have. The DoIT Help Desk can diagnose computing problems ranging from email to software to hardware. Help Desk services, including virus detection and removal, are always free. If a repair is necessary, DoIT is an authorized Apple and Dell warranty provider, and can repair other brands for a fee.

DoIT looks forward to helping your student get connected on campus. Make sure to visit DoIT when you are here for SOAR.

DoIT Help Desk: [helpdesk.wisc.edu](mailto:helpdesk.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-264-HELP (4357)  
Email: [help@doit.wisc.edu](mailto:help@doit.wisc.edu)

## Got Questions? Ask Bucky

If your student ever has a question about the university, he or she can ask a campus information guide. Campus and Visitor Relations employs well-trained guides who can answer questions, help locate information, and assist in navigating UW–Madison and the surrounding community. Contact Campus and Visitor Relations by phone, 608-263-2400; or by email, [askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu](mailto:askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu). Have your student save these contacts in his or her phone or email list for future use.

## Key Contacts

As you support your student in his or her transition to the university, these offices can provide you with information and assistance. The Parent Program website, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), offers a more complete directory of comprehensive resources.

**Bursar's Office**  
Receives tuition and fees  
Web: [bussvc.wisc.edu/bursar](http://bussvc.wisc.edu/bursar)  
Phone: 608-262-3611

**McBurney Disability Resource Center**  
Provides resources for students with physical, psychological, sensory, and learning disabilities  
Web: [mcburney.wisc.edu](http://mcburney.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-263-2741

**Office of the Registrar**  
Provides student-record information, catalog and timetable information, enrollment services, and student-privacy information  
Web: [registrar.wisc.edu](http://registrar.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-262-3811

**Office of Student Financial Aid**  
Provides information on financial assistance, such as loans, grants, work-study, and scholarships  
Web: [finaid.wisc.edu](http://finaid.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-262-3060

**University Health Services**  
Provides students with primary health care, health education, and disease prevention services  
Web: [uhs.wisc.edu](http://uhs.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-265-5600

**University Housing**  
Provides information about on-campus residence halls and learning communities  
Web: [housing.wisc.edu](http://housing.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 608-262-2522

## Students Offer Advice

Many students who are about to begin the first semester of college wonder what the transition will be like. Here's a sampling of advice from current students.

- I went to a small, private high school, so coming to a big public university like UW-Madison was pretty scary for me. But not too long after I moved in I realized that this was all in my head. Soon I started seeing friends from my residence hall, classes, and student organizations all around campus. It made me realize that it didn't matter how few people I knew coming in because now I had many new friends that I could call my Badger family. —*Luke M.*
- Madison offers something for everybody. Within your first few weeks of school, go to the student organization fair, meet with your academic advisor, and get involved in activities around campus. It's really important to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. —*Nicole S.*

- I was really excited to come to Madison to meet a vast array of new people. There are people from every corner of the globe and they all bring new experiences with them. My advice for incoming freshmen is to get to know as many people as possible because it will open up so many doors throughout your college career. —*David T.*
- Although I came from a high school of over 4,000 students, I was still worried that I would get lost. During my first year here, I explored a lot of different student organizations. I then became involved in activities that really interested me, and made some of my best friends on campus along the way! —*Kalista N.*

- As I gave my parents a hug the day they dropped me off in Madison, I realized I was saying goodbye to everything I knew and greeting a world of unknowns. While these unknowns scared me at first, I quickly realized that everyone around me was experiencing similar emotions and just wanted to make friends. —*Maria G.*



## Welcome from the Parent Program

We are very excited to welcome you to the Badger Family! Just as parents and family play an important role in helping students succeed during the years through high school, parent support is critical to success during the college years. We know that your student will look to you as his or her most important coach and mentor for the next four years. This is why UW–Madison created the Parent Program, a resource for parents and families of our students.

If you have not done so already, we encourage you to begin paving the way for your changing relationship with your college student by transitioning from the "doer" and the "decision-maker" to becoming an important mentor. Here are some ways you can do this:

- Keep the lines of communication open. Listen to and support your student as he or she begins making decisions.

## What Is the Parent Program?

By attending SOAR with your student, you are automatically a member of the Parent Program. If you do not plan to attend SOAR, you can sign up on our website or call the Parent Program. We offer the following services:

- Our **website**, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), provides access to general campus information, dates, upcoming events, news, and a monthly online survey question with results.



Professional staff:  
Patti Lux-Weber  
Stephanie Benson-Gonzales

Student interns:  
Mary Alice Carroll  
Jasmin Elhindi  
Carolyn Heal  
Anna Jirschele  
Carlos Orozco

## Key Dates

**Tuesday, June 30**  
Incoming first-year students must submit their final, official high school transcript

**August 30–31**  
Residence hall move-in

**Approximately one week before class begins**  
Tuition eBills are published. An email is sent to notify students and authorized payers when the eBill is available.

**Friday, September 1**  
Wisconsin Welcome begins

**Wednesday, September 2**  
Classes begin

**Saturday, September 26**  
Parents Day at the UW Football Game

**October 9–11**  
Fall Family Weekend



**Parent Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Haga una pregunta en español en línea: [www.parent.wisc.edu/ask\\_espanol.html](http://www.parent.wisc.edu/ask_espanol.html)

如果您希望了解有关学术、学费、健康和安安全等信息，请浏览此网页：  
[parent.wisc.edu/chinese](http://parent.wisc.edu/chinese)

*The Parent Program is here for you.*

[parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu)  
[parent@uwmad.wisc.edu](mailto:parent@uwmad.wisc.edu)  
877-262-3977



UW–Madison Parent Program



annually after that. It features important dates, month-by-month transitions, resources, and a first-year experience section.

- We host **Fall Family Weekend** in October and **Badger Family Spring Visit** in April. These opportunities allow your family to enjoy time with your student on campus and in the community. Learn more on the Parent Program website under "Parent Events & Activities." Look for more information on the postcard included with this newsletter.
- Join the **Badger Parents and Families Facebook Group**, which allows families to ask questions, share experiences, and give advice.
- Connect with us by **phone, email, Facebook**, and **chat**. We understand that each student's experience is unique. We are here to personally answer your questions and help you access the resources your student needs. Connect with us by phone (**1-877-262-3977**), email (**parent@uwmad.wisc.edu**), Facebook (search: UW-Madison Parent Program), or chat online. We are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional family members may sign up by visiting [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu).

## Take Advantage of Your SOAR Experience

The Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE) will host more than 15,000 new students and their family members at the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) Program this summer. If your student is attending SOAR, we invite and encourage you to attend, too.

Approximately 80 percent of new students are accompanied to SOAR by at least one parent/guardian. This event offers a great opportunity to connect with the UW-Madison community, share tips and stories with other families, and support your student.

**Here are suggestions to get the most out of your experience.**

- 1. Collaborate with your student** to make travel arrangements early. Keeping everyone on the same page will make for a smoother experience.
- 2. Be patient and don't stress.** SOAR should be exciting and informative, not stressful. Approach the program with patience and an open mind.
- 3. Pack for summer weather and air-conditioned buildings**, and be ready to walk around. We're very proud of our large, beautiful campus, and we want to show it off. If you have mobility concerns, please contact the SOAR Information Line (608-262-4707) before your session to let us know how we can help.
- 4. Connect with others.** Interact with current students and staff members, and with other parents and guest participants.

**5. Empower your student.** Support your student in taking responsibility for his or her own experience, especially when setting academic goals and selecting courses. Provide guidance while letting your student make informed decisions.

**6. Take it all in.** Although the program will go by fast, enjoy yourself, and be confident that you will leave campus with plenty of contacts and resources to answer any remaining questions.

**7. Make sure your student takes all required placement tests before SOAR.** We no longer offer testing at SOAR so that students can focus on academic courses and connecting to the campus community. All freshmen are required to take placement tests as part of their admission.

**Not able to attend SOAR? It's okay.** While a majority of new students bring at least one parent or family member to SOAR, it's not always practical for many families. Rest assured that there are several ways to have your questions answered and learn more about UW-Madison. For starters, students can take home printed materials for you to review. Be sure to visit the Parent Program website, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), for additional information and to sign up additional family members to the program.

**Connect with CFYE:**  
SOAR website/phone: [soar.wisc.edu](http://soar.wisc.edu); 608-262-4707  
CFYE website: [newstudent.wisc.edu](http://newstudent.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: /UWNewStudent  
Twitter: @UWNewStudent  
Instagram: @uwnewstudent  
#FutureBadgers



## From the McBurney Disability Resource Center

As you and your student prepare for the move to UW-Madison, remind your student to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center now to begin requesting disability-related accommodations. McBurney serves students with a wide range of disabilities, including:

- **Traditional disabilities** (LD, ADHD, visual impairments, hearing loss, mobility problems, etc.)
- **Nontraditional disabilities\***
- **Chronic health conditions** (Crohn's disease, chronic migraines, lupus, fibromyalgia, etc.)
- **Mental health conditions** (depression, anxiety, OCD, etc.)
- **Asperger's/autism spectrum disorders**

\*These conditions may qualify students for reasonable accommodations to address problems with attendance, concentration, medication management, or housing.

It is best to start the McBurney eligibility process early to avoid any delay in services. We recognize that students are often reluctant to use services. Let your student know that accommodations are available to provide equal access and allow them more time to participate in the meaningful co-curricular activities that are such an integral part of the Wisconsin Experience.

**Please share the following information with your student:**

- **Follow the steps at [mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php)** to begin the process to see if you are eligible for McBurney services.
- **Start now! Gather disability documentation** from your high school, college, or treating professional. Even if you are not sure you want to use accommodations, completing the eligibility process now will help you avoid an eight- to ten-week delay in receiving services.
- **Know that all disability information submitted is confidential.** Disclosure is determined by you when you decide to request accommodations from faculty and staff participating in the accommodation process.
- **Take part in the McBurney Orientation and Service Training (MOST) Program for new freshmen and parents during early move-in (August 27-28, 2015).** This program is for students who have been determined eligible for McBurney services. Information on the transition from high school to UW-Madison will be shared with parents and students on Day 1. The following two days, students will participate in sessions focusing on how to use classroom accommodations, self-advocacy skills, and more. Participants are eligible to move into the UW Residence Halls early without an additional fee. RSVP is required to attend. More information can be found at: [mcburney.wisc.edu/services/Transition/index.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/services/Transition/index.php).

**To register with McBurney or ask general questions**, contact the main desk at 608-263-2741 (voice) or 608-225-7956 (text). For any questions not addressed on the website, email [transition@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:transition@studentlife.wisc.edu). Phone appointments with transition staff may be scheduled through the main desk.

## About College Finances

As summer approaches and your college planning accelerates, the Office of Student Financial Aid offers these suggestions to ease the transition:

- Have you applied for financial aid? You can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). If you would like financial aid by the fall tuition deadline, you should complete the FAFSA no later than July.
- Has your student been offered any scholarships? Students are required to notify our office of any scholarships they receive and can do so by sending an email to [award@finaid.wisc.edu](mailto:award@finaid.wisc.edu). Please make sure the student includes his or her name and campus ID number, as well as the scholarship details. If a student doesn't notify us, it may impact his or her financial aid package later.
- Be sure your student has completed all the necessary paperwork for any loans he or she has been offered and accepted. Keep an eye out for forms such as the Master Promissory Note or Entrance Counseling.
- During the next few months, talk to your student about money management and budgeting. Studies have shown that students learn the most about managing their money from their parents.
- Save! It's never too late to save for college. If your student has a summer job, have him or her save some earnings each week to use for spending money on campus.
- The MyUW Student Center is the best resource for information about your student's financial aid. It includes aid that has been offered and accepted, the cost of attendance, tuition balances, and when and where refund checks were mailed.

For more information, visit [finaid.wisc.edu](http://finaid.wisc.edu). If you can't find the answer you need, don't hesitate to contact the Office of Student Financial Aid directly at 608-262-3060.



### Did You Know?

You can differentiate between materials sent from the university and those from private entities by looking for the university's crest.

If you have questions about anything you receive, feel free to call the Parent Program at 1-877-262-3977.



## Buying Textbooks

Students can find out about textbooks and other materials they will need for enrolled classes — as well as classes they're considering taking — from a number of resources:

- Course Guide ([mycourseguide.wisc.edu](http://mycourseguide.wisc.edu))
- Student Center in the My UW portal ([my.wisc.edu](http://my.wisc.edu)): Textbooks and materials are available on the student's enrolled class list, on a textbook summary page including all their enrolled courses, and through the Class Search.
- My Courses module in the My UW portal ([my.wisc.edu](http://my.wisc.edu)): A textbooks link appears when the instructor has provided textbook information.
- Campus-area bookstores ([registrar.wisc.edu/textbooks\\_local\\_book\\_stores.htm](http://registrar.wisc.edu/textbooks_local_book_stores.htm))
- Instructor emails, sent shortly before classes begin: Some instructors email the syllabus to enrolled students; it may list course materials and required textbooks.

Textbooks can be expensive. Below are some cost-saving alternatives. Students should be sure to purchase the correct textbook edition. The International Standard Book Number (ISBN), the 10- or 13-digit number that uniquely identifies books published internationally, is included in the textbooks listings if the instructor has provided it.

- Look early for used copies at local bookstores that buy back textbooks.
- Consider renting through a local bookstore or an online textbook rental site.
- Shop at an online marketplace, such as Amazon, eBay, or Exchange Hut. Please note that these are private companies not affiliated with or endorsed by UW-Madison.
- Campus libraries have copies of many course texts for short-term loan (including high-cost textbooks). Check the libraries' website for details: [library.wisc.edu/reserves](http://library.wisc.edu/reserves)

Students may also be required to purchase course packets, lab equipment, and/or art materials. These items are available at campus or local stores.

## Academic Opportunities in University Housing

The staff at University Housing is looking forward to meeting you during SOAR and helping you and your student transition to campus life. Staff members will share tips about move-in and about the opportunities awaiting students in their University Residence Hall communities.

If your student will be living in University Housing, there is still time to request assignment to a Residential Learning Community (RLC). Nationally, RLCs are considered High Impact Educational Practices; at UW-Madison, RLCs are funded in part by the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. RLCs bring together faculty, staff, and students around an explicit focus. Unique seminars, course sections, and aligned cocurricular activities all help produce smaller, more intentional communities that set students up for success. To learn more, visit [housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-1c](http://housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-1c).

Students can make changes to preferences on My UW Housing through May 7, 2015. If your student lists one of the RLCs as a top choice, he or she will receive an email invitation to participate in RLC room selection in mid-May. Students who select a room in an RLC will know their room assignment for 2015-16 long before other assignments are made.

Before your student arrives for SOAR, he or she can review the residence hall class sections available in all halls and RLC seminars at [housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-academics-classes](http://housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-academics-classes). Students will discuss these opportunities with their SOAR advisors this summer. Many of the most common classes meet in residence hall classrooms, and instructors often hold office hours and/or review sessions in our halls. Students living in the same community find that this is a great way to make new friends and study together. Making these connections will enhance your student's success, both inside and outside of the classroom.

