



Patti Lux-Weber, right, coordinator of the Parent Program, and Stephanie Benson-Gonzales, program specialist.

Dear Badger Parent,

We are grateful to have been a part of your family's journey during your student's college experience at UW–Madison. Whether your student is graduating this semester or continuing his or her education, opportunities are still available to parents and family members. This newsletter addresses many ways that you can stay engaged, informed, and connected to our great university and the vibrant Madison community.

You are receiving this newsletter because our records indicate that you have a fourth- or fifth-year student. If your student is graduating and you would like to remove yourself from the Parent

Program mailing list, you can do so by e-mailing parent@uwmad.wisc.edu or by logging on to our website. Otherwise, you will continue to be connected to our services.

We have been happy to serve as a resource for you, and we invite you to remain part of our program for as long as you would like. We hope that you stay connected to the university and that the spirit of being a Badger continues for many years to come.

Best wishes,
The Parent Program

Patricia Lux-Weber *Stephanie Benson-Gonzales*

Milestones and Changes

Is your student graduating? What an exciting time! Your son or daughter has worked very hard to earn his or her degree. It's time to celebrate this important milestone, but we know you may have mixed feelings. After all, you've become accustomed to your role as the parent of a college student, but what happens next? Will your student start a new job or pursue an advanced degree? Will your student live on his or her own, share a living space with roommates, or want to return home? These questions represent another time of change for your family, and another stage in the parent-student relationship. We are confident that you will navigate this stage just as you have the college years—by taking it one step at a time, researching options, and sharing feelings and ideas with other parents.

You may want to begin your research by reading one or both of these books that address this transition:

Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties, by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

Mom, Can I Move Back In With You?: A Survival Guide for Parents of Twentysomethings, by Linda P. Gordon and Susan M. Shaffer

We wish you the best as you and your son or daughter (diploma in hand) move into the future.

The Boomerang Effect

The Boomerang Effect is a relatively new term used to describe the trend of students moving back home after college. The reasons for this "boomerang" behavior include the competitive job market, the high cost of housing, college debt, and the lack of financial self-sufficiency.

Moving home may cause feelings of disappointment or embarrassment for your student. As a parent, you can provide support and remind your student that it is a common, and often responsible, choice. Students should view it as a temporary step until they are financially able to live on their own.

You can help your adult student by working together to set career and financial goals, and to monitor progress. Consider setting expectations that your student:

- contribute cash or services in lieu of rent
- save a large portion of his or her earnings for a down payment on an apartment, condo, or house
- actively search and apply for jobs, if unemployed

Keep in mind that UW–Madison graduates have access to alumni services—including career centers, libraries, career and internship fairs, and BuckyNet (an interactive online job-search system)—for a year after graduation. These resources are valuable for finding employment and planning for the future.

Your student has likely changed since last living at home: enjoy the time getting to know your student as an adult.

The Parent Program is here for you.

www.parent.wisc.edu
parent@uwmad.wisc.edu
877-262-3977

Professional staff:
Patti Lux-Weber
Stephanie Benson-Gonzales

Student interns:
Melissa Marano
Cody Ostenson
Farah Shirzadi



UW–Madison Parent Program



Diploma Details

Because it is not possible to process final grades and prepare degree lists in time for commencement, empty diploma covers are given to students during the ceremonies. Diplomas are processed approximately six to eight weeks after commencement and are mailed to students' home addresses. Students who live outside North America must create a diploma address via the Student Center in MyUW. Students who have "holds" placed on their records for any type of service will not receive their diplomas until those holds are cleared. Students who do not attend the ceremonies may obtain a diploma cover from the Office of the Registrar, 333 East Campus Mall, #10101, Monday–Friday, 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Questions about diploma mailing can be e-mailed to: degreeaudit@em.wisc.edu.

Health Insurance

As graduation approaches, it is important that parents and students evaluate each life change that will occur. Health insurance is an important aspect to consider as each student's situation may vary depending on current coverage and potential job opportunities. Below is some advice from Dr. Sarah Van Orman, Director of University Health Services (UHS).

- It is important to review insurance coverage now. Some students may continue to be covered on a parent's plan, but families should verify this information.
- If your student will be uncovered, consider helping him or her purchase some form of coverage. Please note that lower-cost individual plans may offer limited coverage for services such as inpatient care, intensive care, prescription drugs or mental health. If comprehensive insurance is too expensive, at least consider catastrophic coverage.
- School coverage often ends after graduation, but students enrolled in the campus program, SHIP, may be eligible for continuation coverage. To learn more about SHIP continuation, visit www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship/continuation.shtml.

- Students spending the summer in the Madison area have the option to pay the summer health fee and continue to use UHS through August 15 for basic and primary services.
- If your student is starting a new job, coach him or her on how to evaluate any form of health insurance that a company offers. In many cases, benefits may not start for several months. Ensure that other coverage is available if insurance is not effective immediately to avoid any gap in coverage.
- Take into account where your student will be living. If your student is relocating, you may need to help him or her find a new primary care site.
- Encourage your student to get a check-up and refill any needed medications before graduation.

Students and families may also reference www.uwalumni.com/insurance to review Group Insurance Plans offered through the Wisconsin Alumni Association.



Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau

We hope that you have grown to love both the campus and Madison community during your student's time at UW–Madison. The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau is your source for finding events, making accommodation arrangements, and discovering all there is to do in Madison and the surrounding communities. There are many events to choose from, so keep Madison in mind as you plan your next trip.

For complete visit information, visit www.visitmadison.com. Sign up for the visitor e-newsletter to receive information on events, special offers and more.



Badger Athletics

Once a Badger ... always a Badger. One thing that never changes on campus is the fun and excitement of Badger athletics! When you're in town and looking for something to do, think about attending a variety of sporting events. Visit www.uwbadgers.com for schedules and ticket information.

Wisconsin Union Membership

Consider giving your student the gift of a Wisconsin Union membership when he or she graduates. A lifetime Union membership provides a sense of belonging and continued access to many of the things students love about the university during their college years—socializing on the Terrace, special speakers and events, live music and performances, and much more. Give your student a lifetime connection to the heart and soul of UW–Madison, the Wisconsin Union. Learn more at union.wisc.edu/membership.

Continuing Education

Have you ever thought of taking classes at UW–Madison? Adults can pursue education for personal or professional reasons through UW–Madison Continuing Studies noncredit programs or as Special Students or Guest Auditors in credit courses. Noncredit programs focus on art, music, international languages, business writing, grant writing, project management, and other areas. Continuing Studies has advisors available for adults who want to return to school or change careers. For information, visit www.dcs.wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Alumni Association

As the parent of a recent UW–Madison graduate, don't be surprised if you find yourself wanting to hold on to the best parts of being a Badger, just like your son or daughter. The Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) offers parents the same opportunities to stay connected to the UW as their students. You can explore the world like never before—from a Badger perspective—by embarking on one of WAA's international or domestic travel adventures. Or, take advantage of programming in your community through your local WAA

chapter. If Badger athletics are your game, WAA has you covered there, too, as the official athletic tour provider for the UW. You and your new grad may also want to consider becoming WAA members. In fact, give your child the graduation gift of a WAA Life Membership, and enjoy a special, limited-time discount. Visit uwalumni.com/proudparent to learn more.

UW Foundation

Current and future Badgers can have an incredible impact on the Wisconsin Experience by making gifts to support the mission of the university. The UW Foundation is the official fundraising arm of the UW and provides alumni, parents, students, and friends the opportunity to support the university. Over the years, gifts from parents have added invaluable resources to academic programs, improved career resources available to students and recent graduates, and upgraded facilities and resources for the UW Libraries. Gifts ensure that UW continues to be a place of progress and quality education. Learn more about making a gift by visiting: www.supportuw.org/parents.

Visitor & Information Programs

We hope that Madison has become a home away from home for your student and for your entire family. Whenever you return to campus, Visitor & Information Programs (VIP) can serve as your central access point for answering questions, locating information, and helping you navigate UW–Madison and the surrounding community. No matter where your visit takes you, VIP can provide the latest information about campus resources, and things to see and do on campus and in our community. And whether you are near or far away in the world, you can send questions to our Ask Bucky Chat and E-mail Service or call 608-263-2400 to speak with a staff member. For more information about VIP, please visit www.vip.wisc.edu.





Graduation Checklist

Here are a few reminders for May graduates:

- Apply to graduate:** Students must apply to graduate and indicate their intention to attend the commencement ceremony in the Student Center in My UW.
- Confirm diploma address:** Unless the student creates a diploma address, the diploma will be mailed to the home address. Students can check/edit this in the Student Center in My UW. International students must create a diploma address in the Student Center or their diploma will be held in the Office of the Registrar.
- Remove FERPA restrictions:** In the Student Center on My UW, a student can review or edit any restrictions on personal information. Restricting name and degree prevents your student's name from being published in the commencement program and will prevent employers from verifying a degree.
- For financial aid recipients:** An exit interview is required for financial aid recipients. For information, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid website: www.finaid.wisc.edu.
- Resolve outstanding debts:** Any outstanding debts, such as library fines, must be resolved prior to receiving a diploma. Review any existing debts or holds in the Student Center on My UW.
- Rent or purchase commencement attire:** Candidates should wear the academic cap and gown, and advanced-degree candidates the hood, appropriate to the degree to be conferred. Academic attire may be rented or purchased from the University Book Store or ordered online. For more information, visit www.secfac.wisc.edu/commence/Attire.htm.
- Need a diploma cover?:** Students not attending the commencement ceremony may pick up a red diploma cover at 333 East Campus Mall, #10101.
- For parents:** If your student is graduating and you would like to remove yourself from the Parent Program mailing list, visit www.parent.wisc.edu. If you choose to remain on the list, you will continue to receive our electronic newsletters and updates.

University of Wisconsin–Madison
Parent Program
1308 W. Dayton St., Suite 329
Madison, WI 53715