

BADGER Parent WELCOME

A Newsletter for Parents & Families of UW–Madison Students

SPRING 2013

We are very excited to welcome you to the Badger Family! Just as parents and family play an important role in helping students succeed in grade school and high school, UW–Madison views parent support as critical to success when they're in college. 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 now by transitioning from the “doer” and the “decision-maker” to becoming his or her coach and 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.
- **Allow your student to begin taking on more responsibility for finances, academics, and other personal details.** This way, when arriving on campus this fall, he or she will be accustomed to doing these things independently.
- **Start discussing your expectations about the personal information your student will share with you, including grades, health, and more.** Once students are in college, they are considered adults and there are federal protections (FERPA and HIPAA) that keep their records private. Our experience has shown that the best way to find out about grades or any other personal information is by talking directly to your student.
- **Tap into resources, such as those listed on the “Parent Resources” page on the Parent Program website, for more ideas** on what you can expect over the next several months and ways to prepare yourself for this changing relationship.



Stephanie Benson-Gonzales (left) and Patti Lux-Weber (right) staff the Parent Program, along with experienced student interns.



The Parent Program is on Facebook
Search “UW–Madison Parent Program”



Chat with the Parent Program staff



Pinterest



YouTube

Haga una pregunta en español en línea:
www.parent.wisc.edu/ask_espanol.html

How do I become a member?

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**, www.parent.wisc.edu, provides access to general campus information, dates, upcoming events, news, and a monthly online survey question with results.
- The **Badger Parent e-newsletter**, sent five times per year, showcases key transitions for students, and highlights available campus resources and services, as well as advice for parents.
- **Parent email notices** are sent in the event of a critical campus incident to inform parents and offer available resources.
- The **Calendar & Handbook** is provided to parents of new students at SOAR and is mailed annually after that. It features important dates, month-by-month transitions, resources, and a first-year experience section.
- We host **Badger Family Spring Visit**, welcoming parents and families to campus each April. Choose from a variety of low-cost and free family-friendly events to attend with your student while enjoying the beauty of springtime in Madison.
- 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 (**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 www.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 parents at the Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) program this summer. If your student is attending our summer SOAR program, we invite and encourage you to join him or her.

Approximately 80 percent of new students are accompanied to SOAR by at least one parent. This event is not only a great opportunity to connect with the UW–Madison community and share tips and stories with other families, but more importantly it is also a way to show support for your new student Badger.

As a result of an extensive review of CFYE's orientation programs, some big changes have been made to SOAR. Be sure to pay special attention to information and updates, because things will be different from past summers.

As you prepare for SOAR, we offer some suggestions to help you get the most out of your experience:

1. **Be patient and don't stress.** SOAR should be exciting and informative, not stressful. Approach the program with patience and an open mind.
2. **Collaborate with your student** to make travel arrangements early and in advance. Keeping everyone on the same page will make for a smoother experience.
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 independent 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, in order for students to focus on academic courses and connecting to the campus community.

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. While at SOAR, students can take home printed materials for you to review. Be sure to visit the Parent Program website, www.parent.wisc.edu, for additional information and to sign up additional family members to the program.

Connect with CFYE:

SOAR website/phone: go.wisc.edu/soar
608-262-4707

CFYE website: newstudent.wisc.edu

Facebook: facebook.com/UWNewStudent

Twitter: @UWNewStudent

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 the process of re-requesting disability-related accommodations. McBurney serves students with traditional disabilities (LD, ADHD, visual impairments, hearing loss, mobility problems, etc.). McBurney serves the increasing number of young adults who are entering college with nontraditional disabilities: chronic health conditions (Crohn's disease, chronic migraines, lupus, fibromyalgia, etc.); mental health conditions (depression, anxiety, OCD, etc.); and Asperger's /ASD. These conditions may qualify students for services that address problems with attendance, concentration, medication management, or housing. We recognize that students are often reluctant to use services. Let your student know that students who forego these accommodations may function less efficiently, resulting in less 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 www.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 orientation and training program for new freshman and parents

August 25–27. 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 August 25. 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: www.mcburney.wisc.edu/services/Transition/index.php.

To register with McBurney or ask general questions, contact our main desk at 608-263-2741 (voice) or 608-225-7956 (text). Email questions not addressed on our website to 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 www.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. 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 www.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.

Buying Textbooks

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

- Course Guide (mycourseguide.wisc.edu)
- Student Center in the My UW portal (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.
- Course Resources module in the My UW portal (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)
- Instructor emails sent shortly before classes begin: some instructors will email the syllabus to enrolled students, which 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; sources include ASM Textbook Swap www.asm.wisc.edu/textbook-swap.html, and 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 available for short-term loan (including high-cost textbooks). Check the libraries' website for details: 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 this summer during SOAR and helping you and your student transition to campus life. They 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 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 co-curricular activities all help produce smaller, more intentional communities that set students up for success. To learn more, visit www.housing.wisc.edu/lc.

Students can make changes to preferences on My UW Housing through May 1, 2013. Consider selecting one of the RLCs listed as a top choice. After the \$250 Advance Payment bill is paid in My UW Housing, your student will receive an email invitation to participate in Learning Community room selection. Students who select a Learning Community room will know their room assignment for 2013–14 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 www.housing.wisc.edu/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.

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 son or daughter 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 our Parent Program website, www.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 is intended to promote dialogue as a crossroads for ideas among diverse parts of UW–Madison and the larger community.

- 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 500 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 www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu.



Key Dates

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Key Dates

August 28–29

Residence hall move-in

Approximately one week before class begins:

Tuition and fee bills emailed to students

Friday, August 30

Wisconsin Welcome begins

Tuesday, September 3

Classes begin

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 www.uwalumni.com.

About Downtown Madison

UW–Madison is connected to Madison's downtown area via State Street, a six-block, pedestrian-only mall that offers a variety of resources, activities, and events for students and parents. State Street features more than 200 stores and offers restaurants with an eclectic range of cuisines. During the summer, the Capitol Square features the Dane County Farmers' Market, the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country, as well as Concerts on the Square performed by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

For more information about these events and accommodations, visit the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.visitmadison.com. For listings, see the Downtown Madison, Inc. events calendar at www.downtownmadison.org/events/calendar.

Students Offer Advice

Every student who is about to begin the first semester of college feels some anxiety. Here's a sample of advice from current students and parents.

- "I was worried that classes would be extremely difficult and I wouldn't get good grades. I realize that I tell myself this every new school year, and it never turns out that way. If you do struggle, there are plenty of campus resources to seek help from."

—Neil J.

- "I was worried about picking a major that would directly coincide with a specific career. I learned that the degree you graduate with does not narrow your career options. My major is one of many pieces of my college experience!"

—Cody

- "College includes out-of-the-classroom experiences. Part of the Wisconsin Experience is to get involved, make a

difference, and broaden your horizons. You can do this by joining student organizations, getting a job, volunteering, going abroad, and much more."

—Alex H.

- "I was worried that I would be 'just a number' on this large campus. Being at a large campus means that there are limitless opportunities. You can make the campus feel as small or large as you would like. I have many small groups of friends and know my professors by name."

—Sam E.

- "I didn't have specific worries; I just wanted my daughter to be happy. There are many support systems for freshmen that help with a range of issues, including guidance about time-management, study skills, and writing papers. My daughter has been able to reach out for help when she needed it."

—Lauren, parent of a current student



Getting Connected

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) would like to help your student get connected to technology. DoIT provides the computing resources your student will use on campus.

If you are thinking about purchasing a graduation laptop or other tech device, check the DoIT Tech Store for educational discounts on Apple and Dell and up to 85 percent off on popular Microsoft, Adobe, and other software. For information on what your student will need, chat with a Tech Store consultant by calling 608-264-3648, see techstore.doit.wisc.edu, or visit us at one of our three locations during SOAR.

Keep your student's computer and personal identity safe with free Symantec AntiVirus software. All students are required to run anti-virus software and keep security patches updated. Your student can down-

load the software on our website www.doit.wisc.edu, which is free and supported by the DoIT Help Desk. Students can also find tips on our website for how to protect their computer and personal information.

The DoIT Help Desk and Repair can help your student with diagnosing any 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 Repair is an authorized warranty repair service for Apple and Dell, and can provide out-of-warranty service on other brands for a fee.

We look forward to helping your student get connected on campus!



Got Questions? Ask Bucky

If your student ever has a question about the university, he or she can ask a campus information guide. Visitor & Information Programs (VIP) employs well-trained guides who can answer questions, help locate information, and assist in navigating UW–Madison and the surrounding community. Contact VIP by phone, 608-263-2400; or by email, 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, www.parent.wisc.edu, offers a more complete directory of comprehensive resources.

Bursar's Office

Receives tuition and fees
Web: www.bussvc.wisc.edu/bursar
Phone: 608-262-3611

McBurney Disability Resource Center

Provides resources for students with physical, psychological, sensory, and learning disabilities
Web: www.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: www.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: www.finaid.wisc.edu
Phone: 608-262-3060

University Health Services

Provides students with primary health care, health education, and disease-prevention services
Web: www.uhs.wisc.edu
Phone: (608) 265-5600

University Housing

Provides information about on-campus residence halls and learning communities
Web: www.housing.wisc.edu
Phone: 608-262-2522

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 the materials you receive, feel free to call the Parent Program at 1-877-262-3977.

