



# BADGER Parent

## Staying Connected

SPRING 2016

### Dear Badger Parent,

**W**e 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 toward a degree, 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 emailing

parent@uwmad.wisc.edu. Otherwise, you will continue to receive our communications.

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 your family's Badger spirit continues for many years to come.

Best wishes,  
The Parent Program

*Patti Lux-Weber*  
Patti Lux-Weber

*Monica Ruppert*  
Monica Ruppert

### Milestones and Changes

Graduation is an accomplishment, both for a student and for a family. Your student has worked very hard to earn a degree, and your support was integral to your student's success. 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 alone, 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 transition 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 about 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 student (diploma in hand) move into the future.

### Key Dates

**Friday, April 1**  
Students must apply to graduate before April 1 to ensure their name will appear in the commencement program.

**Friday, May 6**  
Last day of class

**Sunday, May 8**  
Exams begin

**Friday, May 13–Sunday, May 15**  
Commencement Weekend

**Friday, May 13**  
Commencement ceremony for doctoral, medical professional, M.F.A., and honorary degrees.  
Location: Kohl Center

Ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m.; graduates should take their seats by 5:10 p.m.

**Saturday, May 14**  
Commencement ceremony for bachelor's, master's, and law degree candidates.  
Location: Camp Randall Stadium

Ceremony begins at noon; gates open at 10 a.m.; graduates should be seated by 11:20 a.m.

**Saturday, May 14**  
Exams end

\*Information about school, college, and departmental events held throughout the weekend will be available online at commencement.wisc.edu; please check for the most up-to-date information.



**Parent Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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*The Parent Program is here for you.*

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UW-Madison Parent Program



## 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.

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 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, so enjoy the time getting to know your student as an adult.

## Health Insurance

As graduation approaches, it is important that parents and students evaluate upcoming life changes. Health insurance is an important aspect to consider, as each student’s situation may vary depending on current coverage and potential job opportunities. Sarah Van Orman, UW–Madison’s chief medical officer and executive director of University Health Services (UHS), offers these tips to parents:

- As of January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires most individuals to have health insurance. One provision of the ACA allows dependent individuals to remain on their parents’ insurance plan until age 26. This may benefit your student even after graduation.

- If your student will not be covered, consider helping your student 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 minimum consider catastrophic coverage.
- Depending on income, your student may qualify for a premium subsidy (assistance) through the ACA that will lower the cost of an exchange plan. Your student may also qualify for a cost-sharing subsidy that will lower out-of-pocket health care expenses. For more information on exchanges and who qualifies for assistance, visit the Health Insurance Marketplace at [healthcare.gov/quick-guide](http://healthcare.gov/quick-guide).
- 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 [uhs.wisc.edu/ship/continuation.shtml](http://uhs.wisc.edu/ship/continuation.shtml).
- Students who will spend the summer in Madison have the option to pay the summer health fee and continue to use UHS through August 15 for basic and primary care services.
- If your student is starting a new job, provide coaching on how to evaluate the health options that an employer offers. In many cases, benefits may not begin for several months after starting a new job. To avoid a gap in coverage, ensure that interim coverage is available.
- Take into account where your student will be living. If your student relocates, you may need to help find a new primary care site. Due to limits on health insurance, coverage amounts from provider networks may be lower, requiring more patient out-of-pocket contributions depending upon where a student will receive health care services. Make sure the insurance plan provides adequate coverage where the student is likely to seek medical care.
- Encourage your student to get a check-up and refill any medications before graduation.
- Group insurance plans are offered through the Wisconsin Alumni Association. For more information, visit [uwalumni.com/membership/benefits](http://uwalumni.com/membership/benefits).



## Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau

We hope that you have grown to love both the campus and the surrounding community during your student's time at UW–Madison. The Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau is your resource when you're ready for a return visit, no matter what the reason or the season! Check out [visitmadison.com](http://visitmadison.com) for:

- Don't-miss events
- Online booking at area hotels
- Itinerary ideas
- E-News sign-up
- Apps, maps, and more!

Share your fondness for Madison with others! Find more information on Facebook ([facebook.com/travelmadison](https://facebook.com/travelmadison)) or Twitter (@Visit\_Madison).



## Visit UW–Madison

UW–Madison offers diverse, year-round activities, from exploring natural, historic, and architectural marvels to attending a riveting arts performance, concert, or athletic event. Learn more about popular destinations, landmarks, science and discovery venues, gardens and natural areas, performance and arts opportunities, and more at [info.wisc.edu/destinations](http://info.wisc.edu/destinations).

## 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 [uwbadgers.com](http://uwbadgers.com) for schedules and ticket information.

## Continuing Education

Are you ready for a change? Whether you want to learn new skills or a new career, on campus or online, UW–Madison is the place to be. Our programs are offered in flexible delivery formats that fit the lives of working adults. Explore our options and discover a whole new you. To find out more about for-credit post-baccalaureate degrees and certificates, visit [advanceyourcareer.wisc.edu](http://advanceyourcareer.wisc.edu).

Also available are noncredit programs focused on international languages, business or grant writing, project management, leadership, art, music, and other areas, as well as free advising for adults who want to return to school or change careers. Find non-credit classes and programs for University Special Students or Guest Auditors at [continuingstudies.wisc.edu](http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu).

## UW–Madison seniors and recent graduates share their insights.

- Graduation was extremely bittersweet and I can say with 100 percent confidence that my four and a half years as a UW–Madison student were the best years of my life. I am looking forward to taking all of my experiences and skills that I have gained from this world-class institution and applying them to the real world. Post-graduation is a very exciting time and I am confident that I am ready to enter the next phase of my life because of my time here at UW. Once a badger, always a badger.  
—Dana D.
- Graduating brings many new stresses, excitements, and changes. I've really relied on the support of my family and close friends to help me consider all my options for post-graduation plans. They've helped give me the confidence I will need to pursue all my goals in this new stage of my life!  
—Maggie W.
- I am sad to leave Madison, but I know I'm not really saying goodbye. Just a friendly 'see you later' at the Terrace with some cheese curds! Madison and this campus community have definitely been added to the list of places I call home. I know once I am not here every day, I will certainly miss the rich atmosphere.  
—Sorcha M.
- It's extremely hard to believe that my time as a UW student is almost over. This city and the people in it have helped me grow in so many ways, and while I don't know what I will do once my parents drag me out of this place, I am confident that my experiences at UW–Madison have helped me realize what I want to achieve moving forward.  
—Sahar E.
- The endless opportunities at UW–Madison have allowed me to learn, grow, and succeed in so many different parts of my life. These opportunities have shaped my identity in so many exciting ways, and have made me infinitely more confident and comfortable with everything I do going forward in college and after graduation.  
—Nakul N.
- With my upcoming graduation, I felt a new sense a responsibility for my finances. I felt it was important to have important conversations with my parents about my financial situation post-graduation. We talked about applying for loans and paying for graduate school. With my great foundation from UW, I'm very excited to keep working toward my professional goals while making smart financial decisions.  
—Carolyn H.

## Wisconsin Alumni Association

As the parent of a future 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 student. And you can do exactly that — the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) offers the same opportunities to parents, alumni, friends, and students alike. Want to explore the world like never before? Embark on one of WAA's international or domestic travel adventures and get a Badger perspective. Interested in connecting with Badgers in your community? Get involved with your local WAA chapter. Are Badger sports your game? Take advantage of WAA's athletic tours and pre-game BADGER HUDDLE® tailgates. To truly stay connected to the UW, you and your student can join a special community of Badgers by becoming WAA members. Visit [uwalumni.com/membership](http://uwalumni.com/membership) for details, a special new grad offer, and more.

## UW Foundation

UW–Madison continues to be ranked as one of the world's premier universities. Few universities offer such a broad range of schools, colleges, and departments — all on one campus. This diversity of offerings allows students to find the field of study that best suits their strengths. But like all public universities, the UW faces budget challenges. Fortunately, alumni and parents have helped the university remain strong. Since 1989, more than 125,000 parents have made gifts to the UW. Gifts given to the Parents' Fund this year will support educational innovation, including important career initiatives and the development of libraries to better meet student needs. Your gift will support international study opportunities as well as much-needed improvements to the campus recreational facilities that are key to the well-being of students on campus. Some parents choose to designate their gifts for specific schools, colleges, and departments. To learn more and to give, visit [supportuw.org/parents](http://supportuw.org/parents).

## Wisconsin Union Membership

Consider giving your student the gift of a Wisconsin Union membership for graduation. 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, distinguished speakers, live music and other 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](http://union.wisc.edu/membership).

## Campus and Visitor Relations

We hope that Madison has become a home away from home for your student and for your entire family. Whenever you return to campus, Campus and Visitor Relations (CAVR) 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, CAVR staff can provide the latest information about campus resources and things to see and do throughout the university and community. And whether you are near or far away in the world, you can send questions to the Ask Bucky Chat and Email Service or call 608-263-2400 to speak with a staff member. Staff can also refer you and your student to other CAVR programs, such as



the Campus Visit Program to set up reunion visits for groups of alumni and the UW–Madison Speakers' Bureau to request talks from UW–Madison professors and staff members. For more information, visit [info.wisc.edu](http://info.wisc.edu).

## Diploma Details

Graduates receive empty diploma covers as a concrete symbol of their accomplishments when they pick up their attire from the University Book Store or attend a school/college ceremony. The degrees are processed once final grades are submitted; 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 My UW. 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 commencement, or who own or will borrow commencement attire and do not need to rent it from the University Book Store, may obtain a diploma cover and a commencement program from the Office of the Registrar, 333 East Campus Mall, #10101, Monday–Friday, 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Questions about mailed diplomas can be emailed to [degreeaudit@em.wisc.edu](mailto:degreeaudit@em.wisc.edu).





Rebecca Blank  
Chancellor

## Dear Family of Graduating Students,

As the parent of a fourth- or fifth-year student, you may be preparing to attend commencement this spring. I know you are proud of your soon-to-be graduate's achievements,

and I want to provide you with some information to make your visit to Madison for commencement weekend go smoothly.

Our commencement website, [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu), will be updated throughout the semester with the latest news about events held throughout the weekend. Please continue to review the information on this site as we get closer to the celebration.

As in the past several years, UW–Madison will hold two ceremonies:

- All bachelor's, law, and master's degree candidates (excluding MFAs) will celebrate in a single ceremony held on Saturday, May 14, at noon in Camp Randall Stadium, 1440 Monroe St. The ceremony will last approximately 75 minutes. We are pleased to continue the new tradition of bringing the entire class of 2016 together in one place, celebrating its many accomplishments in a uniquely "Wisconsin" way.
- Doctoral and MFA degree candidates from all schools and colleges will celebrate in a ceremony on Friday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Kohl Center, 601 W. Dayton St. The ceremony is expected to last two hours.

This letter focuses on the details of the ceremony for bachelor's, law, and master's degree candidates. For more information about the ceremony for doctoral and MFA degree candidates, please visit [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu).

### Tickets and Accessibility

No tickets are required for general admission. Degree candidates are welcome to invite any number of friends and family to celebrate.

Advance ticketing is required for persons requiring wheelchair seating. A request form is available on the commencement site. For more information about registering for these seats, please visit the site or email [commence@chancellor.wisc.edu](mailto:commence@chancellor.wisc.edu).

Should you require accessible parking (located north of Camp Randall), you will need to request a special pass, to be displayed along with a state-approved accessible hang tag or license plate. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit the commencement site for more information.

### Parking and Shuttle Transportation

Please allow adequate time for parking to avoid last-minute congestion in gaining access to Camp Randall. Parking is available in most university lots, city parking ramps, limited spots on city streets, and commercial parking venues. All university lots will be free of charge from noon on Friday, May 13, through 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 15. For a map of campus parking lots, visit [map.wisc.edu](http://map.wisc.edu).

A free shuttle will run to different campus events and locations on Saturday, May 14. For a map of the shuttle route, visit [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu).

### Inside Camp Randall

Camp Randall Stadium will be open to guests at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 14. Guests may enter through gates 1, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and will be seated in the stands.

To ensure a safe and secure event, guests will be subject to a visual inspection and bags will be searched upon entering the stadium. Please be sure to review our list of permitted and prohibited items on the commencement site before you arrive.

Graduates will be seated on the field

at Camp Randall by school, college, or degree, and are asked to be in their seats no later than 11:20 a.m. Please note that access to the platform and graduate seating area at Camp Randall is restricted to graduates and commencement officials at all times.

### Photos

Following the ceremony, students will have an opportunity to have a professional photo taken before exiting Camp Randall. Complimentary photographic proofs will be mailed to the graduates.

### Viewing Online

The ceremony will be streamed live online for family and friends who are not able to attend. A link with instructions about preparing for the live viewing will be available on the UW's home page, [wisc.edu](http://wisc.edu), a few days before commencement weekend.

### Other Commencement Events

Each school and college will hold its own graduate recognition event during commencement weekend. Information about these events will be updated throughout the semester on the commencement site. Many departments, honors programs, and other groups will also be hosting events; students are encouraged to contact their departments for more details.

Please direct any questions you may have about commencement to Campus and Visitor Relations by calling 608-263-2400 or emailing [commence@chancellor.wisc.edu](mailto:commence@chancellor.wisc.edu).

I congratulate you on the achievements of your student and extend the university's very best wishes for your graduate's future. I do hope you are able to join us in May.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Blank  
Chancellor

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## Graduation Checklist

Below are a few reminders for May graduates. For the most up-to-date information related to commencement, please visit [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu).

- Apply to graduate:** Students must apply to graduate and indicate their intention to attend the commencement ceremony in the Student Center in My UW. Students must apply before April 1 to ensure that their name will appear in the commencement program.
- Confirm diploma address:** This must be a U.S. address where the student would like the diploma to be sent. Unless the student creates a diploma address, the diploma will be mailed to the home address (often this is the parents' address). Students can check/edit this in the Student Center in My UW. International students who do not list a U.S. diploma address in the Student Center will have their diplomas 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. Students who wish to have their name appear in the commencement program must verify that their name and degree are not restricted no later than April 1.
- Resolve outstanding debts or holds:** 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 academic attire — cap and gown for all candidates, with a hood for advanced-degree candidates — appropriate to the degree to be conferred. All academic attire may be rented or purchased from the University Book Store or ordered online. For more information, visit [uwbookstore.com](http://uwbookstore.com) and select “cap and gown.”
- Exclusive alumni pins:** Don't forget that graduating students can grab their official Wisconsin Alumni Association alumni pin at commencement. They'll want to wear it loud and proud because they're joining a family of 400,000 alumni around the world! Find out more at [uwalumni.com/alwaysabadger](http://uwalumni.com/alwaysabadger).
- For financial aid recipients:** An exit interview is required for financial aid student loan recipients. Failure to do so will delay the mailing of a diploma. For information, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid website at [finaid.wisc.edu](http://finaid.wisc.edu) and search for exit interviews.
- For graduates not participating in the ceremony:** Students not attending the commencement ceremony, or who own or will borrow commencement attire and do not need to rent it from the University Book Store, may pick up a red diploma cover and a commencement program at the Office of the Registrar, 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 [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu). If you choose to remain on the list, you will continue to receive our electronic newsletters and updates.