



# BADGER Parent

Welcome  
SPRING 2016

## Welcome from the Parent Program

**W**e 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 and family support is critical to success during the college years. We know that your student will look to you as the 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 and provide support as your student 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, your student 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 federal protections (FERPA and HIPAA) 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 “Resources & Publications” page on the Parent Program website, for more ideas on what you can expect over the next several months and ways to prepare for this changing relationship.

## What Is the Parent Program?

When your student enrolls at UW–Madison, you automatically become a member of the Parent Program. Additional family members may sign up by calling the Parent Program or visiting [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu) and clicking on “Join/Update Our Mailing List.” We offer the following services:

- Our **website**, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), provides access to general campus information, dates, upcoming events, news, a gift basket ordering service, and resources such as frequently asked questions.

- The **Badger Parent e-newsletter**, sent five times per year, showcases key transitions for students and highlights 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 to interested parents and families after that. It

## Key Dates

**Wednesday, June 22**  
Family Weekend registration opens

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

**August 30–September 1**  
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.

**Tuesday, September 6**  
Classes begin

**Saturday, September 17**  
Parents’ Day at the UW Football Game

**October 21–23**  
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)) o llámenos al 608-262-3977.

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



Professional staff  
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Monica Ruppert

Student interns  
Gabriela Cristobal  
Jasmin Elhindi  
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*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



features important dates, month-by-month transitions, resources, payment information, and a first-year experience section.

- We host **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.

## 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.** Students should take responsibility for

their own SOAR experience, especially when setting academic goals and selecting courses. Provide guidance and support 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 planning 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](https://www.facebook.com/uwnewStudent)

Twitter: [@uwnewStudent](https://twitter.com/uwnewStudent)

Instagram: [@uwnewstudent](https://www.instagram.com/uwnewstudent)

[#FutureBadgers](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/FutureBadgers) & [#uwsoar](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/uwsoar)



## McBurney Disability Resource Center

The McBurney Center has served students with a wide range of disabilities for almost 40 years. Students registered with the center include those with:

- Learning disabilities, ADHD, traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairments, hearing loss, mobility/orthopedic disorders
- Chronic health conditions (e.g., Crohn's disease, diabetes, chronic migraines, lupus, fibromyalgia, etc.)
- Mental health conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, OCD, etc.)
- Autism spectrum disorders

As you and your student prepare for the transition to UW–Madison, encourage your student to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center now to request disability-related accommodations. Some students may be reluctant to use services before they have a chance to “try it on their own.” Assure your student that accommodations are intended to provide equal access to education as well as all other UW–Madison programs, activities, and services.

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

### 1. Contact the McBurney Center:

Follow the steps at [mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php) to begin the eligibility process. Even if you are not sure you want to use accommodations, completing the eligibility process now will help you avoid a delay in receiving services when you may need them.

### 2. Gather documentation and complete an intake appointment:

Gather disability documentation ([mcburney.wisc.edu/information/documentation/disdocpolicies.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/information/documentation/disdocpolicies.php)) from your high school, college, or treating professional. An accommodation specialist will contact you for an intake appointment. This intake, along with your documentation, will determine eligibility.

### 3. Know that all disability information submitted is confidential:

McBurney records are kept separate from academic records. Disability-related information provided to the center is considered an educational record and is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). More information can be found at [mcburney.wisc.edu/information/documentation/doconfidentiality.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/information/documentation/doconfidentiality.php).

### 4. Take part in the McBurney Orientation and Service Training (MOST) Program for new freshmen and parents during early move-in (August 28–30, 2016).

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. Over the next two days, students will participate in sessions focusing on how to request 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 McBurney 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 (OSFA) offers these suggestions to ease the transition:

- It's not too late to apply for financial aid. You can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). If you would like your financial aid by the fall tuition deadline, you should complete the FAFSA no later than early July.
- The My UW Student Center is the best resource for information about your student's financial aid. It includes financial aid that has been offered and accepted, the cost of attendance, tuition balances, and when any refund was processed and by which method.
- Has your student been offered any scholarships? Students are required to notify our office of any scholarships they receive (even those from a UW department) and can do so by sending an email to [award@finaid.wisc.edu](mailto:award@finaid.wisc.edu). Please make sure students include their name and campus ID number, as well as the scholarship details. If a student doesn't notify us, it may impact the financial aid package later.
- Be sure your student has completed all the necessary paperwork for any loans that have been offered and accepted. Keep an eye out for a directive to complete such requirements as the Master Promissory Note and/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 money from their parents.
- Save! It's never too late to save for college. If your student has a summer job, encourage saving some earnings each week to use for spending money on campus.

For more information, visit [finaid.wisc.edu](http://finaid.wisc.edu). OSFA staff members are also available by phone (**608-262-3060**) or e-mail ([finaid@finaid.wisc.edu](mailto:finaid@finaid.wisc.edu)) to answer any questions you may have.



### 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 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.
- The University Book Store ([text.uwbookstore.com](http://text.uwbookstore.com)): Students can search for textbooks based on their class schedules, find information about textbook returns and buybacks, and contact the text department to ask questions.
- Instructor emails, sent shortly before classes begin: Some instructors email the syllabus to enrolled students; it may list course materials and required textbooks.

It's important for students to do their research to find out which textbook options are the most affordable and convenient for them. 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.

- Use The University Book Store's online pricing comparison tool ([text.uwbookstore.com/SelectTermDept.aspx](http://text.uwbookstore.com/SelectTermDept.aspx)) to compare the best prices from different websites in one place.
- Consider renting or buying used textbooks through The University Book Store, 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. 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, including The University Book Store.

## 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 co-curricular activities all help produce smaller, more intentional communities that set students up for success. To learn more, visit [www.housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-lc](http://www.housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-lc).

Students can make changes to preferences on My UW Housing through May 6, 2016. If students list one of the RLCs as a top choice, they 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 assignments for 2016–17 long before other assignments are made.

Before arriving for SOAR, your student can review the residence hall class sections available in all halls and RLC seminars at [www.housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-academicclasses](http://www.housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls-academicclasses). 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 often marks the 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 "First-year Families" under the "Your Family" page on [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu) for the "What to Bring to Campus: Information and Checklist" page. This page lists items that 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, Afterschool 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 [wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea](http://wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea).

## 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/go/sendoffs](http://uwalumni.com/go/sendoffs).

## Exploring Beyond Campus

There's a world to explore just beyond your student's door! Next time you visit, take a stroll down State Street, a six-block pedestrian mall that connects Madison's downtown scene to the UW–Madison campus. State Street is known for eclectic, locally owned shops and restaurants, as well as museums and galleries. At the other end of State Street is the State Capitol building — admire the amazing architecture on your own or take one of the free tours offered daily. Either way, be sure to visit the observation deck for stunning panoramic views of the city. During warmer months, the 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). There you can view details on upcoming events, read itineraries, and find fun activities to enjoy with your student on your next visit.

## Getting Connected

Preparing for college can be stressful (but exciting) for students and parents alike. The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) is here to help by looking after all technology needs, and getting students "connected" to campus. The DoIT Tech Store ([techstore.doit.wisc.edu](http://techstore.doit.wisc.edu)) provides:

- Academic discounts on tech essentials, including Apple and Dell laptops and accessories
- Free and discounted software, including free Microsoft Office and Symantec Anti-virus
- Free tech consulting
- Technology recommendations by major

Visit DoIT's website for a quick list of technology that will help your student get started: [it.wisc.edu/guides/computing-checklist](http://it.wisc.edu/guides/computing-checklist).

The DoIT Help Desk ([it.wisc.edu/help](http://it.wisc.edu/help)) is here for all of your student's tech support needs. The Help Desk is Dell and Apple Warranty authorized, so computer repairs happen right on campus — and even between classes. Often, your student's laptop can be fixed without having to send it out to the manufacturer. This saves time, money, and homework assignments.

We want to keep your student's devices and information safe, so all students are expected to run anti-virus software and keep security patches up to date. The software can be downloaded at [it.wisc.edu/services/antivirus-software](http://it.wisc.edu/services/antivirus-software). It's free and fully supported by the DoIT Help Desk.

DoIT looks forward to helping your student get connected on campus. Make sure to visit one of the DoIT Tech Store's three convenient locations ([go.wisc.edu/738fyw](http://go.wisc.edu/738fyw)) when you are here for SOAR.

## Got Questions? Ask Bucky

If your student ever has a question about the university, a campus information guide can help. 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). Students should save these contacts in their phones or email lists for future use.

## Key Contacts

As you support your student in the transition to UW–Madison, 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: [www.housing.wisc.edu](http://www.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.

- My graduating high school class was 30 people, so coming to UW–Madison was a little bit of a change. What you realize when you get here is that no matter your major, interests, or hobbies, there is something for you. Don't be afraid to try new things, meet new people, and do something you never thought you would. These are the opportunities that allow you to have a one-of-a-kind experience and leave with a lifetime of memories, interests, and friends.  
—Henry S.
- Getting involved right from the start is the best move that I made as an incoming freshman. It's so easy to find your niche whether it be in a student organization, volunteering for a cause you love, or with a campus job. Doing this as soon as you arrive gives you a head start at interacting with your new community and introducing you to fellow Badgers who are interested in the same things you are.  
—Luke M.

- During my time at UW, I've built friendships that will last a lifetime. The friendships you make here will have a significant impact on your college experience and who you become. Academics are incredibly important, but don't forget to make time for your friends and yourself. Work hard. Have fun. Build memories. When you sit at graduation four years from now, you won't be thinking about the exam you aced, but rather the incredible friendships you'll be walking away with. Cherish your time as a Badger, as it truly goes fast. This is your home — welcome.  
—Dave P.

- Making my college decision was tough for my family and me, but the minute I visited Wisconsin for my campus tour, I fell in love with the campus and knew that this is where I belonged. I was nervous to move into my residence hall, but the first day my entire floor got dinner together and we all got to know each other extremely well over the year. To this day, they are all still my best friends. There are many opportunities for students here at UW–Madison and your experience will ultimately be what you make it!  
—Jasmin E.