



BADGER Parent

Staying Connected

SPRING 2017

Dear Badger Parent,

We are grateful to have been a part of your journey during your student's college experience. Thank you for all you have done to support your student's success. We appreciate you and wish your family all the best going forward.

Whether your student is graduating or continuing toward a degree, opportunities are still available to you. This newsletter addresses many ways that you can stay engaged and connected to the university and 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 UW and that your family's Badger spirit continues for many years to come.

Congratulations to your student and your family on this wonderful achievement.

On, Wisconsin!
The Parent Program

Stephanie Benson-Gonzales Monica Ruppert

Key Dates

Friday, March 31

Students must apply to graduate before March 31 to ensure their name will appear in the commencement program.

Thursday, May 4

Last day of class

Saturday, May 6

Exams begin

Friday, May 12

Exams end

Friday, May 12–Sunday, May 14

Commencement weekend

Friday, May 12

Commencement ceremony for doctoral, medical professional, MFA, 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 13

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.

*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.

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 a parent or family member 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 of your relationship with your student. 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.



Parent Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Professional staff
Stephanie Benson-Gonzales
Monica Ruppert

Student interns
Chris Lueneburg
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The Parent Program
is here for you.

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



UW-Madison Parent Program



- 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 treatment. 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.
- School coverage often ends after graduation, but students enrolled in the UW–Madison Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) may be eligible for continuation coverage. To learn more about SHIP continuation, visit uhs.wisc.edu/ship/continuation.
- Students who will spend the summer in Madison have the option to pay the summer health fee and continue to use University Health Services (UHS) through August 31 for basic- and primary-care services.
- If your student is starting a new job, provide coaching on how to evaluate the health options that the 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.
- Consider where your student will be living. If your student relocates, you may need to help your student 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.

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 or family member, 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 for students and parents to 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. Dr. Sarah Van Orman, executive director of University Health Services and UW–Madison’s chief health officer, 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 plans until age 26. This may benefit your student even after graduation.



Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau

As your student's time at UW–Madison comes to an end, we hope you'll stay connected to our capital city. The Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau is your resource when you're ready for a return visit, and there is a wealth of information at visitmadison.com, including:

- A robust events calendar
- Restaurant recommendations
- Itinerary ideas
- In-depth articles about attractions and experiences

For a regular dose of Madison, sign up for the bureau's newsletter at visitmadison.com/insider and connect on Facebook ([travelmadison](https://www.facebook.com/travelmadison)), Twitter ([@Visit_Madison](https://twitter.com/Visit_Madison)), and Instagram ([visitmadison](https://www.instagram.com/visitmadison)).



Visit UW–Madison

UW–Madison offers diverse, year-round activities — whether you want to explore natural, historic, and architectural marvels or attend riveting arts performances, concerts, and athletic events. 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.

Badger Athletics

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

Continuing Education

Are you ready for a change? Whether you want to learn new skills, launch a new career, study on campus, or learn online, UW–Madison can help. The university offers more than 50 programs in flexible formats that fit the lives of working adults. To find out more about post-baccalaureate degrees and certificates, visit advanceyourcareer.wisc.edu or meet with an advisor who can help you with any questions you have about returning to school or changing careers. Not ready to enroll in a post-baccalaureate program? No problem. Sign up for noncredit UW programs focused on a wide range of topics, including international languages, business or grant writing, project management, leadership, art, and music. Connect with these and other UW–Madison lifelong learning opportunities at 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 the 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 of 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 the UW, I'm very excited to keep working toward my professional goals while making smart financial decisions.

—Carolyn H.

Wisconsin Alumni Association

As a parent or family member 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 as your student does. Fortunately, 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 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. The Parents' Fund addresses the issues that affect students most by helping the UW to provide critical student resources, a full range of learning opportunities, world-class faculty, and important scholarship programs. Your gift, no matter how large or small, will join other parents' gifts to make a huge impact on the university. Some parents choose to designate their gifts for specific schools, colleges, and departments. To learn more and to give, visit supportuw.org/parents.

Celebrate Graduation at the Wisconsin Union

Join the Union graduation weekend for grad-inspired activities and specials. Stop by the Union South Plaza and Memorial Union Terrace on graduation day for free professional photos on the Big Terrace Chairs. You can also host a group party or event at the Memorial Union or Union South. And 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, learning from distinguished speakers, enjoying live music and other performances, and much more. Lifetime Union Memberships will be available for a special rate when you purchase in person on graduation weekend. Learn more: union.wisc.edu/graduation.

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 asking questions, locating information, and navigating 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, 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.

Diploma and Covers

Diplomas are mailed three to six weeks after commencement. Prior to commencement, students should check their mailing addresses in Student Center, and also confirm that they have no holds (such as fees or fines). Students who live in North America will have their diploma mailed to their HOME address. These students can create an optional DIPLOMA address if they would like their diploma mailed elsewhere. Students who live outside North America must set up a DIPLOMA address for mailing, even if it is the same as their home address; those without a DIPLOMA address can pick up their diploma at the Office of the Registrar (333 East Campus Mall, 10th floor; Monday to Friday, 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.). For more information, visit: go.wisc.edu/diploma.

Gold-embossed UW–Madison diploma covers serve as a special way to protect and display the diploma. Students who are picking up their commencement cap and gown at the University Book Store can receive a diploma cover there. Some students will receive a diploma cover at their school or college's own recognition event. All other graduating students can come to the Office of the Registrar to pick up a diploma cover and commencement program.

Students may also be eligible for a certified electronic diploma, which can be useful for job applications, professional licensing, and the like. For more information, visit go.wisc.edu/diploma-pdf.





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, 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 will celebrate in a single ceremony held on Saturday, May 13, 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 2017 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 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the Kohl Center, 601 W. Dayton St. The ceremony is expected to last two and a half 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.

Tickets and Accessibility

No tickets are required for general admission. Degree candidates are welcome to invite as many 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.

Should you require accessible parking (located on the north end 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 12, through 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 14. For a map of campus parking lots, visit map.wisc.edu.

A free shuttle will run to different campus events and locations on Saturday, May 13. For a map of the shuttle route, visit commencement.wisc.edu.

Inside Camp Randall

Camp Randall Stadium will be open to guests at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13. Guests may enter through gates 1, 7, 8, 9, or 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

Prior to the ceremony, students will have an opportunity to have a professional photo taken at Camp Randall. Complimentary photographic proofs will be emailed to the graduates.

Viewing Online

For those unable to attend, the ceremonies will stream live at commencement.wisc.edu.

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.

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

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.

- Apply to graduate:** Students must apply to graduate and indicate their intention to attend the commencement ceremony in the Student Center in MyUW. Students must apply before March 31 to ensure that their name will appear in the commencement program.
- Confirm diploma mailing address:** Students who live in North America will have their diploma mailed to their HOME address. These students can create an optional DIPLOMA address if they would like their diploma mailed elsewhere. Students who live outside North America must set up a DIPLOMA address for mailing, even if it is the same as their home address; those without a DIPLOMA address can pick up their diploma at the Office of the Registrar (333 East Campus Mall, 10th floor; Monday to Friday, 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.). More: go.wisc.edu/diploma.
- Remove FERPA restrictions:** In Student Center (my.wisc.edu), a student can review or edit any FERPA restrictions on personal information. Students who want to have their name in the commencement program must verify that their name and degree are not restricted, no later than March 31. A FERPA restriction on name and degree prevents a student's name from being published. It may also prevent potential employers from verifying a degree. More: go.wisc.edu/ferpa.
- 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 and search for exit interviews.
- Resolve outstanding holds:** Students should check Student Center for any holds, such as outstanding library fines, and follow the instructions in Student Center. Diplomas are mailed after holds have been cleared.
- 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/graduation.
- Exclusive alumni pins:** 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! More: uwalumni.com/alwaysabadger.
- Diploma covers for students not participating in the ceremony:** Most students will pick up a gold-embossed diploma cover along with their rented cap and gown, or at their school or college's own recognition event. All other graduating students can pick up a diploma cover and commencement program at the Office of the Registrar, 333 East Campus Mall, 10th floor.
- For families:** If your student is graduating and you would like to remove yourself from the Parent Program mailing list, visit parent.wisc.edu. If you choose to remain on the list, you will continue to receive our electronic newsletters and updates.