



BADGER Parent

Welcome
SPRING 2017

Welcome from the Parent Program

Welcome to the Badger Family! Just as parents and family members play an important role in helping students to succeed throughout the high school years, parent and family support is critical to success during the college years. We know that your student will look to you as a 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 to 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 have practice 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 and clicking on “Join/Update Our Mailing List.” We offer the following services:

- Our **website**, parent.wisc.edu, highlights key campus information, dates, upcoming events, news, frequently asked questions, and additional resources.

- 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 families.
- **Parent email notices** are sent in the event of a critical campus incident to inform parents and families and offer available resources.
- The **Calendar & Handbook** is provided to parents of new students at SOAR and is mailed to parents and families after that. It features

Key Dates

- June 30 (Fri)**
Incoming first-year students must submit their final, official high school transcript
- July 19 (Wed)**
Family Weekend registration opens
- August 29–31 (Tue–Th)**
Residence hall move-in
- September 6 (Wed)**
Classes begin
- November 3–5 (Fri–Sun)**
Family Weekend



Parent Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Haga una pregunta en español en línea (apps.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、健康和安安全等信息，请浏览此网页：parent.wisc.edu/chinese



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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



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

- We host **Family Weekend** in the fall, **Sibs Day** in April, and additional events throughout the year. 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.”
- 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, social media, 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, for additional information and to sign up additional family members to the program.

Connect with CFYE:

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

CFYE website/student blog: newstudent.wisc.edu; youatuw.com

Facebook: [/uwnewstudent](https://www.facebook.com/uwnewstudent)

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

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

[#YouAtUW](https://www.instagram.com/YouAtUW) & [#uwsoar](https://www.instagram.com/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)
- Mental health conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, OCD)
- 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 talk about 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 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/students/howto.php) from your high school, college, or treating professional. An accommodation specialist will contact you for an intake appointment once you have completed the online contact form ([contact.mcb.wisc.edu/contact_form](http://mcb.wisc.edu/contact_form)). 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).

4. Take part in the McBurney Orientation and Service Training (MOST) Program for new students and their parents during early move-in (August 27–28, 2017).

This program is for students who have been determined eligible for McBurney services. Information about McBurney and other campus resources will be shared with parents and students on Day 1. The following day, 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.

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. 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. If you need your financial aid ready before classes begin in September, you should complete the FAFSA no later than early July.
- The 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 non-UW scholarships? Students are required to notify our office of any non-UW scholarships they receive and can do so by sending an email to award@finaid.wisc.edu. Please make sure students include their name and campus ID number, as well as the scholarship details. If students do not notify us, it may affect their financial aid package later.
- Be sure your student has completed all the necessary paperwork for any loans that have been offered and accepted. Tell your student to keep an eye out for an email 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 once they get to campus.

For more information, visit finaid.wisc.edu. OSFA team members are also available by phone (**608-262-3060**) or e-mail (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.





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. RLCs bring together faculty, staff, and students around common interests within a residence hall. 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.

Students can make changes to preferences on MyUW Housing through May 1, 2017. 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 the 2017–18 year 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-academics-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 the 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.

Textbooks and Course Materials

Instructors may assign specific textbooks for courses, create “course packets” of selected readings, and require materials such as lab equipment and art supplies. Shortly before classes begin, some instructors may email a list of materials and/or a syllabus to students enrolled in their courses.

Other instructors use UW–Madison's Student Information System (SIS) to list textbooks and materials for a course. Students can find this information in a few places:

- For any course, students should check Course Guide (public.my.wisc.edu).
- For enrolled courses, students can visit Student Center in their MyUW portal (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 Class Search. MyUW also has a “My Courses” panel; a “textbooks” link appears when the instructor has provided textbook information.
- 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 at the University Book Store, an independent bookstore near campus (text.uwbookstore.com).

Many textbooks are significantly revised between editions. Students should confirm they are using the correct textbook edition, and can contact their instructor if they're not sure. Look for an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), the 10- or 13-digit unique identifying number, which is included in the textbooks listings if the instructor has provided it.

Campus libraries have copies of many course materials for short-term loan. Check the libraries' website for details: library.wisc.edu/reserves. Many students choose to rent textbooks or buy used books.

UW–Madison has several campus copy shops that produce course packets, usually made up of chapters, excerpts, and articles from a variety of sources. Instructors will inform students, often through a course syllabus or website, if there's an assigned course packet. (For an example of a course packet available from the College of Letters & Science Copy Shop, visit copy.ls.wisc.edu/student_order.html.)





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 go.wisc.edu/bring-to-campus for the Parent Program's "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 such as the Wisconsin Science Festival, After-school 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.

Attend a Badger Send-Off Celebration

Every summer, alumni chapters throughout the country host Badger Student Send-Off Celebrations, bringing together incoming students, their families, 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 families, it's a day to learn about UW–Madison from local alumni and a way to discuss issues and share questions with each other.

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.

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, a National Historic Landmark and the only capitol in the country with a granite dome. 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 and lakes Mendota and Monona. During warmer months, the square features the Dane County Farmers' Market, the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country.

For more information, visit the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau website at 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 your student's technology needs. The DoIT Tech Store (techstore.doit.wisc.edu) provides:

- Academic discounts on tech essentials, including Apple and Dell computers, Chromebooks, tablets, cables, headphones, fitness trackers, tech accessories, and more
- Free and discounted software, including free Microsoft Office and Symantec Antivirus
- Help and free tech consulting seven days a week, and on-campus tech repairs
- Technology recommendations by major

To give your student a head start, read tech recommendations at techstore.wisc.edu/general-recommendations.

The DoIT Help Desk is Dell and Apple Warranty authorized, so computer repairs happen right on campus. Most times, a 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 antivirus software and keep security patches up to date. Download the software at it.wisc.edu/services/antivirus-software. It's free and fully supported by the DoIT Help Desk.

The DoIT Tech Store and Help Desk look forward to helping your student get connected on campus. Make sure to visit one of the DoIT Tech Store locations (techstore.wisc.edu/locations) 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. Students can contact Campus and Visitor Relations by phone, **608-263-2400**, or by email, askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu.

Key Contacts

The Parent Program staff can help answer any questions you may have during your student's time at UW–Madison at **1-877-262-3977** and parent@uwmad.wisc.edu. Below are additional key contacts.

Bursar's Office

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

McBurney Disability Resource Center

Provides resources for students with a wide range of disabilities
Web: mcburney.wisc.edu
Phone: 608-263-2741

Office of the Registrar

Provides services related to student records, course enrollment, grades, progress toward degrees, diplomas, and transcripts
Web: 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
Phone: 608-262-3060

University Health Services

Provides students with primary health care, health education, and disease-prevention services
Web: 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

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.