

# WELCOME

SPRING 2018



## Welcome from the Parent and Family Program

**W**elcome to the Badger Family! Just as parents and family members play an important role in helping students 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 and Family Program, a centralized resource for 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 start:

- 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” section of the Parent and Family 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 and Family Program?

When your student enrolls at UW–Madison, you automatically become a member of the Parent and Family Program. Additional family members may sign up by contacting us. We offer the following services:

- Our **website**, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), highlights key campus information, dates, upcoming events, news, frequently asked questions, and more.
- The **Badger Parent e-newsletter**, sent five times per year, offers advice for families and shares important campus news and resources.

- The **Badger Family Calendar** is provided to parents of new students at SOAR and is mailed to parents and families after that. It features important dates, month-by-month transitions, and campus information.
- 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 at [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu).

## Key Dates

### JUNE 29 (FRI)

Incoming first-year students must submit their final, official high school transcript

### JULY 23 (MON)

Family Weekend registration opens

### AUGUST 28–30 (TUE–THU)

Residence hall move-in (as assigned)

### SEPTEMBER 5 (WED)

Classes begin

### SEPTEMBER 19 (WED)

Family Weekend registration closes

### OCTOBER 12–14 (FRI–SUN)

Family Weekend

## Did You Know?

You can differentiate between materials sent from the university and those from private entities by looking for the university’s crest (below).



*The Parent and Family Program is here for you.*

Haga una pregunta en español en línea ([spanish.parent.wisc.edu/haga-una-pregunta](http://spanish.parent.wisc.edu/haga-una-pregunta)) 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：  
[chinese.parent.wisc.edu](http://chinese.parent.wisc.edu)



Parent and Family Program  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

[parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu)  
[parent@uwmad.wisc.edu](mailto:parent@uwmad.wisc.edu)  
877-262-3977



- Join the “**Badger Parents and Families**” Facebook group, which allows families to ask questions, share experiences, and give advice.
- **Parent email notices** are sent in the event of a critical campus incident to inform parents and families and offer available resources.
- Connect with us by **phone, email, and social media**. We understand that each student’s experience is unique. We are here to personally answer your questions and help you connect students to the resources they need. Contact us by phone (**1-877-262-3977**), email ([parent@uwmad.wisc.edu](mailto:parent@uwmad.wisc.edu)), or Facebook (search: **UW–Madison Parent and Family Program**). We are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (central time).

## Take Advantage of Your SOAR Experience

The Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE) will host more than 16,000 new students and their family members at the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) program this summer. We also invite and encourage you to attend with your student.

Approximately 70 percent of new students are accompanied to SOAR by at least one family member. This event offers a great opportunity to connect with the UW–Madison community, share tips and stories with other families, and support your student. Learn more at [soar.wisc.edu](http://soar.wisc.edu).

**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. Be sure to visit the Parent and Family Program website, [parent.wisc.edu](http://parent.wisc.edu), for additional information or contact us with any questions.

### Connect with CFYE:

SOAR website/phone: [soar.wisc.edu](http://soar.wisc.edu); 608-262-4707

CFYE website/student blog: [newstudent.wisc.edu](http://newstudent.wisc.edu); [youatuw.com](http://youatuw.com)

Facebook: /uwnewstudent

Twitter: @uwnewstudent

Instagram: @uwnewstudent

#YouAtUW & #uwsoar



## McBurney Disability Resource Center

Celebrating 40 years of service to campus, the McBurney Center provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities. The center offers support to students with a range of disabilities, including:

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

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](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/students/howto.php](http://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 application ([mcburney.wisc.edu/mcburney-connect](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/mcburney-connect)). You must have a UW NetID to be able to apply for McBurney Center services. The intake appointment, 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 families during early move-in (August 26–27, 2018).

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 the first day. 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](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.

## Financial Aid Advice

As summer approaches and your college planning and budgeting accelerate, 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 2018–19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). To make sure your student's financial aid disburses when classes begin in September, submit the FAFSA no later than early July. Even if you believe that your student will not qualify for federal financial aid, many scholarships and grant programs still require a FAFSA for consideration.
- 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 (eRefund or paper check).
- 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](mailto:award@finaid.wisc.edu). The student's name and campus ID number, as well as details of the scholarship, should all be included. If your student does not notify us, it may affect the financial aid award 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. If these requirements aren't complete, it will delay the disbursement of the loan(s).
- During the next few months, talk to your student about money management and budgeting. UW students have access to Salt®, a free online program dedicated to helping students plan for, pay for, and repay the cost of their degree, while preparing them for a successful financial future. Encourage your student to create an account at [saltmoney.org/wisc](http://saltmoney.org/wisc).



### RENTER'S INSURANCE

UW–Madison recommends that all students secure renter's insurance, whether they live on campus or in privately owned housing. American Family Insurance is the official insurance partner of UW–Madison. With this exclusive partnership, UW–Madison students save 5% on renter's insurance. Gain protection and peace of mind. Call 844-342-1232 or visit [amfam.com/uwmadison](http://amfam.com/uwmadison) to get your quote today.



- 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 [financialaid.wisc.edu](http://financialaid.wisc.edu). You can also find OSFA on Facebook (search: UWMadFinAid) and Twitter (@UWMad\_FinAid). OSFA team 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.

## Required Course Materials

Most courses require textbooks, which are available for purchase at a variety of on-campus locations, including numerous campus-area bookstores. Certain courses may also require course packets, lab equipment, and/or art materials.

At the beginning of each semester, professors hand out a syllabus, a document that outlines class content, required course materials, and a grading scale, and usually contains a detailed lecture, reading, and exam schedule. It also provides contact information for the professors and teaching assistants, as well as their office hours. Office hours are set times when students are able to meet with instructors outside of class. Many professors also encourage students to schedule appointments outside of office hours.

Before students enroll in courses, they can view textbook information provided by instructors as part of the Schedule of Classes (the list of all courses scheduled to be taught at UW–Madison in a specific semester). The Schedule of Classes is publicly available at [public.my.wisc.edu](http://public.my.wisc.edu).

Students can also view textbook information within Student Center's Class Search and at [enroll.wisc.edu](http://enroll.wisc.edu). Once enrolled, students can view specific textbook information in Student Center's My Academic tab. (Student Center is an online academic hub for students to enroll in classes and check grades and graduation requirements.)

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 typically included in the textbooks listings.

Textbooks can be expensive to purchase. Visit [registrar.wisc.edu/textbook-information-students](http://registrar.wisc.edu/textbook-information-students) to learn about cost-saving alternatives. Campus libraries also have copies of many course materials for short-term loan. Visit [library.wisc.edu/reserves](http://library.wisc.edu/reserves) for more information.

## 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/residence-halls/learning-communities](http://www.housing.wisc.edu/residence-halls/learning-communities).

Students can make changes to preferences on MyUW Housing through May 1, 2018. 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 2018–19 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/residence-halls/academics/classes](http://www.housing.wisc.edu/residence-halls/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.

For a checklist of what to bring, and a list of items not allowed in the residence halls, visit: [go.wisc.edu/what-to-bring](http://go.wisc.edu/what-to-bring).





## The Wisconsin Experience

Throughout your student's college years, you will hear about the Wisconsin Experience, UW–Madison's vision for the total student experience, which combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea and steeped in the UW's long-standing institutional values—the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities—the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

Through the Wisconsin Experience, the UW hopes its students engage and grow in the areas of empathy and humility, relentless curiosity, intellectual confidence, and purposeful action.

All students will shape their experience at UW–Madison in different ways based on their areas of interest. Here are just a few examples of how students can get involved:

- Student organizations: There are nearly 1,000 to choose from, or students can create their own. Browse them all at [win.wisc.edu](http://win.wisc.edu).
- Research: Undergraduate students have the opportunity to work with some of the world's leading researchers. Students can experience all aspects of the research process, from assisting others in the lab, to designing, directing, and presenting their own research. It's also possible to obtain funding or credit for undergraduate research work.
- Study abroad: The UW ranks among the nation's top 10 universities for total students studying abroad. Learn more at [studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://studyabroad.wisc.edu).
- Leisure: The UW is made up of 1,200-plus acres of natural areas, including the Lakeshore Path and the Arboretum.
- Service: Students who participate in Badger Volunteers—a program that connects hundreds of students to local schools and community centers—combine to log more than 30,000 hours of service every year. Many other volunteering and service opportunities are also available throughout campus.

## 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](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, 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](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

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT), UW–Madison's centralized technology resource, is here to help with your student's technology needs.

The DoIT Tech Store ([techstore.doit.wisc.edu](http://techstore.doit.wisc.edu)) provides academic discounts on tech essentials, free and discounted software, free technology consultation and recommendations by major, and convenient on-campus repairs.

To give your student a head start, read tech recommendations at [techstore.wisc.edu/general-recommendations](http://techstore.wisc.edu/general-recommendations).

The DoIT Help Desk is Dell and Apple Warranty authorized, so computer repairs happen right on campus. Often, a laptop can be fixed without having to send it to the manufacturer, which 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](http://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/find-us](http://techstore.wisc.edu/find-us)) when you are here for SOAR.



**JOIN US!**  
**OCTOBER 12-14, 2018**

**2018**  
***Family***  
**WEEKEND**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Family Weekend registration opens July 23:**

[go.wisc.edu/familyweekend](http://go.wisc.edu/familyweekend)

Parent and Family Day at the UW Football Game also occurs in the fall.

For more information about this separate event opportunity, visit:

[parent.wisc.edu/parent-events/football-game-days](http://parent.wisc.edu/parent-events/football-game-days)