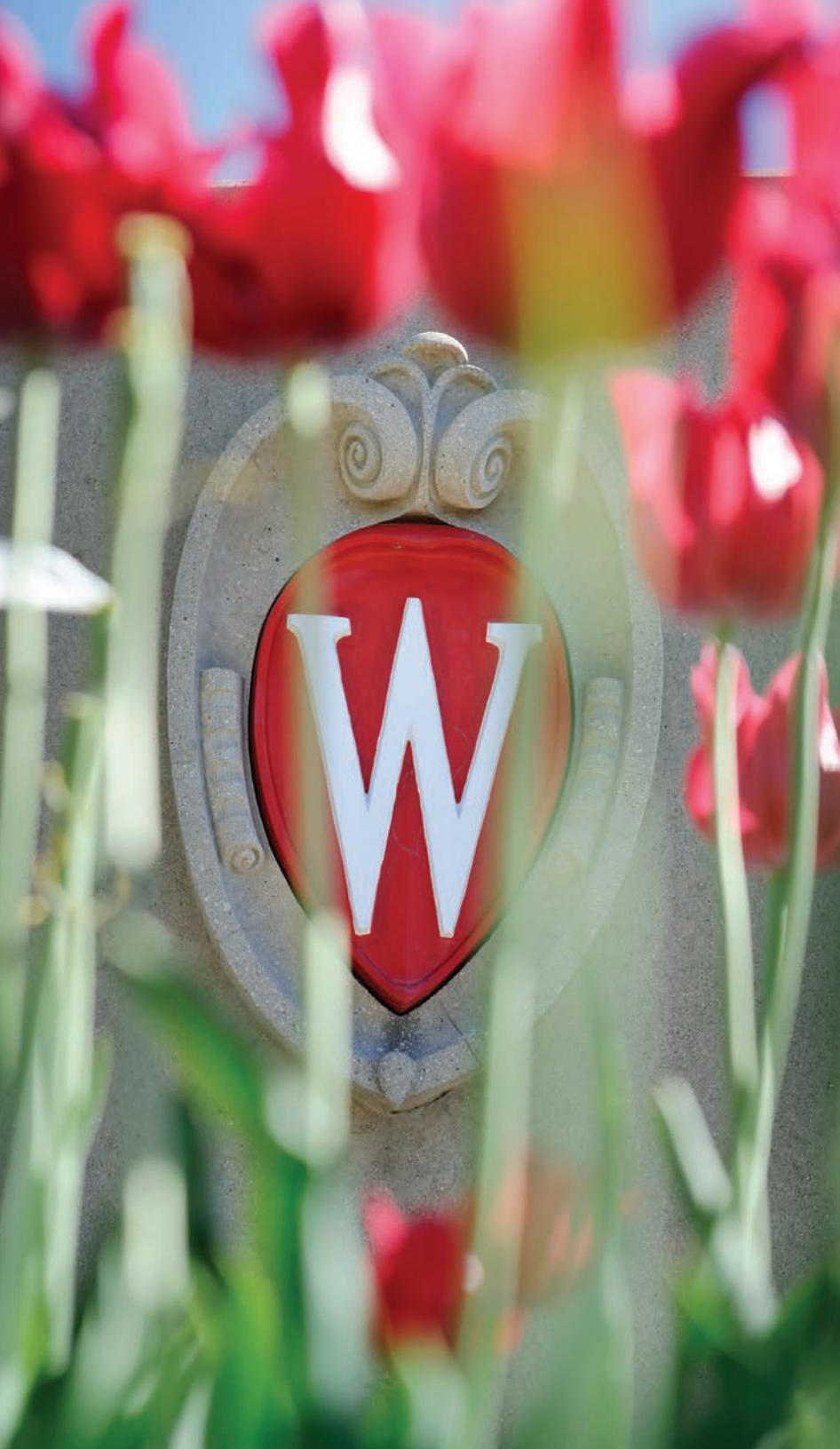




Parent and Family Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

BADGER FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026



WELCOME, BADGER FAMILIES!

One of the great things about choosing UW–Madison is that you have a community that cares along with you on this journey.

In Student Affairs and across the university, we have teams of people to support your student's success both inside and outside the classroom. As your student takes on more responsibility and independence, we consider your partnership as their ongoing supporter and champion an important part of the experience.

This Badger Family Handbook, organized by our wonderful Parent and Family Program, provides an overview of academics, involvement, health, housing, finances, and other key topics. It also includes a timeline to help keep track of the transitions and milestones your student may experience their first year at UW–Madison.

Always feel free to call or email the Parent and Family Program or visit Parent.wisc.edu for resources or answers to your questions. Bottom line—we are here for your student, and we are here for you.

All the best on the exciting journey ahead. On, Wisconsin!

Lori Reesor

Lori Reesor, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The transition from high school to college is an important milestone in the life of your student. While every student is different, feelings of nervousness, excitement, pressure, and success are quite common. The following timeline is designed to provide you with information about transitions that students may experience during their first year of college.



UW-MADISON NEW STUDENT TIMELINE

Late Summer

The weeks leading up to the start of classes can be filled with anxiety and anticipation. Students may be wondering if they will like it at UW-Madison. Will they get along with their roommates? Will they make friends? Will they be able to succeed in their classes? What will happen to their relationships with high school friends and family members?

Advice for Parents and Families

Be prepared for your student's and your own conflicting emotions as the day of departure approaches. Discomfort is part of the process. Talk about academics and encourage your student to utilize resources. Make a financial plan and openly discuss payment/spending expectations. Talk about how often you plan to communicate with each other. Discuss the use of alcohol and other personal choices your student will be making. View additional information on the Parent and Family Program website (parent.wisc.edu).

Conversation Starters

- What are you most looking forward to about attending UW-Madison?
- What are you most nervous about?
- How are you managing your classes and are any harder than expected?

September

As students move to campus and begin classes, they are faced with new opportunities to make their own choices and experience new freedoms. Feelings of homesickness and the desire for frequent contact with family are common. The Transfer Transition Program (TTP) connects transfer students to campus through events and the Transfer Engagement Center (TEC). Learn more about TTP and the TEC at Transfer.wisc.edu. Students are also getting to know their roommates, making new friends on campus, and finding their way around. This tends to be a time when students incur a lot of expenses for items such as textbooks, school supplies, and room decorations/furnishings.

Advice for Parents and Families

Remember that you are transitioning into being a coach and mentor to your student. Listen with an open mind and be supportive. Encourage your student

to attend campus welcome activities and meet new friends. Ask about classes, friends, and opportunities for involvement.

Conversation Starters

- What is your roommate like?
- Which classes seem most interesting to you?
- Have you found a good place to study?
- What Wisconsin Welcome events have you attended? Go.wisc.edu/Welcome
- Is the amount of money we agreed upon working out?
- Are any of your classes harder than you expected?
How are you managing them?



What is a House Fellow?

House fellows are student staff members who live in the residence halls and work with residents to build a strong community. They help students address problems and get connected on campus. Students should be encouraged to get to know their house fellow.

October–November

Classes are in full swing, and students are beginning to get feedback on their progress. Some may be surprised at the amount of work they have for their classes and may struggle with managing their time. Others will be disappointed about grades on their first exams or papers. Roommate conflicts may also flare up at this time after the initial “honeymoon” phase is over. (See the box below for how to be supportive during roommate conflict.) In addition, class enrollment for spring is quickly approaching, and students will be making plans with their academic advisors. Many students are already discussing their housing plans for next year. Of course, life will still continue at home, and students will want to stay informed about what’s going on with their families.

Roommate Conflict



It’s completely normal for conflict to develop between roommates as students may be sharing a room for the first time, perhaps with someone who is quite different from themselves. Most students can work things out when they discuss issues directly, listen to each other, and remain flexible.

You can be supportive through this process by referring your student to resources provided by University Housing, rather than by getting directly involved yourself. If the roommates cannot work things out themselves, encourage your student to contact their house fellow. House fellows are live-in student staff who undergo a thorough selection and training process and live on or very near every resident floor. They are trained in conflict resolution and are available to discuss roommate conflicts privately or with roommates to find a compromise, often with the aid of an established Roommate Agreement form. If this does not seem to improve the situation, the house fellow will then contact the appropriate staff within University Housing to seek further solutions.

Advice for Parents and Families

To be reassuring to your student, express confidence that your student can succeed in this environment. Have two-way conversations: let your student know what’s going on at home and don’t make any major changes—moving, vacations, remodeling your student’s room, etc.—without talking about it first.

Talk about study skills and time management, and refer to campus resources. Encourage your student to attend instructors’ office hours and meet with their academic advisor to select courses and talk about their academic plans.

Discuss upcoming events, such as a trip home for Thanksgiving. Break periods are approaching quickly—how will this change things in your home? Ask about study time, workload, and involvement in campus organizations/activities. Also, encourage them to research deadlines and seek any support they may need regarding their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and taxes.

As your student begins to make housing decisions for next year, talk about all the factors to consider, including whether to apply for on-campus housing or move off campus, and how to handle meals. Pay special attention to what type of living environment will help your student be most successful academically. Important information about living off campus and links to Madison rental listings can be found through Off-Campus Housing Services at [Go.wisc.edu/Off-Campus](https://go.wisc.edu/Off-Campus).

Conversation Starters

- How are you managing the workload? What is your study schedule?
- What courses are you thinking of taking next semester?
- Are you thinking about joining any groups, clubs, or activities? Which ones? Why?
- Have you met with any of your professors or teaching assistants and your advisor?
- What can you do differently on your next exam/paper? What is working well?

December

As final exams approach, students may feel more stress about academics. This, combined with the onset of winter weather in Wisconsin, can leave some students feeling run down. While they may be excited for the semester

to end, some students are also disappointed about missing holiday preparations at home.

Advice for Parents and Families

Sending a care package that includes healthy snacks, cold remedies, and favorite holiday items from home can go a long way to boosting your student's spirits. Discuss plans for winter break, including working, traveling home, or vacation time. Understand that planning for the holidays is not the same without everyone present.

Conversation Starters

- How are you taking care of yourself as finals approach?
- What campus events and resources are you taking advantage of leading up to final exams?
- What could I send you to help you feel better?
- What do you want to do at home during your break?

Winter Break

With final exams finished, many students return home for winter break, and there may be concerns about how they will adjust to routines at home. For many, winter break is an opportunity to catch up on sleep and reconnect with friends they haven't seen in months. They will also begin to receive their first-semester grades and may experience joy, disappointment, or relief.

Advice for Parents and Families

Conversations about expectations and schedules before and after your student returns home can help ease the transition for all family members.

Conversation Starters

- Let's talk about how the rules will change for you when you are home, now that you are a college student.
- What was the best part of your first semester in college? What would you do differently?
- What classes are you taking next semester?

Finding a Community of Support

UW–Madison offers opportunities for all students to find community and a sense of belonging. However, making friends can take time. Your relationship with your student is unique, and we encourage you to approach these topics in ways that feel authentic, honest, and empathetic.

- Reassure your student that what they feel is normal. Remember, this is a major life transition, which is not often easy.
- Listen with empathy and care. Focus on resiliency and use the information you learned at SOAR and through the Parent and Family Program to refer your student to on-campus resources and services.
- Remind your student that making friends can take time. For some, it may be more comfortable to approach another student one on one. For others, it is better to connect in groups. If the first person is not someone your student connects with, the second or third might be.
- Discuss their plans to get involved through student organizations, interest-based activities, volunteering, or other ways to connect with their peers. Encourage your student to attend events and join organizations. There are 1,000+ student organizations at UW–Madison. Students should continue doing things they love—the activities that have contributed to their well-being up to this point—as well as try new things. Volunteering or getting a job are also great ways to form connections and learn outside the classroom.
- Encourage your student to talk to a house fellow or residence life coordinator. House fellows are trained and experienced in supporting students who are homesick. They also have access to resources and people who can help.
- University Health Services is an excellent, no-cost, confidential resource for students who may be struggling. First-time appointments can be made by calling **608-265-5600 (option 2)** or through MyUHS. For assistance with urgent mental health concerns, 24/7 crisis support is available to UW–Madison students and to those concerned about a UW–Madison student. Call **608-265-5600 (option 9)** to speak with a counselor.



January–February

Students should strive to return from winter break with renewed energy for the semester ahead. This is a typical time for students to reassess their time-management strategies and turn over a new leaf, if necessary. Students may also engage in more exploration about their majors or careers, changing their minds or solidifying previous choices. Also, students begin thinking about spring break, including making plans for travel, work, or catching up on coursework.

Advice for Parents and Families

The house is empty again—it's a roller coaster ride! You might feel some anxiety about your student's grades. This is a good time to review or revise budgets based on a semester's worth of experience. Also ask what changes might need to occur to support your student's well-being. Discuss spring break safety.

Conversation Starters

- What do you like about your new classes?
- Are you doing anything differently with your studying this semester?
- Have you decided what you are doing for spring break?
- Tell me about people you've met and activities you're enjoying on campus.

March–May

Spring recess comes and goes, and many students start making plans for the summer, all in the midst of another set of midterms. Most students feel more confident with their time-management skills and experience less stress with their exams this time around. They will also be enrolling in

classes for the fall and considering options for the summer. Some students will have mixed feelings about leaving Madison for the summer, and others will decide to stay to take classes and/or pursue summer work opportunities. As the spring semester ends, you are likely to be amazed at the changes in your student and all that your student has accomplished this year.

Advice for Parents and Families

This is a good time to reflect on the past year. Talk about any changes that should be made to help your student learn and flourish in the college environment. Ask your student whether taking a summer course might be part of a strategy to stay on track for graduation or a chance to focus on a challenging course. Think about your own plans for the summer. If your student is returning home, discuss expectations regarding rules and responsibilities, as well as expectations for earning money and planning for the upcoming year. To help with this transition, see the box titled "Coming Home for the Summer" on the next page.

Conversation Starters

- What value could taking a summer course provide?
Have you discussed summer courses with your advisor?
- What courses are you taking next year?
Are you starting to narrow in on a possible major?
- What are you looking forward to about your living arrangements for next year?
- How do you think you have changed this year?
- What do you wish you had done differently in your first year of college?
- I am so proud of how you have learned and grown this year!

SUMMARY OF ADVICE FOR FAMILIES

Change is exciting and can also be stressful. Be prepared for your student's—and your own—conflicting emotions during this time of transition. Discomfort is a normal part of the process.

- Express your confidence that your student will be able to flourish and navigate this new environment. By serving more as a coach than a problem-solver, you will help your student develop this ability.
- Talk with your student about how often you will communicate by phone, email, or text message. Discuss the frequency of visits home and family visits to campus, and be aware that these tend to change each semester.
- Talk with your student about expectations regarding academics, major choice, and careers. Encourage your student to set personal and academic goals. Be aware that the college learning environment is very different from high school, and students may not immediately earn the same grades as they did previously.
- Make a financial plan and talk about how your student intends to pay for expenses. Discuss payment/spending/employment options.
- Discuss the use of alcohol and other personal choices that your student will be making. Encourage responsibility, and have an open dialogue with your student.
- Acknowledge that college is a time for students to try new things and meet people who might be different from them in a variety of ways. Be supportive as your student engages in new activities and moves outside previous comfort zones.
- Inform your student about major changes at home (moving, remodeling your student's room, etc.).
- Help your student stay connected to activities at home. Acknowledge that your student may be sad about missing family birthdays, holidays, and community events. Find creative ways to keep your student involved and informed.
- Send care packages with notes from home, practical items, or treats to share with roommates and friends. These are especially welcome during more stressful times of the semester.

Coming Home for the Summer



When your student comes home for the summer after the first year at college, life will be different from what it was before. Although that seems obvious, without giving it some prior thought, misunderstandings and conflicts can arise when your student seems to be following a script that is different from yours.

Living away from home for a school year is a life-changing event, and your student will be comfortable with and used to independence, especially after spending the last year in an unsupervised environment. This could be an area of conflict if you expect a phone call to let you know when your student will be home. Be sure to negotiate conflicts early to avoid tensions later on.

On the other hand, you may be anticipating newfound maturity and independence, and be disappointed to find the kitchen sink filled with dirty dishes, laundry left for you to do, and the gas tank on empty when you need the car. It can be daunting to realize that even though your student is now technically an adult, your role as a mentor and coach is still in play. In the process of launching your student as an independent adult, you will need to continue reinventing just what that role is.

You also may think you know your student's interests and identity, but you could find that your student has made changes and discovered new things about themselves. The Parent and Family Program is here to help equip you with strategies and resources to support your student's well-being, and encourage them to seek help if they need it.

There may be some emotional and rocky times during the summer, but your lives will be enriched if mutual respect and listening are the guides you and your student establish for staying connected with each other.

GETTING STARTED

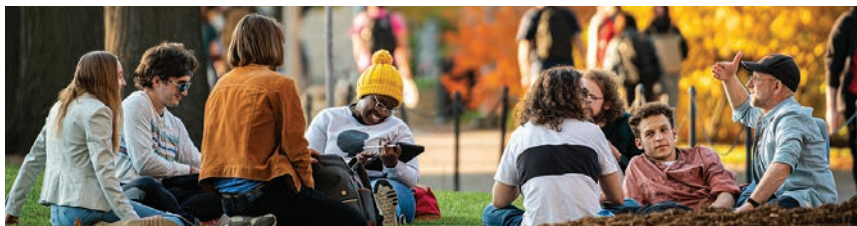
PARENT INVOLVEMENT & FERPA

Education records (like grades and disciplinary records) at UW–Madison are protected by federal regulations, which govern student privacy, access to student records, and indicate how the university may share information about its students. FERPA, or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is often used as the umbrella term for the disclosure of, or access to, education records ([StudentPrivacy.Ed.Gov](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov)).

Generally, UW–Madison must have the student’s written permission to release any information from the education record, with exceptions for school officials with legitimate educational interest and other conditions described at Registrar.wisc.edu/FERPA.

However, as a publicly funded state institution, UW–Madison is required by state law to provide “directory information” about its students to third parties who request it. Directory information includes name, addresses, email, telephone number, major, class standing, dates of attendance, etc. Students have the right to tell UW–Madison to restrict the release of their directory information. Students are required to review and have the opportunity to edit what they share as part of the Pre-Enrollment Checklist or anytime in their Student Center (main student portal) under the “Profile” tile. Students also have the right to review their education records maintained by UW–Madison, and they can request that the University examine, and if necessary revise, records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading (Registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa-rights).

Restricting the release of information can also have unintended effects. For example, if the student makes a Dean’s List and has chosen to restrict their addresses, UW–Madison would not be able to announce the student’s name to hometown newspapers.



UW–Madison releases student education records to parents or guardians only with the student’s written consent. Students have many ways to print or send their own academic records. We encourage parents and students to talk openly with one another about classes, grades, balance on food account, and other information. For more on education records, visit Registrar.wisc.edu/FERPA or call the Parent and Family Program at 1-877-262-3977.

STUDENT ORIENTATION, ADVISING, AND REGISTRATION (SOAR)

SOAR.wisc.edu

The Office of Student Transition and Family Engagement (OSTFE) leads the campus in coordinating, facilitating, and assessing the first year of college for first-year and transfer students. In addition to Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR), this office also coordinates Wisconsin Welcome, the Wisconsin Experience Seminar (CP 125), the Transfer Transition Program, and the Parent and Family Program.

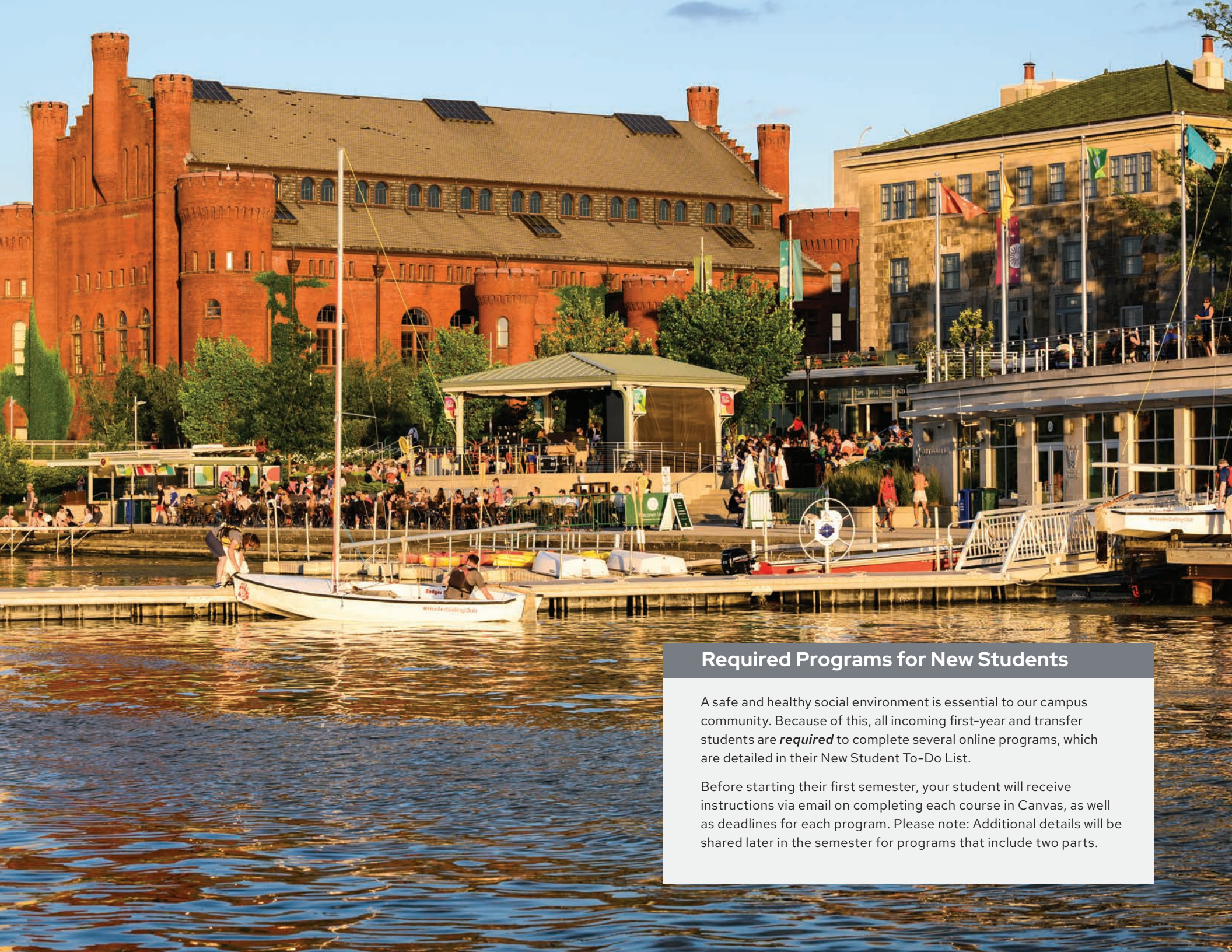
At your student’s SOAR session, they will have the opportunity to:

- Enroll in courses for the upcoming semester
- Discover a wide array of academic and social opportunities at UW–Madison
- Begin integrating into university life and UW–Madison culture
- Define their Wisconsin Experience
- Understand university policies, procedures, and processes

You and your student can find more information on SOAR resources in this handbook.

Next Steps: The New Student To-Do List

The New Student To-Do List helps students track some of the important tasks they need to complete throughout the summer and into their first year at UW–Madison. This central resource is personalized to each student, organized by topic, and provides deadlines. Your student can find next steps by logging in to My UW with their NetID.



Required Programs for New Students

A safe and healthy social environment is essential to our campus community. Because of this, all incoming first-year and transfer students are **required** to complete several online programs, which are detailed in their New Student To-Do List.

Before starting their first semester, your student will receive instructions via email on completing each course in Canvas, as well as deadlines for each program. Please note: Additional details will be shared later in the semester for programs that include two parts.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FINANCIAL AID (LOANS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS)

Office of Student Financial Aid

FinancialAid.wisc.edu, FinAid@FinAid.wisc.edu

The Office of Student Financial Aid helps students access funding sources, such as grants, loans, work-study, scholarships, and part-time employment. The office receives the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), determines financial aid eligibility, processes/disburses financial aid to student accounts, adjusts offers when needed, and advises students regarding financial aid and money management.

All financial aid is applied to the student's account to pay tuition and most other fees, like on-campus housing and dining charges or eTextbook fees. If there is remaining financial aid after the student account balance is paid, a refund is issued to the student (See "Student Account Refunds").

Loans and Grants

Loans and grants begin applying to Student Accounts approximately one week before each semester begins.

Submit Private Scholarship Checks

Most organizations mail checks directly to the Bursar's Office. Students who receive a scholarship check directly should deliver it to the Bursar's Office along with any documents that came with it. The student's name and campus ID number should be on the check, which should note that it is for a scholarship.

Submit UW Scholarships

UW-Madison scholarships are submitted directly to the Bursar's Office and will be applied to the student's account balance.

TUITION, BILLS, PAYMENTS

Bursar.wisc.edu/Tuition-And-Fees

At UW-Madison, tuition and housing charges are combined into one bill from the Bursar's Office for a more convenient, seamless bill payment experience. Tuition rates are set by the UW System Board of Regents. The Bursar's Office calculates each student's specific tuition rate each term according to several factors, including number of credits. Students can find their tuition information within the "Financial Account" section of MyUW Student Center.

UW-Madison also sets segregated fees, which are paid by students each term. The fees support hundreds of campus activities not funded by tuition, such as University Health Services, the Wisconsin Union, student bus passes, and student organizations.

Students using state and/or federal GI Bill® education benefits must meet with University Veteran Services (UVS) to confirm coverage and eligibility. Learn more at Veterans.wisc.edu.



Bursar's Office

Bursar.wisc.edu, Tuition@bussvc.wisc.edu

The Bursar's Office manages student account billing and collection, provides the student account eBill, applies payments, loans, grants, and scholarships to student accounts, and processes student account refunds.

Wisconsin Residence for Tuition Purposes

Registrar.wisc.edu/Residence

UW–Madison provides reduced tuition rates to students who qualify as residents of Wisconsin under Wisconsin state law. In most cases, a student's residence status is determined during the UW–Madison application process. Residence specialists in the Office of the Registrar can help students who have questions about residence for tuition purposes.

Minnesota–Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity

Registrar.wisc.edu/Reciprocity

Wisconsin and Minnesota have a tuition agreement that gives qualifying Minnesota residents a special UW–Madison tuition rate. Minnesota residents must apply for tuition reciprocity through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Student Account Bill and Due Date

Tuition is due the second Friday after the term starts. The Bursar's Office provides an electronic Student Account eBill that is published on a secure website before the term starts. There, students and Authorized Payers can log in to view it.

To view, print, or pay a student's eBill, Click the "Manage My Payment" link within the "Financial Account" section of Student Center. Then, click the "Manage My Payment" button.

Parent Access to Student Account Bill

Students must set up parents as "Authorized Payers" for access to view and pay the eBill. To find full instructions, please visit **Go.wisc.edu/Student-Authorized-Payer**.

Accepted Payment Methods for Student Account

Go.wisc.edu/Student-Payment-Methods

ePayments (online payments) are the fastest, safest way to make a student account payment. Payments can also be made by mailing a check to:

Bursar's Office, 333 East Campus Mall, #10501, Madison, WI 53715-1383

Please Note: A mailed Student Account payment must be in the **Bursar's Office**, not postmarked, by the due date to avoid a late fee. This includes personal payments and payments from a 529 College Savings account or Bill-Pay service. If mailing a check, please:

- Make check payable to UW–Madison.
- Write student name and Campus ID number on the check.
- Mail to: UW–Madison Bursar, 333 East Campus Mall, # 10501, Madison, WI 53715-1383.

International students can also make payments via Convera or Flywire. Learn more at **Go.wisc.edu/Student-ePayments**.

Student Accounts Paid by a Third Party

Go.wisc.edu/Student-Third-Party-Payment

A "third party" is a company, government, or other agency paying a student's account—not a parent or other individual. The third party must provide written authorization for the Bursar's Office to bill its organization for Student Account charges. Authorization must include student name, campus ID number, amount and academic terms being paid, a mailing address, and a contact name. To get started:

- Submit authorization to the Bursar's Office before the due date.
- If a third party pays a portion of tuition, the student must pay any remaining balance by the due date.
- If a third party does not pay its bill in a reasonable time, the student is responsible for paying.

If a UW–Madison department will pay all or part of a student's tuition, direct the department to the link above to complete the authorization form.

Student Account Refunds

Bursar.wisc.edu/Refunds

If there are remaining funds after the student account balance is paid, a refund is issued. Students can receive an eRefund or a mailed check. (Exception: A check is mailed to the parent if remaining funds are from a Parent PLUS loan.)

eRefunds process daily and are deposited directly into the personal checking or savings account provided. If an eRefund is preferred, click on "Manage My Payment" within the "Financial Account" section of Student Center. Then, click the "Manage My Payment" button; click on student name in the upper left-hand corner, click "Sign up," agree to terms and conditions, and add new bank account and requested information.

Paper checks process weekly for students not enrolled for eRefund and Parent PLUS loan refunds. Student checks are mailed to the MyUW "Mailing" address. Parent checks are mailed to the address on the PLUS loan application.

Tuition may be refunded for courses that are dropped before certain deadlines. **Learn more at Go.wisc.edu/Student-Tuition-Adjustment.**

Paying for University Housing

Go.wisc.edu/Housing-Rates

Billing for University Housing is included on a student's tuition bill each semester. Payments for tuition and housing charges should be mailed to:

Bursar's Office, 333 East Campus Mall, #10501, Madison, WI 53715-1383

ON CAMPUS FINANCES

Wiscard

Wiscard.wisc.edu

Wiscard Office, Union South, 1308 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53715

The Wiscard is a student's official UW-Madison photo ID card. It provides access to campus libraries, University Recreation & Wellbeing facilities, the Wisconsin Union's spaces, and other campus services. For students who live on campus, the Wiscard also provides entry access to residence halls.

Students should obtain a Wiscard while at SOAR or after course enrollment by visiting the Wiscard Office in Union South (Room 149). A valid government-issued picture ID (e.g., passport, U.S. driver's license) is required. Stolen or misplaced cards will be replaced at a cost of \$25.



How to Make Purchases

Beyond being a photo ID and key card, the Wiscard provides a simple, safe, money-saving method to make purchases on campus. When paying with Wiscard, students receive discounts on food purchased at all University Housing, Babcock Hall Dairy Store, and Wisconsin Union dining locations.

Wiscards can also be used to make purchases at many other locations across campus for school-related products and services. This includes textbooks, school supplies, laundry (in the residence halls), vending, copying, printing, computer supplies, convenience-store items, recreational sports activities, and on-campus entertainment.

Note: The Wiscard cannot be used to pay tuition or housing bills.

How to Add Funds

Funds can be conveniently deposited into your student's Wiscard account online or by cash, check, or credit card at the Wiscard office. Deposits are also accepted at the Housing Dining Administrative Office in Gordon Dining & Event Center.

Student Employment

StudentJobs.wisc.edu

Working part-time can be an integral component of your student's success by helping them connect to campus and the community, meet new people, develop new skills, and gain key professional experience. Popular employers for students include the Wisconsin Union, University Recreation and Wellbeing, and University Housing and Dining. Encourage your student to explore thousands of opportunities on campus, as well as in the surrounding Madison community.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Beyond the costs of tuition and books, day-to-day expenses such as food, clothing, and rent can make it challenging to live comfortably as a student. Campus organizations offer resources to provide assistance and support.

Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WiSH)

Scholarships.wisc.edu

As part of the Office of Student Financial Aid, the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WiSH) allows students to find information about, apply to, and accept any of the various scholarship opportunities available on campus. To apply, students can sign in with their NetID and password and fill out a general application. WiSH then uses their data and answers from the general application to match them to open scholarship opportunities. Please encourage your student to check WiSH regularly throughout the school year.

Basic Needs Resources

Go.wisc.edu/Basic-Needs

The Basic Needs Team through the Office of Student Financial Aid offers dedicated resources to assist students in gaining access to food, housing, and insurance to promote overall wellness while attending UW–Madison. Basic Needs Assistants are ready to support in getting students connected to resources including programs such as Foodshare, as well as getting connected to different food pantry's or other resources.

Crisis Loans

The Office of Student Assistance and Support (formerly the Dean of Students Office) offers short term loans and grants to students who are dealing with unexpected life events or circumstances that have resulted in a financial hardship. Students can fill out a loan/grant application on their website. A member of the Office of Student Assistance and Support will then reach out to discuss a student's application. Short term loans and grants are typically under \$500. Learn more at osas.wisc.edu/Guide/Crisis-Loans/.

Badger FARE

Go.wisc.edu/Badger-FARE

UW–Madison's Office of Student Assistance and Support also works

to connect students who are dealing with temporary and ongoing food insecurity with campus and community resources for long-term support, while providing them with funds that they can use to purchase food on campus. These funds will be given to a student in the amount of \$75 via their Wiscard. All enrolled students who meet the criteria are eligible to receive funds once per academic year. Students continuing to experience food insecurity may be eligible to receive additional funding from the program the following semester. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis along with other campus support resources.

The Open Seat Food Pantry

Go.wisc.edu/The-Open-Seat

The Open Seat is a student-run, student-serving food pantry by the Associated Students of Madison. All students with a Wiscard are eligible to use The Open Seat, which is located in the Student Activity Center. The Open Seat offers nonperishable food items, bread, and select fresh produce.

Find additional resources for food and financial assistance at Go.wisc.edu/Food-Resources.



HEALTH, WELL-BEING, SAFETY

The safety and well-being of your student is a top priority for UW–Madison. If your student needs support, please contact the Parent and Family Program.

SAFETY & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Nighttime Safety

[Go.wisc.edu/SAFEwalk](https://go.wisc.edu/SAFEwalk)

SAFEwalk is a free, student-staffed service that connects students with a team of trained walking companions to ensure they get around campus safely at night. To request a SAFEwalk, students can call or text 608-262-5000.

WiscAlerts

[Go.wisc.edu/WiscAlerts](https://go.wisc.edu/WiscAlerts)

WiscAlerts, UW–Madison’s emergency notification system, are designed to provide information about an immediate, actively occurring, and confirmed emergency situation on campus (or an actively occurring threat that’s heading towards campus) that requires the community to take immediate action in order to stay safe. Depending on the exact nature of the situation, the system may send alerts via text, e-mail, and/or phone.

Students are automatically opted-in to receive WiscAlerts texts. However, community members/parents can also opt in by texting UWALERT to 77295.

BadgerSAFE

[Go.wisc.edu/BadgerSAFE](https://go.wisc.edu/BadgerSAFE)

Students can take their safety into their own hands with UWPd’s mobile safety app, BadgerSAFE. This free app turns a smartphone into a personal safety device. Anyone can download BadgerSAFE – students, staff, parents, and community members. You’ll receive crime alerts and safety info direct to your phone, you can connect with UWPd quickly via call or text, walk virtually with a trusted friend or family member, and get instant access to campus resources. To download, search “BadgerSAFE” in your phone’s app store.

UNIVERSITY RECREATION & WELLBEING

RecWell.wisc.edu

University Recreation & Wellbeing (Rec Well) moves students to play hard, get fit, and live well on campus by supporting their physical and mental health needs. Main facilities include the Nicholas Recreation Center, Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center, Nielsen Tennis Stadium, and outdoor spaces across campus for pick-up games, fitness, and intramurals. Students can take advantage of open rec activities, group fitness classes, esports, wellbeing workshops and coaching, club sports, and more! Find a full list of locations, hours, and offerings online.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)

UHS.wisc.edu

University Health Services (UHS) is the student health center at UW–Madison. All students are eligible to use UHS services for routine health care and some specialty needs. There is no charge for most types of appointments and services; student tuition and fees cover most costs.

Mental Health Services

UHS.wisc.edu/Mental-Health

UHS’s no-cost mental health services include individual, couple/partner, group counseling, and drop-in, daily programming. UHS also offers 24/7 crisis support. Psychiatry services are also available for medication management. UHS mental health providers understand the complexities of student life and offer an open, safe, and confidential environment to help students through issues that may interfere with their development, well-being, and academic productivity.

Online Patient Portal (MyUHS)

UHS.wisc.edu/MyUHS

MyUHS is a secure app and web portal to schedule appointments, upload health information, and communicate with providers. New students can access their MyUHS account using their NetID.

Health History

UHS.wisc.edu/MyUHS

Health records should not be emailed to UHS. Instead, students should complete the Medical Clearances section in MyUHS before arriving at UW–Madison. Students under the age of 18 as of August 15 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a consent form to be eligible to receive all UHS services. Any information a student provides is confidential and becomes part of the student’s health record at UHS. No portion of this information will be released to others without prior written consent, and personal health information is not available to university administrators or faculty. For continuity of care, we advise students with chronic or recurrent conditions choose a UHS primary care provider to see throughout their time at UW–Madison.

Health Insurance

Although the services offered by UHS address many student needs, access to UHS is not a substitute for comprehensive health insurance coverage. Students should have health insurance with coverage for both emergency and non-emergency care in the Madison area. Students should be sure to bring their insurance card (and prescription cards, if applicable) to campus.

Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)

UHS.wisc.edu/SHIP

To ensure access to a comprehensive health insurance plan, UW–Madison offers the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). SHIP members are protected by a nationwide network of hospitals, clinics, and specialized medical services. International students and J-1 scholars are required by the university to enroll in SHIP or to file a waiver proving they are adequately insured. Coverage for spouses, partners, and dependents is also available through SHIP.



Survivor Services

UHS.wisc.edu/Survivor-Services

Many campus and community resources are available for student survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. No cost, confidential support is available through UHS Survivor Services. Services include individual and group counseling, information about rights, resources and reporting options, case management, and accompaniment. UHS is also equipped to provide emotional support, safety planning, and support with accommodations.

For a complete listing of resources for survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, dating/domestic violence, and/ or stalking at UW–Madison and in the greater Madison area, visit **UHS.wisc.edu/Survivor-Services**.

URGENT CARE & LOCAL HOSPITALS

UHS does not cover hospital inpatient, emergency room, or immediate care treatment provided outside our clinic. Emergency room and hospitalization charges are not covered by student segregated fees. We recommend that students have hospitalization insurance that includes emergency room coverage. Local hospitals include:

University Hospital (0.5 miles from campus)

600 Highland Ave., Madison, WI

UnityPoint Health–Meriter (0.7 miles from campus)

202 S. Park St., Madison, WI

SSM Health St. Mary’s (1.1 miles from campus)

700 S. Park St., Madison, WI

RESPONDING TO AN INCIDENT

University Police (UWPD)

UWPD.wisc.edu

The UW–Madison Police Department (UWPD) is a full-service law enforcement agency, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Emergency

calls should be directed to 911. Non-emergency calls should be directed to 608-264-COPS (2677). For tips on campus safety and crime prevention, visit **UWPD.wisc.edu/Staying-Safe**.

Jurisdiction

The UW–Madison campus is unique in that we resemble a city within a city. In fact, our population during a normal school day would make us one of the largest cities in the state. Due to the size of UW–Madison, UWPD responds to incidents that happen on the UW campus. Incidents that happen off campus are handled by the City of Madison Police Department. If a student needs help, they should always call 911. The correct police department will respond. Have questions? Visit **UWPD.wisc.edu/Welcome**.

Office of Student Assistance and Support

OSAS.wisc.edu

The Office of Student Assistance and Support supports student success by creating a culture of caring on campus and connects students with support resources. The office assists with academic, financial, health, family emergencies, and other difficulties including students who are victims of concerns or violence. The office supports the success of ALL Badgers, including undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, and special students.

If your student needs personal assistance or resources, staff members in the Office of Student Assistance and Support are available on a drop-in basis, Monday–Friday. If dealing with a financial crisis, sudden health issues, housing/food insecurity, non-confidential reporting of sexual assault, or other sensitive situations, students can contact the office at 608-263-5700 or **osas@studentaffairs.wisc.edu**.

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Conduct.wisc.edu

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) upholds every student’s right to learn in an inclusive community that fosters integrity, through challenging and supporting students to reflect, integrate, and on their Wisconsin Experience. The office addresses student misconduct (academic, nonacademic, and student organizations) through an educational, restorative approach.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

Students find the fastest, easiest, and most economical ways to get around campus are by walking, biking, or riding the bus. **Students are encouraged not to bring a car to campus due to limited parking space.**

ON-CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION

Bussing

Campus Bus

[Transportation.wisc.edu/Bus](https://transportation.wisc.edu/Bus)

Campus bus routes 80, 81, 82, and 84 are fare-free and operate from early mornings to late nights. Limited service is available on holidays, breaks, and recess periods. Bus stops are located across campus from Lake Street to Eagle Heights.

ASM Student Bus Pass

[Transportation.wisc.edu/Bus](https://transportation.wisc.edu/Bus)

Most students are eligible for a student bus pass, paid for by student segregated fees. Students just need to show a valid Wiscard or photo ID to pick up their pass from Transportation Services. Student bus passes are good for unlimited rides on Metro Transit city, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and paratransit buses.

Madison Metro Transit

[MyMetroBus.com](https://www.mymetrobus.com)

Madison Metro Transit provides bus service to campus and the City of Madison, as well as paratransit services for eligible riders. Metro Transit buses are kneeling buses, capable of transportation wheelchairs and other mobility equipment. Find route maps and schedules at Metro Transit's website, and real-time arrival information with the third-party apps, Transit or Google Maps.

UW Campus Accessible Shuttle

[Transportation.wisc.edu/Bus](https://transportation.wisc.edu/Bus)

The accessible shuttle provides on-call and pre-scheduled service between campus buildings. The service is free for UW employees, students, and visitors with mobility disabilities and other permanent or temporary mobility issues. No pre-registration is required. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during fall and spring semesters and exam periods. There is no service on UW holidays, weekends, winter break, spring break, or the summer. To pre-schedule a ride, or set up recurring rides, students must call (608) 890-1352 or email uwshuttle@goriteway.com.

Biking

[Transportation.wisc.edu/Bicycling](https://transportation.wisc.edu/Bicycling)

UW-Madison and the City of Madison are both recognized at the platinum level for bike-friendliness by the League of American Bicyclists. Madison and Wisconsin laws recognize bicycles as vehicles and give bikes the right to use most roadways. Cyclists using roadways are required to comply with all traffic signals and laws. State law requires the use of a white front headlight and a red rear reflector at night. Use of a bicycle helmet is strongly recommended.

Bike Sharing

Madison BCycle

Students are eligible for a discounted membership to Madison BCycle, through which they can check out a BCycle at any BStation kiosk, ride to their destination, and park at a nearby station. BCycle annual members get an unlimited number of trips of 90 minutes or less with no additional charge beyond annual fees. Stations are located across campus and the City of Madison. With or without a membership, simply check out a BCycle, ride to your destination, and park at a nearby station. For more information or to purchase a discounted student membership, visit [Madison.BCycle.com](https://www.madison.bcycle.com).

University Bicycle Resource Center (UBRC)

The UBRC is a free do-it-yourself bicycle repair space with free bike maintenance and safety classes each semester. The Center provides free use of tools, air pump, grease, lube, and other supplies, repair manuals, and maps. The UBRC is staffed by students who work to encourage the use of active and alternative forms of transportation, especially biking, walking, and transit. For more information, visit transportation.wisc.edu/bicycling.

Carsharing

Zipcar.com/UWMadison

Transportation Services sponsors Zipcar, the local carsharing service. Multiple Zipcars are parked on the university campus and across the city of Madison. Hourly rentals of hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles are available 24/7 for errands, trips across town, day trips, and other needs.

Mopeds and E-scooters

Transportation.wisc.edu

Mopeds must display a valid UW parking permit while parked in designated campus moped lots. Campus moped permits are available from Transportation Services. City of Madison ordinances prohibit parking mopeds on sidewalks, terraces, or bike racks unless the area is signed as a moped parking area. Please visit the Transportation Services website for current e-scooter campus ordinances.

OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

Go.wisc.edu/Student-Commuter-Solutions

Transportation Services has a dedicated team available to help UW community members understand the best ways to get to, from, and around on campus. This is a free service for students, employees, and visitors.

Off-Campus Bussing

Transportation.wisc.edu/Bus/IntercityBuses

The following bus services all depart from campus and travel outside of Madison: Badger Bus, Greyhound Bus, Jefferson Bus Lines, Lamers Bus Lines, Mega Bus, and Van Galder Bus Company. Visit their websites for more information.

Air Travel

MSNAirport.com

Dane County Regional Airport, 4000 International Ln., Madison, WI, 53704

The Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) offers flights to regional and national destinations. Call specific airlines for flight information. The airport is accessible by taxi or airport limo. Weekday service via Madison Metro is also available.

Train/Rail Travel

Amtrak.com

The Amtrak train travels to many regional and national destinations. The nearest station is in Columbus, Wisconsin—25 miles northeast of Madison. Various bus services offer trips to the Amtrak stations in Milwaukee and Chicago.



VISITING CAMPUS

Built on an isthmus, UW–Madison and the city of Madison seamlessly blend together, creating opportunities and an atmosphere unlike any other college campus. Our vibrant community is home to a growing arts and music scene; unique restaurants, shops, and museums; the Wisconsin State Capitol and eight-block State Street pedestrian mall; breathtaking natural areas, including five lakes; the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country; and much more. (Explore all that Madison has to offer at [VisitMadison.com](https://www.visitmadison.com).) The Parent and Family Program hosts formal visit opportunities throughout the year. Learn more at [Parent.wisc.edu](https://parent.wisc.edu).

Visitor Questions

Have questions before visiting campus? The Parent and Family Program can help with questions about lodging, transportation, popular destinations on campus and in the community, and more. While you're here, Campus and Visitor Relations (CAVR), UW–Madison's central source for information, can assist you. Call **608-263-2400** or stop by one of CAVR's information and welcome desks, with locations at Union South, Memorial Union, and the Discovery Building.

Staying On Campus

Fluno Center

[Fluno.com](https://fluno.com)

601 University Avenue; 1-877-773-5866

Wisconsin Union Hotel

[Union.wisc.edu/Visit/Stay-At-The-Union](https://union.wisc.edu/Visit/Stay-At-The-Union)

Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street; 608-263-2600

Wisconsin Union Club Suites

[Union.wisc.edu/Visit/Stay-At-The-Union](https://union.wisc.edu/Visit/Stay-At-The-Union)

Memorial Union, 800 Langdon Street; 608-263-2600

Parking On Campus

Transportation.wisc.edu

Parking is limited on the UW campus, so please plan ahead for your visit. Hourly public parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis in campus garages. Just pull a ticket when entering a garage and pay by credit card on exit or pay with the ParkMobile app in surface lots with ParkMobile stalls.

Be aware that construction zones and special events can often affect campus travel. Check in advance at [Transportation.wisc.edu](https://transportation.wisc.edu).

For more campus parking information and garage locations, go to the Transportation Services website or call customer service at **(608) 263-6667**.

The City of Madison also has hourly garage parking and on-street metered parking for visitors. Go to [CityofMadison.com/Parking-Utility](https://cityofmadison.com/Parking-Utility).

Wisconsin Union

Union.wisc.edu

The Wisconsin Union is your campus living room, offering 1,000+ events annually, dining, study, and social spaces, and hotels across campus, including at Memorial Union and Union South. Enjoy Wisconsin Union-hosted free movie showings, free concerts, free game watches, bowling, billiards, outdoor adventures, and more throughout most of the year. Plus, visit the iconic lakefront entertainment destination the Memorial Union Terrace from approximately late spring through early fall. Students can help plan events by joining the Union programming board and can check out Wisconsin Union student job opportunities. Whether you play, stay, relax, dine, or lead, check out Wisconsin Union experiences for a lifetime.

Wisconsin Athletics

UWBadgers.com

Badger game days serve as a core part of the campus experience. Don't miss out! Tickets are available for football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's hockey, and more. Call **1-800-GO-BADGERS** or visit the website for more.



LEARNING & ACADEMIC RESOURCES

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR

Registrar.wisc.edu/Contact, Registrar@em.wisc.edu

The Office of the Registrar serves campus by managing student records (personal information, grades, transcripts, diplomas); the Schedule of Classes; the course catalogue (Guide); enrollment; declaration of degrees/majors/certificates; Wisconsin residence for tuition purposes; education record privacy; credit evaluation services, including transfer of undergraduate course or test credits; and academic eligibility certification of student-athletes.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Advising.wisc.edu

Advising is a partnership between students and the network of advisors they build during their time at UW–Madison. First-year students enroll in their classes during orientation (SOAR). Continuing students start enrolling for spring-term classes in November, summer-term classes in March/April, and fall-term classes later in April. During SOAR your student will have help from both professional academic advisors and student staff who will help them learn about UW–Madison, share resources, and enroll in their first semester courses.

After SOAR, all undergraduates are assigned to an advisor in their area of academic interest or to an advisor in the Cross-College Advising Service who specializes in working with undergraduates who are in the process of deciding their major. These advisors help students connect to campus resources and reach their academic and career goals.

When Should My Student Meet with An Advisor?

Students should meet with their advisors at least once per semester and discuss topics beyond course enrollment, such as connecting majors to careers, getting involved, and creating a graduation timeline.

Advisors' schedules get tight during high enrollment times. To better prepare for enrollment each fall and spring semester, students must complete a Pre-Enrollment Checklist, which will appear in the "Tasks" tile of Student Center.

A "hold" preventing enrollment will be in place until this checklist is complete, so it's important for students to finish this checklist as early as possible. It's also good practice for students to check Student Center to confirm there are no holds on their academic records. Holds can be related to many things, including library fines, tuition payments, or simply the need to meet with an advisor. Some holds will not allow class enrollments until they are cleared. Learn more about holds at Registrar.wisc.edu/EnrollmentOverview.

DISABILITY-RELATED RESOURCES

McBurney.wisc.edu

The McBurney Disability Resource Center facilitates campus access, including classroom accommodations, for students with disabilities. Students should complete the steps found under "Students—Apply for Accommodations" on the Center's website. New students who have been determined eligible for accommodations will engage in the McBurney Orientation and Service Training (MOST) program in order to train on specific accommodations and orient to expectations at UW–Madison.



TEXTBOOKS & OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

For their courses, instructors may require specific textbooks, photocopied course packets of selected readings, or other materials such as lab equipment and art supplies. There isn't one single place where all instructors list materials. Students should look for email messages from instructors before the start of class, as some instructors use email to send the list of required materials. When instructors have finished selecting required textbooks and other materials, students can find that information in a few places:

- The Course Search & Enroll app (enroll.wisc.edu), which shows textbook information in the "Sections" detail panel of many classes.
- The "Textbooks" and "Courses" widgets in MyUW.

Campus libraries also have many course materials reserved for short-term loan (Library.wisc.edu/Borrow-Request/Course-Reserves-Materials). Course packets are available at various campus copy shops.

Before purchasing textbooks, your student should confirm they are using the correct edition listed for their class. Look for a 10- or 13-digit ISBN number, which is included in the textbook listings if the instructor has provided it.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic support services are offered on a variety of topics, in several locations across campus. Explore our 15 learning centers and other learning support resources at LearningSupport.wisc.edu.

Tutoring

University Residence Halls and Dining Facilities host student tutors in mathematics, chemistry, and writing throughout the week. Encourage students to check their Residence Hall's Canvas page to sign up for mathematics and chemistry. For writing, tutors are available for free virtual meetings. Students can sign up through the Writing Center (more below).

For assistance with high-enrollment STEM courses, study skill development, and language learning, consider reaching out to Greater University Tutoring Service (GUTS). GUTS is a Registered Student Organization (RSO), under the supervision of the Office of Academic & Career Success (OACS), dedicated to supporting student learning by offering free academic, language, and study skill tutoring to any UW-Madison student. Learn more at GUTS.wisc.edu.



Writing Center

Writing.wisc.edu

UW Writing Center tutors can help students with writing in all disciplines and at all levels. The center also offers free writing workshops that cover exams, research papers, job portfolios, and more.

Libraries

Library.wisc.edu

The UW-Madison Libraries rank among the top research libraries in North America. Librarians provide students with on-demand research assistance in person and via chat, text, and phone. Instructional tutorials and workshops also assist students during all stages of the research process. Libraries provide free access to equipment (e.g., laptops, cameras) and a variety of spaces for all types of study needs.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

IT.wisc.edu

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides technology services to UW-Madison. DoIT provides no-charge access to security, productivity, research, and utility software for students, including Microsoft 365, through the Campus Software Library. DoIT also offers tech classes and training sessions as well as cybersecurity support and file storage resources such as Box, Google Workspace (Google Drive) or Microsoft OneDrive. The DoIT Help Desk provides technology support through multiple channels: an onsite Help Desk Monday through Friday, phone service 7 days a week, and remote help via email and live chat.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNITY

WISCONSIN WELCOME

[Go.wisc.edu/Welcome](https://go.wisc.edu/Welcome)

Wisconsin Welcome is a multi-week, new-student celebration. Hundreds of #WiWelcome events happen in the first few weeks of both fall and spring semesters and are shared through the Wisconsin Welcome app. Encourage your student to discover Madison, meet fellow Badgers, and find their campus community when they arrive on campus.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

[SOLI.wisc.edu](https://sol1.wisc.edu)

The Office for Student Organizations, Leadership & Involvement (SOLI) serves as the central hub for students to connect with UW–Madison’s 1,000+ student organizations, get involved, and grow their leadership potential. Students can easily search for organizations that match their interest on the Wisconsin Involvement Network (WIN) at [WIN.wisc.edu](https://win.wisc.edu). SOLI also hosts the Student Organization Fair at the beginning of each semester, where students can connect in person with 400+ of these Registered Student Organizations (RSOs).

VOLUNTEERING

[Morgridge.wisc.edu](https://morgridge.wisc.edu)

The Morgridge Center for Public Service bridges the campus and community by fostering lifelong civic engagement through volunteer and learning opportunities. Encourage your student to explore opportunities like Badger Volunteers, Wisconsin Idea Fellowships, and more by meeting with a peer advisor or visiting their website.

COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT

Belonging to a community is an important component of wellness. Students

may find that joining groups that align with their identities and interests can help to build community with students who have similar experiences or backgrounds. Learn more about finding community at [Students.wisc.edu](https://students.wisc.edu).

Associated Students of Madison (ASM)

[ASM.wisc.edu](https://asm.wisc.edu)

The Associated Students of Madison (ASM) is the official student governance body of UW–Madison, representing the needs of over 50,000 students. ASM is composed of roughly 50 elected or appointed students, 8 professional staff members, and 200 student appointees on committees that hold legal rights to recommend university policies, budgets, and candidates for UW employment. ASM allocates approximately \$50 million in segregated university fees each year and is responsible for management of the Student Activity Center and distribution of the student bus pass. The roles of ASM can be divided into three categories: direct action, governance, and service.

Center for Interfaith Dialogue

[Interfaith.wisc.edu](https://interfaith.wisc.edu)

The Center for Interfaith Dialogue is dedicated to uplifting students’ religious and spiritual identities and fostering a more inclusive climate for religious and non-religious communities on campus. The Center offers programs, services, and resources to encourage religious literacy, interfaith dialogue, and interaction so that students can function as citizens of a religiously diverse world.

First-Generation Badgers

[Go.wisc.edu/FirstGen](https://go.wisc.edu/FirstGen)

The First-Generation Badgers program enhances coordination and programmatic support among campus offices, offers opportunities for students to connect with one another throughout the academic year, and informs the development of services for first-gen students.

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL)

FSL.wisc.edu

The fraternity and sorority community connects students through the values of brotherhood and sisterhood, leadership, scholarship, and service. More than 6,000 students—representing 15 percent of the undergraduate population—are members of one of the community’s nearly 70 fraternities or sororities.

Gender and Sexuality Campus Center (GSCC)

LGBT.wisc.edu

The Gender and Sexuality Campus Center (GSCC) supports LGBTQ+ students and their communities. The center offers a gathering space, support and drop-in services, a Qouncil of 20+ affiliated student organizations, and social and leadership programming. Located in the Red Gym, the center also facilitates educational programs and trainings across campus.

International Student Services (ISS)

ISS.wisc.edu

Located in the Pyle Center (within International Services), International Student Services (ISS) contributes to the successful experience of international students. ISS provides F-1 and J-1 international students with advising, support and assistance concerning federal regulations governing their student visa status in the United States. Staff also help students transition to a new cultural, educational, and social environment through an orientation program and ongoing co-curricular education activities, including workshops, services, programs, and events.

Multicultural Student Center (MSC)

MSC.wisc.edu

The Multicultural Student Center is affectionately referred to as a “home away from home” for all students, where diverse and intersectional identities are centered, affirmed, and celebrated. It is a hub for multicultural student organizations and programming and the convener of campuswide heritage and history month activities. Spaces, programs, and services are designed to cultivate a student’s sense of belonging and community while strengthening their capacity to learn, lead, and thrive.

Transfer Transition Program (TTP)

Transfer.wisc.edu

The Transfer Transition Program (TTP) supports all transfer students on campus with an emphasis on their first year. TTP hosts a variety of events throughout the academic year as well as opportunities to meet with experienced transfer student peers. Stop by the Transfer Engagement Center (110 Middleton Building) to connect with other students, study, get a snack, or print an assignment.

University Veteran Services (UVS)

Veterans.wisc.edu

University Veteran Services (UVS), located in 333 East Campus Mall, supports the Wisconsin Experience of students who are veterans, currently serving in the U.S. military, or family members of veterans. Contact University Veteran Services to establish or maintain state and federal education benefits, find local veteran resources, and navigate military leave from classes. UVS also offers social events, networking opportunities, coffee clubs, and supports Student Veterans of America (SVA).



YOUR STUDENT'S FUTURE AT UW-MADISON

CAREER ADVISING

[Careers.wisc.edu](https://careers.wisc.edu)

Every student is encouraged to work with a career advisor and can start career advising as early as the first semester. Each individual school or college offers career services, and the Career Exploration Center (CEC) works with students exploring different majors and careers. Links to each of the campus career services offices are available online.

STUDYING OR INTERNING ABROAD

StudyAbroad.wisc.edu

UW-Madison offers more than 300 study abroad, domestic study away, and international internship opportunities across six continents for students of all majors. Study abroad courses can count toward degree requirements, allowing students to stay on track for graduation. Many programs offer

internship, research, and service-learning components. Scholarships are available and financial aid can be applied to most programs.

International Academic Program (IAP) collaborates with academic units across campus to offer safe, accessible, and high-quality programs that foster academic, personal, and professional growth. Additionally, IAP works in close partnership with study abroad offices within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the Wisconsin School of Business to administer programs geared specifically for their academic disciplines.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Go.wisc.edu/Housing

University Housing's Residence Halls aren't just for new students—returning residents can pick their own rooms and take advantage of unique opportunities. Not to mention, halls are more than just “dorms” or a place to live. They are unique communities full of resources, support, convenient services, events, and other fellow Badgers. Live-in staff members are available 24/7 to take care of any issue. In-house resources such as academic advisors, events, and workshops help students find easy, fun ways to try new things and meet new people.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Go.wisc.edu/Off-Campus

Off-Campus Housing Services is a resource within University Housing to help students and families navigate the housing search. The service is designed to provide students with the resources to make informed decisions and to offer follow-up support as needed. Off-Campus Housing Services provides educational programs, builds relationships with landlords, and meets individually with students who need assistance.



IMPORTANT DATES 2025–2026

University Residence Halls move-in (as assigned)	August 25-27, 2025
Labor Day	September 1, 2025
Instruction begins	September 3, 2025
Fall tuition due	September 12, 2025
Badger Pay second installment due	October 10, 2025
Family Weekend	October 24-26, 2025
Badger Pay third installment due	November 7, 2025
Thanksgiving recess	November 27-November 30, 2025
Last day of classes	December 10, 2025
Study day	December 11, 2025
Exams begin	December 12, 2025
Winter Commencement (no exams)	December 14, 2025
Exams end	December 18, 2025
University Residence Halls close (at 7pm)	December 18, 2025
University Residence Halls open	January 17, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 19, 2026
Instruction begins	January 20, 2026
Tuition due for spring term	January 30, 2026
Badger Pay second installment due	February 27, 2026

Badger Pay third installment due	March 27, 2026
Spring recess	March 28-April 6, 2026
Last day of classes	May 1, 2026
Study day	May 2, 2026
Exams begin	May 3, 2026
Exams end	May 8, 2026
Commencement Weekend	May 8-9, 2026
University Residence Halls close	May 9, 2026
Four-week summer session	May 18-June 14, 2026
Three-week summer session	May 26-June 14, 2026
Tuition due for summer term	June 12, 2026
Eight-week summer session	June 15-August 9, 2026

Events and deadlines in this handbook are subject to change and are specific to undergraduate students.

For additional important dates and events, visit the Parent and Family Program website (Parent.wisc.edu) or call 1-877-262-3977.

Thank you to our sponsor



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Parent and Family Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

If you have questions during your student's time at UW–Madison, please contact the Parent and Family Program at **1-877-262-3977** or **Parent@UWMad.wisc.edu**. You can also find more information on our website at **Parent.wisc.edu**. Below are additional important contacts that may be helpful to you or your student.

Bursar's Office (for fast service, contact by email: tuition@bussvc.wisc.edu)	608-262-3611	Bursar.wisc.edu
Campus and Visitor Relations (campus information)	608-263-2400	Info.wisc.edu
Destination Madison	1-800-373-6376	VisitMadison.com
Division of Information Technology (DoIT Help Desk)	608-264-4357	IT.wisc.edu
International Academic Programs (study abroad)	608-265-6329	StudyAbroad.wisc.edu
International Student Services	608-262-2044	ISS@iss.wisc.edu
Memorial Union	608-265-3000	Union.wisc.edu
Off-Campus Housing Services	608-262-2522	Go.wisc.edu/Off-Campus
Office of Admissions and Recruitment	608-262-3961	Admissions.wisc.edu
Office of the Registrar (enrollment, grades, transcripts, diplomas)	608-262-3811	Registrar.wisc.edu
Office of Student Assistance and Support (formerly the Dean of Students Office)	608-263-5700	OSAS@StudentAffairs.wisc.edu
Office of Student Financial Aid (grants, loans, student employment)	608-262-3060	FinancialAid.wisc.edu
Parent and Family Program	1-877-262-3977	Parent.wisc.edu
SAFEwalk	608-262-5000	Go.wisc.edu/SAFEWalk
Transfer Transition Program	608-890-4690	Transfer.wisc.edu
Union South	608-890-3000	Union.wisc.edu
University Book Store	608-257-3784	UWBookStore.com
University Health Services	608-265-5600	UHS.wisc.edu
University Housing (on-campus housing)	608-262-2522	Go.wisc.edu/Housing
UW Badger Athletics Ticket Office	1-800-GO-BADGERS	UWBadgers.com
UW Libraries	1-608-262-3193	Library.wisc.edu
UW Police (non-emergency)	608-264-2677	UWPD.wisc.edu
UW Student Job Center	608-262-5627	StudentJobs.wisc.edu
UW Transportation Services (campus parking and commuter solutions)	608-263-6666	Transportation.wisc.edu
Wiscard Office	608-262-3258	Wiscard.wisc.edu
Wisconsin Alumni Association	1-888-947-2586	UWAlumni.com



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