Welcome to the University of Wisconsin–Madison, known throughout the world for excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Built on an isthmus and surrounded by lakes, our university and the city of Madison are skyward, tied together, creating a separation and an atmosphere unlike any other campus. When riding, you can imagine yourself in a life at forty venues such as Campus Randall, Memorial Union, and State Street. You can find serenity at our treasured natural areas, including Lake Mendota, Bascom Hill Historic District, and the East Campus Gateway.

On Wisconsin Route (75 minutes) starts at Stop A and features four campus areas: southwest campus, central campus, the Bascom Hill Historic District, and the East Campus Gateway.

The Badger Loop (45 minutes) starts at Stop D and features central campus, the Bascom Hill Historic District, and the East Campus Gateway.

Our self-guided tour introduces you to the living and learning environment at UW–Madison. We invite you to choose the route that fits your interests and time frame.

To see an interactive campus map, please visit maps.wisc.edu.
A. SOUTHWEST CAMPUS at Johnson & Orchard

University South, one of our student unions, is a popular campus social center. The building was completely rebuilt and opened in 1979, receiving a gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating because of its sustainable features, such as a water-saving rainwater collection system, solar control glazing, motion-sensing lighting, and a living wall. The union is home to the Student Engagement Center, the Student Union Board, and a variety of student organizations. The basement of University South houses the student Services Center, which offers a variety of services to students, faculty, and the Madison community. The Student Engagement Center houses the Office of Student Life, the Office of Student Conduct, and the Office of Student Wellness.

B. CENTRAL CAMPUS at University & Mills

Chemistry is part of the College of Letters & Science (the largest school) at UW–Madison. Students pursuing chemistry, biology, and biochemistry, as well as STEM fields, will find Chemistry is centrally located, offering a unique opportunity to explore and discover the wonders of the natural world. The department is home to the Chemistry Building, which is dedicated to exploring new ways to conduct and report research, the Chemistry Research Building, which houses world-class research facilities, and the Chemistry Research Library, which is home to the world’s largest collection of chemistry journals. The Chemistry Building is a hub for the chemistry community, providing a central location for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate and conduct world-class research.

C. BASCOM HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT at Bascom Hall

Founded in 1848, UW–Madison’s history continues with the last 150 years of campus history. UW–Madison is home to over 50,000 students, including nearly 12,000 graduate students, and is home to over 10,000 employees. The university’s mission is to provide a world-class education and to accelerate scientific and technological advancement, improving the quality of life for all. The university is home to 16 schools and colleges, including the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Medicine & Public Health, and the School of Law. The university is also home to the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, which is dedicated to the commercialization of university research.

DID YOU KNOW?

UW–Madison is the official home of the entire American field hockey record, and the team has won the NCAA title nine times. The university is also home to the Wisconsin Alumni Association, which is dedicated to the support of the university and its alumni. The association offers a variety of programs, events, and services to support the university and its alumni.

OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS, MANY NATIVE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ABLED TO MAKE A LIVING FROM THE LANDS THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY HOMED ON, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOW PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM. THIS INCLUDES THE HO-CHUNK PEOPLE, ONE OF WISCONSIN’S FIRST NATIONS. UW–MADISON PARTNERS WITH THE WI-FORWARD NATION TO SUPPORT THE MOUNDS AND ENSURE THEIR PROTECTION. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HO-CHUNK PEOPLE, PLEASE VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM’S FIRST NATIONS WEBSITE.
Students can be seen rubbing Abe’s left foot for good luck. A number of states, including Wisconsin, for the purpose of promoting Adolph Weinman. Lincoln helped to pass legislation granting land to nearby breweries, a number of which now stand on campus. But the students’ work continues, as they build relationships with Native communities and the land. During the 2019-20 academic year, the students will visit eight permanent locations on campus, so it begins to be incorporated into the educational life of the university. It will return to Bascom Hill permanently in the fall of 2020.

On June 18, 2019, leaders of the Ho-Chunk Nation, as well as alumni, faculty, and students gathered to dedicate the “Our Shared History” initiative to highlight the University’s past relationship with Native communities and the land. During the 2019-20 academic year, the students will visit eight permanent locations on campus, so it begins to be incorporated into the educational life of the university. It will return to Bascom Hill permanently in the fall of 2020.

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F. EAST CAMPUS GATEWAY at Library Mall

Memorial Library is one of approximately 9 main libraries at UW-Madison, with about a dozen more that are offered in partnership with schools, colleges, and departments. Our UW Libraries now have more than 10 million printed volumes, 11 million e-books, and a digital collection of more than 15 million items. Our libraries feature electronic, digital, and physical collections from around the world, with more than 12,000 new acquisitions added every year.

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, helps people connect to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories. Its Library-Archives forms the largest research center in the Midwest. The Society’s American History Hall holds more than 1.5 million historical photographs and manuscripts and one of the nation’s premier genealogy collections. In-service reading rooms helped the Society realize the title of “most beautiful library in Wisconsin,” according to Business Insider.

E. EAST CAMPUS at University Avenue

Home to the second-largest collection of art in Wisconsin, the Chazen Museum of Art features more than 20,000 works, including some dating back to 2300 BCE. Exhibits frequently change and drop-in tours are available throughout the year. The museum is free and open to the public every day except Mondays and some state holidays.

Opening in fall 2019, the Mead Witter School of Music’s Hamel Music Center will be a hub for music performance, education, and outreach. It will include a concert hall, recital hall, rehearsal space, and technology that will facilitate live-streaming and recording of performances. Circular forms were built into the structure as part of the concert hall’s state-of-the-art acoustic system. The $55.8 million project was funded by private donors.

G. CENTRAL CAMPUS at Park and University

Grainger Hall is home to the Wisconsin School of Business, one of UW-Madison’s eight undergraduate schools. Each school and college offers tailored academic and career advising for students. All undergraduate programs have an assigned academic advisor and are encouraged to work with each student advisor as early as their first semester on campus.

Most first-year students choose to live on campus. Chadbourne Residence Hall is one of 20 University Housing residence halls. It is home to Chadbourne Residential College (CRC), which provides opportunities for students to grow as leaders through meaningful connections, courses, and activities. Students have access to CRC’s advising, career, and student life services. CRC serves as a Residential Learning Community at UW-Madison, which have been identified as High-Impact Educational Practices on campus and nationally. Chadbourne also features Witas Market, one of University Housing’s marketplace-style dining facilities. Dining facilities are open to the public and accept credit/debit cards.

DID YOU KNOW?

UW-Madison is one of the nation’s leading research universities, spending $1.19 billion annually on research. It is also one of only five universities in the United States that supports medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and law programs, as well as agriculture, engineering, nursing, business, education, and liberal arts.

Andy Manis Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture and Strang Architects

Listed as a Best Value School by U.S. News and World Report for exceptional quality education at a low cost

 Ranked 1st nationally for number of doctorates awarded

Students: 44,000+
Courses: 9,000+
Undergraduate majors and certificates: 200+
Graduate degrees and certificates: 250+
Faculty experts: 2,000+
Average class size: 31
Freshman retention rate: 95.4%
Average time to degree: 4 years and 4 days

THE NUMBERS

The development of the world-famous Babcock Butterfat Milk Test (the butterfat tester is pictured here)—developed by Dr. Stephen Babcock—in 1890. The discovery paved the way for higher standards in milk quality and reduced the practice of watering down milk. Since then, several other revolutionary nutritional discoveries have been made at UW-Madison’s College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, such as: the discovery of vitamin A and B complexes, and exposing food to radiation to enhance Vitamin D content, virtually eliminating rickets.