Welcome to the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and congratulations on starting the process of selecting where you will go to college. It’s a huge decision. It can be a stressful and confusing time, but also incredibly exciting. We understand that you have lots of options, and we’re glad you’re learning more about being a #FutureBadger. We know that along with the excitement of this decision, there are a lot of questions.

We’re here to help.

Today, we’ll answer these top questions about the college decision process:

Do you have my major(s)?

Can I get in?

How do I apply?

How will I pay for college?

Will I fit in here?

What else do you want to know?

Just ask.
WHAT IS A MAJOR?
Your major is the primary focus of your degree. Each major has different required coursework that provides you with specialized knowledge in that field.

HOW DO MAJORS WORK AT UW–MADISON?
When you apply, you’ll indicate your 1st and 2nd choice intended majors, which may include undecided. Students are admitted to the university with an intent to pursue their major, which they formally declare once they are on campus. Those who are interested in a major housed within the College of Engineering or the Wisconsin School of Business may be directly admitted as an incoming freshman or transfer student.

You don’t have to know what you want to major in to apply to UW–Madison. We are an excellent school for undecided students because of all the resources we offer. You are also able to change your major once you’re a UW student, should you change your mind.
Undergraduate Majors

- Accounting*
- Actuarial Science*
- African Cultural Studies
- Afro-American Studies
- Agricultural and Applied Economics
- Agricultural Business Management
- Agronomy
- Animal Sciences
- Anthropology
- Applied Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics
- Art
- Art Education
- Art History
- Asian Languages and Cultures
- Astronomy–Physics
- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biological Systems Engineering
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering*
- Botany
- Cartography and Geographic Information Systems
- Chemical Engineering*
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Civil Engineering*
- Classical Humanities
- Classics
- Communication Arts
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Community and Environmental Sociology
- Community and Nonprofit Leadership
- Computer Engineering*
- Computer Sciences
- Conservation Biology
- Dairy Science
- Dance***
- Economics
- Education Studies
- Electrical Engineering*
- Elementary Education
- Engineering Mechanics*
- Engineering Physics*
- English
- Entomology
- Environmental Sciences
- Environmental Studies
- Finance, Investment, and Banking*
- Food Science
- Forest Science
- French
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- Genetics and Genomics
- Geography
- Geological Engineering*
- Geology and Geophysics
- German
- Health Promotion and Health Equity
- History
- Horticulture
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Industrial Engineering*
- Information Systems*
- Interior Architecture
- International Business*
- International Studies
- Italian
- Japanese
- Jewish Studies
- Journalism
- Kinesiology
- Landscape and Urban Studies
- Landscape Architecture
- Latin
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies
- Legal Studies
- Life Sciences Communication
- Linguistics
- Management and Human Resources*
- Marketing*
- Materials Science and Engineering*
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering*
- Microbiology
- Music***
- Music Education***
- Music Performance***
- Neurobiology
- Nuclear Engineering*
- Nursing
- Nutritional Sciences
- Nutritional Sciences: Nutrition and Dietetics
- Operations and Technology Management*
- Personal Finance
- Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Pharmacy (Intended Doctorate of Pharmacy)**
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Plant Pathology
- Polish
- Political Science
- Portuguese
- Psychology
- Real Estate and Urban Land Economics*
- Rehabilitation Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Retailing and Consumer Behavior
- Risk Management and Insurance*
- Russian
- Scandinavian Studies
- Social Welfare
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Soil Science
- Spanish
- Special Education
- Statistics
- Textiles and Fashion Design
- Theatre and Drama
- Wildlife Ecology
- World Language Education: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish
- Zoology

* Offered only as a double major. Students must select an additional major in the School of Business.

** Not an academic major. Combined undergraduate and doctorate degree.
At UW–Madison, we believe in the full, holistic review of all our applicants. Every student who applies to our university is reviewed by two or more counselors in the context of our total pool of applicants. We review every piece of your application file to find the students who are the best fit for the University of Wisconsin–Madison. We truly believe in this model, and because of that, we are not able to tell a student whether they will be admitted until their admission decision is made. Instead, we can give you some insight into what makes students competitive for admission.
**GRADES AND COURSEWORK**
When we consider your grades, we are looking both at the grades you earn and the level of difficulty of the courses you take (rigor) throughout your high school career. We look for you to be earning top grades—mostly As—in challenging courses, including honors, IB, and/or AP, when available. While we don’t specifically base a decision on your GPA or your class rank, we do consider your academic performance in the context of the available offerings at your school.

While we do not have minimum requirements, competitive students will often have earned credit beyond four years of math, including at least one year each of algebra, geometry, and advanced math, or an integrated sequence of courses. We would highly recommend taking math your senior year and advancing through pre-calculus or calculus, if available. Courses that will not fulfill this requirement include statistics, business math, and computer science classes. We also look for four years of English, three to four years of science, social science, and foreign language, and two years of fine arts/additional academics.

**TEST SCORES**
Your ACT or SAT score is only part of what we look at when we consider your application. We do not have specific minimums or ranges that your score needs to fall in to be considered for admission. We consider the highest composite score as your “official” score, although we will look at all scores reported in an effort to get a true sense of your achievement. We do not require the writing section of either test.

**EXTRACURRICULARS**
We also review your extracurriculars and the positive impact they have had on you as a student. If they matter to you, they matter to us. On your application, you can list your extracurriculars, including activities and involvement, leadership, service, employment, talents, and interests.

**WRITING**
As part of our holistic review, we ask for two essays to understand more about you. What you choose to share gives us an idea of who you are, why you want to be a #FutureBadger, and what you want to accomplish as part of our community. Tell us about you and your unique story. Help us know you beyond your GPA and test scores.
How To Apply

EARLY ACTION DEADLINE
November 1
Receive your decision in December

REGULAR DECISION DEADLINE
February 1
Receive your decision in March

TRANSFER DEADLINES
Priority Decision February 1
Regular Decision March 1
Receive your decision in March or April

SPRING DEADLINE
October 1
Receive your decision in December

Receive your decision in December
Receive your decision in March
Receive your decision in March or April
Admission to UW–Madison is competitive and selective, and we review applications using a holistic approach. Your application will receive a thorough review from a team of professional admissions counselors.

We consider your performance in rigorous coursework, essays, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and one required letter of recommendation from an academic source. While we do not have minimum test scores or GPAs, we look for students who excel in multiple areas and are a good fit for our university. We are also looking for sustained involvement in activities in or out of school, leadership, community service, research, or any special gifts or talents that you would bring to campus.

**TO APPLY:**
Apply via the Common Application (freshmen only) or UW System Application and submit the following:

- Application and fee ($60) or official fee waiver for those who qualify
- Two essays
- Course and grade information
  - Common Application: self-reported courses and grades
  - UW System Application: official transcripts from all schools attended
- Letter of recommendation from an academic source
- Test scores
  - ACT or SAT scores are required for freshman applicants and are optional for transfer students
  - TOEFL or IELTS scores are required for international applicants unless English was the language of instruction for all courses for grades 9–12

After you apply, you’ll be able to gain access to your Student Center to check the status of your application and materials online.

*Note: Deadlines that fall on a weekend are extended to the next business day*
Financing Your Education

COSTS OF ATTENDANCE

The total amount you will pay depends on where you choose to live, which meal plan you select, your school or college, and your own personal spending habits. The rates shown are based on our Cost of Attendance for the 2019–2020 academic year and are subject to change. These costs are the basis for financial aid. Calculate your estimated costs using the Net Price Calculator. go.wisc.edu/npc

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<th>MINNESOTA RESIDENT</th>
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FINANCIAL AID
UW–Madison offers both need- and non-need-based financial aid. Last year, 59% of our students received financial aid. Eligibility for need-based aid is determined through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year.

The FAFSA is available starting October 1. You can submit this form online using the previous year’s tax information. Need-based aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis, so it is important to complete the FAFSA as soon after October 1 as possible. It is highly recommended that you submit your FAFSA by the UW–Madison priority filing date of December 1. UW–Madison’s FAFSA code is 003895.

Financial aid is made up of different types of aid: grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships. Grants, work-study, and some loans are based on financial need. Scholarships from UW–Madison can be based on merit, need, or a combination of the two.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Last year, $40.2 million in scholarships was awarded to 7,613 recipients at UW–Madison.

Both current and incoming students can research and explore all the scholarships they qualify for based on their program, background, and interests through the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WiSH).

Most of our scholarships are not awarded automatically. Instead, you will need to apply to them through WiSH.

Once you have submitted your application to UW–Madison and activated your NetID and password, you can apply for scholarships.

Scholarships will have varying deadlines, but most will have a deadline of February 1. In addition to our scholarships, we recommend pursuing additional funding opportunities through your work, community, and other organizations. go.wisc.edu/affordability
Here at UW–Madison, you’ll hear us talk a lot about fit. That’s because it’s so important to success in college. When we review applications, we look for students who are a good fit and will be successful in their education at the university. We want to see students who can help expand the Wisconsin Idea and make the world a better place. Fit is important for you as well. It’s important to find a place that is right for you, where you’ll meet new people with shared interests and different world views, and where you can learn and grow inside and outside of the classroom. Your future college or university should be somewhere you can see yourself and somewhere that feels like home.
FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY AT A LARGE UNIVERSITY
The size of an institution can be a major deciding factor when selecting a school. You may be looking for a larger school, like UW–Madison, that offers more majors, student organizations, research, and other offerings.

It’s important to know that while we are a large school, we are also a fantastic place for finding smaller communities that will help you feel more at home. While you’ll still benefit from what our size can offer, you will not be just a number here. Our average class size is 31, the same as what you would find at smaller schools. Our student-to-faculty ratio is 20:1, and our faculty are highly engaged with students, offering office hours and additional opportunities to connect outside of class.

Getting involved in one of our more than 1,000 student organizations is a great way to meet others with similar interests. Residential Learning Communities within our residence halls are another great way to connect with those who share your passions.

1,000+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
200+ STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES
23 BIG TEN SPORTS
19% STUDENTS OF COLOR
10 LEARNING COMMUNITIES

CREATING YOUR WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE
Here at UW–Madison, you make your own Wisconsin Experience through hands-on experiences that go beyond the classroom and reinforce the Wisconsin Idea. The Wisconsin Idea is what sets us apart from other schools. It’s our guiding principle that the university should improve people’s lives beyond the classroom, and it spans our teaching, research, outreach, and public service.

The Wisconsin Experience at UW–Madison offers an array of opportunities to set yourself apart. Take advantage of a First-Year Interest Group (FIG) and join a small cohort that will take a mix of classroom and hands-on coursework in a specific interest area. See the world—whether studying, researching, or interning abroad.

Help change the world through undergraduate research at the university ranked 6th in the nation for our research expenditures. Give yourself a richer and more rigorous student experience by participating in service learning or an honors program.
LIFE IN MADISON, WISCONSIN
Madison’s Capitol Square hosts events weekly and annually. Grab a pastry and some cheese curds at the nation’s largest producer-only farmers’ market.

Madison frequently tops many “best” lists, including those for bike-friendly atmosphere and green spaces. It’s no wonder, with more than 200 miles of biking and hiking trails in the area, including the UW–Madison Arboretum. We have 260 parks and 6,000 acres of parkland in Madison, and we have four distinct seasons.

Madison is also home to State Street, our pedestrian, bike, and bus-only roadway that connects campus to downtown and the Wisconsin State Capitol. Here you’ll find more than 60 specialty shops and boutiques and more than 35 restaurants encompassing food from around the world and right in our backyard.

Madison is also home to great public transportation, including a vast bus system that runs throughout the city and surrounding areas. The city is also extremely bike and pedestrian friendly, including bike rentals, bike lanes, and bike racks. Madison is home to Dane County Regional Airport and also shuttles to Chicago and Milwaukee for traveling out-of-state and internationally. go.wisc.edu/madison
#1 BEST CITY FOR NEW GRADS
MarketWatch

#1 MOST CARING CITY
National Geographic

#1 NICEST CITY
Cheatsheet.com

#7 BEST SMALL U.S. CITY
National Geographic

#3 BEST PLACE TO LIVE
Livability.com

#1 GREATEST COLLEGE TOWN
Sports Illustrated

#6 CITY FOR AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
WalletHub
Questions To Ask Yourself
What am I looking for in my future college?

What is make-or-break to my college decision?

What resources are available to me to help me succeed?

Do I feel at home here?

Is this a good fit?

What career and internship opportunities will I have?