



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

for young Wisconsin Badgers and their Families

APPLYING TO UW-MADISON

What does UW-Madison look for in applications and what can students do in middle/high school to get in?

UW-Madison's application review process is holistic. Students who have continually challenged themselves in the curriculum available in their schools would be considered competitive applicants and may be a good fit for the university. That could include taking honors, advanced placement (AP), and International baccalaureate (IB) classes (especially in core areas of math, English, science, social studies, and foreign language) and receiving A/B grades in those classes; earning good test scores; and sustaining commitments outside the classroom (extracurricular activities, work, family responsibilities, and leadership).

When are applications due?

For Prospective Freshmen: Applications for the fall semester are due November 1 for Early Action and February 1 for Regular Decision. Applications for the spring semester are due October 2.

For Prospective Transfer Students: Applications for fall semester are due February 1 for Priority Decision and March 1 for Regular Decision. Applications for spring semester are due October 16.

What do I need to apply?

1. Admissions application
2. Application fee
3. Official transcripts
 - We require transcripts for all high school and college-level work. Official transcripts should be sent directly from each school attended.
1. Official test scores
 - Scores from either the ACT or the SAT are required and must be sent directly from the testing agency.
 - Freshman applicants from non-English speaking countries must submit a TOEFL or IELTS score unless English was the language of instruction for all courses in all years of secondary school.
1. Two essays
2. One required letter of recommendation

If I want to apply to more than one UW System school, do I apply to all UW system schools together or separately?

You can apply to UW-Madison using either the UW System Application or the Common Application—there is no preference one versus the other. Each application costs \$60; however, fee waivers are available. With either application, you apply to each school/college separately and pay each corresponding application fee (unless you get a fee waiver from a specific school).

Who has priority to come to UW? Students from Wisconsin or from outside the state?

As a public, state flagship institution we have a responsibility to in-state students that compels us to make 3,600, or roughly 50 percent, of our incoming student population Wisconsin state residents.

PAYING FOR SCHOOL

Do I apply for scholarships/financial aid before or after completing the college application?

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available each year on October 1 for the following academic year (e.g., apply October 1, 2019 for the 2020–21 school year). Students may apply online at fafsa.gov before or after they submit an application for admission. Note that the family income information (i.e., federal income tax) is used from the prior, prior tax year.

What does “first-generation” mean?

“First-generation” is defined by the University of Wisconsin System as neither parent having graduated with a bachelor's degree (i.e., four-year undergraduate degree from a higher education institution).

What is Bucky's Tuition Promise?

Bucky's Tuition Promise guarantees scholarships and grants to pay for tuition and segregated fees for Wisconsin state resident students whose household adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$60,000 or less. Freshmen may receive this financial support for eight consecutive semesters while transfer students may receive the support for four consecutive semesters.

What is Badger Promise?

Badger Promise guarantees a period of free tuition and segregated fees to Wisconsin resident, first-generation students who have successfully transferred from any of the two-year UW Colleges or from liberal arts associate degree programs at Madison College (Madison Area Technical College), Milwaukee Area Technical College, and other UW–Madison partner institutions.

What is the FASTrack program?

The FASTrack program is designed for first-year incoming Wisconsin state residents. The program meets the student's full need (i.e., need as determined by the results of the FAFSA) using scholarships, grant, and work-study. All incoming students who submit a FAFSA are automatically reviewed and there is no separate application for consideration. Students whose household receives public assistance (e.g., SNAP, free/reduced lunch) are automatically selected.

Am I eligible for Bucky's Tuition Promise, Badger Promise, and/or FASTrack if I have DACA or am an undocumented student?

No. Each of these opportunities requires Wisconsin residency, determined by state statute, which is typically not provided to DACA or undocumented students. Each also requires a FAFSA, which cannot be completed by a DACA or undocumented student. However, there are a number of smaller scholarships available for which students may apply that do not require FAFSA eligibility.

Can international or undocumented students apply for financial aid?

Students who are undocumented or international cannot submit a FAFSA, but may be eligible for partial tuition scholarships. For questions or more information, call 608-262-3060, or email finaid@finaid.wisc.edu.

Is a high school counselor a good resource for questions about financial aid?

Yes, and so are we. We are open for financial aid questions, even for students who do not necessarily plan to attend UW–Madison. Students and families may follow us on Twitter at [@UWMad_FinAid](https://twitter.com/UWMad_FinAid) or visit our website at financialaid.wisc.edu to learn about events and drop-in hours and locations for students and families seeking additional information.

Are scholarships available from UW–Madison?

UW–Madison annually awards more than \$29 million in scholarships to undergraduates. Most of these scholarships recognize a student's overall academic achievements or outstanding accomplishments in a particular field. For more information, visit the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WiSH): wisc.academicworks.com or our general scholarships page: financialaid.wisc.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships.

Should students work part-time while in school?

Working part time while at UW–Madison can be an integral component of future success. Students can connect to campus and the community, meet new people, develop new skills, and gain key professional experience—all while earning some spending money.

ACADEMICS

What subjects can you study at UW–Madison?

Almost anything! We have 140 majors in eight undergraduate schools/colleges. We also offer certificates in various areas that many schools would call "minors." Explore them here at wisc.edu/academics.

CAMPUS LIFE

Is it easy to get involved and meet new people?

We offer over 900 student organizations along with Big 10 Badger sports, Intramural and club sports, arts and cultural opportunities (like concerts, comedians, and movie nights), and tons of other opportunities to meet new people and try new things!

Are students required to live on campus?

Students are not required to live on campus at UW–Madison but about 95 percent of our freshmen do. There are 19 residence halls on campus and a variety of off-campus housing options throughout the area.

LEARN MORE

How can I learn more about UW–Madison?

We offer free tours and admission presentations throughout the week as well as some weekends. These presentations and tours allow you to learn more about the campus, our offerings, and resources, and to see Badger country for yourself. Learn more by visiting info.wisc.edu.

If I have questions about the application process or my application who can I contact?

You can reach out to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu.



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