Wisconsin Experience

UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/) and steeped in long-standing institutional values — the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities — the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

Health Promotion and Health Equity (HPHE) and the Wisconsin Experience

Community-Based Activities

HPHE students have an opportunity to become involved in the Fit Families (https://education.wisc.edu/news/capital-times-spotlights-uw-madisons-luis-columna-and-fit-families-program/) program, developed by Dr. Luis Columna. Fit Families is a physical activity program that brings together children with disabilities, their parents, college students, and in-service professionals in related fields such as adapted physical education, special education, orientation & mobility, psychology, physical education, and exercise science.

Students also participate in programs run through the Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), such as the Community Health Internship Program (https://ahec.wisc.edu/chip/).

HPHE majors have crafted their Wisconsin Experience in some of the following ways:

• A student majoring in HPHE is the event coordinator of a new student organization, the HPHE Learning Community. This individual is also part of a research team that codes conversations about the health and well-being of Latino children and is a teaching assistant for the Waisman Early Childhood Program.
• An HPHE student developed a passionate interest in social justice-based public health after interning at Milwaukee’s Gerald Ignace Indian Health Center and the Philippine Cultural and Civic Center Foundation. They are currently working with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health as an enteric disease research analyst and beginning research on Asian American health under Dr. Dorothy Edwards and the NIH’s All of Us (https://allofus.wisc.edu/?elqTrackId=38719B1F064F2937F31EA8EC23D7CFB&elq=c21876d204e447f1878d764a8c86d538&elqaid=33413&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=841). This semester they will continue participating on the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month Planning Committee, the Kinesiology department’s Equity Climate, and Diversity Committee, and has joined the HPHE Learning Community’s Spring, 2023 cohort.
• Another one of our students is combining HPHE with the Gender and Women’s Studies Certificate. This student has spent time as a research and communications intern of the Social Media Adolescent Health Research Team (SMAHRT) and presented at two national conferences. They also assumed the role of a fellow in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program of the College of Letters & Science, facilitating conversations among undergraduate students in a weekly seminar. Previously, they worked as an intern lead for the Technology and Mental Wellness Program Youth Advisory Board, and internationally as a volunteer at the Galway Autism Partnership (GAP) in Galway, Ireland.
• An HPHE student with certificates in environmental studies, French, and global health is part of a team working on developing an evidence-based physical activity program for adolescents. Last summer was spent teaching in a low-income neighborhood.
• While also completing the Certificate in Disability Rights and Services, this student serves as the co-president of the HPHE Learning Community and helped to found the organization. They work as a social media and marketing assistant for two UW-affiliated organizations and as a peer advisor with the Cross College Advising Service.
• A student majoring in HPHE and working toward certificates in environmental studies and global health is the treasurer of the HPHE Learning Community student organization and has been elected to serve in a financial position for the Slow Food Club on campus.