

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

ADVISING IN LETTERS & SCIENCE

Academic advising is an essential component of undergraduate education, and the college's commitment to providing quality advising for undergraduates is reflected in the many advising programs it offers. Students who have not yet declared a major are assigned an advisor in L&S Academic Advising Services or the Cross-College Advising Service (see below). Students who have declared a major are assigned an advisor in their department or program.

All of the advising programs share the goal of assisting students in making responsible, informed decisions as they develop educational plans compatible with their potential, their interests, and their career and life ambitions. Advisors provide much more than information about course selection and academic programs; they encourage students to ask questions about the nature and direction of their learning, and they work with students to find meaningful answers to those questions. Advising involves a process in which students learn to think critically about the variety of options available to them and develop decision-making skills that will enable them to choose wisely. As adults, students themselves, however, must assume primary responsibility for choosing their academic program and making progress toward their degree.

Academic Advising Services (AAS)

L&S Academic Advising Services (<https://advising.ls.wisc.edu/>) provides advising to undergraduate students who intend to complete a specific L&S degree, before they have declared a major.

We assist and support students in exploring their educational goals, learning about academic requirements, navigating the university structure, and progressing toward degree completion.

Cross-College Advising Services (CCAS)

Advisors at the Cross-College Advising Service (CCAS) provide personalized advising to help you develop a plan for choosing your major and exploring careers. We are here to help you make decisions about what to major in and also answer your general questions about academics and life on campus.

We'll meet you at SOAR, and after that help you plan your future courses, talk about your academic interests and options, and refer you to other helpful campus resources. We're also here to encourage you when things are going well, as well as support you when times are difficult.

Center for Academic Excellence (CAE)

The Center for Academic Excellence (<https://cae.ls.wisc.edu/>) provides an enriching, inclusive community and academic support for L&S students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. CAE offers a variety of engagement opportunities, including advising, tutoring programs, health and wellness events, social events, graduate school preparation, and connections with learning communities.

Honors

The L&S Honors Program (<https://honors.ls.wisc.edu/>) attracts some of UW-Madison's most talented undergraduates who challenge and learn from each other while working closely with faculty members. By bringing students and professors closer together in small classes and individual research settings, the Honors Program fosters a feeling of community even as students push themselves to explore the very frontiers of knowledge. In addition to traditional coursework, most Honors students pursue research projects of their own, and many find this experience so exciting that they go on to earn advanced degrees in the nation's best graduate and professional schools.

Major Advising

Students who are eligible to declare their major should do so as soon as possible. All L&S undergraduate students are expected to declare a major by the time they have earned 86 degree credits. All declared students will be advised by the advisor connected with their particular major/program. For more information about advising in the major, refer to the advising and careers tab for each major/special degree program under the L&S Degrees/Majors/Certificates (p.) section of the Guide.

Other Academic Resources

L&S Undergraduate Academic Deans' Services

L&S Undergraduate Academic Deans' Services (<https://deans.ls.wisc.edu/>) provide up-to-date information on college policies, procedures, and deadlines; campus resources; and degree requirements. Academic deans also offer limited academic advising and make decisions regarding exceptions to college policy. They work closely with advising staff in L&S Academic Advising Services, major advisors, and other student service personnel on the UW-Madison campus. In an institution as diverse as UW-Madison, students have a wide range of values, interests, and skills. Moreover, as they progress through an academic program, their questions and concerns often change. Therefore, students are encouraged to seek the help of several different types of academic advisors during their years on campus. The university provides a system of staff and faculty advisors to address these ongoing and changing concerns.

ADVISING IN THE MAJOR

Juniors, seniors, and any other students who are preparing for, or have declared, a major or are contemplating a major in the College of Letters & Science, are encouraged to meet with an advisor in that major department. Each department has a faculty or staff member who serves as a major advisor. This person knows about prerequisites to courses, program planning for students majoring in the department, major requirements, and in some cases, general career information related to the field. A major advisor can help students make satisfactory progress toward completing requirements in the major and can suggest courses that address students' interests and help them achieve their goals.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to seek advice from these major advisors as soon as possible. **Please note that the assignment of a major advisor and declaring a major in a particular department(s) are not automatic. Students must reach out to the major advisor to declare their desired L&S major.** Students are also advised to meet with the major's advisors early in their academic career since some majors require students to fulfill prerequisite classes and earn a minimum GPA in the designated coursework before they are eligible to declare the specific major. It is very important that students contact the major department(s) as early as possible so they are aware of any prerequisites.

Transfer students often come to the campus knowing their intended major. These students may go directly to the major advisors for any help they need in pursuing/declaring the major.

Students classified in any of the special degree programs (Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics, Journalism, Landscape Architecture, Music: Education, Music: Performance, Social Work) may refer to the specific special degree under Degree/Majors/Certificate (p.) tab within this Guide for major advisor information, then consult with the appropriate advisor.

Students pursuing Honors in the Major are encouraged to work closely with the honors coordinator in their major department regarding course and research opportunities within the department or field of interest. Special major advisors are available to help any students, primarily sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who have decided on their major. These advisors are located in department offices throughout the campus. Office hours vary among departments. Consult individual majors and departments for a list of offices and locations, or see the department descriptions in this Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#degreesmajorscertificatestext>).

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (IIP)

The International Internship Program (IIP) (<https://internships.international.wisc.edu/>) at UW–Madison is a resource for undergraduate students from all disciplines seeking to gain hands-on international experience. IIP’s mission is to identify, cultivate, and promote high-quality internships that advance the professional training of UW–Madison undergraduate students; foster global competency; and reinforce academic learning through practical application.

IIP cultivates internship opportunities around the world specifically for Badgers. IIP also identifies and promotes existing international internship and research opportunities offered by other campus offices or international organizations. Both types of opportunities can be found via the IIP database and other search resources are also listed on the website. IIP offers advising for any undergraduates who are exploring internships abroad whether they are just getting started, applying to an IIP-cultivated position, or finding their own. IIP can help with the many questions that come up related to international internships including visas, agreements, academic credit, and scholarships.

The Worldwide Internship Program (WIP) (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=343>), a collaboration between International Academic Programs (IAP) and the International Internship Program (IIP) (<https://internships.international.wisc.edu/>), allows UW–Madison undergraduates to earn academic credit for an internship located outside the United States. This program is open to students from any major. Internships are located in many countries and types of organizations (companies, non-profit organizations, government agencies, research centers, etc.).

An international internship is often located outside the U.S., but IIP also promotes internship opportunities to apply international skills and interests domestically. There are many variables in international internships (compensation, duration, location, fees, credit, and more) that IIP can help navigate.

For more information on interning abroad visit International Internship Program (<https://internships.international.wisc.edu/>).

PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDY

General information can be found at Pre-Law (<https://prelaw.wisc.edu/>) and Pre-Health (<https://prehealth.wisc.edu/>).

SCHOLARSHIPS

The College of Letters & Science welcomes incoming and continuing students to apply for scholarship opportunities created by the support of our donor friends. The undergraduate scholarships program provides support to students who intend to receive a degree from the College of Letters & Science. With over 63 majors and special degree programs which include journalism, landscape architecture, music, social work, and applied mathematics, engineering, and physics (p.), the College of Letters & Science strongly supports the role of a broad and deeply educated citizenry. L&S graduates use this strong foundation to flourish in their chosen careers. For more information, see overview of scholarships (<http://scholarships.ls.wisc.edu/>).

STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (SAA)/ COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE RESOURCES

Advising & Academic Programs and Services

General academic questions: Academic Help Line, 608-262-5858

Academic Information Management (AIM)

326 Bradley Memorial Building

Provides several services such as accurate curriculum audit and degree progress information to students, advisors, and other stakeholders, as well as policy analysis & data to L&S administration, committees, departments & academic enrichment programs

Center for Academic Excellence (<http://cae.ls.wisc.edu/>)

B47 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5068

Advising, academic support, advocacy, and community connections for first-generation, low-income, and multicultural underrepresented students within the College of Letters & Science

College of Letters & Science Academic Advising Services (AAS) (<http://advising.ls.wisc.edu/>)

101 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, 608-265-5858

Provides comprehensive advising services for students investigating and preparing for majors in the College of Letters & Science

L&S Undergraduate Academic Deans' Services (<https://deans.ls.wisc.edu/>)

101 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, 608-262-0617

Provides up-to-date information on college policies, procedures, and deadlines; campus resources; and degree requirements

L&S Honors Program (<http://honors.ls.wisc.edu/>)

Students admitted to or interested in the Honors Program

L&S SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>)

Career advising and development for students and alumni in L&S

Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) (<https://urs.ls.wisc.edu/>)

Helps first- and second-year undergraduates get hands-on experience in research

STUDY ABROAD

About 25% of undergraduates make study abroad an integral part of their UW–Madison experience.

International Academic Programs (IAP) (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/overview/>) at UW–Madison offers over 200 study abroad options in about 60 countries on six continents. In addition to taking the opportunity to learn new languages, understand new cultures, and see the world, UW–Madison students study abroad to complement their on-campus academic goals, strengthen their professional potential, and enrich their personal lives.

Students of all academic levels and majors study abroad. While many programs include language training – from the basics to full language immersion – most IAP programs have no language requirement and include courses taught in English.

All courses taken abroad through IAP count as “in-residence” credit, just like taking courses on campus at UW–Madison, so students advance toward their degrees while abroad. And study abroad isn’t limited to classroom experience. Many students also complete internships and do research, fieldwork, and service learning.

In addition to resources on health, safety, academic planning, and other aspects, UW–Madison students receive the information and guidance they need to plan a study abroad experience that fits their budgets. Many study abroad programs cost about the same or less than studying on campus, and student financial aid can be applied in most cases.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) helps students build a bridge from the academic skills learned in the classroom to the internships that inspire them and the jobs they dream of starting after graduation.

In addition to providing basic career support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers students ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

SuccessWorks Career Communities (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-are-career-communities/>) encourage students to explore jobs and fields where alumni have built fulfilling careers, then dive deep into building skills and experiences once they have discovered the right path – or paths – for them. Each Career Community connects students to expert one-on-one advising, plus a network of supportive alumni mentors and highly engaged employers seeking to hire L&S students for jobs and internships. Through Career Communities, students take advantage of experience-based programs that help them build skills and try out different occupations with real employers.

SuccessWorks recognizes students don't need to have it all figured out right away. They're here to help students take their first steps, then craft their unique paths toward a lifetime of success. It's never too early to get inspired and get started!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Undergraduate Research Scholars program (<https://urs.ls.wisc.edu/>) (URS) is dedicated to enhancing the academic experience of UW–Madison students by providing first- and second-year undergraduates with opportunities to earn credit for participating in the research and creative work with UW–Madison faculty and staff. The program has been designed to include partnerships between students and mentors, seminars on research-relevant issues, and practice in research/artistic presentations. The many benefits of the program are found in the fluid interaction between these activities.