Undergraduate Admission

Office of Admissions and Recruitment

Students seeking to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison will apply for admission through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/). Undergraduate admission is competitive and selective; professional admissions counselors review applications using a holistic process. We focus on academic excellence, reviewing high school and college coursework (when applicable), the courses students have chosen to take, the rigor and breadth of the curriculum, and how the student has performed in their coursework. We also consider written essays, letters of recommendation, extracurricular involvement, and test scores when applicable.

Our review process is designed to help us identify students who are not only academically stellar but also have qualities such as leadership, concern for humanity, and achievement in the arts, athletics, and other areas. We also seek diversity in personal background and experience for potential contribution to the University of Wisconsin–Madison community.

We invite and encourage all students considering the University of Wisconsin–Madison to join us on campus for a tour (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/apps.admissions.wisc.edu/visitbucky/). There are many options to explore and discover what UW–Madison has in store.

Apply (https://admissions.wisc.edu/how-do-i-apply-to-uw-madison/)

To submit an application for admission review the application dates and deadlines as well as the required application materials listed on our website.

Dates and Deadlines (https://admissions.wisc.edu/deadlines/)
Freshman Applicants (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-freshman/)
Transfer Applicants (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-transfer/)
Reentry Applicants (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-reentry-student/)

Freshmen

Competitive freshman applicants have taken advantage of the rigor offered at their high schools, performed well in challenging courses, and have strong ACT or SAT scores. Beyond academic excellence we are looking for students who demonstrate leadership, community engagement, and passion.

Students are considered freshman applicants if they have not yet completed high school (secondary-level education); have not earned a GED/HSED (but will by the time they enroll at UW–Madison); or have not enrolled in a college or university in a degree-granting program since graduating high school or earning a GED/HSED. For more information about admission requirements and expectations of freshman applicants please see our website (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-freshman/).

Transfer Students

Successful transfer applicants will have a consistently high or upward grade trend; a strong cumulative grade point average; and rigorous coursework in English composition, college-level math, science, social science, humanities, literature, and foreign language. Admission to the university does not guarantee acceptance to an intended major, which is a separate process from undergraduate admission.

Students are considered transfer applicants if they have enrolled in an accredited college or university in a degree-granting program after graduating from high school or earning a GED/HSED. Students must have 24 transferable credits earned at a college or university after high school graduation to be eligible for admission as a transfer applicant. For more information about admission requirements and expectations of transfer applicants please see our website (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-transfer/).

Prospective transfer students can begin satisfying UW–Madison general education and degree requirements before transferring. Transfer credit is generally given for college-level courses taken at a degree-granting institution accredited by a CHEA-recognized organization (http://chea.org/). Courses must be similar in nature, level, and content to UW–Madison undergraduate courses and apply to a UW–Madison academic program. Students may wish to consult the UW–Madison Transfer Credit Policy (https://registrar.wisc.edu/transfer-your-credit-to-uw-madison/) for more details.

Reentering Students

Students previously registered at UW–Madison in an undergraduate degree program who wish to resume undergraduate study after an absence of a semester or more are considered reentry students. Reentry students must file an application for readmission but are not subject to the application fee.

To guarantee an early enrollment appointment time, reentry students should submit the complete application by February 1 for the fall term or by October 1 for the spring term. In addition to submitting an application (https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-reentry-student/), reentry applicants must submit official transcripts for any work completed elsewhere since last enrolled at UW–Madison, a list of courses in progress (if applicable), and an academic action from the dean's office if they are in "dropped" or "must obtain permission to continue" status.

Nondegree University Special and Guest Students

Undergraduate students visiting from other universities or recent UW–Madison graduates may desire to enroll at UW–Madison as nondegree University Special and Guest students. Contact the Division of Continuing Studies, Adult Career and Special Student Services (http://www.continuingstudies.wisc.edu/advising/).

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