

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE

ADMISSION

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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 optional test scores.

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 visit (<https://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.

Deadlines (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/deadlines/>)

First-Year 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/>)

Second Degree Applicants (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-second-degree-student/>)

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Competitive first-year applicants have taken advantage of the rigor offered at their high schools and have performed well in challenging courses. Beyond academic excellence, we are looking for students who demonstrate leadership, community engagement, and passion.

Students are considered first-year 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 first-year 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.

Transfer Articulation Agreements

A transfer articulation agreement defines accepted transfer courses/credits between two institutions, promoting the successful transfer of completed coursework into UW–Madison required coursework.

UW–Madison currently participates in two transfer articulation agreements with the Wisconsin Technical College System.

1. Universal Undergraduate Credit Transfer Agreement (<https://uwmadison.box.com/v/UCTA-articulation/>);
2. University of Wisconsin System Collaborative Nursing Program/BSN@Home Agreement (<https://uwmadison.box.com/v/BSNHome-articulation/>).

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 March 1 for the summer or fall term or by November 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.

SECOND DEGREE STUDENTS

Students who previously completed a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin–Madison or another institution and are interested in pursuing a second bachelor's degree are considered a second degree student.

Not all programs are able to accept second degree students. Please be sure to review the school and college-specific requirements (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-second-degree-student/>) to determine if the program you are interested in accepts second degree applicants.

All second degree applicants will receive an initial eligibility review to determine if they are considered a second degree-seeking student based on official college transcripts or academic record (for UW–Madison students).

For more information about admission requirements and expectations of second degree applicants, please see our website (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/apply-as-a-second-degree-student/>).

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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