

University of Wisconsin System

This premier system of public universities and colleges—one of the largest in the country—is committed to educating students of all ages and backgrounds and stimulating economic development in the state. It is an academic, cultural, and economic resource that has an annual economic impact of more than \$10 billion.



Above: The University of Wisconsin System—with the eighth-largest enrollment of any U.S. public university system—provides a welcoming, academically rigorous environment where all students can succeed.

The University of Wisconsin System (UW System) is home to the “Wisconsin Idea”—education for people wherever they live and work. The UW System works in partnership with state government and private business to produce and attract college graduates, create the jobs to

employ those graduates, and strengthen the local communities that support and sustain both.

The UW System consists of 13 four-year universities, 13 freshman-sophomore colleges, and statewide UW–Extension programs. Enrolling more than 170,000 students, the university also serves one million Wisconsin residents annually through statewide outreach programs. Over 29,000 professionals earn a UW degree each year, thanks to the dedication of 32,000 faculty and staff members.

A Comprehensive System

In 1971 state leaders merged Wisconsin’s two public university systems to form the UW System.

Today the UW System offers a rich array of educational pathways. UW–Madison and UW–Milwaukee, the state’s largest campuses, offer doctoral and professional programs, in addition to undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Eleven other comprehensive, four-year campuses offer both bachelor’s and master’s programs.

Complementing the four-year universities, UW Colleges offer a freshman-sophomore liberal arts foundation in an affordable, accessible format. Students are able to transfer to any of the four-year campuses to complete a bachelor’s degree.

UW–Extension works in partnership with Wisconsin’s 72 counties, bringing lifelong learning and applied research to every corner of the state. Through local Cooperative Extension offices and public broadcasting networks, as well as campus-based continuing education courses and Small Business Development Centers, individuals, families, and businesses have unmatched access to university resources.

More Graduates, More Degree Programs

The UW System is working to increase enrollments, improve graduation rates, and produce more college-educated workers, while maintaining its reputation for affordability and quality. The UW System is committed to keeping its doors open to all

qualified students, regardless of income or background.

In addition to a wide variety of distance education classes and non-degree programs, UW students have access to more than 250 undergraduate degree programs, approximately 225 master’s programs, and 125 doctoral programs. To meet the needs of working adults, students with nontraditional schedules, and growing businesses, the university has developed online, accelerated, and collaborative degree programs tailored to specific industries and emerging workforce needs. A number of UW campuses offer custom-designed programs, certificates, and courses.

A Vision for Wisconsin’s Future

New state and private investments are helping Wisconsin compete in today’s knowledge economy and improving the quality of life for all state residents.

While helping more residents to earn college degrees, the UW System is

also working to expand scientific research that stimulates the creation and growth of businesses. In addition to supporting Wisconsin's staple industries such as agriculture and manufacturing, the state's public university system is graduating more students skilled in computer science, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and other high-growth fields.

UW-Madison is known worldwide for numerous scientific breakthroughs, and UW-Milwaukee is expanding its research capacity to develop a highly skilled and diverse workforce in the state's largest urban area. Similar initiatives to bolster regional economies and build ties with local businesses and communities are under way at other UW System campuses.

These research efforts translate into new jobs, new business start-ups, and other economic opportunities. New businesses are aided by statewide networks, including the Small Business Development Centers and the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network, as well as university patent



and trademark services. Academic research and development, including the UW System and other state entities, brings in nearly \$1 billion annually to the state and creates about 34,000 jobs, according to a report by the Wisconsin Technology Council.

Kevin P. Reilly, president of the University of Wisconsin System, says, "We must grow and nurture this wonderful asset we know as the University of Wisconsin System so that the state, its people, and the quality of life in Wisconsin are enhanced for the 21st century. I am confident that we can guarantee student access, and Wisconsin success, for generations to come."



Above left: University of Wisconsin (UW) students and faculty and staff members conduct world-renowned research designed to advance the public good and encourage entrepreneurial growth and innovation. Above right: UW students connect classroom learning to real-world problems by addressing environmental challenges and preserving the state's natural resources. Left: The UW System has 26 campuses that are located around Wisconsin, as well as UW-Extension offices in all 72 counties.