

Universities of Wisconsin Legislated Accountability Requirements Summary

This report was created in accordance with Chapter 36.65 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and the 2015 Wisconsin Act 55. State Statute requires the Board of Regents of the UW System and the Chancellor of the UW-Madison to report to the Governor and Legislature regarding specific metrics. Summarized items are generally available through the [Accountability Dashboard](#) with the supplemental items augmenting those not available through the dashboard. The University of Wisconsin-Madison produces a separate report, per State Statute. This report addresses the Universities of Wisconsin generally, and where possible we have provided figures not including UW-Madison.

Performance

- Universities of Wisconsin graduate students at a rate **(66.9%)** higher than a comparable national group of institutions **(63.4%)**. Not including UW-Madison, UW universities graduate students at a rate **(58.5%)** lower than the comparable national rate. For more details, see the [Progress & Completion](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.
- UW universities awarded a total of **35,606** degrees in 2023-24. Not including UW-Madison, **22,962** degrees were conferred in 2023-24. Further information is available via the Accountability Dashboard in the [Progress & Completion](#) topic.
- During the 2023-24 academic year, UW universities conferred **10,504** total degrees in STEM fields and **3,580** in Health areas at all levels. Not including UW-Madison, these figures are **5,184** and **2,479**, respectively. Data for individual UW institutions are available in the [Economic Development](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.
- Bachelor's degree recipients at UW universities in 2023-24 enrolled an average of **8.5** fall and spring semesters between entry as new freshmen and graduation. Not including UW-Madison bachelor's degree recipients enrolled an average of **8.7** fall and spring semesters. The average time to graduation was less than five academic years, and was lower than the average of 10.2 semesters for graduates in 1993-94 when the goal to reduce credits to degree was established. The Accountability Dashboard includes additional detail in the [Student Affordability](#) topic.
- UW graduates in 2023-24 attempted an average of **126** UW credits by the time they graduated, down from 146 in 1993-94. Not including UW-Madison, UW graduates in 2023-24 attempted an average of **130** UW credits by the time they graduated, a decrease from 150 in 1993-94. The [Student Affordability](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard contains further details.
- UW universities retain new freshmen entering full-time at a rate **(82.6%)** higher than the national average **(82.1%)**. Not including UW-Madison, UW universities retained new freshmen entering full-time at a rate **(76.6%)** lower than the national average. The [Progress & Completion](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard contains further details.
- UW universities collect information on undergraduate students' career activities immediately after graduation. In addition, some UW universities survey students several years after graduation to understand career outcomes over a longer term. View the [Economic Development](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard for more details.
- Among 2017-18 graduates who were Wisconsin residents when enrolled, **91%** were living in Wisconsin three years after graduation, while **13%** of Minnesota reciprocity students and **18%** of other nonresidents remained. Not including UW-Madison, these figures are **92%**, **11%**, and **21%**, respectively. More details about alumni are included under the [Economic Development](#) topic in the Accountability Dashboard.

Financial

- UW financial reports are prepared annually according to standard accounting principles. The reports are available on the UW Financial Administration [website](#).

Access and Affordability

- The median family income for Wisconsin resident undergraduate students at UW universities was **\$86,176** in 2023-24. Not including UW-Madison, the median family income for resident undergraduate students was **\$81,542**. Median family income differs depending on whether a student is considered dependent or independent for financial aid purposes. The majority of undergraduates are dependents. Incomes also vary by residency status. Non-resident and reciprocity students have higher family incomes than resident students among dependent undergraduates. Out-of-state independent undergraduates and graduate students have lower incomes. Additional details are available [here](#).
- The enrollment of lower income students is measured by the percentage of UW undergraduates who receive a Pell Grant. Undergraduate Pell grant recipients enrolled in 2023-24 include **26.4%** of Wisconsin resident students, **15.8%** of Minnesota reciprocity students, and **13.8%** of other nonresident students. Not including UW-Madison, these figures are **27.4%**, **16.8%**, and **19.7%**, respectively. Additional details are displayed in the [Access](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.
- Among fall 2024 undergraduates, **17.5%** of Wisconsin residents, **10.2%** of Minnesota reciprocity students, and **13.8%** of other nonresidents were underrepresented minority (URM) students. Not including UW-Madison, these figures are **17.9%**, **8.6%**, and **15.7%**, respectively. URM students includes students who identify as African American, American Indian, Hispanic/Latino(a), or Southeast Asian alone or in combination with other races/ethnicities. The [Access](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard includes further details.
- In 2023-24, UW universities enrolled **9,039** new transfer students, who make up one-third of new undergraduate degree-seeking students. Not including UW-Madison, UW universities enrolled **7,525** new transfer students. More details and years of data are provided in the [Access](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.
- The Universities of Wisconsin provides transfer information through a subscription for two transfer technology solutions, the Transfer Evaluation System (TES) is an administrative tool and the public-facing Transferology (TFO). The subscription includes all UW

universities, the Wisconsin Technical College System districts (WTCS), the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and the College of Menomonee Nation. Transferology enables students to search for transfer equivalency matches from in-state and out-of-state institutions, as well as from military and standardized exam programs including Advanced Placement (AP) test, International Baccalaureate (IB) program, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and the DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST). More details may be found on the [Transfer Wisconsin](#) website.

- The Universities of Wisconsin served over **15,500** students in 2023-24 who were still in high school, through UW course offerings and through college credit programming at participating high schools. Not including UW-Madison, the Universities of Wisconsin served over **15,300** high school students. Further information can be seen [here](#).
- In 2023-24, the published cost of attendance for resident new freshmen was **\$23,490** (not including UW-Madison, **\$21,986**), lower than at a comparable group of institutions (**\$26,896**). The average net cost of attendance for Wisconsin resident new freshmen in the Universities of Wisconsin was **\$14,583** (not including UW-Madison, **\$14,654**), lower than at a comparable group of institutions (**\$15,268**). More about the published and net cost is shown in the [Student Affordability](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.
- Institutional grant aid to students with financial need at UW universities in 2023-24 was **74.5%** of all institutional grants, and not including UW-Madison was **64.0%** of all institutional grants. Institutional grants from UW universities totaled **\$167.2 million** during the 2023-24 year, or **\$40.9 million** not including UW-Madison. The [Student Affordability](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard includes additional years of data for UW universities.

Undergraduate Education

- The majority of first-year students (**82%**) and seniors (**82%**) in 2023 indicated satisfaction with the availability of general education courses. Not including UW-Madison, first-year students and seniors indicate the same level of satisfaction. See the [Undergraduate Experience](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard for more information.

- Over **300** undergraduate majors are offered across the UW universities, whether including UW-Madison or excluding UW-Madison. The Universities of Wisconsin Higher Education Location Program (UW HELP) maintains a breadth of information regarding UW universities. UW HELP's [Find a Program](#) is a useful tool for prospective students, parents, high school guidance counselors, and others.
- The most popular majors sought by students were in Business (**20.3%**), followed by Engineering (**8.0%**), and Biology (**7.4%**). Not including UW-Madison, the most popular majors sought by students were in Business (**22.3%**), followed by Education (**10.1%**), and Health (**8.7%**). Go [here](#) for a list of undergraduate enrollments by major.
- **82%** of freshmen and **86%** of seniors in 2023 gave their entire experience at a UW university a positive rating. Not including UW-Madison these figures are **81%** and **84%**, respectively. See the [Undergraduate Experience](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard to learn more.
- The Universities of Wisconsin is committed to providing all students an equal opportunity to succeed in higher education. Closing the gap in second-year retention rates and six-year graduation rates between underrepresented minority (URM) students and non-URM students is one important effort the UW is making to achieve this goal. Gaps remain and closure seems to have stagnated. The [Progress & Completion](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard includes more detail.
- Seniors in 2023 reported participation in an internship or field experience at higher (**58%**) than national (**46%**) rates. Not including UW-Madison, seniors reported the same rate (**58%**). To explore more, see the [Undergraduate Experience](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard for additional years of data and more information.
- Universities of Wisconsin students performed above the national averages for nursing licensure, the verbal and writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and all sections of the MCAT while scores on the quantitative section of the GRE were below national averages. Not including UW-Madison, examinees scores were below the national averages for the nursing licensure, GRE, and MCAT examinations. To see more about how students

performed on this and other post-baccalaureate exams, click [here](#).

Graduate and Professional Education

- Of the **8,941** graduate and professional degrees conferred, **27% (2,445)** were in key areas such as Business, Nursing, Engineering, Physical Therapy, and Audiology. The UW less UW-Madison awarded **4,556** graduate and professional degrees with **30% (1,375)** in key areas. Follow this [link](#) for further details.
- Graduate students commonly participate in internships and cooperative work experiences as a component of their UW graduate program. More information is available [here](#).
- Currently, financial incentives such as student loan-forgiveness programs, tax credits, or home ownership assistance to students who remain in the state after graduation are not available to UW graduates. Further information is available [here](#).

Faculty

- Faculty are engaged in a variety of activities in addition to classroom instruction including instructional design, course preparation and evaluation, advising, community service, research and scholarship, and administrative and governance responsibilities. Combined, these activities promote student achievement, economic development, and lead to prestigious awards and recognition. Go [here](#) for additional context about the work of faculty.
- Average weekly group contact hours among faculty were **6.0** hours at UW-Madison, **7.9** hours at UW-Milwaukee, and **12.5** at the UW Comprehensive institutions. The Accountability Dashboard includes more details regarding faculty instructional workload in the [Faculty & Staff](#) topic.
- Annual faculty turnover across the Universities of Wisconsin totaled **368** positions during FY24 and averaged **6.8%** (not including UW-Madison, **272** positions, averaging **8.4%**). Annual retirements averaged **4.0%** and annual resignations averaged **2.7%** (not including UW-Madison, annual retirements averaged **4.8%** and annual resignations averaged **3.4%**). Contracts were not renewed for **7** individual faculty (**5**, not including UW-Madison). Of the **144** resignations in FY24, **65** were tenured faculty and **79** were tenure track (probationary) faculty (not

including UW-Madison, **111** resignations; **49** were tenured faculty and **62** were tenure track. UW faculty salaries were **7%** lower (**16%** lower not including UW-Madison) than faculty salaries at comparable peer universities. More details about recruiting, retaining, and compensating scholars is included in the [Faculty & Staff](#) topic of the Accountability Dashboard.

Economic Development

- Revenue brought into the state through federal, state, and private sources totaled **\$2,548.0 million** in fiscal year 2024 (**\$646.6 million** not including UW-Madison). For revenue by source, go [here](#).
- Academic research and development at UW universities is a significant source of economic activity for Wisconsin. The number of new projects, projects in progress, and projects completed in fiscal year 2024 totaled **9,149** (**3,032** not including UW-Madison). Follow this [link](#) for additional years of information.
- Through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, WiSys Technology Foundation, and the UWM Research Foundation, in fiscal year 2024, UW universities generated 154 U.S. patents and executed 78 new licenses for technologies. In addition, universities generated 458 disclosures of inventions or other intellectual property. Excluding UW-Madison (WARF), these numbers were 26, 8, and 95, respectively. Further explanation is provided [here](#).
- Research discoveries at Universities of Wisconsin are increasingly being tapped for their commercial potential. UW technology foundations facilitated 13 startups in FY24, with 5 coming from the WiSys Technology Foundation and the UW-Milwaukee Research Foundation. The \$2 million [Ideadvance Seed Fund](#) provides additional support to entrepreneurs at UW institutions. Additional context and details are available at this [link](#).
- The UW supports Wisconsin businesses through the products and services it purchases in connection with sponsored research. The number of vendors affiliated with the Universities of Wisconsin totals **4,047** (1,241 not including UW-Madison) excluding vendor purchases made through electronic banking cards and generates **\$337.9 million** (\$26.6 million not including UW-Madison) in revenue to those businesses. Similarly, **1,152** (500 not including UW-Madison) Wisconsin businesses are supported by the

Universities of Wisconsin totaling **\$69.9 million** in revenue (\$8.3 million not including UW-Madison). Purchases made through electronic banking comprised another **\$4.1 million** in spending. Go [here](#) for information about vendors and purchases.

- The UW Administration's Office of Business & Entrepreneurship works with business across the state through four distinct program units. Follow this [link](#) for more about job growth from support to existing industries and new businesses.
- The [2018 UW Economic Impact Study](#) shows that the economic activity of UW universities, students, visitors, affiliated organizations, and start-up companies create and/or support nearly **167,000** jobs annually. Jobs generated by UW universities throughout Wisconsin include direct faculty and staff employment, jobs generated by institutional operational expenditures, jobs created to support Universities of Wisconsin employees professionally and personally, and jobs attributable to student and visitor spending. Additional detail informed by results of economic impact studies is provided [here](#).
- The Universities of Wisconsin is a powerful economic engine, with a **\$24 billion** impact on Wisconsin's economy each year. This impact represents 7.7% of the total economic activity in the state and provides a 23-fold return on Wisconsin's investment in the university. More detail is available, [here](#).

Collaboration

- The Universities of Wisconsin engages in a wide variety of partnerships, both formal and informal, with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and other partners. These partnerships combine UW and non-UW resources to support programs or initiatives that benefit Wisconsin communities, the Midwest region, and beyond. Additional aspects of partners and collaborative relationships in the Universities of Wisconsin are provided at this [link](#).

Universities of Wisconsin Legislated Accountability Requirements Supplemental Measures

Performance

Graduation rates, total number of graduates, degrees awarded in stem and health fields, time to graduation, credits to degree, retention rates, placement of graduates, and the percentage of residents and nonresidents who reside in this state 10 years after graduation are reported using the Universities of Wisconsin Accountability Dashboard. The dashboard is located [here](#).

Financial

Financial Reports from Each UW University

Universities of Wisconsin financial reports are prepared annually according to standard accounting principles and posted [online](#).

Access and Affordability

Low-income students, underrepresented minority students, undergraduate new transfer students, published and net cost for resident students, and UW institutional aid for students with need are reported using the Universities of Wisconsin Accountability Dashboard. The dashboard is located [here](#).

Family Income

Family income information is available for students who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and were offered financial aid. In fall 2023, 60% of undergraduates enrolled in UW universities (64% of undergraduates less UW-Madison) fit this description. Family income is determined differently for dependent vs. independent students. The majority of undergraduates are dependents. The median family income for Wisconsin resident undergraduate students was \$88,176 in 2023-24. Not including UW-Madison, the median family income for resident undergraduate students was \$81,542. At the total Universities of Wisconsin level and not including UW-Madison non-

resident and reciprocity students have higher family incomes among dependent undergraduates. Out-of-state and reciprocity independent undergraduates and graduate students have lower incomes for the total Universities of Wisconsin and not including UW-Madison.

**UW Median Family Income of
Financial Aid Recipients by Residency Status and Dependency**

2023-24	Resident	Reciprocity	Non-Resident	All
Undergraduate				
Dependent	\$102,729	\$144,758	\$131,719	\$110,062
Independent	\$22,620	\$15,184	\$21,346	\$22,210
Total	\$86,176	\$138,557	\$114,403	\$93,998
Graduate				
Dependent	\$30,118	\$54,198	\$19,272	\$22,907
Independent	\$27,450	\$19,210	\$20,942	\$25,000
Total	\$27,532	\$19,317	\$20,720	\$24,920

Improvements Made in Transfer of Credit

The Universities of Wisconsin provides transfer information through a subscription for two transfer technology solutions: the Transfer Evaluation System (TES), an administrative tool, and the public-facing Transferology (TFO). The subscription includes all UW universities, the Wisconsin Technical College System districts (WTCS), the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and the College of Menomonee Nation. Transferology enables students to search for transfer equivalency matches from in-state and out-of-state institutions, as well as from military and standardized exam programs including Advanced Placement (AP) test, International Baccalaureate (IB) program, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and the DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST).

The Universal Credit Transfer Agreement (UCTA) between the Universities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Technical College System includes courses that are transferable to all UW universities and WTCS districts as a general education or general degree requirement course. The UCTA went into effect July 1, 2014. Specific information about how each course in the UCTA will transfer to a receiving institution and satisfy general requirements is seen through Transferology.

The UCTA, Transferology, and more transfer resources are available on the Transfer Wisconsin website. Transfer Wisconsin may be viewed [here](#).

High School Students

The Universities of Wisconsin served over 15,500 students in 2023-24 who were still in high school, through UW course offerings and through college credit programming at participating high schools. Not including UW-Madison, the Universities of Wisconsin served over 15,300 high school students. More information can be viewed [here](#).

Undergraduate Education

Access to required courses, improvements in student experience, participation in internships or cooperative work experiences, and closing the equity gap are reported using the UW Accountability Dashboard. The dashboard is located [here](#).

Majors Offered

UW universities offer over 300 undergraduate majors. The UW's Higher Education Location Program (UW HELP) maintains a breadth of information regarding UW universities. UW HELP's [Find a Program](#) is a tool for prospective students, parents, high school guidance counselors, and others, which provides information about the majors offered at UW universities.

Access to Popular Majors

Enrollments of junior and senior undergraduates indicate that the most popular majors sought by students were in Business, followed by Engineering, and Biology. Not including UW-Madison, the most popular majors sought by students were Business, followed by Education, and Health.

**UW Undergraduate Enrollments
by Major Category, Fall 2024**

Major Category	Junior & Senior	
	#	%
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	14,413	20.3%
Engineering	5,693	8.0%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	5,226	7.4%
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	4,966	7.0%
Education	4,947	7.0%
Health Professions and Related Programs	4,644	6.5%
Psychology	4,075	5.7%
Social Sciences	4,012	5.7%
Visual and Performing Arts	3,111	4.4%

Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	3,029	4.3%
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	2,441	3.4%
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, Fitness, and Kinesiology	1,885	2.7%
Natural Resources and Conservation	1,619	2.3%
Physical Sciences	1,203	1.7%
Mathematics and Statistics	1,119	1.6%
English Language and Literature/Letters	1,104	1.6%
Agricultural/Animal/Plant/Veterinary Science and Related Fields	1,093	1.5%
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	999	1.4%
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	875	1.2%
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services	833	1.2%
History	790	1.1%
Architecture and Related Services	494	0.7%
Engineering/Engineering-Related Technologies/Technicians	480	0.7%
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities	431	0.6%
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	429	0.6%
Legal Professions and Studies	411	0.6%
Philosophy and Religious Studies	268	0.4%
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	247	0.3%
Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	115	0.2%

Categories are those used in the [USDE Classification of Instructional Programs](#).

Post-Graduation Success

Examinees from UW universities performed above the national averages for nursing licensure, the verbal and writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and all sections of the MCAT while scores on the quantitative section of the GRE were below national averages. Not including UW-Madison, examinees scores were below the national averages for the nursing licensure, GRE, and MCAT examinations.

UW Post-Baccalaureate Examinations

Post-Baccalaureate Examination		UW	National
Nursing Licensure Pass Rate	Nursing	88.8%	88.6%
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores	Verbal (130-170)	152.7	151.2
	Quantitative (130-170)	155.9	157.6
	Writing (0-6)	3.8	3.5
Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) Scores [#]	BBLS (118-132)	125.4	125.1
	CPBS (118-132)	125.4	124.9
	PSBB (118-132)	126.5	126.0
	CARS (118-132)	125.1	124.6
	Total Score (472-528)	502.4	500.6

[#]Based upon data provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges ("AAMC"). The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the AAMC. Sections of the MCAT are described [here](#).

Graduate and Professional Education

Graduate and Professional Degrees Awarded and in Key Areas

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Universities of Wisconsin awarded 6,962 degrees at the Master's level, 1,016 degrees at the Doctorate-Research/Scholarship (Ph.D.) level, and 963 degrees at the Doctorate-Professional Practice level. Of these 8,941 degrees, 27% (2,445) were in key areas such as Business, Nursing, Engineering, Physical Therapy, and Audiology. The UW less UW-Madison awarded 4,556 graduate and professional degrees with 30% (1,375) in key areas such as Business, Nursing, Engineering, Physical Therapy, and Audiology.

UW Graduate and Professional Degrees Conferred

Degree Level	Area	2023-24
Master's	Business	1,454
	Engineering	513
	Nursing	55
	Other	4,940
	Total	6,962
Doctorate-Research/Scholarship	Business	12
	Engineering	138
	Nursing	15
	Other	851
	Total	1,016
Doctorate-Professional Practice	Audiology	15
	Nursing	136
	Physical Therapy	107
	Other	705
	Total	963

Graduate Participation in Internships or Cooperative Work Experiences

Graduate students commonly participate in internships and cooperative work experiences as a component of their UW graduate program. These may be in the form of direct or indirect observation of professionals in the workplace, or through working in a cooperative group to problem solve and present group projects.

Incentives Provided for Remaining in the State after Graduation

Currently, financial incentives such as student loan-forgiveness programs, tax credits, or home ownership assistance to students who remain in the state after graduation are not available to UW graduates. However, there are non-financial reasons for graduates

to remain in Wisconsin such as graduate and advanced degree opportunities, and the overall quality of life.

UW universities are engaged in developing a stronger workforce, creating stronger businesses, and building stronger communities for our graduates to live, work, and play. Tens of thousands of UW graduates enter the workforce each year, ready to put their talent and entrepreneurial spirit to work as the business and community leaders of tomorrow.

Faculty

Faculty teaching loads and success or failure in recruiting and retaining scholars and teachers are reported using the UW Accountability Dashboard. The dashboard is located [here](#).

UW universities recruit nationally and internationally for quality faculty and staff. The competitive academic job market, along with a challenging economic environment, adds additional pressure to recruitment and retention efforts. The high cost of turnover is reflected in costs not solely related to recruitment expenses. Turnover also involves lost productivity and additional administrative costs. In addition, the loss of grant funding and the negative impacts on reputation and morale can be significant.

Economic Development

Revenue Brought into the State

Revenue brought into the state through federal, state, and private sources totaled \$2,548 million in fiscal year 2024 (\$647 not including UW-Madison). This extramural funding contributes to the development of new knowledge, improves the learning experience of students, and creates jobs. Extramural funding comes from outside the institution and includes funding for research as well as instruction and other activities. It may come from federal, state, and local governments, business, private foundations, or individuals.

UW Extramural Funding by Source

	FY22	FY23	FY24
	\$M	\$M	\$M
Federal	\$1,662	\$1,664	\$1,525
State	\$26	\$30	\$28
Private/Other	\$802	\$887	\$995
Total	\$2,489	\$2,582	\$2,548

Extramural Projects in Progress or Completed and Government Contracts

Academic research and development at the Universities of Wisconsin is a significant source of economic activity for Wisconsin. The number of new projects, projects in progress, and projects completed in fiscal year 2024 totaled 9,149 (3,032 not including UW-Madison). The increase from FY22 was due to increased grants from several federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, Department of Treasury, and Department of Transportation.

UW Extramural Projects

	FY22		FY23		FY24	
	#	\$M	#	\$M	#	\$M
New	2,802	\$696	2,913	\$979	2,910	\$870
On-Going	4,230	\$3,517	4,458	\$4,013	4,542	\$4,265
Ended	1,861	\$1,074	1,710	\$709	1,697	\$863
Total	8,893	\$5,287	9,081	\$5,701	9,149	\$5,998

Includes extramural funding in the form of gifts, grants, and contracts.

Patents and Licenses for UW Inventions

UW universities commercialize research discoveries in part through affiliated technology foundations. The [Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation](#) (WARF) serves UW-Madison. The [UWM Research Foundation](#) serves UW-Milwaukee. The [WiSys Technology Foundation](#) serves the 11 UW comprehensive universities.

- Through WARF, WiSys and the UWM Research Foundation, in fiscal year 2024, UW universities generated 154 U.S. patents and executed 78 new licenses for technologies. In addition, universities generated 458 disclosures of inventions or other intellectual property. (Excluding WARF, these numbers were 26, 8, and 95 respectively.)

New Businesses Created or Spun Off

WARF, WiSys, and the UWM Research Foundation support the creation of new businesses to commercialize faculty and staff discoveries.

- Since its inception in 2005-06, WiSys has facilitated 22 startup companies based upon UW technologies.
- The UWM Research Foundation has facilitated 40 startups since fiscal year 2010 (FY10) based on UWM technology.
- In FY24, WARF facilitated 8 startups, UWMRF facilitated 4 startups, and WiSys facilitated 1 startup.

The Universities of Wisconsin Administration's Office of Business & Entrepreneurship dedicates consultation time to pre-venture entrepreneurs. Specific training is conducted online, in person, and via phone to serve business clients throughout the state. This structure allows for efficient and accessible delivery of information. Direct work with pre-venture clients primarily occurs with Wisconsin's Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) and the Center for Technology Commercialization (CTC).

SBDC offices serve the entire state through 11 four-year campuses and one regional office. Additionally, the [Business AnswerLine](#) provides live consultants during business hours and 24/7 online service.

Secondary Businesses Affiliated with the Universities of Wisconsin Supporting Sponsored Research

The Universities of Wisconsin supports Wisconsin businesses through the products and services it purchases in connection with sponsored research. The number of vendors affiliated with the UW totals 4,047 (1,241 not including UW-Madison), excluding vendor purchases made through electronic banking cards, and generates \$337.9 million (\$26.6 million not including UW-Madison) in revenue to those businesses. Similarly, 1,152 Wisconsin businesses (500 not including UW-Madison) are supported by the UW totaling \$69.9 million in revenue (\$8.3 million not including UW-Madison). Purchases made through electronic banking account for another \$4.1 million in spending. Increases in vendor and purchase totals reflect an increase in federal grant programs.

UW Vendors and Purchases

	Total		Wisconsin	
	Vendors	\$M	Vendors	\$M
2020	2,489	\$199	690	\$34
2021	2,689	\$214	763	\$42
2022	3,732	\$270	1,204	\$50
2023	3,913	\$317	1,108	\$51
2024	4,047	\$338	1,152	\$70

Does not include \$4.1 million in FY24 purchasing card transactions.

Support Provided to Existing Industries Throughout the State

Joint industry-university research partnerships are one way UW universities support Wisconsin businesses.

The Universities of Wisconsin Administration's [Office of Business & Entrepreneurship](#) helps entrepreneurs, businesses, and economic development professionals across the state achieve their goals by offering technical assistance and leveraging data. The division follows a collaborative model, working with local organizations, other institutions, and partnering across all program units to best serve clients.

The program units within the division are:

- The [Wisconsin Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) Network](#), which provides support for small business startup, growth, and management through local consulting and education in a nationally accredited network.
- The [Center for Technology Commercialization](#) provides funding and business assistance for technology entrepreneurs and researchers to bring innovative technologies to market.
- The [Food Finance Institute](#) is a collaborative network of food entrepreneurs, finance expertise, and investment resources focused on catalyzing profitability, scalability, and funding in Wisconsin's food sector.
- [YourEconomy](#) reports economic trends by industry and establishment for each geographic region in Wisconsin.

Job Growth from Support to Existing Industries and New Businesses

Wisconsin businesses supported through the Universities of Wisconsin Administration's Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship programs have seen great success since 2021: 4,343 jobs were created and retained, 921 new businesses were started, and

Wisconsin businesses obtained and invested \$578 million in funding with the Institute's assistance.

Jobs Created in Campus Areas and Statewide

The [2018 UW Economic Impact Study](#) shows that the economic activity of UW universities, organizations, and activities create and/or support nearly 167,000 jobs annually. Jobs generated by the economic activity of the UW come from the direct effect of spending (92,055 jobs), indirect effect of the direct spending (28,696 jobs), and induced effect of indirect economic activity (46,115 jobs). These jobs represent about 1 in 20 of the total number of employed workers in Wisconsin.

Scientific research at UW universities is a key ingredient to job growth. Academic research and development represent a \$1.1 billion dollar industry in Wisconsin, one that has created over 38,000 jobs across the state, according to the [Wisconsin Technology Council](#). Technology parks and innovation centers foster new businesses and job growth.

Economic Indicators for Campus and Other Areas

The Universities of Wisconsin is a powerful economic engine with a \$24 billion impact on Wisconsin's economy each year and providing a 23-fold return on Wisconsin's investment in the university, according to the [2018 UW Economic Impact Study](#) conducted by NorthStar Analytics. The UW's \$24 billion economic impact in 2016-17 represents 7.7% of the total economic activity in the state.

The overwhelming beneficiary of UW's economic impact is the state's private sector, receiving 75% – or \$18 billion – of the economic benefit annually. Spending associated with campus operations, UW Hospitals and Clinics, startups, students and visitors, and affiliated organizations benefit a wide range of private sector businesses.

Additionally, Office of Corporate Relations & Economic Engagement advances the mission of the UW through business and economic-related stakeholder management while the Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship serves aspiring, new and established small businesses to improve performance and increase capabilities for success. These efforts reflect the UW's important role in this area and address the needs of established industries, fledgling start-ups, and growing communities all over Wisconsin.

UW universities contribute to the Wisconsin economy by educating students to be valuable members of Wisconsin's workforce, by supporting business development through linking academic programs and research to entrepreneurship, and by engaging and building stronger communities. One way the economic impact can be measured is by the overall spending generated in the Wisconsin economy.

The economic impact is measured as direct spending by faculty, staff, students, visitors, and university operations. It is also measured as the indirect or induced spending which results from direct spending cycling through the regional and state economy. An important part of the impact, however, is the measurable effect of the institutions' alumni who live and work in the service area. Finally, it is important to note the return on investment for the taxpayers who support the institution and the students who attend.

Collaboration

Partnerships and Collaborative Relationships with Universities of Wisconsin Administration and UW Universities

The UW engages in a wide variety of partnerships, both formal and informal, with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and other partners. Here are a few examples.

- In 2024, UW universities partnered with organizations on 25,787 student learning placements (19,397 student learning placements not including UW-Madison). Organizations benefit from the recent education and training of students, while students get on-the-job experience that counts toward their degree requirements or professional certification.
- In addition, 17,408 students helped organizations and community members through volunteer work or through service learning or community-based research as part of a UW course in 2024.
- Through the Small Business Development Centers, UW universities assisted 5,278 businesses during fiscal year 2024 (4,662 not including UW-Madison).

UW Partnerships

Type of Partnership	Description	2024
Co-op or internship	Students with co-op or internship learning placements	8,816
Clinical, legal, or social work placements	Students in clinical, legal, or social work learning placements	10,701
Student teachers	Student teachers or practicum participants	6,270
Service learning, community-based research, or volunteering	Students engaging in service learning, community-based research or volunteering.	17,408
Business development	Businesses or organizations receiving development assistance through Small Business Development Centers in FY2024	5,278

Regional development partnerships are one way UW universities work with other sectors to align educational opportunities with regional economic needs.

- The Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resource Alliance (NEW ERA), begun in 2000, includes UW-Green Bay, UW-Oshkosh, four area technical colleges, and the College of the Menominee Nation. NEW ERA collaborates with manufacturing and information technology partners to provide educational resources that prepare graduates for the regional workforce.
- The Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), launched in 2018, includes UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Whitewater, three area technical colleges, and 10 private higher education institutions in seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin. HERA seeks to reduce skill and talent gaps in the regional workforce and to identify new educational programs to meet the needs of the community.

Academic degree program collaborations are formal arrangements among institutions to provide access to a degree program at multiple locations and to provide courses offered by different institutions. Staff members at partner institutions collaborate on the development, implementation, administration, and/or delivery of the program. Academic degree program collaborations allow faculty to share knowledge between institutions, conserve state resources by reducing duplication of degree programs, and provide students with wider access to programs.

UW universities have increasingly collaborated on offering academic degree programs. Since 1995-96, 16 collaborative degree programs have been implemented and all UW universities participate in at least one collaborative degree program.

UW Collaborative Degree Programs

Major Name	Major Level*	University**	Year Begun
Nursing-Collaborative	B	MSN, MIL, EAU, GBY, OSH, STP	1995-96
Business Administration - Collaborative	M	EAU, LAC, OSH, PKS	2005-06
Audiology-Collaborative	Y	MSN, STP	2005-06
Sustainable Management-Collaborative	B	PKS, RVF, SUP	2009-10
Health & Wellness Management-Collaborative	B	LAC, RVF, STP, SUP	2011-12
Japanese Studies-Collaborative	B	OSH, WTW	2011-12
Health Information Mngt & Tech-Collaborative	B	GBY, PKS, STP	2012-13
Sustainable Management-Collaborative	M	GBY, OSH, PKS, STO, SUP	2012-13
Data Science-Collaborative	M	EAU, GBY, LAC, OSH, STP, SUP	2015-16
Health & Wellness Management-Collaborative	M	GBY, PKS, RVF, STP, SUP	2016-17
Applied Computing-Collaborative	B	MIL, OSH, PLT, RVF, STP	2017-18
Healthcare Administration -Collaborative	M	LAC, PKS, PLT, STO, STP	2018-19
Applied Biotechnology-Collaborative	M	MSN, GBY, OSH, PKS, PLT, STP, WTW	2019-20
Info Technology Management-Collaborative	M	LAC, OSH, PKS, STP, SUP	2019-20
Associate Arts & Science-Collaborative	A	EAU, PKS, RVF, STP, WTW	2020-21
Cybersecurity-Collaborative	M	GBY, LAC, OSH, PKS, PLT, RVF, STP, SUP	2020-21

*Major level: A-Associate, B-Bachelor's, M-Master's, Y-Clinical/Professional Practice Doctorate.

** EAU=Eau Claire, GBY=Green Bay, LAC=La Crosse, MSN=Madison, MIL=Milwaukee, OSH=Oshkosh, PKS=Parkside, PLT=Platteville, RVF=River Falls, STO=Stout, STP=Stevens Point, SUP=Superior, WTW=Whitewater.

UW universities also collaborate on common information systems which promote efficiencies and synergies. These include a digital learning environment (Canvas), and common Student Information System (SIS) software, and Workday the system all UW universities use to standardize and streamline finance, human resources, and research administration processes, including accounting, managing time off, completing payroll, and closing out research awards. All UW universities provide course transfer information to Transferology, and admissions, student, financial aid, and curricular data to the Central Data Request (CDR) database. These central sources of information serve as a resource for a wide range of constituencies across the state. In addition, UW collaborations include a single library automation system that provides support for systemwide access and delivery of library materials.