

Direct Admit Wisconsin

There is a UW for You!

Fall 2026





Direct Admit Wisconsin (DAW)

If you are a high school junior at a participating Wisconsin school, you may be admitted automatically to certain UW universities based on your GPA and coursework.

No traditional application required—just a review of your academic record at the end of 11th grade.

Offered by 11 of the 13 Universities of Wisconsin for the class of 2028.

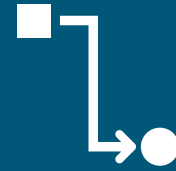




What is Direct Admissions?



*Adapted from Feb. 9, 2023, UW Board of Regents
Presentation, Dr. Jennifer Delaney and Dr. Taylor Odle*



Direct Admission is an alternative to the typical college admission process



Students are *proactively* offered a place in college—without the need to submit an application



Admission is based on *unweighted* high school GPA and high school coursework completion

Why Direct Admissions?



- Reduces barriers and friction in the admissions process.
- Ensures all students know they have a place at the Universities of Wisconsin.
- Students can focus their energy on exploring universities and finding the right fit.

What is Direct Admit Wisconsin?



- One of three first-year admissions pathways to the Universities of Wisconsin, the state's public universities.
- Offers early and proactive admission:
 - 10 participating UW universities (of 13 total) – Class of 2027
 - 11 participating UW universities (of 13 total) – Class of 2028
 - Available to high school juniors at participating Wisconsin high schools.
- Offers of admission are made to eligible, opted-in rising seniors, based on academic records (high school courses and GPA), without the need for students to submit traditional admission applications.

DAW: Participating Universities*



UW-Green Bay
UW-Milwaukee
UW-Oshkosh
UW-Parkside
UW-Platteville

UW-River Falls
UW-Stevens Point
UW-Stout
UW-Superior
UW-Whitewater

NOTE:

- *UWs with branch campuses participate with both main and branch campuses.*
- *Not participating for class of 2027: UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison.*

**UW-Eau Claire joins for class of 2028.*

DAW: Participating High Schools



Wisconsin public high schools and districts and private high schools can participate in Direct Admit Wisconsin.

See link below for Wisconsin high school districts currently participating.

Participating High Schools

DAW: Student Eligibility



Eligible students are:

- Enrolled in a participating Wisconsin high school.
- Approved/opted-in to participate by parent/guardian.
 - Opt-in happens **during junior year**, by May 1.
 - Each high school chooses their own process. See your high school counselor for information!

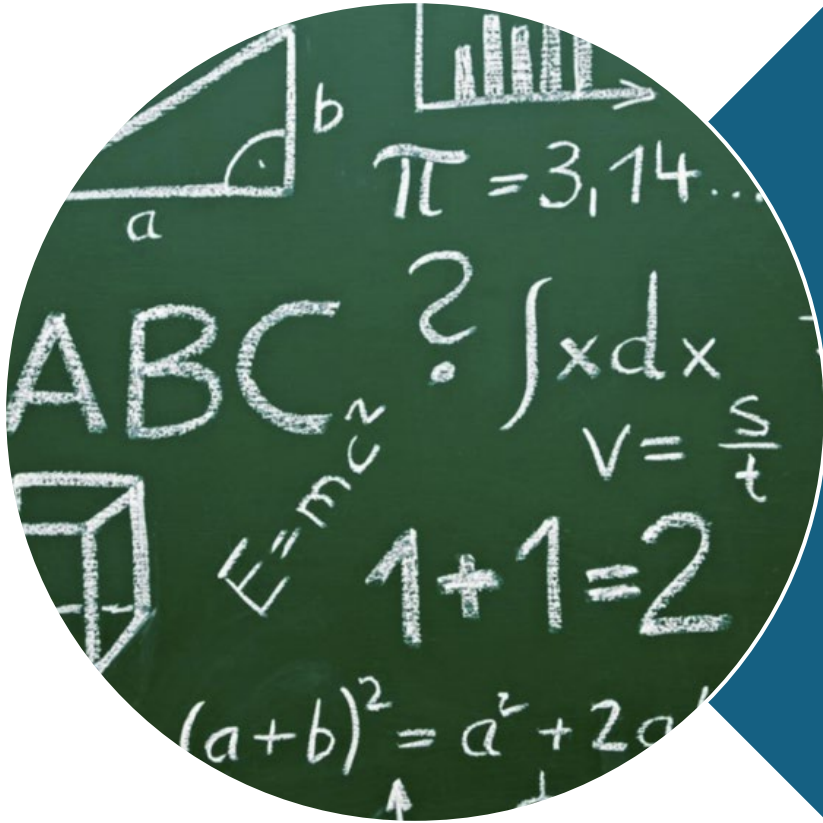
DAW: Academic Eligibility



By end of senior year,
students must complete:

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of social science
- 3 units of natural science
- 3 units of college-preparatory math
- 4 units of electives

DAW: Math Requirements



At least 3 units of college-preparatory math

- Progressive sequence
- From approved course list
- Examples: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II; Integrated Math I, II and III, or other equivalent courses
- Check with your counselor for details and your school's courses

DAW: Admissions Criteria



Students must be on track to complete the academic eligibility requirements by end of senior year.



Students must be on track to graduate.



Admission is based on above, plus cumulative, unweighted GPA (4.0 scale) calculated at end of junior year.

DAW: Admissions Criteria cont'd.



- GPA: There is no minimum GPA for the Direct Admit Wisconsin program. If students meet the academic coursework requirements and successfully graduate from a Wisconsin high school, they will be admitted to at least some UWs.
- Test Scores (e.g., ACT): Test scores are *not* a factor in direct admission. However, a student may need to submit test scores to their selected UW university for scholarships or course placement.

DAW: Admissions Basics



- If a student opts in, their high school automatically sends the required student data and academic records to the Universities of Wisconsin for review after junior year.
- Students do *not* need to submit an application or complete an essay for Direct Admit Wisconsin.
- No fees to participate.

DAW: Admissions Basics cont'd.



- Direct Admit Wisconsin offers admission to the university, not a specific program or major.
- Some UW programs or majors have a secondary admission process for which students need to apply to be admitted.

Direct Admit Wisconsin and Scholarships



- Merit-based scholarships are not automatically awarded as part of Direct Admit Wisconsin.
- Directly admitted students are eligible for these types of scholarship as well as other types of financial aid, which are all handled by each individual UW.



Direct Admit Wisconsin Timeline

Junior Year	Summer	Senior Year
• Prepare and Learn • Opt-in to Direct Admit Wisconsin (by May 1)	• Academic Records Sent by High Schools (most send in June-July) • Direct Admit Wisconsin Offer Letters (early August) * • UW Admission Pathway Portal Opens (August 1)	• Complete Direct Admit Form (ideally by November; final deadline May 1) • Explore Your Options • Optional: Submit Traditional Application** • Recommended: Complete the FAFSA starting Oct. 1 • Choose your UW and complete enrollment steps

**Offer letters may be sent in September/October if your high school transmits academic records in September.*

***If a Direct Admit Wisconsin offer is not received from your preferred UW, or if that UW does not participate in DAW.*



DAW Timeline: JUNIOR YEAR

➤ **Prepare and Learn**

- Learn about Direct Admit Wisconsin.
- Decide if you want to participate.
- Ensure you are meeting academic eligibility criteria.
- Explore UWs with the [Find Your UW](#) online tool and campus visits.

➤ **Opt-In to Direct Admit Wisconsin**

- **May 1:** Deadline for parents/guardians to complete the opt-in/opt-out confirmation.
- Consult your high school counselor on school process.



DAW Timeline: SUMMER (rising seniors)

➤ Academic Records Sent by High Schools June-July or September

- High schools provide academic records of opted-in students to the Universities of Wisconsin for review.



DAW Timeline: SUMMER (rising seniors cont'd.)

➤ **Watch for Direct Admit Wisconsin Offer Letters Early August or September/October ***

- Direct Admit Wisconsin offers from UWs are listed together in one letter to the student from the Universities of Wisconsin, sent by email and mail.

**Offer letters are sent in August if the high school transmits academic records in June-July, and in September/October if the high school transmits academic records in September.*

➤ **Universities of Wisconsin Admission Pathway Portal opens August 1**

- Where students can complete Direct Admit Form.



DAW Timeline: SENIOR YEAR

➤ **Complete the Direct Admit Form**

- This form tells the UWs to which you have been directly admitted that you are interested and want to learn more.
 - **By November:** Recommended form submission timeline.
 - The earlier you submit the form, the more time you have to get acquainted with UWs and take advantage of scholarship opportunities, housing assignments, and the best possible course schedules.
 - **May 1:** Form submission final deadline.



DAW Timeline: SENIOR YEAR cont'd.

➤ Explore Your Options

- Look for communication from the UWs to which you have been admitted on academics, campus visits, housing and more

➤ Optional: Submit Traditional Application

- If you did not receive a Direct Admit Wisconsin offer from your preferred UW, or if that UW does not participate in Direct Admit.



Direct Admit Timeline: SENIOR YEAR

- **Recommended: Complete the FAFSA starting Oct. 1**
 - Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the best way for UWs to offer you the best financial aid package.

- **Choose Your UW**
 - Complete enrollment steps with the UW of your choice by their deadline.

Direct Admit Wisconsin | Post Admission



Other UW Admissions Pathways



Direct Admit Wisconsin is one of three Universities of Wisconsin admission pathways for first year students.

If a student does not receive a direct admission offer to their school of choice, it is not a denial. Other pathways are available.

These pathways also can be used for UWs that do not participate in Direct Admit Wisconsin.

- Traditional Application
- The Wisconsin Guarantee

Traditional Application



- Holistic review, requires essay.
- If you did not receive a Direct Admit Wisconsin offer to your UW of choice, you can still apply with the Traditional Application.
- Use to apply to UWs that do not participate in Direct Admit Wisconsin (for Class of 2027: UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison).
- Universities of Wisconsin [Admission Pathway Portal](#) opens August 1 each year.

The Wisconsin Guarantee



- If you're in the top 10% of your class at the end of junior year—or a Wisconsin homeschooler with a top ACT score or National Merit finalist—you qualify for guaranteed admission to all UW universities except UW-Madison.
- In the top 5%? You will be admitted to UW-Madison (requires fall term application, by Nov. 1).
- Completing a Traditional Application and providing an official transcript is how the UWs will know if a student qualifies for the Wisconsin Guarantee.

Admissions Pathways Comparison

Direct Admit Wisconsin

- Program run by the Universities of Wisconsin
- No application required
- High schools opt to participate
- 10 of 13 UWs participating (class of 2027)
- Eligibility is based on academic coursework and GPA

The Wisconsin Guarantee

- Admissions policy (Act 95)
- Application required
- High schools are required by law to facilitate
- Applies to all UWs
- Eligibility is based on class ranking (top 5% for UW-Madison, top 10% for all other UWs)



Questions? Connect with our Go Wisconsin Team!

Go Wisconsin/Admission Help
available Monday–Friday,
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (CT).

- **Phone:** 1-800-442-6459 or 608-263-4567
- **Email:** contact@go.wisconsin.edu or dawi@go.wisconsin.edu
- See our online FAQ here.

 UNIVERSITIES OF
WISCONSIN

DIRECT ADMIT WISCONSIN

THERE'S A UW FOR YOU

The Universities of Wisconsin provide a place for all Wisconsin high school students to access a world-class public education. We have a place waiting for you. Start your path to your UW with Direct Admit Wisconsin.

NO ADMISSION APPLICATION
NO APPLICATION FEE
NO HASSLE

How to Participate

- ☐ Connect with your school counselor and agree to participate by May 1 during your junior year.
- ☐ Register for senior year classes and make sure you are on track to graduate and complete the Direct Admit Wisconsin admission requirements.
- ☐ Look for your Direct Admit letter between July and October of your senior year!
- ☐ Complete the Direct Admit Form by May 1, 2027, to explore and connect with the UWs offering you direct admission. The Direct Admit Form will be available August 1, 2026.
- ☐ Explore financial aid options and complete the FAFSA, if eligible.
- ☐ Make your final decision and say "Yes!" to a UW university.



WISCONSIN.EDU/DIRECT-ADMISSIONS