UW SYSTEM’S IMPACT ON WISCONSIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM, with 13 universities across 26 campuses and a statewide extension network, serves approximately 161,000 students and awards approximately 37,000 degrees annually. The UW System has a $24+ billion economic impact on Wisconsin.

SEE MORE DATA ON UW SYSTEM’S PERFORMANCE AT THE
UW System Accountability Dashboard
wisconsin.edu/accountability/

Less time to earn a degree

9.2 Semesters 2001-02
8.5 Semesters 2020-21

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Average student debt at UW universities in 2020-21 was lower than the average five years earlier in both current and inflationary dollars. Moreover, a smaller percentage of students is carrying debt, 64 percent in 2020-21 compared to 72 percent five years earlier.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT OF UW BACHELOR’S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

87% of resident graduates live in Wisconsin five years after graduation.

40% of degrees conferred in 2019-20 were in STEM fields and health programs, greater than the national average.

UW GRADUATES, especially those attending four-year campuses, are far less likely to default on student loans within three years compared to students nationwide.

STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATES
FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT INVESTMENT:
WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
Financial aid funding is critical to student success as it plays an integral role in student access, retention, graduation, and ultimately employment.

DATA POINTS
- In 2021-22, almost two-thirds (66 percent) of UW System undergraduates, or 102,000 students, received some form of financial aid. Undergraduate and graduate students received nearly $1.5 billion in financial aid in 2021-22 (the most recent year for which data are available), including $668 million in grants, $646 million in loans, and $10 million in work-study funding.
- Across the UW System during the 2021-22 academic year, 55,000 undergraduates and 8,700 graduate students received a student loan. The Pell Grant program provided $113 million to over 26,000 Wisconsin resident undergraduates (23 percent of resident undergraduates), with an average grant over $4,000.
- In 2021-22, Wisconsin resident undergraduates in the University of Wisconsin System faced an average unmet need of $5,337 after accounting for family contributions and financial aid.
- In 2021-22, the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program awarded over $12 million in grants to over 16,000 students.

ASK
The University of Wisconsin System supports Congressional efforts to “Double the Pell,” expand the program to include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, and ensure continued funding increases throughout the annual appropriations and budget process; continuing support for federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG); and increasing authorization levels and access for TRIO and GEAR UP.
RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS: INVESTING IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System is committed to research that helps promote economic, social, and cultural development on all our campuses. To remain globally competitive, the United States needs to increase investments in research and development.

DATA POINTS
- The University of Wisconsin System is home to two Research I universities, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.
- The University of Wisconsin System is a major source of research and innovation, with more than $1.1 billion of sponsored research activity annually across our 13 universities.
- See charts with federal awards data.

ASK
The University of Wisconsin System supports university efforts that provide more opportunities for student participation in research, as well as expanding capacity-building initiatives and undergraduate research. We look forward to working with Congress on establishing a Regional Innovation Hub – as designed by the CHIPS Act – in Wisconsin. Finally, sustaining – and, where appropriate, increasing – funding for basic and applied research is also of critical importance.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION: PROMOTING ACCESS AND DEGREE COMPLETION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to modernize the Higher Education Act to reflect a 21st-century model of higher education and to increase student access to an affordable, quality education.

ASK
As Congress continues efforts to reform and reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the University of Wisconsin System hopes to be a resource on matters of higher education policy including on areas of regulatory reform and innovation.

IMMIGRATION: FOSTERING TALENT AND DIVERSITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
The University of Wisconsin System values programs that increase college participation and completion by students from all walks of life. We support policies that attract the brightest international students, faculty, and researchers, making them feel welcome on our campuses and in our communities and encouraging them to remain and contribute post graduation.

ASK
The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which includes support for students brought to the United States as young children and talented international students who want to remain in the country after graduation.

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These four charts are from State Fiscal Year 2022 and exclude federal funding for the Direct Student Loan program.