UW Summer Bridge Programs
Expanding for a purpose

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All In Wisconsin
Expanded Access

• “It’s the right thing to do... it’s our duty not only to educate everybody but be able to solve problems.”

• UW System President

• Tommy G. Thompson
UW to the Rescue

• National response to impact of COVID-19 in K-12
• Commitment of President Thompson and Board of Regents
• HERCULEAN efforts on UW System campuses
• Opportunity for greater statewide impact
• Expanded engagement

COVID-19’s Impact on High School Seniors

While the pandemic has taken a toll on students across the board, recent polling by Third Way and New America reveal that high school (HS) seniors already seem much more disillusioned than their college-going peers. Below are three major findings that may impact HS seniors’ views of higher education in the years to come.

High School Seniors Think Twice About College

32% of HS seniors say the pandemic has made them less likely to enroll in college.
40% of HS seniors planning not to enroll say the pandemic played a significant role in that decision.

High School Seniors’ Views of Higher Ed are Souring

70% of HS seniors say “higher ed is not worth the cost to students anymore,” compared to 49% of college students overall.
75% of HS seniors think “instructors are looking out for their bottom lines first” before student health.

Online Learning has Already Taken a Toll on High School Seniors

Only 39% of HS seniors report being set up for success by their school’s online experience.
HS seniors appear more alarmed than their college peers that online learning will cause them to fall behind.
Just 33% report being able to ask questions of their instructors and 36% report getting proper instruction as big challenges.

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey August 6–13, 2020 of 1,407 college students nationwide, including oversamples of 213 caregivers, 255 Black students, and 316 Latinx students. The survey also included 211 high school seniors nationwide.
Case for Summer Bridge

- Imperative for underprepared, underrepresented, first-generation students
- Eases transition from high school to college
  - Boosts academic and social readiness
  - Fosters academic momentum
  - Addresses critical mental health imperatives
- Positive correlation between summer bridge and persistence
UW’s Bridge Profile

Chancellors stepped up

UW System committed to $1.3M in bridge loans

Expected to add approximately 1,400 additional students

A variety of focus areas and student participants

Expectations and outcomes
Critical Imperatives

- Continuous funding
- Enhanced focus on targeted populations
- Mission-driven access
- Substantial role in future for targeted, underrepresented, underserved, and underprepared populations at UW
- Access, retention, and success imperatives
Questions

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