Cultivating Excellence

UW-Madison’s Challenging Undergraduate Academic Experience

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REINVENTING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: A Blueprint for America’s Research Universities
1998
THE UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

While a significant part of your academic career is geared toward meeting the university’s general education requirements and those of your majors, learning opportunities beyond the classroom abound.
General Education Mission

To ensure that every graduate of UW-Madison acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education that establishes the foundations for:

- living a productive life, being a citizen of the world,
- appreciating aesthetic values, and
- engaging in life-long learning in a continually changing world.

For this reason, these core requirements provide for breadth across the humanities and arts, social studies, biological sciences and physical sciences; competence in communication, critical thinking and analytical skills appropriate for a university-educated person; and investigation of the issues raised by living in a culturally diverse society.”
Core Academic Enrichment

- Living in a residential learning community
- Participating in a hands-on research experience
- Doing an internship/fieldwork for academic credit
- Taking a service-learning course
- Taking an honors course
- Taking a seminar
- Doing an independent study with a professor
- Studying abroad through a UW-Madison program
Strategic Plan Goals

Advance Learning: Undergraduate Education

- Facilitate students in developing a foundation of knowledge, skills, creativity and love of learning to serve them throughout their lives
- Integrate learning throughout the undergraduate experience
- Create a learning environment that responds to students’ diverse needs and backgrounds
- Assist students in preparing for citizenship in a diverse and global world
- Help faculty and professional staff improve their ability to provide first-rate education
# Core Academic Enrichment Completed by Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>% of Graduates</th>
<th># of Degrees</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>6,107</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>6,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>6,289</td>
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*Target 100%*
Multicultural Learning Community

Teach your tongue to say, “I do not know.” —Hebrew Proverb

WISE
Women In Science and Engineering
UW-Madison Residential Program
Residential learning communities include 1,436 students, 21% of all undergraduates in University Residence Halls.

- Bradley Learning Community (BLC): 246 residents. This program is exclusively for first-year students.
- Women in Science and Engineering (WISE): 137 residents.
- Chadbourne Residential College (CRC): 816 residents.
- International Learning Community (ILC): 131 residents. The ILC features four language programs in 2005–06.
- Multicultural Learning Community (MLC): 56 residents.
- Alexander Meiklejohn Residential College (AMRC): 50 residents.

Taken from the Fall 2005 Opening Report for the University Residence Halls, author David Swiderski, Housing Assignment Manager
National Study of Living-Learning Programs

(Summary by Professor Aaron Brower)

*Living-Learning* students, as a whole, are more likely to:

- Have academic and cultural discussions with peers
- Have mentoring relationships with faculty, but not more likely to interact with faculty on course-related matters
- Find residence hall climate to be academically and socially positive

Plan on the following in the near future:

- Practicum or internship - Study Abroad
- Research with professor - Senior Capstone or Thesis
National Study of Living-Learning Programs

(Summary by Professor Aaron Brower)

*Living-Learning* students, as a whole, are more likely to:

- Have a higher cumulative GPA
- Plan on returning to same campus next year
- Enjoy a smooth transition to college
- Use critical thinking skills, apply knowledge across different contexts
- Have a stronger sense of civic engagement & empowerment
- Drink alcohol to less extremes
- Be more satisfied overall and with courses
National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates

Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowships

Wisconsin Idea Undergraduate Fellowships

Summer Sophomore Research Apprentices

Holstrom Environmental Scholarships
Atmospheric Science