

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Education Committee

Thursday, September 18, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Symphony Room, 2nd Floor
Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street, Madison, Wisconsin
& By Videoconference

- A. Calling of the Roll
- B. Declaration of Conflicts
- C. Proposed Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Approval of the July 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
 - 2. UW-La Crosse: Approval of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology
- D. ACT 15 Implementation: Instructional Employee Workload & General Education Credit Transfer
- E. Hessen-Wisconsin Partnership: Incentive Grants
- F. Fostering Success Overview

**NEW PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION (IMPLEMENTATION)
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
CRIMINOLOGY AT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE**

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution C.2., authorizing the implementation of the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Resolution C.2. That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

SUMMARY

The University of Wisconsin (UW)–La Crosse proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminology. The proposed program represents an elevation of the existing Criminal Justice minor. It will build upon the considerable success of the existing program curricula and is structured to provide a concerted focus on community engagement across multiple occupational sectors and, in doing so, will enhance students’ employment prospects. The B.S./B.A. in Criminology addresses regional employer demand for professionals who understand the context of crime and possess strong skills in data collection, analysis, and application. Criminology, as the parent discipline of criminal justice, provides a foundational focus on crime, criminal behaviors, and societal impacts. In addition, the major will provide necessary research training. This program will prepare students for careers both within the criminal justice system and in other sectors such as health, human services, human resources, education, and business. Projected growth in these careers is anticipated to be as fast as, or faster than, the average over the next decade. The 120-credit program will include 41 credits of general education coursework, 36 credits of core and directed elective coursework in the major, and an additional 43 credits of elective coursework. The proposed program will utilize existing department structures and resources. Standard UW-La Crosse undergraduate tuition and fees will apply.

Presenter

- Dr. Betsy Morgan, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

BACKGROUND

This proposal is presented in accord with UW System Administrative Policy 102: Policy on University of Wisconsin System Array Management: Program Planning, Delivery, Review, and Reporting (Revised August 2023), available at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/uw-policies/uw-system-administrative-policies/policy-on-university-of-wisconsin-system-array-management-program-planning-delivery-review-and-reporting-2/>).

Information on recent academic program changes is available on the program monitoring dashboard at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/opar-frontier/uws-academic-program-changes/>.

Related Policies

- Regent Policy Document 4-12: Academic Program Planning, Review, and Approval in the University of Wisconsin System
- UW System Administrative Policy 102: Policy on University of Wisconsin System Array Management: Program Planning, Delivery, Review, and Reporting

ATTACHMENTS

- A) Request for Authorization to Implement
- B) Cost and Revenue Projections Worksheet
- C) Cost and Revenue Projections Narrative
- D) Provost's Letter

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT A
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY
AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
PREPARED BY UW-LA CROSSE**

ABSTRACT

The University of Wisconsin (UW)–La Crosse proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminology. The proposed program represents an elevation of the existing Criminal Justice minor. It will build upon the considerable success of the existing program curricula and is structured to provide a concerted focus on community engagement across multiple occupational sectors and, in doing so, will enhance students' employment prospects. The B.S./B.A. in Criminology addresses regional employer demand for professionals who understand the context of crime and possess strong skills in data collection, analysis, and application. Criminology, as the parent discipline of criminal justice, provides a foundational focus on crime, criminal behaviors, and societal impacts. In addition, the major will provide necessary research training. This program will prepare students for careers both within the criminal justice system and in other sectors such as health, human services, human resources, education, and business. Projected growth in such careers is anticipated to be as fast as or faster than average over the next decade. The 120-credit program will include 41 credits of general education coursework, 36 credits of core and directed elective coursework in the major, and an additional 43 credits of elective coursework. The proposed program will utilize existing department structures and resources. Standard UW-La Crosse undergraduate tuition and fees will apply.

PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION**University Name**

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Title of Proposed Academic Program

Criminology

Degree Designation(s)

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts

Proposed Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code

45.0401, Criminology

Mode of Delivery

Single institution, In person

Department or Functional Equivalent

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

College, School, or Functional Equivalent

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities

Proposed Date of Authorization

September 2025

Proposed Date of Implementation

November 2025

PROGRAM INFORMATION**Overview of the Program**

The proposed B.S./B.A. in Criminology will use a community-centered approach to provide students with the skills and knowledge to scientifically study crime, criminal behavior, and their societal impacts. Students will gain in-depth education on criminal behavior and its ties to factors such as poverty, discrimination, trauma, mental illness, and substance use disorders. The program prepares students to assess and engage criminal justice institutions, to interpret current research on crime, and to effectively apply research findings as they engage with clients and organizations throughout a community.

Students in the program will acquire practical experience in applying their knowledge and skills to support a broad array of stakeholders. Both the required and elective courses in the major will incorporate high impact practices, including undergraduate course-embedded research, collaborative assignments and projects, community-based learning, and extensive writing. The proposed required curriculum culminates in a final high impact practice: the senior capstone experience. The capstone is designed to provide an applied experience, centering on a final community-engaged learning project or other work-integrated learning experiences. Furthermore, students will be encouraged to complete discipline-specific internships and will earn program elective credit for completion of such internships.

Students will gain hands-on experience with community partners not only through internships, but also through course-embedded research and community-engaged learning projects that are regularly carried out within the criminology curriculum. A recent course embedded research project, for example, sent students into six area cities and

towns to interview board/council members and explore variations in the community resources that are offered. Other course-embedded activities have connected students with organizations such as Grow La Crosse, the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC), New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, and Apriv Inc. Similarly, these learning experiences enable students to explore professional questions in real-world settings.

The B.S./B.A. in Criminology is comprised of 120 credits, including 41 credits of general education coursework and 36 credits of major coursework. Major requirements include 18 credits of coursework in research methods, theory, and a senior capstone, as well as 18 credits of elective courses in sociology and criminology. Major requirements include opportunities to earn credit through internships or undergraduate research. Students will complete an additional 43 credits to fulfill degree requirements. The proposed program will be implemented utilizing current staff and coursework from the sociology major and criminal justice minor. Only one new elective course has been developed, CRM 422: Criminology Seminar. CRM 422 is a high impact practice capstone course that is explicitly focused on criminology. Entry into the major will be through the completion of CRM 115: Criminology & Criminal Justice Through the Ages or SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology courses, which serve as the prerequisite course(s) for all subsequent major requirements. The proposed major also requires students to attain the necessary social science analysis and research skills through coursework in social science data analysis, foundational and advanced research methods, criminological theory, and the capstone experience. Furthermore, students will select electives in sociology, especially those related to health and illness.

Projected Enrollments and Graduates by Year Five

Table 1 represents enrollment and graduation projections for students entering the program over the next five years. Enrollment projections for Year 1 were based on the results of a student demand survey of current UW-La Crosse Criminal Justice minors. Specific results of the survey can be found on page 10 of this document. Currently there are 48 sophomores and 49 juniors who have declared the criminal justice minor. A conservative estimate of 50% of current sophomore and junior criminal justice minors is used to generate the number of sophomore- and junior-status continuing students who would declare criminology as a major in Year 1.

Table 1: Five-Year Enrollment and Completion Projections by Headcount

| Students/Year | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New Students | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Continuing Students | 48 | 67 | 65 | 59 | 68 |
| Total Enrollment | 53 | 75 | 75 | 74 | 83 |
| Graduating Students | 0 | 24 | 29 | 19 | 22 |

Based on retention rates across all majors at UW-La Crosse, a retention rate of 85% is assumed from Year 1 to Year 2. For students who enter the program as sophomores or juniors, it is anticipated that retention will be 100%. Moderate growth in the program is anticipated in subsequent years. By Year 5, it is expected 83 students will be enrolled in the program, and by the end of Year 5, 94 students will have graduated from the program.

Tuition Structure

For students enrolled in the criminology program, standard tuition and fee rates will apply. For the 2025-26 academic year, residential tuition and fees total \$5,266.79 per semester for a full-time student enrolled in 12 to 18 credits per semester. Of this amount, \$4,374.96 is attributable to tuition, \$804.87 is attributable to segregated fees, and \$86.96 is attributable to the textbook rental fee. Nonresident tuition and segregated fees total \$10,226.27 per semester for a full-time student enrolled in 12 to 18 credits per semester. Of this amount, \$9,334.44 is attributable to tuition, \$804.87 is attributable to segregated fees, and \$86.96 is attributable to the textbook rental fee.

Student Learning Outcomes and Program Objectives

The primary objective of the B.S./B.A. in Criminology will be to provide a superior educational experience that fosters in graduates a comprehension of the discipline's analytical perspectives, research methods, and a significant portion of criminology's body of knowledge. The proposed program will provide students with skills in data gathering, data analysis, societal trend and program evaluation, engagement across multiple community and occupational sectors, policy and program analysis, and awareness of community needs. The degree prepares students for both graduate school and for careers where they can apply their training in service to a wide variety of social institutions. Students who successfully complete the B.S./B.A. in Criminology will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to think critically.
 - a. Demonstrate a basic understanding of core criminology concepts including major theoretical perspectives and methodologies that shape and guide criminological analyses.
 - b. Apply the sociological imagination when conducting criminology research and in everyday life.
 - c. Recognize the impact of social location (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender identity/gender expression, sexuality, religion, disability status, etc.) on the way individuals see and understand the world around them.
 - d. Explore social phenomena from multiple levels of analysis.
 - e. Distinguish between anecdotal and empirical evidence.
2. Develop quantitative and qualitative research skills.
 - a. Distinguish between social facts and social myths using empirical evidence grounded in the scientific method.
 - b. Effectively use data.
 - c. Effectively interpret data.
 - d. Construct criminological research questions.

- e. Employ the code of research ethics established by the American Society of Criminology.
 - f. Demonstrate an ability to conceptualize and operationalize.
 - g. Select proper methodologies for answering research questions.
 - h. Identify the ways criminological theory is constructed, applied, and used to guide criminological research.
 - i. Produce an independent criminological research project.
 - j. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize a body of scholarship.
3. Develop oral and written communication skills.
- a. Be proficient in the use and evaluation of appropriate social science-related resources including the library and electronic sources.
 - b. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms as part of required coursework.
 - c. Write cogent sociological papers with proper grammar, spelling, and citation format.
4. Apply relevant skills and concepts to developing a professional life.
- a. Construct a resume and/or curriculum vitae.
 - b. Identify the process for applying to graduate school.
 - c. Identify the process for applying for jobs.
 - d. Connect competencies gained in the program to marketable skills for future careers.
 - e. Identify the process for presenting student research at professional meetings.
5. Apply research and analytical skills in service to private, public, and non-profit sectors.
- a. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research to address challenges in private, public, and/or non-profit organizations.
 - b. Apply analytical skills to evaluate crime data, policy outcomes, ./or organizational strategies to make evidence-based decisions across community sectors.
 - c. Use criminological theories and frameworks to develop practical solutions for crime prevention, intervention, and organizational effectiveness in community sectors.
 - d. Present research outcomes and data-driven recommendations to community stakeholders in private, public, and/or non-profit settings.

Program Requirements and Curriculum

There are no prerequisites for entry into the B.S./B.A. in Criminology program. Students will be allowed to choose this major upon matriculating to UW-La Crosse either as a first-year or transfer student. Table 2 illustrates the curriculum for the B.S./B.A. in Criminology. UW-La Crosse students completing a baccalaureate degree are required to complete a 41-credit General Education program. Some students may require fewer

general education credits, depending on the credits they have earned before matriculation. The B.S./B.A. in Criminology requires completion of 36 credits of core and elective coursework, and an additional 43 credits to fulfill degree requirements.

Table 2: B.S. or B.A. in Criminology Program Curriculum

| General education courses required for graduation | | 41 credits |
|---|---|--------------------|
| FYS 100 | First-Year Seminar | 3 credits |
| ENG 110 | Written Literacy | 3 credits |
| CST 110 | Spoken Literacy | 3 credits |
| Various | Quantitative Reasoning | 3 credits |
| Various | Ethnic Diversity | 3 credits |
| Various | Mind & Body | 3 credits |
| Various | Arts and Aesthetics | 4 credits |
| Various | Experiential Science | 4 credits |
| Various | Social & Behavioral Studies | 3 credits |
| Various | The Stories We Tell | 3 credits |
| Various | The Past that Defines Us | 3 credits |
| Various | The Planet that Sustains Us | 3 credits |
| Various | The Cultures of Our World | 3 credits |
| Required Core Courses | | 36 credits |
| CRM 115 OR | Criminology and Criminal Justice through the Ages | |
| SOC 110 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 credits |
| SOC 200 | Foundations of Social Analysis | 3 credits |
| SOC 250 | Methods of Social Research I | 3 credits |
| SOC 350 | Methods of Social Research II | 3 credits |
| CRM 322 | Criminology | 3 credits |
| CRM 422 OR | Criminology Seminar | |
| SOC 405 | Quantitative Social Research Seminar | 3 credits |
| OR | Qualitative Explorations | |
| SOC 416 | | |
| Various | Select elective courses in Criminology | 9 credits |
| Various | Select elective courses in Sociology | 6 credits |
| Various | Select elective courses in Criminology or Sociology | 3 credits |
| Additional Electives to meet college and university-level requirements | | 43 credits |
| Total Credits | | 120 credits |

^a Sample elective courses in Criminology include CRM 313 Law & Society, CRM 323 Corrections & Penology, CRM 451 Internship in Criminal Justice

^b Sample elective courses in Sociology include SOC 409 Readings & Research in Sociology, SOC 429 Sociology of Deviance, SOC 450 Internship in Sociology

Community-engaged learning projects will engage students with community stakeholders by allowing them to fulfill specific needs that the community partners have identified. A section of SOC 250, which will be a core criminology program course, recently collaborated with the La Crosse County Drug Treatment Court to complete an updated program assessment, while another section of SOC 250 worked with La Crosse County Justice Support Services and the District Attorney's Office to analyze treatment alternative and diversion program data. Most recently, a section of SOC 323, Corrections and Penology course, partnered with New Lisbon Correctional Institution to help children strengthen connections with their incarcerated fathers, a project covered in national¹, state², and regional³ reports.

Collaborative Nature of the Program

Internal Collaborations: Criminology is interdisciplinary in practice, and thus collaborations across the university will develop as the B.S./B.A. in Criminology is integrated into the department, college, and UW-La Crosse. The UW-La Crosse sociology major and the criminal justice minor have laid the initial foundations for collaborations with many other majors and minors, such as anthropology, art, geography, history, public administration, legal studies, leadership, and child and youth care. As a result, students majoring in sociology, psychology, and political science, as well as those pursuing business and health degrees, will see the value of double-majoring in criminology. Likewise, students enrolled in the B.S./B.A. in Criminology will be encouraged to declare double majors along with minors in a wide variety of other disciplines. The College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities will continue to work with the College of Business Administration (CBA) and College of Science and Health (CSH) to identify criminology course options and expertise that benefit majors within CBA and CSH.

External Collaborations: As indicated elsewhere, a key element of the proposed major is a focus on service to community organizations, institutions, and businesses, including those not directly affiliated with the regional criminal justice system. Criminology increasingly recognizes that justice-involved individuals face complex risk factors for reoffending (such as substance use, mental health challenges, and trauma), and these impact their reintegration into many community groups, organizations, and businesses.

Additionally, criminology identifies risk factors that can inform preventative measures, such as helping divert at-risk youth away from the justice system. Employers

¹ Corrections1, December 19, 2025, Wis. prison storytelling program keeps incarcerated dads connected to their kids. Retrieved from <https://www.corrections1.com/jail-management/wis-prison-storytelling-program-keeps-incarcerated-dads-connected-to-their-kids>

² WI Department of Corrections, December 12, 2024, Press release. Retrieved from <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/News/Article.aspx?itemID=92>

³ News 8 Now, February 20, 2025, Storytime behind bars: UW-La Crosse storybook program builds bonds between incarcerated fathers and children

seeking criminology graduates extend beyond the traditional sectors of the criminal justice system – law enforcement, the courts, and corrections – and include a wide range of opportunities in health services, counseling centers, educational institutions, private industry, and community-based prevention programs. These employers need professionals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and compassion to address criminogenic risks. The program's ongoing and future collaborations in the region will ensure students are well-prepared for diverse professional roles.

For many years, department faculty have cultivated strong relationships with regional stakeholders. Beyond collaborating with La Crosse area law enforcement, the judicial system, and correctional facilities (such as New Lisbon and Jackson Correctional Institutions), faculty have also well-established relations with organizations including the La Crosse School District, Mayo Health System, United Way, the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC), La Crosse County Health and Human Services, Vivent Health, and New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers. These partnerships, along with those developed by current and future faculty, will play a vital role in shaping coursework, community engagement projects, and student internships.

Current and future relationships will form a central focus for the new major's culminating high impact practice senior capstone experience. The capstone will coordinate an applied experience for students through professional seminars, community-engaged learning projects, and other work-integrated learning experiences set up in cooperation with local stakeholders. Through these, students will interact with regional practitioners in ways that provide real work experience and a better understanding of the systems they will work within or in their future careers.

Projected Time to Degree

The B.S./B.A. in Criminology is designed to be completed within four years, provided students complete 15 credits per semester on average.

Accreditation

The proposed program will be subject to the accreditation standards of UW-La Crosse's institutional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). No additional approvals will be required.

PROGRAM JUSTIFICATION

Rationale

The development of a UW-La Crosse B.S./B.A. in Criminology is in response to specific workforce needs and student demand as outlined below. The delivery of the program is sustainable given that it represents an elevation of a robust and established minor. The specific rationale for developing the proposed program includes the following:

1. There is a strong demand for a B.S./B.A. in Criminology from current and incoming UW-La Crosse students, from employers seeking to hire people in crime-related fields, and from UW-La Crosse's community partners who are eager for more community-engaged learning projects. As the number of community partners related to criminology grows, this program will more adequately meet the needs of these partners and students, including opportunities for internships, employment, and community-engaged learning.
2. A B.S./B.A. in Criminology would complement the existing Criminal Justice minor by expanding UW-La Crosse's community-engaged learning opportunities and transformative educational experiences while increasing the related career competencies such as critical thinking, applied problem-solving, oral and written communication, collaboration, leadership, and long-term career development within the field.
3. A degree in criminology will help prepare students to work in both the criminal justice system and the many peripheral agencies that have increased their reliance on evidence-based practices. These include, but are not limited to, social services, medical providers, school systems, and corporations. These entities have placed increased value in identifying the criminogenic risks and needs (such as unstable housing, disorganized community environments, and familial trauma) of those who have been or will be processed through the criminal justice system. A B.S./B.A. in Criminology will equip students with the means to identify such risks and needs and to develop proposals for overcoming barriers that limit individual, organizational, and community access to resources, which have been shown to reduce crime.
4. The program will contribute to achieving two pillars of UW-La Crosse's strategic plan: increasing community-engaged learning opportunities, which will be further incorporated into many existing core and elective courses, and advancing transformational educational experiences.

Institution and Universities of Wisconsin Program Array

UW-La Crosse and Department Array: The current UW-La Crosse program array includes related majors in sociology, psychology, and public administration; minors in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, legal studies, leadership, and child and youth care; and a Certificate in Human Rights and Criminal Justice. These programs and their research can both draw on and contribute to criminology, creating a strong foundation for the new major by contributing courses to the elective array.

Universities of Wisconsin Systemwide Array: Currently, nine UW Universities offer a B.S. or B.A. related to the proposed UW-La Crosse B.S./B.A. in Criminology. Twelve UW universities offer related minors and other sub-programs such as emphases and certificates. While all have a focus on criminal justice, only four provide a criminology focus within the sub-program.

Table 3: Related Programs

| Institution | CIP Code | Major Name | Degree |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| UW-Eau Claire | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | BS |
| UW-Green Bay | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | BA |
| UW-Oshkosh | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | BS |
| UW-Parkside | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | BA |
| UW-Platteville | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | BS |
| UW-Stout | 45.0401 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE & REHABILITATION | BS |
| UW-Milwaukee | 43.0104 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY | BS |
| UW-River Falls | 45.0401 | CRIMINOLOGY | BS |
| UW-Whitewater | 45.0401 | CRIMINOLOGY | BS |

Table 3 illustrates the UW systemwide array. Six of the listed UW universities offer degrees in the curricular area of criminal justice. Three universities offer programs in the curricular area of criminology. Criminal justice programs emphasize and include specific training in the policies and practices related to law enforcement and rehabilitation within the criminal justice system. Criminology programs provide students with conceptual thinking, research skills, and analytic capabilities. The UW-La Crosse B.S./B.A. in Criminology will complement this array through its unique contribution. The proposed program will offer a research-based, interdisciplinary approach. As demonstrated, UW-La Crosse is responding to community needs in the region through extensive collaboration, thus differentiating the focus of the program from other criminology programs.

Need as Suggested by Student Demand

A survey was conducted of current undergraduate students enrolled in major and minor programs related to the field of criminology, including sociology, criminal justice, political science, and psychology. Of the 97 respondents, approximately three-quarters (76.4%) indicated they would be likely or extremely likely to declare a criminology major if that option were available. Additionally, approximately 25% reported that they had considered transferring out of UW-La Crosse because there was no criminology major, 31% indicated they considered not attending UW-La Crosse because the institution lacks the major, and 23% reported that they had heard of students transferring out of UW-La Crosse to go to a school with a major in criminal justice and/or criminology. As one student explicitly stated, "A lot of people I know did not apply to UW-La Crosse because they did not offer criminology." Overall, the additional written comments expressed enthusiastic support for having a criminology option. Students perceived that the major would provide a tremendous and direct benefit to them, and that UW-La Crosse would matriculate and retain more students if the major were an option. Furthermore, survey findings suggest a strong interest in criminology from current and future students with a declared psychology major. Adding the B.S./B.A. in Criminology would provide a clearly identified, applied career path for psychology majors who could then double major in criminology, or change their major to criminology.

Student demand analyses also suggest there may be implications for minors in sociology, psychology, criminal justice, political science, public administration, and legal studies. Initially, some of UW-La Crosse's criminal justice minors may change to a criminology major with a minor focus in a related discipline. When survey respondents were asked what minor they would choose to go with the criminology major, students identified sociology (38.4%) and psychology (35.6%). Students who major in criminology may also consider minors in political science or public administration, as these fields are closely linked to the current criminal justice minor. UW-La Crosse expects that minors in sociology, psychology, political science, and public administration may experience increased enrollment as students adjust.

Finally, the B.S./B.A. in Criminology will be housed in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Interest in the field is expected to increase the overall number of enrollments within the department, as the major more clearly connects to its parent discipline of sociology. Offering a B.S./B.A. in Criminology will bring students to the parent discipline earlier in their academic career, and bring the sociology major and minor to their attention much sooner. A stronger background in sociology will provide students with additional career and graduate school opportunities upon graduation.

Need as Suggested by Market Demand

The demand for undergraduate criminology programs in the U.S. has remained strong, reflecting the growing interest in criminal justice, related careers, and their societal relevance. Much of the interest reflected in this trend relates to the broad career applicability of criminology, as such programs incorporate interdisciplinary courses that prepare students for diverse career opportunities. Table 4 illustrates U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) occupational growth projections for 2023 to 2033 in several occupational areas in which graduates of the B.S./B.A. in Criminology will be prepared. These include occupations directly and indirectly related to the criminal justice system. Above-average growth is expected for these occupational areas. Graduates will also be qualified to apply for positions as police officers and detectives. U.S. occupational growth for probation officers, correctional treatment specialists, police, and detectives is projected to be 4% from 2023 to 2033, resulting in approximately 31,900 new jobs.⁴ In Wisconsin, projections for 2022 to 2032 estimate 6,814 openings in the protective services category alone.⁵

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/probation-officers-and-correctional-treatment-specialists.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

⁵ State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Retrieved at <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/pub/occupation#Viz> (Sep 2024).

Table 4: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook 2023-2033

| Occupation | Jobs (N) | Occupational Change 2022-2032 | | Median Annual Wages |
|---|----------|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| | | Jobs (N) | (%) | |
| Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, Mental Health Counselors ⁶ | 449,800 | 84,500 | 19% | \$53,710 |
| Crime/Victim/Witness Advocate or Assistant ⁷ | 433,000 | 34,400 | 8% | \$41,410 |
| Arbitrators, Mediators, Conciliators ⁸ | 8,200 | 500 | 6% | \$71,540 |
| Private Detectives and Investigators ⁹ | 38,800 | 1,900 | 5% | \$49,540 |
| Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists ¹⁰ | 90,700 | 3,200 | 4% | \$61,800 |
| Police and Detectives ¹¹ | 796,800 | 28,700 | 4% | \$74,910 |
| Paralegals and Legal Assistants ¹² | 366,200 | 4,300 | 1% | \$60,970 |
| Correctional Officers and Bailiffs ¹³ | 387,500 | -25,100 | -6% | \$53,290 |

⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

⁷ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Social and Human Service Assistants, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-and-human-service-assistants.htm> (visited August 03, 2025)

⁸ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/arbitrators-mediators-and-conciliators.htm> (visited July 29, 2025)

⁹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Private Detectives and Investigators, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/private-detectives-and-investigators.htm> (visited August 03, 2025)

¹⁰ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/probation-officers-and-correctional-treatment-specialists.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

¹¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Police and Detectives, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/police-and-detectives.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

¹² Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Paralegals and Legal Assistants, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/paralegals-and-legal-assistants.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

¹³ While the number of projected openings for correctional officers and bailiffs is declining, nationwide, it is anticipated that there will be more than 30,000 openings for correctional officers and bailiffs annually, over the next decade. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Correctional Officers and Bailiffs, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/correctional-officers.htm> (visited August 04, 2025)

| University of Wisconsin - La Crosse | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cost and Revenue Projections For B.S. and B.A. in Criminology | | | | | | |
| | Items | Projections | | | | |
| | | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| | | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| I | Enrollment (New Student) Headcount | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| | Enrollment (Continuing Student) Headcount | 48 | 67 | 65 | 59 | 68 |
| | Enrollment (New Student) FTE | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| | Enrollment (Continuing Student) FTE | 48 | 67 | 65 | 59 | 68 |
| II | Total New Credit Hours | 45 | 72 | 90 | 135 | 135 |
| | Existing Credit Hours | 432 | 603 | 585 | 531 | 612 |
| III | FTE of New Faculty/Instructional Staff | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | FTE of Current Fac/IAS | 0 | 0.625 | 0.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| | FTE of New Admin Staff | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | FTE Current Admin Staff | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| IV | Revenues | | | | | |
| | Tuition | \$16,406 | \$246,092 | \$246,092 | \$242,810 | \$272,341 |
| | Additional Tuition | | | | | |
| | Fees (indicate type) | | | | | |
| | Program Revenue (Grants) | | | | | |
| | Program Revenue - Other | | | | | |
| | GPR (re)allocation | | | | | |
| | Total Revenue | \$16,406 | \$246,092 | \$246,092 | \$242,810 | \$272,341 |
| V | Expenses | | | | | |
| | Salaries plus Fringes | | | | | |
| | Faculty Salary | \$0 | \$44,739 | \$53,687 | \$125,269 | \$125,269 |
| | Instructional Academic Staff | | | | | |
| | Administrative and Student Support Staff | \$4,123 | \$4,205 | \$4,290 | \$4,375 | \$4,463 |
| | Other Staff | | | | | |
| | Fringe Faculty and Academic Staff | \$0 | \$18,253 | \$21,904 | \$51,110 | \$51,110 |
| | Fringe University Staff | \$2,185 | \$2,229 | \$2,273 | \$2,319 | \$2,365 |
| | Fringe Other Staff | | | | | |
| | Facilities and Capital Equipment | | | | | |
| | University buildings and space | | | | | |
| | Capital Equipment | | | | | |
| | Operations | | | | | |
| | Other Expenses | | | | | |
| | other | | | | | |
| | other (please list) | | | | | |
| | Total Expenses | \$6,308 | \$69,427 | \$82,154 | \$183,072 | \$183,206 |
| | Net Revenue | \$10,098 | \$176,665 | \$163,938 | \$59,738 | \$89,135 |

Provost's Signature:



Date:

7/7/2025

Chief Business Officer's Signature:

Signed by:



6BC9ACF8065B45F

Date:

7/7/2025 | 4:50 PM CDT

COST AND REVENUE PROJECTIONS NARRATIVE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

The proposed B.S. and B.A. in Criminology builds on the success of the UW-La Crosse B.A./B.S. in Sociology and Criminal Justice minor. Upon completion of the program, students will be prepared for careers both within the criminal justice system and in other sectors such as health, human services, human resources, education, and business. The program requirements are comprised of 120 credits, including 41 credits in General Education program coursework, 36 credits of core and elective coursework, and an additional 43 credits to fulfill degree requirements. The B.S./B.A. in Criminology program is designed for full-time students completing primarily face-to-face courses, with all required courses being available in a face-to-face format. Most required and elective courses, except one that will be new, are currently regularly offered at UW-La Crosse.

The cost and revenue projections include those attributable to the direct delivery of the core and directed elective coursework that is required for the proposed major. By Year 5, a total of 1.25 faculty FTE will be required to deliver the 36 credits of major coursework. These FTE represent a proportion of existing faculty appointments whose efforts will be redirected to deliver coursework specific to the major requirements. Standard undergraduate tuition rates will apply.

Section I – Enrollment

Program enrollment projection numbers are based upon anticipated interest by students who will enroll at UW-La Crosse to pursue the program, along with interest from current UW-La Crosse students who are likely to change their major to pursue the B.S./B.A. in Criminology program. The following projections are detailed in Table 1.

It is anticipated that five new freshmen students will enroll in the first year, with moderate growth in new freshmen student enrollment over the next four years, and growth leveling out in Year 4. It is expected that the program will attract continuing UW-La Crosse students, as well. In Year 1, it is anticipated that 48 students - 24 students in sophomore status and 24 students in junior status will switch to the B.S./B.A. in Criminology. In Years 2-5, it is anticipated that 15 students - ten students in sophomore status and five students in junior status will switch to the proposed major. For new freshmen enrollments, an 85% retention rate is assumed from Year 1 to Year 2. For students who enter the program as sophomores or juniors, it is anticipated that retention will be 100%. Retention rates are projected based on the main campus retention rates across all majors.

Table 1: Five-Year Academic Degree Program Enrollment Projections

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total New Freshman ¹ | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| 'New' UWL Continuing ² (changed major) | 48 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Continuing Sophomore (85% retention of ¹) | | 4 | 7 | 8 | 13 |
| Continuing Junior or Senior (100% of ² - less graduates ³) | 0 | 48 | 43 | 36 | 41 |
| Total Continuing | 48 | 67 | 65 | 59 | 68 |
| Total Enrollment | 53 | 75 | 75 | 74 | 83 |
| Graduates ³ | | 24 | 29 | 19 | 22 |

Section II – Credit Hours

Students enrolled in the B.S./B.A. in Criminology must complete 36 credits of major core and program-directed elective credits. Thus, for the purposes of the credit hour estimate, 36 credits will be used. Dividing 36 credits by four years, a typical full-time student will take approximately nine credits of major core and elective courses per year. New credit hours were calculated by multiplying the number of new students each year by nine credits. Existing credit hours were calculated by multiplying the number of continuing students each year by nine credits.

Section III – Faculty and Staff Appointments

All but one of the core and elective courses comprising the B.S./B.A. in Criminology major requirements are currently offered at UW-La Crosse; however, beginning in Year 2, new sections of existing courses will need to be offered. These sections will be taught by existing faculty and instructional academic staff. The proportion of faculty FTE required to teach additional sections is included in these projections.

In Year 1, no new courses or sections will need to be offered. In Year 2, 0.625 FTE total will be needed to deliver courses within the major. This includes instruction within the capstone course, CRM 422, offered specifically for the B.S./B.A. in Criminology program and the addition of one to two sections beyond current levels in other core courses. As student enrollment in Years 3-5 increases in the criminology program, it is anticipated that, in addition to the regular offering of the core criminology courses, additional sections of existing courses will be offered to accommodate these students. In Year 3, there will be a need for an additional 0.75 FTE of current faculty/IAS, and in Years 4 and 5, the need will grow to 1.75 FTE. Current instructional lines within the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice will be reallocated to cover the additional instructional needs. Also, if needed, reallocation will occur from another UW-La Crosse program experiencing decreased enrollment within the department, college, or university.

Administrative support will be provided by current staff. The proportion of staffing attributable to direct support to students in the major is 0.1 FTE.

Section IV – Program Revenues

The B.S. and B.A. in Criminology will generate new program revenue. No new general program revenue will be requested for this major. Only revenues attributable to the 36 credits of major core and department electives are included in these projections.

Tuition Revenues

Tuition revenue assumes that all students will be enrolled full time during the academic year and pay the 2025-26 undergraduate tuition rate of \$8,749.92 per year. The five-year projection assumes no change in tuition. Since this is an in-person program, students will incur segregated fees and textbook rental fees, but those have been excluded from the tuition revenue since those fees will ultimately go towards supporting traditional student services and/or activities. Although some enrollment of Minnesota or non-resident students may occur, tuition revenue is calculated using the Wisconsin resident rate of \$364.58 per credit.

Except for Year 1 continuing students, tuition revenues are projected for all students, including those students currently enrolled at UW-La Crosse. Tuition revenues are calculated by applying the per credit tuition rate to the total new and existing credit hours indicated in section II. As discussed, it is anticipated that each student will complete nine credits of major-specific coursework each year.

Program/Course Fees

No program or course fees are anticipated for courses within the Criminology program.

Section V – Program Expenses

For cost and revenue projections for this program, expenses reflect those directly attributable to the delivery of the major credits that are attributable to core course and departmental elective requirements, or those related to major-specific academic and student support services.

Salary and Fringe Expenses

Faculty within existing or reallocated instructional lines will deliver the proposed criminology program. Illustrated in the cost and revenue table are current related salary expenses attributable to faculty FTEs, averaging \$71,582 per year, and 0.10 FTE of noninstructional staff at \$41,226 per year. All salaries are assumed to have a 2% inflationary rate applied, with fringe rates of 40.8% for faculty and 53% for university staff.

Facilities and Capital Equipment

No new facilities or capital equipment are needed to implement or sustain the proposed criminology program.

Other Expenses

Program costs, including standard supplies and expenses, as well as marketing expenses for program promotion, are covered via a general allocation to the college and department and thus are not a direct expense of the program. Additionally, all fixed costs needed for this new program, such as facilities, advising and career services, registration, and other student support services, are already covered by existing programs within the college or are accounted for in different areas of the university budget.

Section VI – Net Revenue

By Year 5, with a whole cohort of 15 new students enrolling each year, it is estimated that the program will generate net revenues of \$89,135. These funds will be reinvested at the institution to support new program development, student support services to further strengthen the retention and success of current students, and offset unforeseen enrollment shortfalls in other programs on campus.

**Academic Affairs**

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July 14, 2025

Jay O. Rothman, President
Universities of Wisconsin
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear President Rothman,

I am writing to support the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's (UWL) proposed Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. UWL has served students in this field for over 25 years through a very successful Criminal Justice minor. The Criminology major will build upon this considerable success and meet the demand of both current and potential UWL students. The Criminology major will use a community-centered approach to provide students with the skills and knowledge to scientifically study crime, criminal behavior, and their societal impacts. Students will gain in-depth education on criminal behavior and its ties to factors like poverty, discrimination, trauma, mental illness, substance use disorders, and many more. The program will prepare students to assess and engage criminal justice institutions. It will also prepare them to interpret current research on crime and effectively apply that research as they engage with clients and organizations throughout their communities. This curricular preparation will prepare students for careers both within the criminal justice system and in other sectors such as health, human services, human resources, education, and business.

As noted in the proposal documents, the development and implementation of the Criminology program is in response to employer and student interest and a changing landscape regarding careers associated with the field of sociology. Furthermore, UWL was encouraged by the Board of Regents in 2019 to consider developing a major in the area after a Faculty Spotlight presentation on Dr. Nick Bakken's teaching and student research in the criminology field. The fields of criminology and its close parallel of criminal justice show strong and sustained increases in growth across the United States and Wisconsin. Our current faculty have close connections with local, county, regional, and state public and private employers who actively speak to us about their needs for students with a bachelor's degree to work in a wide variety of fields related to criminology. Furthermore, several of our most notable sociology faculty have ongoing research projects as well as community-engaged classroom projects that are partnerships with local city and county agencies. The Criminology program contributes to the UWL strategic plan through advancing transformational education and increasing community engagement.

There is university-wide support for the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. The program received approval from the UWL Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, the University Curriculum and Academic Planning committees, Faculty Senate, and Chancellor James Beeby. UW-La Crosse has the necessary financial and human resources in place to implement and sustain the program, including strong faculty with a long history of improving and refining curriculum and responding to trends within the field. Introductory courses provide students with foundational coursework and well-established upper-division courses facilitate depth within the criminology discipline.

The Criminology program will undergo regular program review and evaluation through both college and university-wide processes that include evaluations by the Dean, Faculty Senate, and Provost. These cyclical reviews include evaluation of program curriculum, assessment of student learning, program success metrics, potential for new initiatives, and personnel/program needs. Based on review, recommendations will be generated to facilitate continual improvement.

The Criminology program will be a valuable enhancement to the UWL program array, present an appealing opportunity for prospective students, and contribute to workforce development in Wisconsin. I am pleased to present this program for your consideration and firmly believe that this program stands as an important addition to the Universities of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Besty Morgan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Besty Morgan, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

CC:

Tim Gongaware, Chair, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Karl Kunkel, Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities
Sandy Grunwald, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**ACT 15 IMPLEMENTATION:
Instructional Employee Workload & General Education Credit Transfer**

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion.

SUMMARY

On July 3, 2025, the Wisconsin State Legislature approved [2025 Wisconsin Act 15](#). The Universities of Wisconsin are on track to meet Act 15 compliance deadlines. This update is focused on the Instructional Employee Teaching Workload and General Education transfer policies.

The Instructional Employee Teaching Workload Workgroup, which includes representatives from faculty and academic staff governance, provosts, in-house attorneys, and UW Administration leadership, has been advancing efforts to revise Regent Policy Document (RPD) 20-25, "Teaching Workload Policy" in response to 2025 Wisconsin Act 15. [A dedicated website](#) provides an overview of the workgroup's phased approach and related updates. In early August, the group concentrated on Phase I, examining potential definitions and exceptions to capture the complexities of instructional practices across the Universities of Wisconsin, and later briefed provosts and shared governance bodies on its proposed framework. Historical instructional employee workload data, collected since 2016, was also presented and is available through UW accountability dashboards. Next steps include refining definitions, incorporating stakeholder feedback, and drafting the revised policy (Phase II), followed by distribution of the draft revisions to university stakeholder groups through the normal Regent Policy Document review process (Phase III). Key dates include Board of Regents review on November 19, 2025, submission to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations (JCOER) by December 1, 2025, anticipated JCOER approval by January 31, 2026, and implementation of revised workload policies across the UWs by September 1, 2026.

The Transfer Policy Work Group—now expanded to include provosts, registrars, faculty, and UW Administration staff—has begun developing policy to implement Act 15's requirement that Core General Education Requirements (CGER) be transferable across UW universities. Research into other states' models and current UW practices showed broad alignment in six key areas but variation in credit hours. An initial CGER model was presented to stakeholders in August, and based on feedback, revisions were made to allow

flexibility in credit ranges and category titles. To comply with Act 15, a new Regent Policy Document will be drafted and distributed to university stakeholder groups through the normal Regent Policy Document review process in September. Key milestones include Board of Regents review on November 19, 2025, submission to JCOER by December 31, 2025, and full transferability of CGER across UW institutions by September 1, 2026.

Presenter

Johannes Britz, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Universities of Wisconsin

BACKGROUND

[2025 Wisconsin Act 15 Section 137](#) Section 36.115 (10) of the statutes establishes new requirements for instructional workloads across the Universities of Wisconsin, effective September 1, 2026. The statute defines faculty teaching responsibilities in terms of credit hours and mandates that full-time faculty and instructional academic staff teach a minimum number of courses each academic year, with different standards for universities classified as Research 1. It also provides for limited workload reductions for department chairs and employees with approved administrative duties, subject to oversight by the Joint Committee on Employment Relations. Additionally, the statute requires the development of a buyout plan, annual reporting on instructional workloads, and evaluation by the Legislative Audit Bureau to ensure compliance. As a result, the Universities of Wisconsin must update policies, procedures, and reporting mechanisms to align with these statutory requirements while balancing instructional, administrative, and research responsibilities.

[2025 Wisconsin Act 15 Section 134](#) Recent amendments to Wisconsin Statute §36.11(3)(b) require the Universities of Wisconsin to update and align transfer credit policies to ensure consistency and equity across the system. Specifically, the statute mandates that by September 1, 2026, all credits for core general education courses must be fully transferable between universities within the system and apply toward general education requirements at the receiving university. In addition, the statute requires the Board to submit a proposal to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations by December 31, 2025, detailing the system's transfer policies. These changes are intended to streamline student progress toward degrees, improve transparency for transfer students, and strengthen accountability in how credits are recognized across the system.

Resources

- [Act 15 Section 134 Wis. Stat. § 36.11 \(3\) \(b\) General Education Course Transfer](#)
- [Act 15 Section 137 Wis. Stat. § 36.115 \(10\) Teaching Hours](#)
- [Act 15 Instructional Employee Teaching Workload Group](#)

HESSEN WISCONSIN PARTNERSHIP INCENTIVE GRANTS

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion.

SUMMARY

The panel will highlight two Hessen (Germany) Wisconsin Partnership Incentive Grants, awarded by the Division of Academic & Student Affairs to support the development of collaborative research, instruction, and study-abroad initiatives.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will introduce the projects they each funded using incentive grants, underscoring collaboration with Hessen partners, outcomes and next steps.

Presenters

- Edwin Martini, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- Kundan Kishor, Professor and Chair, Economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

BACKGROUND

One of the five pillars of University of Wisconsin's strategic framework for internationalization focuses on expanding the relationship with Wisconsin's sister state of Hessen, Germany. In support of this, the Division of Academic & Student Affairs announced grant opportunities that incentivize the development of collaborative relationships with colleagues in the state of Hessen. Supported activities included the development of collaborative research, instruction, and study-abroad initiatives.

The Hessen Wisconsin higher education student exchange, inaugurated in 1998 to expand the long-established cooperation between the two sister states, enhances the international knowledge, cultural competencies, and linguistic skills of their peoples. Universities of Wisconsin maintains an online resource and searchable database for all [Hessen Wisconsin Exchange Opportunities for Students](#).

FOSTERING SUCCESS OVERVIEW

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion.

SUMMARY

The panel will provide an overview of the Universities of Wisconsin Fostering Success Programs at 11 participating UWs, funded by an ongoing state appropriation. Panelists will share mission and goals, key program components, and campus and community collaborations that form the foundation for program success. In addition, highlights will be shared from recent annual reports summarizing the process for identifying and engaging with eligible students and early data on retention and graduation rates. The panel will close with a testimonial from a recent graduate who benefited from the support of Fostering Success, and reflections on growth opportunities to ensure these programs can continue to improve the ways they serve this student population in the future.

Presenters

- Abbie Aasen, UW-Stout Graduate and Fostering Success Alumna, Class of 2025
- John Achter, Senior Director of Student Success and Wellbeing, Universities of Wisconsin Administration
- Jessica Brooks-Consolatti, Fostering Success Advisor, UW-Stout
- Tawney Latona, Fostering Success Coordinator, UW-Milwaukee; Fostering Success Technical Consultant, Universities of Wisconsin

BACKGROUND

In the 2021-2023 biennium, the Wisconsin State budget included \$750,000 in funding to the Universities of Wisconsin to support foster youth programming. Individual UW universities applied to receive up to \$70,000 to start new Fostering Success programs or to invest in existing programs. The initial grant cycle provided two funding sources: \$20,000 in one time funding provided for 2021-2022 and \$50,000 for 2022-2023 that could be part of a continuing appropriation. Nine program proposals were ultimately approved for a total of \$630,000 in funding for the following universities: UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, and UW-Whitewater. An additional appropriation was allocated to support a .25FTE technical

consultant from UW-Stout, one of two campuses with a program prior to the state allocation.

With additional funding available from the state appropriation to support up to ten programs, a second call for proposals was sent in spring 2024 to the UW universities that did not have a Fostering Success program. After reviewing applications, UW-Green Bay was selected as the 10th university to join the Fostering Success initiative and began its program in the 2024-2025 academic year. In 2025-26, UW-Madison will become the eleventh UW with a Fostering Success program. UW-Madison's program will be supported by internal funding sources and will not receive a portion of the state appropriation, which is fully allocated.

The purpose of the Universities of Wisconsin Fostering Success Programs is to provide individualized support, guidance, and resources for independent university students with lived experience with foster care, unaccompanied homelessness, whose parents were incarcerated, and/or those who were orphaned or wards of the court. Fostering Success programs for college students are crucial to support independent students who have these backgrounds. National data suggests that without focused financial and personal support, very few students from these backgrounds will achieve their goal of earning a college degree, despite the fact that a majority aspire to do so. These programs provide academic assistance, financial aid, mentorship, and emotional support to help students succeed in higher education. By addressing the unique needs and obstacles faced by independent students, fostering success programs increase their chances of obtaining a college degree and achieving a brighter future.

Resources

- [Fostering Success Program Overview Webpage](#)
- [Fostering Success Flyer](#)
- [2023-2024 Annual Report](#)