



Your guidebook to
starting your journey
at the University of Wisconsin.



Find Yourself at a University of Wisconsin Campus



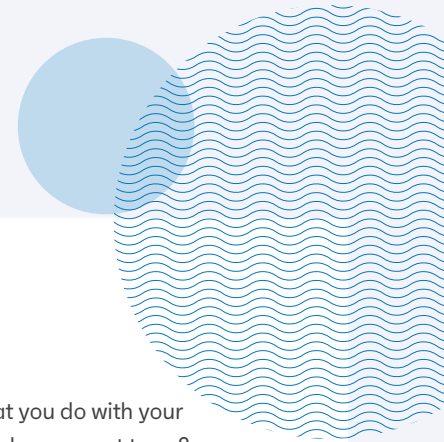


BRING ON

**WHAT'S
NEXT!**



UWHELP.WISCONSIN.EDU



It's hard to believe, but college is right around the corner.

You'll graduate high school sooner than you think. And while it probably feels like a lifetime away, it's time to start dreaming about what comes next.



You are in control

In the end, only one person gets to decide what you do with your future — you. Who do you want to be? Where do you want to go? It's time to start asking yourself some big questions. It's time to start doing the work that will make your dreams real.

We're here to help

It's literally our name. At UW HELP, our job is to make it easy for you to find, choose, and apply to the right University of Wisconsin campuses.

If you're at all thinking about college, you're in luck. This workbook is a step-by-step guide to get you prepared: explore your interests, find out which UW campuses are best for you, discover how to make yourself a great college candidate, and find out what you can start doing today to make college more affordable.



Ready to get started? Bring on what's next!

YOUR FIRST STEP

To get started, let's think about what makes you, you.



What do you like to do? What sets you apart? Let's find the things that inspire you. Take time to imagine a life built from your skills, interests, and passions. And then let's explore the tools you'll need to get you there.

Nothing's set in stone

If this all feels too soon, or these questions seem too big, just remember this is simply a first step: a jumping-off point. You will find new interests, new passions, and new talents your whole life. You can expect to find things you never knew existed. You can expect yourself to change. But you can't expect to find your path until you start exploring. So, let's go!



WHO ARE YOU?

It's a simple question with no simple answer. But the best part is that you — and only you — get to tell the world what answer is right for you.

Think about the things you do best, the things that challenge you and get your gears turning, and the things you do without even thinking about it. These are your building blocks. They're a great place to start searching out what you want to become.

What kind of life will you need to make you feel happy and successful? What kind of job would leave you inspired and fulfilled? Guess what? Everybody is going to have a completely different answer. Let's start thinking about what those words mean to you.



Which subjects am I naturally good at?

What things do I enjoy?

Which subjects or people inspire me?

Which activities do I like outside of school?

What do I need to feel successful?

FIND YOUR CAREER CLUSTERS

You've probably heard of career clusters.
Now you can put them to use, for real.

You can use career clusters to see which careers best match your interests. You can see which careers share common skillsets or require similar areas of study. Then, you can get an idea of which majors are a good fit for the careers that interest you most.



A life full of possibilities

Take some time to dig into all the possibilities of life after high school. Which clusters sound like you? Which majors might be right for you? Try to find at least one career you didn't expect to like.





Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources →

I focus on the foods and materials humans use to thrive.



Architecture and Construction →

I focus on the built environment.



Arts, A/V Tech, and Communications →

I focus on the act of creation.



Business Management and Administration →

I focus on the world of business.



Education and Training →

I focus on the world of learning.



Finance →

I focus on the world of finance: planning and servicing financial investments, banking, insurance, and financial management for individuals and business.



Government and Public Administration →

I focus on the public sector.



Health Science →

I focus on human and animal health.



Hospitality and Tourism →

I focus on the business of travel and leisure.



Human Services →

I focus on helping individuals and families meet their personal needs.



Information Technology (IT) →

I focus on computers and technology.



Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security →

I focus on the world of the law.



Liberal Arts →

I focus on human culture and experience.



Manufacturing →

I focus on turning materials into products.



Marketing, Sales, and Service →

I focus on reaching and engaging with consumers.



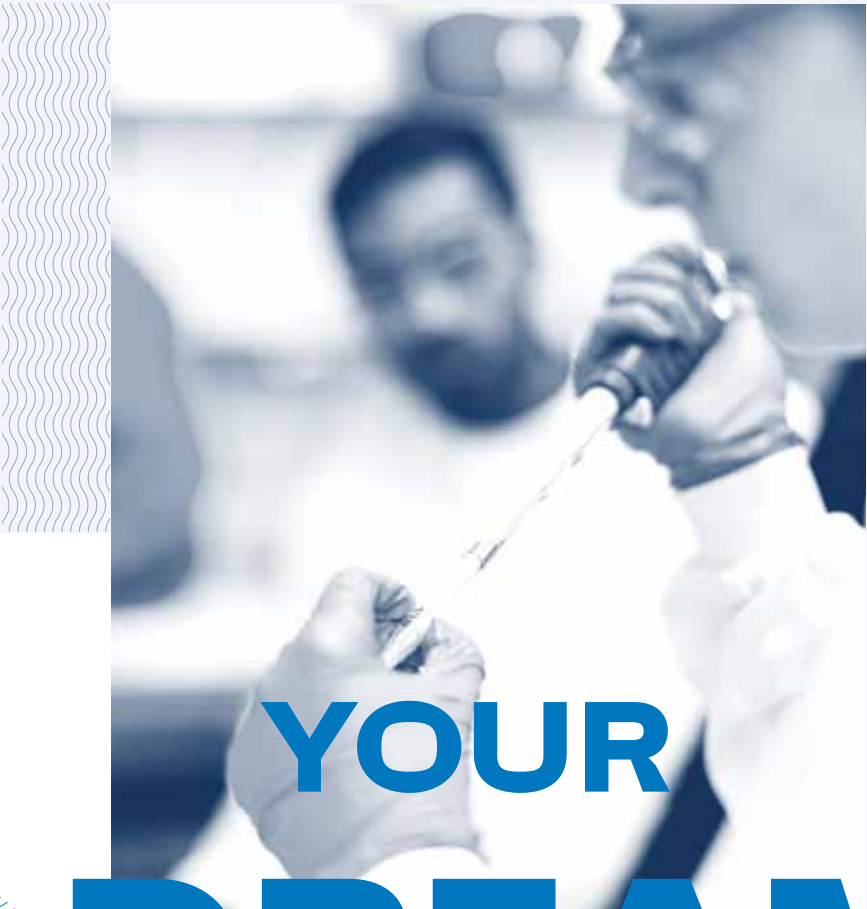
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math →

I focus on the world of science and technology.



Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics →

I focus on moving people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water.



YOUR DREAM JOB

Mark down which career clusters caught your attention—and take note of why.



My dream careers: So wild I haven't even told my best friends

My best-bet careers: Career options that my friends and family think I would be good at

My inspirational careers: I am so awed by people who can do these jobs

A UW FOR EVERYONE

This is where it gets exciting. Now that you have some ideas about what you might want to do, let's look at how you can start making it real.

What do you need to study to get into your career? And which UWs can best get you there? Go back through the [career clusters](#) to see which UWs can best get you to your dream job.



Mark down which UWs have programs that match your career interests.

Career

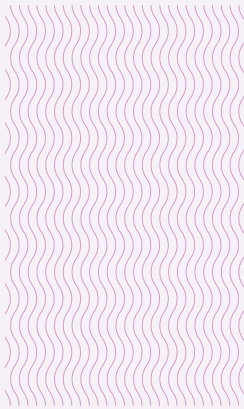
Area of Study

Campus



26
COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES • 26 CAMPUSES •

-  4-yr university
-  2-yr campus
-  Campus affiliation



THE BEST UW FOR YOU

Even after you narrow down your list of possible UWs, we bet you have a pretty long list. There are 26 UWs across the state to choose from, each with its own degree offerings, specialties, size, charms, and student communities.

There's a UW for everyone. Let's find which UWs are right for you.



Let's explore!

To start, you'll find a brief introduction to all 26 UWs in this workbook. But you'll need more information to decide which UWs are right for you. Use the links in this workbook to continue your research online. Ask your friends and teachers. Take a virtual tour, request more information, and narrow down to a few good choices.

Then, visit your short list of UWs in person. You can find contact information for visiting every UW campus right in this workbook. When you visit, ask a lot of questions, meet the students and faculty, and take good notes!

Schedule a campus tour:

uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/campus-tours

WHERE I WANT TO VISIT

Campus

Date

Visited?

_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>
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QUESTIONS FOR MY UWS

Campus

Question

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2 OR 4?



The University of Wisconsin offers both 2-year and 4-year campuses. Get to know what's right for you.



2 THE TWO-YEAR UWs

Earn an associate degree through a focused, two-year program.

Our two-year campuses are the perfect place to start, with lower costs and smaller class sizes. They have simpler admission standards, consider non-academic factors in admissions, and let you earn credits that you can transfer directly to UW's four-year universities.

4 THE FOUR-YEAR UWs

Earn a bachelor's degree through a rigorous, comprehensive four-year program.

Four-year universities give you a comprehensive, rigorous education that position you for advanced professional careers or graduate-level studies. Four-year campuses have higher standards for admission and take into consideration the full breadth and diversity of your experiences.

YOUR 3 UWS

Still can't decide?
This chart can help.

For more information
about UW campuses, visit:
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/
campus-profiles/](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/campus-profiles/)

To find your UW, visit:
uwjourney.wisconsin.edu/

*Score each campus on a scale of 1 to 5 (1—does not fit me, 5—totally fits me). Then add up the total for each campus to see how well each campus fits.

	Does it support my major or areas of interest?	Can I do my best work in the class size?	Is the campus size right for me?	Does the campus have good activities and clubs?	Can I meet the academic requirements?	Can I make it work financially?	Do I like the community?	Am I personally drawn to this campus?	TOTAL
UW-EAU CLAIRE									
UW-Eau Claire - Barron County									
UW-GREEN BAY									
UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus									
UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus									
UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus									
UW-LA CROSSE									
UW-MADISON									
UW-MILWAUKEE									
UW-Milwaukee at Washington County									
UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha									
UW-OSHKOSH									
UW Oshkosh, Fond du Lac Campus									
UW Oshkosh, Fox Cities Campus									
UW-PARKSIDE									
UW-PLATTEVILLE									
UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County									
UW-Platteville Richland									
UW-RIVER FALLS									
UW-STEVENS POINT									
UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield									
UW-Stevens Point at Wausau									
UW-STOUT									
UW-SUPERIOR									
UW-WHITEWATER									
UW-Whitewater at Rock County									

When you've narrowed down your choices, write your UWs here:



My Stretch School

Sure, it might be hard to get into, but it would be amazing.

My Sweet Spot School

I can totally see myself here.

My Safe Bet School

It has what I need and can launch me to my next step.

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

One great benefit of asking yourself all these questions early is that now you will have the time to see if you were right.

You owe it to yourself to spend some time researching your career before you commit to studying it in college.

Life is all about finding a balance between what makes you happy, the risks you're willing to take, and your financial goals. Here are some questions to consider to help make sure your dream job is everything you hope it will be.



How competitive is it?

Some fields can be surprisingly hard to break into. Others are constantly looking for good people. Is it risky to get into your field? And if so, is it a risk you're willing to take?

Are there going to be jobs in my field?

Some jobs that were common 20 years ago are gone today. And some didn't even exist until recently. Do you want to help grow a new industry or make an existing one better?

How much education do I need?

What type of degree will you need to succeed in your field? Does it require an associate degree from one of the UW's two-year campuses, or do you need a degree from one of the UW's four-year universities, or more? It's a commitment. Scale your education to what's best for you.

Can I make a good living?

How important is your income to the life you want? For some, it's only part of the equation. For others, it's the most important question. Make sure the job you choose can financially support the life you picture yourself living.

There is no substitute for getting hands-on, real-world experience. Get out and meet the people already learning what you want to learn and doing what you want to do.

Most people are excited to hear from someone who shares their passions and interests. You can do it. It's easier than you think. Here are some ways you can get real experience before college.

REAL- WORLD EXPERIENCE



Try to do at least one of these next year.

○ Participate in a precollege program

UWs offer a wealth of precollege programs for students K-12, just like you, to get you thinking like a college student.

○ Do an informational interview

Do you already know someone who is working in the field?* Ask them for 30 minutes of their time to ask them all your questions. What did they major in? What do they like about their job? What do they wish they would have done differently? Would they choose their field again?

○ Do job shadowing

Even better, take a day to shadow someone at their job so you can see firsthand what it's like to do what they do. It can be one of the most inspirational things you do in school. Ask your parents, guardians, relatives, friends, and counselors to help you find the right person to shadow.

○ Take an internship

Once you're confident that you've found a path that's right for you, spend a semester or a summer getting real-world experience with an internship in your field. As a bonus, internships look amazing on your UW applications.

*Don't know anyone? Often, your school counselor can help you find someone!

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT

FORWARD

You can make the most of your years in high school by keeping an eye on what comes afterward.

There are some basic requirements you need to meet to qualify for admission at your UW. But getting into your stretch school can often hinge on the extra things you do. Earn college credits while in high school. Participate in extracurricular activities, internships, and jobs. Your UWs will want to hear what sets you apart.



No ACT/SAT requirement

Your UWs will not require you to submit an ACT or SAT for admissions for the 2022-2023 academic year. You can still submit your scores if you want, but they are optional.

	GPA*
UW-EAU CLAIRE	3.29–3.85
UW-Eau Claire - Barron County	open access
UW-GREEN BAY	open access
UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus	open access
UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus	open access
UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus	open access
UW-LA CROSSE	3.46–3.87
UW-MADISON	3.8–4.0
UW-MILWAUKEE	3.02–3.69
UW-Milwaukee at Washington County	open access
UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha	open access
UW OSHKOSH	3.0–3.6
UW Oshkosh, Fond du Lac Campus	open access
UW Oshkosh, Fox Cities Campus	open access
UW-PARKSIDE	2.93–3.67
UW-PLATTEVILLE	3.18–3.81
UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County	open access
UW-Platteville Richland	open access
UW-RIVER FALLS	3.18–3.82
UW-STEVENS POINT	3.05–3.77
UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield	open access
UW-Stevens Point at Wausau	open access
UW-STOUT	3.17–3.69
UW-SUPERIOR	2.96–3.80
UW-WHITEWATER	3.0–3.6
UW-Whitewater at Rock County	open access

*These are average numbers for each campus. They represent the middle 50% of students, meaning 25% of admitted students place below these scores/rank, and 25% place above.

Make sure you have all your required courses for admission

All UW campuses require a minimum of 17 college preparatory credits from high school. You can review the specific guidelines for each campus under the *Requirements* tab at:

uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/admission-guidelines/freshman



3
SOCIAL
SCIENCE

3
NATURAL
SCIENCE

4
ELECTIVES

UW-Madison only

2
FOREIGN
LANGUAGE

3
MATH

4
ENGLISH



Earn college credit in high school

Save time and money by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, or enrolling in college courses through Wisconsin's Early College Credit Program (ECCP). You can earn credits that transfer directly to all UW campuses.

Find out more about high school college credit opportunities at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/prep-for-college/credits

15 to Finish

Start college with your end goal in mind — your degree! Four-year degrees require 120 credits to graduate. Two-year degrees require 60 credits. If you break it down, that means you need to complete 15 credits per semester to finish your degree on time.

Taking 15 credits per semester can save you a ton of time and money. Plus, studies show that students who stay on track for graduation get better grades and are more likely to graduate.

MAKING IT AFFORDABLE

College is an investment, but there are many ways to make it more affordable.

GRANTS

Grants are awarded based on financial need and do not require you to repay.

You can start with the Fund for Wisconsin Scholars, which provides grants to recent graduates of Wisconsin public high schools who are starting their first year at a UW four-year campus:

ffws.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academic merit, or other specific criteria. You do not have to repay. You can find scholarships in your local community, at your UW campuses, or through private organizations.

Start your search with your high school counselor and with this handy chart of scholarship resources:

uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/scholarship-chart

LOANS

Loans are money you borrow. They must be repaid in full and typically include interest payments. Government loans typically have lower interest rates than private loans.

WORK-STUDY

You can often find student employment through work-study or other on-campus programs.



Connect with a UW campus financial aid office or for more information, visit:

uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/fin-aid



BUILD YOUR

BUDGET

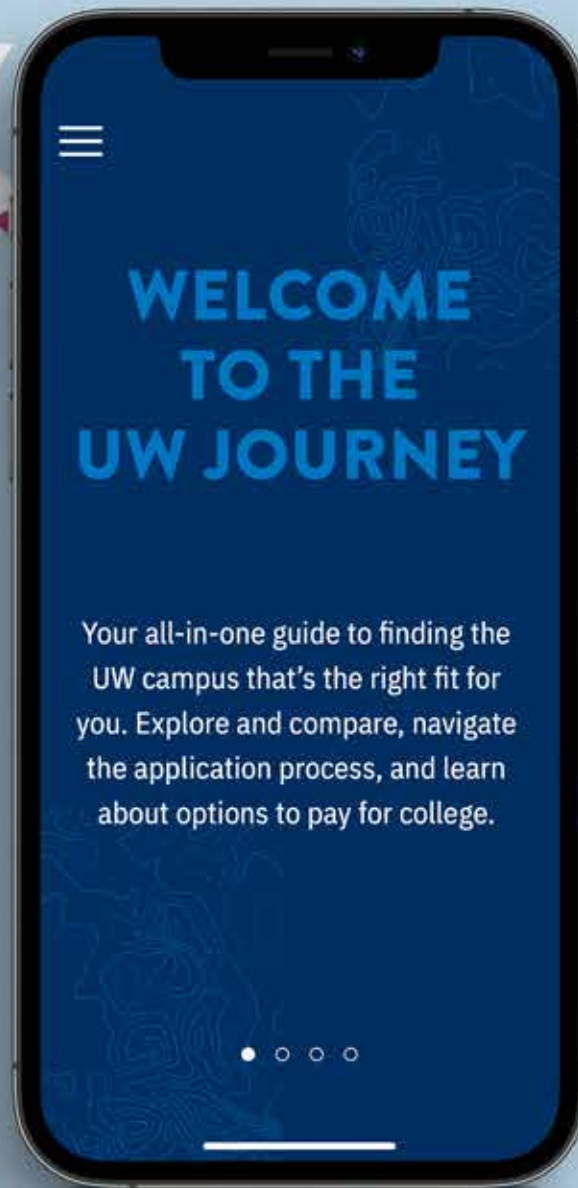
Use this chart to get an idea of how much college will cost. Fill in monthly estimates for each line. Remember as you're budgeting, you'll need to cover expenses for two years for an associate degree or four years for a bachelor's degree.



Find tuition information for your UWs at: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/budget-builder

		Write in your UW campus #1	Write in your UW campus #2	Write in your UW campus #3
UW	COSTS			
	Tuition			
	Fees			
	On-campus room and board (if living on campus)			
HOUSING <small>(if living off campus)</small>	Books and supplies			
	Rent			
	Renter's insurance			
	Phone			
	Internet			
	Cable/satellite			
TRANSPORTATION	Utilities (like electricity, water, trash)			
	Car loan payments			
	Car insurance			
	Oil changes			
	Gas			
	Car repairs			
	Parking			
	Bike			
	Public transportation			
Travel home				
DAILY LIVING	Groceries			
	Dining out			
	Clothing			
	Self-care (laundry, hair stylist, etc.)			
	Travel			
	Gifts			
	Church and charity			
	Entertainment			
	Other living expenses			
	Total		\$	\$

~~NOT SURE?
TOO MANY
OPTIONS?~~



There's an app for that.

Our UW Journey app lets you explore and discover which UWs are right for you:

uwjourney.wisconsin.edu



Free to download, free to use.



Data for campus majors is valid as of April 2021.
All other data in this publication is from the 2020-2021 academic year.