

Introduction

Birthed in 1848 by a clause in the Wisconsin Constitution that provided for “a State University, at or near the seat of state government,” the University of Wisconsin-Madison has grown to become one of the nation’s largest and most productive institutions of higher learning. Beginning with a class of 17 on Feb. 5, 1849, the university now enrolls more than 42,000 students in 134 undergraduate majors and 153 master’s and 114 doctoral degree programs.

As one of the nation’s first land-grant universities, UW-Madison maintains a strong research emphasis in agricultural and life sciences. Award-winning research spanning the academic disciplines, however, has earned UW-Madison a place among the world’s elite institutions of higher education. UW-Madison graduate and undergraduate programs consistently score high marks in national rankings.

The flagship school of the state UW System, UW-Madison has always sought to return the fruits of teaching and research to Wisconsin residents; in 1904, UW-Madison President Charles Van Hise crystallized the university’s commitment to public service in defining “the Wisconsin Idea,” which mandates that “the beneficent influence of the university [be] available to every home in the state.” UW-Madison offers the only public schools of law, medicine and veterinary medicine in the state and is one of only two state-supported schools to offer doctoral degrees. (UW-Milwaukee is the other.)

It follows, then, that the majority of UW-Madison students hail from within the state’s borders. The university’s 25,398 Wisconsin students represent every county in the state. More than 139,000 of the more than 368,000 living UW-Madison alumni reside in Wisconsin.

By UW Board of Regents policy, no more than 25 percent of UW-Madison’s undergraduate enrollment may come from out of state. Despite its state focus, however, UW-Madison ranks as one of the most diverse educational communities in the nation. UW-Madison’s current enrollment features students from every state in the nation and 134 other countries. Students from minority groups now make up 12.1 percent of the population, and UW-Madison continues to commit resources to attracting larger minority communities. The university serves students of all ages as well: In 2007, UW-Madison enrolled 420 students under the age of 18 and 948 students over age 46.

Campus

Madison planners in the 1830s originally intended UW-Madison’s campus to be a municipal cemetery. Now the university claims more than 900 acres of picturesque grounds along Lake Mendota, the largest of Madison’s lakes. Bascom Hall, the university’s main administrative building, serves as a centerpiece to campus. It sits atop Bascom Hill, exactly 1 mile west, along historic State Street, of the State Capitol.

Points of interest on campus include North Hall, the first building on the campus; Carillon Tower in front of the Social Science Building; the Library Mall with its clock tower and fountain; Picnic Point, a peninsula of woods, trails and beaches that juts out into Lake Mendota; Science Hall and the Armory-Gymnasium on Langdon Street, both of which are National Historic Landmarks; and the Memorial Union, whose lakefront terrace offers a popular meeting place for students and community members. South of campus and along the shores of Lake Wingra lies the UW Arboretum, which features natural and restored samples of Wisconsin plant and animal life.

Before the city of Madison existed, UW-Madison's lakeshore site was an Indian encampment. Indian effigy mounds — many in the shape of animals — still are evident around the campus.

Organization

UW-Madison is the largest institution in the University of Wisconsin System (which was created in 1971 by a merger of the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Universities system). The UW System is governed by a 17-member Board of Regents. Except for two ex officio members, regents are appointed by the governor, subject to state Senate confirmation. The Board of Regents appoints the UW System president and the chancellors of the 13 universities (Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior and Whitewater), the UW Colleges and UW-Extension. The system administration headquarters is on the UW-Madison campus in Van Hise Hall.

Eight colleges and schools offer undergraduate training at UW-Madison: Agricultural and Life Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering; Human Ecology; Letters and Science (the largest college); Nursing; and Pharmacy. In addition, the Graduate School offers master's and doctoral degrees in almost every field. The three professional schools are the Law School, the School of Medicine and Public Health, and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The chancellor is the chief executive of the institution and is assisted by the provost/vice chancellor for academic affairs and the vice chancellor for administration. The chancellor also oversees the deans who head schools and colleges and the directors who lead units that do not report to a specific school or college. The dean of students, the dean of continuing studies, the dean of international studies and programs, the dean of extended programs and the director of libraries head academic-support units.

The university, were it a city, would be one of the state's largest communities. About 58,400 people are associated with the university as students or employees. This city within a city has its own businesses, residence halls, police, food, maintenance, counseling and health services, as well as a dairy plant and store.

Faculty, academic staff and students play significant roles in institutional policy decision-making. By state statute, the faculty are vested with responsibility for the immediate governance of the institution and with primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and for faculty personnel matters. Faculty authority is accomplished through a committee structure, beginning at the department level and ending at the Faculty Senate, with its 228 senators representing 111 districts (one senator for approximately every 10 faculty members). The senate meets monthly during the academic year. Its agenda is set by the chancellor and the University Committee, a six-member group that serves as the senate's executive committee and provides the key link between the faculty and the administration. Faculty elect University Committee members — two each year — to serve three-year terms. The secretary of the faculty is responsible for the records and legislative history of the senate, as well as providing logistical and administrative support services to the faculty.

Departmental committees play a critical role in governance, particularly with regard to curriculum and hiring and tenure decisions. Faculty policies require that such decisions be initiated by the departments and reviewed by the elected university-wide divisional executive committees of the faculty before receiving final administration approval.

In accord with shared governance, academic staff under state statute are participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for the institution. The Academic Staff Assembly represents more than 5,000 academic staff employees through 105 districts, primarily organized by function. The provost presides over the assembly's monthly meetings, and the agenda is set by the Academic Staff Executive Committee, whose members are elected to three-year terms. The secretary of the academic staff supports the assembly, the Academic Staff Executive Committee and the assembly standing committees.

Wisconsin is one of very few states where students have statutory rights to participate in university governance. All students are automatically members of the Associated Students of Madison (ASM), the university-recognized representation for University of Wisconsin-Madison students; all students are eligible to vote in selecting representatives to sit on the student council. The student council represents students in discussions with the chancellor and faculty and academic staff governance groups. ASM recommends to the chancellor and the Board of Regents the annual allocation of more than \$25 million of segregated fees to support University Health Services, the Wisconsin Union, recreational sports and many registered student organizations. ASM also recruits volunteers and interns each semester to work on student issue campaigns and serve as student representatives on university committees. Additionally, students in many departments, schools and colleges have formed governance groups to represent their interests.

The University of Wisconsin System Mission

Each institution of the University of Wisconsin System shares in the mission of the system.

The mission of this system is to develop human resources, to discover and disseminate knowledge, to extend knowledge and its application beyond the boundaries of its campuses, and to serve and stimulate society by developing in students heightened intellectual, cultural and humane sensitivities; scientific, professional and technological expertise; and a sense of value and purpose. Inherent in this mission are methods of instruction, research, extended education and public service designed to educate people and improve the human condition. Basic to every purpose of the system is the search for truth.

The Core Mission of the Doctoral Cluster

As institutions in the Doctoral Cluster, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee share the following core mission. Within the approved differentiation stated in their select missions, each university shall:

- (a) Offer degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels.
- (b) Offer programs leading to professional degrees at the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels.
- (c) Conduct organized programs of research.
- (d) Promote the integration of the extension function, assist the University of Wisconsin-Extension in meeting its responsibility for statewide coordination, and encourage faculty and staff participation in outreach activity.
- (e) Encourage others in the University of Wisconsin System and in other state and national agencies to seek the benefit of the unique educational and research resources of the doctoral institutions.

- (f) Serve the needs of women, minority, disadvantaged, disabled and nontraditional students and seek racial and ethnic diversification of the student body and the professional faculty and staff.
- (g) Support activities designed to promote the economic development of the state.

Select Mission of the UW-Madison

In addition to the system and core missions, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has the following select mission:

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the original University of Wisconsin, created at the same time Wisconsin achieved statehood in 1848. It received Wisconsin's land grant and became the state's land-grant university after Congress adopted the Morrill Act in 1862. It continues to be Wisconsin's comprehensive teaching and research university with a statewide, national and international mission, offering programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels in a wide range of fields, while engaging in extensive scholarly research, continuing adult education and public service.

The primary purpose of the University of Wisconsin-Madison is to provide a learning environment in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom and values that will help ensure the survival of this and future generations and improve the quality of life for all. The university seeks to help students to develop an understanding and appreciation for the complex cultural and physical worlds in which they live and to realize their highest potential of intellectual, physical and human development.

It also seeks to attract and serve students from diverse social, economic and ethnic backgrounds and to be sensitive and responsive to those groups, which have been underserved by higher education. To fulfill its mission, the university must:

(a) Offer broad and balanced academic programs that are mutually reinforcing and emphasize high quality and creative instruction at the undergraduate, graduate, professional and postgraduate levels.

(b) Generate new knowledge through a broad array of scholarly, research and creative endeavors, which provide a foundation for dealing with the immediate and long-range needs of society.

(c) Achieve leadership in each discipline, strengthen interdisciplinary studies and pioneer new fields of learning.

(d) Serve society through coordinated statewide outreach programs that meet continuing educational needs in accordance with the university's designated land-grant status.

(e) Participate extensively in statewide, national and international programs and encourage others in the University of Wisconsin System, at other educational institutions and in state, national and international organizations to seek benefit from the university's unique educational resources, such as faculty and staff expertise, libraries, archives, museums and research facilities.

(f) Strengthen cultural understanding through opportunities to study languages, cultures, the arts and the implications of social, political, economic and technological change and through encouragement of study, research and service off campus and abroad.

(g) Maintain a level of excellence and standards in all programs that will give them statewide, national and international significance.

(h) Embody, through its policies and programs, respect for, and commitment to, the ideals of a pluralistic, multiracial, open and democratic society.

Revised statement, adopted June 10, 1988, UW System Board of Regents

Resources

Public service

Last updated June 2008

Source: Speakers Bureau, Office of the Chancellor

“The Wisconsin Idea,” a public-service mission statement articulated by President Charles Van Hise in 1904, is the basis for UW-Madison’s role as a partner in serving Wisconsin citizens. Today, hundreds of UW-Madison faculty and staff take part in a range of community and statewide service activities through which they share their knowledge and expertise with the people of Wisconsin and the world. In the tradition of open research and community involvement, they provide a wealth of research and educational services to businesses, community organizations, government bodies, schools and industries.

The UW-Madison Speakers Directory highlights more than 700 faculty and staff who volunteer to talk to school and community groups about their academic and research expertise. The UW-Madison Speakers Bureau, part of the Chancellor’s Office, schedules faculty and staff to address alumni, civic organizations and other groups around the state and nation.

Continuing education

Last updated July 2007

UW-Madison offers educational opportunities for people of all ages. Approximately 75,000 people take advantage of more than 2,000 professional development and personal-enrichment continuing-education programs each year. Participants can enroll in programs on campus as well as through distance-education delivery systems, including the World Wide Web, Wisconsin Public Television and cable channels, compressed video and computer teleconferencing, and a mix of print, audio and video self-study packages.

More than 4,000 university special (non-degree) students enroll in credit classes throughout the year. Admitted and advised by the Adult and Student Services Office, these students enroll in courses to enhance their career options, to prepare for undergraduate or graduate school, or to enrich their lives. The office also provides educational and career counseling for more than 6,000 community adults (age 25 or older) who seek to enroll in college, change careers or update their job skills.

UW-Madison Summer Sessions offer more than 1,600 credit courses to approximately 13,000 students. Another 70,000 people visit the campus each summer for noncredit workshops, conferences and a variety of cultural experiences. More than 10,000 young people (preschool through high school age) benefit from academic, arts and athletics programs in the summer and throughout the year.

Research

One of the hallmarks of UW-Madison’s diverse research enterprise is its array of interdisciplinary research centers. The centers bring teams of researchers to bear on challenges from cancer prevention to the development of computer microchips. Here’s a sampling of UW-Madison centers and their missions:

Arboretum: Founded in 1934, this outdoor laboratory for research and teaching is internationally renowned for its ecological restoration of forests, savannas, prairies and wetlands.

Developed largely due to efforts by environmentalist Aldo Leopold, its 1,262 acres of restored land now host many research projects, including long-term studies of changes in vegetation and soil.

Arts Institute: Created in 1998, the Arts Institute makes the arts more visible and effective across campus through support and funds for artist residencies; awards, fellowships and performances; exhibitions; and festivals. The institute brings an interdisciplinary focus to arts education and practice.

Biotron: This building provides controlled-environment research rooms and chambers for plant, animal and materials experiments. Within the building, almost any environmental condition occurring on Earth can be simulated. Projects include the development of a genome initiative to create 100,000 lines of knock-out plants and the growing of potatoes with a protein that will induce resistance to Hepatitis B if the potatoes are eaten raw.

Center for Dairy Research: Since 1986, this center has used research and dairy-industry support to enhance the value and markets for dairy products. CDR has explored technology for lower-fat cheeses, specialty cheeses, milk-fat utilization, and quality and safety issues.

Center for Women's Health Research: UW-Madison's center is one of 21 National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, designated by the U.S. Public Health Service Office on Women's Health. It provides a "one-stop shopping" model for the delivery of clinical health care services to women, with an emphasis on prevention and early detection.

Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies: The Nelson Institute offers interdisciplinary academic, research and outreach programs to promote a greater understanding of the environment. About 150 professors representing more than 50 academic fields, from agriculture to zoology, participate in this intercollegiate unit, which was founded in 1970.

Genetics-Biotechnology Center: This center provides shared services for the hundreds of faculty engaged in biological-science research. The center houses the Genome Center of Wisconsin, which will advance the national campaign to sequence whole genomes of organisms, from plants to people.

Institute on Aging: Founded in 1973, the institute's establishment stemmed from a growing interest in aging among campus scholars. Since then, four multidisciplinary research clusters have been created as frontiers of aging: biology of aging, clinical geriatrics, life-span development and social gerontology.

Institute for Research on Poverty: This non-partisan national center for research into the causes and consequences of poverty and social inequality in America was established in 1966. Through the years, its multidisciplinary researchers have formulated basic theories of poverty, developed and evaluated social policy alternatives, and identified national trends in economic well-being.

McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research: This center, founded in 1940, was the first basic science cancer center in an academic institution in the United States. Recent research has included a look at the role of oncogenes and developmental processes in cancer.

Space Science and Engineering Center: This multidisciplinary center specializes in atmospheric studies of earth and the other planets. The center keeps literally billions of bits of information in its archives of U.S. weather satellite data, helping scientists track and interpret long-term weather and atmospheric effects.

Waisman Center: As an internationally renowned center dedicated to research and programs that benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families, the Waisman Center is the largest interdisciplinary research center in the Graduate School. Researchers study topics including stem-cell biology, gene therapy, sensory and perceptual processes, speech and language disorders, and parent-infant communication and interaction.

Wisconsin Center for Education Research: This center provides an environment for leading scholars to conduct research on topics including teaching, learning and professional development; educational policy and accountability; student learning and achievement in math and science; and English and writing instruction.

Wisconsin National Primate Research Center: This center brings together everything from studies of primate sociology and anthropology to basic scientific research on AIDS and cancer. Projects have focused on obesity, Parkinson's Disease, embryonic stem cells and endometriosis.

Health

The health sciences enterprise at UW-Madison has long been noted for clinical excellence and research strength. The UW Hospital and Clinics and UW Children's Hospital are nationally recognized in a range of medical specialties, including cancer care, pediatric lung diseases, ophthalmology, radiology and surgery. In 2007, U.S. News and World Report ranked UW Hospital and Clinics among the nation's top 50 hospitals in five medical specialties: cancer, digestive disorders, gynecology, kidney disease and urology. With a strong tradition of basic and clinical research, the UW School of Medicine and Public Health has a national reputation for innovation in medical education, particularly in primary care. The UW Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of approximately 39 centers designated as comprehensive by the National Cancer Institute. The schools of Nursing and Pharmacy offer graduate and undergraduate instruction and are nationally distinguished for their research programs. The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene is one of two state public-health laboratories nationwide operating as part of a university.

Arts

UW-Madison offers a number of opportunities to participate in or appreciate the arts.

Premier among the university's collections of visual art is the Chazen Museum of Art, which houses a permanent collection of more than 16,000 paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture and decorative arts, the earliest dating from 2300 B.C. Chazen presents 10-12 temporary exhibitions each year.

The Department of Art exhibits undergraduate and graduate student works in a gallery on the seventh floor of the Mosse Humanities Building. Students also show their work in the Class of 1973 Gallery in the renovated Red Gym. Some also create site-specific installations in venues across campus and around town.

The Gallery of Design in the Human Ecology Building offers a diverse program of exhibitions, from historic and contemporary textiles to industrial, graphic and interior design.

The Wisconsin Union presents exhibits at the Porter Butts, Class of 1925, Theater and Lakefront on Langdon galleries in the Memorial Union. The Union houses one of the largest collections of original Wisconsin art in the state: the Wisconsin Union Art Collection, begun in the

1920s. More than 1,300 works by 700 artists with Wisconsin roots can be viewed in the halls, meeting rooms and offices of Memorial Union and Union South.

The Special Collections Department exhibits rare and special books at its gallery on Memorial Library's ninth floor. Silver Buckle Press, the library's historic printing museum, occasionally offers educational programs and press runs.

A number of university groups — including the University Theatre, the Opera, the School of Music, the Dance Program and others — represent the performing arts. Special groups and ensembles, many staffed by students, bring performance traditions of other nations to Madison audiences. The Wisconsin Union Theater offers a full schedule of music and performance.

Libraries

The UW-Madison Libraries are ranked 11th in North America by the Association of Research Libraries. Memorial Library, the largest library in Wisconsin, and more than 40 professional and special-purpose libraries serve the campus. Library users can search more than 650 databases containing hundreds of millions of citations. There are more than 55,000 serial titles, 6.2 million microfilm items and hundreds of thousands of government documents, maps, musical scores, audiovisual materials and other items housed in libraries across campus. Nearly 1 million volumes are circulated to library users each year, and in 2007 more than 27,000 students and staff attended library instruction programs.

Computing

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides computing services to faculty, staff, students and campus departments. In 2006, 94 percent of faculty and staff owned desktop computers, and 57 percent owned laptops. Student ownership of desktops was 48 percent and 77 percent for laptops. Wireless access is available in more than 80 percent of campus buildings.

The 16 campus computer labs offered more than 1,000 computers and provided access to scanners, video editing equipment, color printers and other resources. There were also dozens of conveniently located kiosks on campus, and there are more than 500 wireless laptop computers available for checkout at 17 campus locations.

As of spring 2007 there were nearly 75,000 WiscMail accounts associated with UW-Madison students and personnel, generating an average of 6 million e-mails per day. More than 8,000 faculty and staff (47 percent) used WiscCal, the campus calendaring system, and 45,000 people had My WebSpace accounts to use for file storage and sharing.

Associations

University of Wisconsin Foundation

Last updated: June 2008

The University of Wisconsin Foundation, an independent, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation, raises, invests and distributes funds for the benefit of UW-Madison. Monies raised by the foundation supplement state dollars and provide resources not otherwise available to the university, including funds for scholarships, professorships and special research projects.

Thanks to gifts from alumni and friends from throughout the world, the foundation received \$193.01 million in contributions in 2006. That brought the total raised by the foundation since its establishment in 1945 to more than \$2.41 billion. More than 126,000 gifts were made in 2006. Andrew A. Wilcox is president of the foundation.

In 2003, the foundation launched the public phase of “Create the Future: The Wisconsin Campaign,” the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in UW-Madison’s history. Completed at the end of 2006, the goal was to raise \$1.5 billion to support faculty chairs and professorships, help recruit and retain top teachers and researchers, and provide scholarship and fellowship support for undergraduate and graduate students to help ease financial strain. By the end of the campaign in December 2006, \$1.86 billion had been raised.

Wisconsin Alumni Association

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Since 1861, the Wisconsin Alumni Association has been the primary link between graduates and their alma mater and the voice of alumni in support of the university. Alumni chapters in more than 100 cities worldwide helped raise more than \$505,800 in matching-dollar scholarship funds in 2006, sending more than 336 of the best and brightest young people to UW-Madison. On campus, WAA assists students through its student board, career mentoring program, sponsorship of the Homecoming Committee, and graduation receptions.

WAA partners with the UW Foundation to maintain the university’s alumni records and provides files of alumni information to schools, colleges and departments for mailing and communication purposes. The association sponsors a worldwide travel program, athletic travel, Alumni Weekend, class reunions, First-Year Parents’ Weekend and diversity and alumni career counseling networks.

WAA co-sponsors Grandparents’ University and other lifelong learning programs in partnership with the UW Division of Continuing Studies, including those under the umbrella of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In partnership with the UW Foundation and the university, WAA coordinates “UW For You,” a statewide series of programs that showcase the benefits of the university and provide connections with Wisconsin citizens and leaders.

The association coordinates programs to acknowledge outstanding alumni, including the Distinguished Alumni Awards program. It also operates Alumni For Wisconsin, which consists of alumni, parents and friends who volunteer as legislative advocates for the university. WAA also sponsors 36 other alumni networks. The quarterly *On Wisconsin* magazine informs alumni about UW-Madison people, projects and issues. WAA produces the *Insider Magazine* four times a year for

its 40,000 members, in addition to online regional newsletters and other communications for its affiliated groups.

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

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The oldest and most successful organization of its kind, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation is a national leader in the patenting and licensing of university technologies. Professor Harry Steenbock and eight alumni of UW-Madison established WARF as a private, nonprofit foundation in 1925 to protect new discoveries at UW-Madison. Steenbock's discovery that ultraviolet radiation could increase the vitamin D content in food, became the first WARF-patented invention. Licensing Steenbock's invention generated \$14 million in licensing income in the 1920s and '30s. This money was used to support research activities at UW-Madison and to build an endowment so WARF could continue to fund UW-Madison research even when licensing income was low. This early success not only demonstrated the benefits of patenting ideas from university inventors but also established WARF as a model: More than 300 universities now provide patenting and licensing services based on the WARF model.

Today, WARF continues its mission to make inventions created by UW-Madison's excellent faculty available to private industry. These efforts furnish products for the benefit of society, fuel state economic development and generate substantial income for basic research. WARF's endowment and licensing income continues to grow, allowing the foundation to provide more than \$50 million in 2006-07 for UW-Madison research. Since its founding, WARF has given \$915 million to UW-Madison to fund research, programs and initiatives.

Memorial Union Building Association

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The Memorial Union Building Association is a nonprofit educational corporation representing the more than 80,000 life members of the Wisconsin Union — UW-Madison alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

In the 1920s, a union building committee formed to raise funds to construct Memorial Union. More than 10,000 people, including one of every two students, contributed to the campaign to build a center for campus activity. These people became the first lifetime Union members.

The building committee incorporated in 1951 as the Memorial Union Building Association to promote the interests, welfare and development of the Wisconsin Union.

Today, more than one-third of UW-Madison students elect to become Union members when they graduate. Membership receipts and private gifts support Union programs and facilities. In 2003-04, the Union marked the 75th anniversary of Memorial Union's opening. Through its fund-raising efforts, MUBA supports student leadership development, service learning and other programs to ensure the union remains the heart and soul of the university.