



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

INTERNATIONAL
**ADMITTED
STUDENT
CHECKLIST**
FALL 2025





I Belong at UW-Madison

#FUTURERBADGER





ON, WISCONSIN!

JOIN THE TRADITION
 SHOW YOUR #FUTUREBADGER PRIDE &
 LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT
You Belong at UW-Madison

**YOUR
 NEXT
 STEPS**

To Becoming a Future Badger

Congratulations on your admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison!

This booklet will serve as a guide to your next steps to becoming a #FutureBadger. It will provide you with additional information about your Admitted Student Checklist and familiarize you with the next steps to make your transition to UW-Madison an easy one.

Choosing to attend UW-Madison is an important decision, and we're confident that our esteemed university is the right fit for you.

If you still have questions, the Office of Admissions & Recruitment is here to answer them for you.

On, Wisconsin!



André E. Phillips
 Executive Director of Admissions and Recruitment

SETTING UP YOUR NETID AND STUDENT EMAIL

MyUW is your student portal that will present new options now that you are admitted.

If you haven't already, locate the 10-digit campus ID number from your admission letter. Activate your NetID to access the portal at mynetid.wisc.edu/activate.

It's important to check MyUW and your Student Center regularly for updates, to view your financial aid package, and to pay your bill.

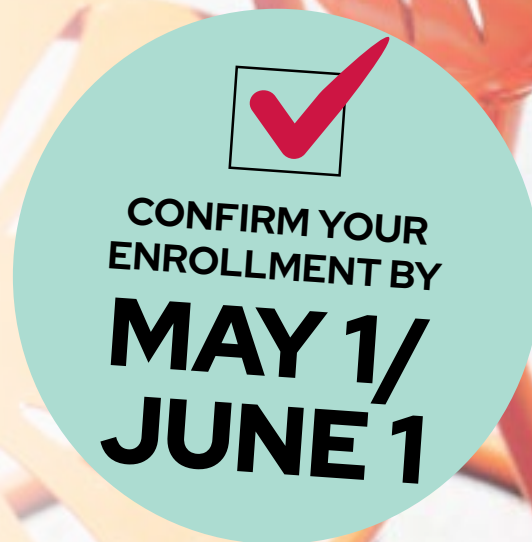
After you accept your offer of admission, you will also be able to access your wisc.edu student email. Be sure to check your student and preferred emails regularly.

ACCEPTING YOUR ADMISSION OFFER

Reserve your spot in the incoming class by accepting your offer of admission and paying your deposit in your Student Center.

Log in to your Student Center to accept your offer of admission. First-year students need to accept by May 1, and transfer students must accept by June 1 or within 10 days of receiving their credit evaluation, whichever is later.

You will then pay the \$200 deposit online, which is applied toward your tuition and fees and is not refundable after the confirmation deadline.



APPLY FOR YOUR NON-IMMIGRANT STUDENT VISA (F-1 or J-1)

Undergraduate students must accept their admission, activate their NetID, and pay the deposit before they can access Terra Dotta to request an immigration document (Form I-20 or DS-2019) from UW–Madison. Please review the required steps below and submit the request as soon as possible. The visa process can take a long time. We do not recommend waiting until the deadline to request your immigration document.

You must request your Form I-20 or DS-2019 by July 7, 2025, for the Fall 2025 semester. For students with an active SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 from another U.S. institution, the deadline to request your SEVIS Transfer I-20 or DS-2019 is August 20, 2025.

- Accept your offer of admission and pay the enrollment deposit in your Student Center.
- Gather required documents, including a copy of your passport and financial documents demonstrating ability to pay tuition and living expenses for a full academic year.
- Request your UW–Madison I-20 or DS-2019 through Terra Dotta, your international student immigration portal. *Note: you may have to wait 24–48 hours after accepting your offer of admission before you can access Terra Dotta.*
- Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- Apply for your F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant student visa. *Note: Students from Canada and Bermuda do not need a visa.*
- Arrive to campus by I-20 or DS-2019 program start date. You cannot enter the country more than 30 days before the start of classes.

Visit the [ISS Becoming a Global Badger page](#) for more information on the student visa process.





UNIVERSITY HOUSING

-  go.wisc.edu/housing
-  608-262-2522
-  info@housing.wisc.edu
-  [@HousingUW](https://www.instagram.com/HousingUW)
-  [HousingUW](https://www.facebook.com/HousingUW)
-  [@HousingUW](https://twitter.com/HousingUW)

#LIVELWITHBUCKY

University Residence Halls at UW–Madison are more than “dorms” or places to sleep. They’re dynamic communities designed for your success.

With over 20 residence halls across campus, it’s the perfect place to get you plugged into campus life and help you grow on your academic and personal journey.

You’ll find your new, on-campus home filled with convenient living amenities, exciting social opportunities, 24/7 staff support, supportive academic resources, exceptional food, and thousands of other Badgers.

While living on campus is not required, over 90% of first-year students choose to live in our halls.

EAT WELL. LIVE WELL.

We offer many dining options to meet your needs. With several venues across campus, we offer dishes made-to-order by our in-house chefs, a variety of grab-and-go products, and grocery/convenience items. Our dining plans allow you to:

- Pick a dining plan level based on your eating habits. Plans are based on a meals-per-week structure.
- Go back for seconds in our markets, which are all-you-care-to-eat or buffet-style.
- Get support navigating a food allergy or dietary accommodation. We have a registered dietitian on staff and allergy-friendly menus.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING CHECKLIST

Due by May 1:

- Sign and complete your contract.
- Submit your advance payment.
- Enter your residence hall and community preferences.
- Select your dining plan option.

Summer:

- Receive your room assignment.
- Contact your roommate(s).

Fall:

- Move into your new home!
- Pay your fall semester student account.

Manage your Housing contract and hall preferences at go.wisc.edu/my-housing.

OUR RESIDENCE HALLS

Our residence halls provide a wide variety of styles and room types across campus.

All locations offer convenient access to helpful resources and spaces for you to hang out with friends and study. Our resident rooms include loftable furniture, a variety of storage spaces, and high-speed wireless internet.

We offer popular classes right inside our residence halls, as well as free on-site advising, tutoring services, and media centers. Plus, our live-in staff provide support and programs to help you succeed inside and outside the classroom.

No matter which building you live in, it’s about what you make of the experience. Explore virtual tours for all of our halls at go.wisc.edu/residence-halls.

COMMUNITIES FOR YOU

Find community by choosing to live in one of our optional Residential Learning Communities or Theme Communities for students of any major.

You’ll foster connections, find special events, and get plugged into campus in these unique programs designed to welcome and support you. Theme Communities bring together students with shared interests, and Learning Communities offer exclusive classes and faculty mentorship. Learn more about specific communities at go.wisc.edu/housing-communities.

Discovering Your Path: Chadbourne (CRC)

Creative Arts: The Studio

Culture & Diversity: Essence, Indigenous, International (ILC), Multicultural (MLC)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: BioHouse, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)

Sustainability: GreenHouse

Gender & Sexuality: Gender Inclusive, Open House

Business & Entrepreneurship: Business Connect, StartUp



LIVING OFF CAMPUS

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING SERVICES

go.wisc.edu/off-campus

@ off-campus@housing.wisc.edu

PLACEMENT TESTS

TESTING SERVICES

go.wisc.edu/uw_testing

608-262-5863

@ frontdesk@exams.wisc.edu

EXPLORE OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING OPTIONS

If you choose to live off campus, UW–Madison’s Off-Campus Housing Services can help. go.wisc.edu/off-campus

One of the best ways to search for privately-owned housing options is through the UW–Madison Off-Campus Housing Marketplace. go.wisc.edu/uw_cah



Housing near campus is limited; if you choose to live off campus, we suggest starting the search process as early as possible. Rental properties in the immediate campus area begin filling vacancies at the start of the fall semester for the following August.

Campus and the city of Madison blend seamlessly together and students may also find success searching for housing in commutable Madison communities near campus.

You can also connect directly with knowledgeable staff by emailing any questions you have about living off campus to off-campus@housing.wisc.edu.

Students can expect to receive materials from University Housing and privately-owned housing providers. You can differentiate between materials sent to you by the university and those from private entities by looking for the university’s “W” crest.

Searching for available housing does not require you to create an account and is completely free. The site provides a database of campus-area rental vacancies, roommate openings, and sublets in apartment buildings, houses, cooperatives, and rooming houses. Users may select their criteria to generate a list of available rentals, complete with rental details and contact information.

SCHEDULE AND TAKE YOUR PLACEMENT TESTS

Placement testing is the way advisors learn more about your skills and help correctly advise you about your first-semester courses. You will register for and take your placement tests online. go.wisc.edu/uw_testing

Placement testing must be completed at least two weeks prior to participating in your orientation and course registration program (SOAR).

First-Year Students:

Math: All first-year students, regardless of previous math coursework, are required to take “Math B” as it exists on the Testing Services website. The “Math A” exam option will not meet this requirement and will result in needing to retest. The Math B test is available via two options*:

In person - Students can test for free on the UW–Madison campus on select dates. When available, in-person dates will be listed on the placement testing registration page.

Online - If students cannot take the exam in person, there is an option to pay a \$40 fee to complete an online proctored exam through Live Remote Proctoring.

**Completing all placement tests at least two weeks in advance of your SOAR dates is highly encouraged. However, if that is not possible, the Math B placement exam can also be taken in person, on campus, on the first day of first-year SOAR sessions free of charge.*

English: First-year students are required to take an English placement test, regardless of previous coursework or test credit (e.g. AP, IB, CLEP, A-Levels).

World Languages: Students who have previous experience in Spanish, French, or German and who plan to take coursework in that language at UW–Madison must take the placement test in that language to qualify and enroll in classes beyond the introductory language course. Students interested in taking a course in another world language should review the UW–Madison Languages website for more information. languages.wisc.edu

Transfer Students:

In addition to an email from the Office of the Registrar, transfer students can find information about which test(s) they need to take at the bottom of their Transfer Credit Evaluation, located in the Academic Records tile of their Student Center.

International Students:

Students who were required to submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English Test (DET) will take the English as a Second Language Assessment Test (ESLAT) instead of the UW System English placement test. If you are required to take the ESLAT, you will complete the test online in Canvas, the university’s learning portal. Registration is not needed.

You will receive additional information from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment or the Office of the Registrar about your placement testing requirements. If you have questions please connect with the appropriate office below:

First-Year Students:

onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu

Transfer Students:

crediteval@registrar.wisc.edu



ORIENTATION & ADVISING

OFFICE OF STUDENT TRANSITION & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

 go.wisc.edu/uw_soar

 608-262-4707

 soar@studentaffairs.wisc.edu

 [@UWNewStudent](https://www.instagram.com/UWNewStudent)

 [@transferuwmadison](https://www.facebook.com/transferuwmadison)

 [UWMadisonParentandFamilyProgram](https://www.facebook.com/UWMadisonParentandFamilyProgram)

ATTENDING SOAR

SOAR stands for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration. You will begin your transition to UW–Madison by learning about campus resources and enrolling in your first semester courses. While SOAR is required for all new UW–Madison students, international students will have the choice to attend SOAR in person or virtually.

In-Person SOAR

During this two-day experience, students will learn about campus resources and meet other new students through various interactive activities led by current students. The second day, students will meet with an academic advisor to discuss degree requirements and enroll in classes.

Virtual SOAR

Students who choose to attend SOAR virtually will complete a self-paced, online module followed by a live one-on-one appointment with an academic advisor. Then, once they arrive on campus, students will attend a second, in-person opportunity to learn about campus resources and meet other new students.

SOAR SIGN UP CHECKLIST

Complete these tasks ahead of your SOAR session:

- Accept your offer of admission and submit your deposit to be able to register for SOAR.
- Complete all placement tests to inform your course selection and advising.
- Start your SOAR reservation at go.wisc.edu/uw_soar.
- Check your email to finalize your reservation.
- See your confirmation email for more information about your SOAR program.

SOAR FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

If attending SOAR in person, students are invited to bring up to two guests to attend the concurrent SOAR Parent & Guest Program, which covers topics like academics at UW–Madison, housing, safety, well-being, and more. If attending SOAR virtually, we encourage family members to look at the Parent and Family Program website, a centralized location to find resources, join online events, ask questions, and more. You can even sign up on their website to receive Badger Family newsletters to stay connected to UW–Madison all year long.



21
SOAR REGISTRATION
OPENS ON
APR. 21
@ 5:00 p.m.



-  iss.wisc.edu
-  608-262-2044
-  iss@iss.wisc.edu
-  [@UW_ISS](https://www.instagram.com/UW_ISS)
-  [ISSatUW](https://www.facebook.com/ISSatUW)
-  [@UW_ISS](https://twitter.com/UW_ISS)



WELCOME, FROM ISS

International Student Services (ISS) is excited to welcome you to UW–Madison!

Our dedicated team of advisors and support staff are excited to welcome you to UW–Madison! International Student Services (ISS) is here to support your journey as an international student. We provide:

- Non-immigrant F-1 and J-1 student advising, including education workshops to help you maintain your status.
- Transition support for new Global Badgers, beginning with your compulsory International Student Orientation (ISO) & ISS Check-in.
- Engagement programs to enrich your Wisconsin Experience and celebrate your identities.
- Resources to support your academic success, mental health and wellness, and life after your studies as a Global Badger.
- International Student Welcome and Information Fairs (ISWIF) in fall and spring that features student organizations and campus resources.
- Terra Dotta is your student immigration portal during your time with a UW–Madison I-20 or DS-2019. You will find important reminders on our website, Terra Dotta, and your email—stay connected with ISS.

WHAT ISS HAS TO OFFER

Advising:

ISS provides comprehensive immigration advice to F-1 and J-1 students. ISS advisors are here to help if you have questions or concerns about maintaining your non-immigrant student visa status. You have an assigned ISS advisor based on your school/college and major. Log in to your Terra Dotta portal or [search for your ISS advisor](#) on the ISS website. In addition, ISS offers weekly drop-in advising, which does not require an appointment.

Support:

ISS offers support when you encounter immigration, social, personal, or academic issues. We hope to connect you to resources on campus and create opportunities for you to get involved within the campus community and beyond. Participate in the International Peer Mentor program, designed to support new international students at UW–Madison by matching them with a mentor. Learn about other engagement opportunities by visiting our [Get Involved](#) page.

Advocacy:

ISS advocates for international students’ needs and interests across campus in order to promote a globally conscious environment. We recognize the diverse experiences that you bring to the university and hope to create a campus community where Global Badgers feel valued and welcome.

ISS believes that students themselves are an important part of the advocacy process. ISS works with the International Student Services Advisory Board (ISSAB). This group exists to share international student feedback with ISS staff. isab@iss.wisc.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

WHY ISO?

International Student Orientation (ISO) is an online course in Canvas (separate from Terra Dotta) designed to help you successfully transition to campus life, complete your mandatory ISS check-in, learn about your student visa requirements, and explore campus resources. ISO and ISS check-in is a three-step process across three platforms: MyUW, Canvas, and Terra Dotta. You are not required to visit ISS to complete ISO & ISS check-in.

The ISO program offers you the opportunity to:

- Learn U.S. federal regulations and the importance of maintaining your non-immigrant F-1 or J-1 student status.
- Meet the team at the International Student Services (ISS) office and learn about their advising services, resources, and other opportunities for support.
- Identify resources and services on campus to help you succeed.
- Help you adjust to U.S. culture and life on campus.

HOW TO COMPLETE ISO & ISS CHECK-IN


- Update your U.S. address and emergency contact information in your Student Center.
- Complete the online ISO course in Canvas. You may start reviewing ISO modules before you arrive in the U.S.
- Log in to your Terra Dotta portal with your NetID and password.
- Navigate to “Incoming Students” and select “International Student Orientation (ISO) & ISS Check-in.”
- Upload required documents, including your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, F-1 or J-1 visa stamp, and I-94 admission record. (You can download the I-94 after entering the U.S. at cbp.gov.)
- Review and sign the International Student Agreement.
- Submit your ISO & Check-in. We encourage you to complete this by the first day of classes. If you receive an email regarding ISO & ISS check-in, please read it carefully and take the necessary action.



FINALIZE YOUR ADMISSION

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

 admissions.wisc.edu

 608-262-3961

 onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu

 [@UWMadisonAdmissions](https://www.instagram.com/UWMadisonAdmissions)

 [UWMadisonAdmissions](https://www.facebook.com/UWMadisonAdmissions)

SUBMIT YOUR FINAL TRANSCRIPT(S)

Make sure to request an official transcript be sent to our office after your final grades are posted.

First-year students must provide a final high school transcript with a graduation date and any transcripts for college-level work, such as dual enrollment, by July 10.

Transfer students attending colleges on the semester schedule must provide official final transcripts by June 14, and students attending colleges on quarter schedules or international schools must provide them by July 10.

Review go.wisc.edu/final_transcripts for instructions. It is very important that you successfully complete the coursework entered on your application. A curriculum change could affect your admission status, and declining grades may be cause for revoking admission. *Note: If your admission is revoked, your I-20 or DS-2019 will be cancelled and cannot be used to apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa to study at UW-Madison*

SEND YOUR AP, CLEP, OR IB SCORES

Receive credit for your exams.

If you have scores from the AP, CLEP, or IB exams, you might be eligible to receive course credit for your scores. Request that the College Board or International Baccalaureate program electronically send your official scores to our office.

Your credit will then be evaluated and added to your student record, which your advisor will use in helping select the right classes for you.

SELF-REPORT YOUR FINAL GRADES (TRANSFER)

You must self-report your final grades in order to have your hold removed/moved in time for registration at SOAR.

It is imperative that you report your grades exactly as they appear on your transcript or grade report.

To report your final grades:

- Access your Student Center.
- In the Student Center, select the Applicant Homepage from the dropdown menu.
- Then select the Admissions tile to access the Report Grades link.

SEND YOUR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS FOR COURSE CREDIT (FIRST-YEAR)

Receive credit for your previous college coursework.

We recommend sending your official college transcripts that you have not yet submitted to our office to be evaluated for course credit at this time.

Your official transcript(s) should be requested from the college or institution through which your credit was awarded.

We encourage you to send your official college transcripts as soon as possible to ensure your transfer credit is posted to your UW-Madison student record in time for class registration and advising.

HEALTH SERVICES & EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

- uhs.wisc.edu
- uhs@uhs.wisc.edu
- [@uhsamadison](https://www.instagram.com/uhsamadison)
- [UHSMadison](https://www.facebook.com/UHSMadison)
- [@UHSMadison](https://twitter.com/UHSMadison)

WELCOME TO CAMPUS

IMMUNIZATIONS & INSURANCE

University Health Services (UHS) provides an array of health and wellness offerings to our students, most at no additional cost. go.wisc.edu/uw_uhs

It is recommended that all incoming students be up to date on the following vaccinations: COVID-19, Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus, Meningococcal, Measles-Mumps-Rubella, Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis, and Varicella. International students must also provide TB screening results. Immunization records should be uploaded to your MyUHS account before you come to campus. You'll receive additional information via your wisc.edu email. uhs.wisc.edu/about/medicalclearance

All international students and visa dependents are required to have UW-Madison-approved health insurance coverage. You must enroll yourself and any visa dependents in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or file a qualifying waiver by the compliance deadline unless you qualify for an Automatic Waiver.

In addition to the services provided by UHS, SHIP members are protected by a nationwide network of hospitals, clinics, and specialized medical service. uhs.wisc.edu/ship

EDUCATION MODULES

Our education modules are required of all UW-Madison students. You'll receive more information about how to complete these programs before the semester begins.

AlcoholEdu

Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Part 1: Due August 28, Part 2: Due October 15

Free Expression at UW-Madison

First Amendment Rights Education

Due August 28

U Got This!

Sexual and Dating Violence Prevention

get wise

Sexual and Dating Violence Prevention

Due October 18



Inclusion and Diversity Education

WISCONSIN WELCOME

Wisconsin Welcome is a multi-week, new-student celebration of your arrival on campus. Discover Madison, meet fellow Badgers, and find your campus community. go.wisc.edu/welcome

- Learn about hundreds of clubs and organizations at the Student Org Fair.
- Participate in the New Student Convocation—UW-Madison's formal welcome for all incoming students.
- Attend your first class as a UW-Madison Badger.
- If you are a transfer student, connect with the Transfer Transition Program. transfer.wisc.edu



FALL 2025 SEMESTER BEGINS
SEPT. 3

CONNECT WITH FUTURE BADGERS

Celebrate your admission and connect with other students about to start their journey at UW-Madison by posting with and exploring #FutureBadger.

Follow the Office of Admissions & Recruitment's social channels to meet other students starting this fall and get helpful information and tips for your transition to UW-Madison.

The Office of Admissions & Recruitment does not have official class pages, groups, or accounts; however, there are other pages that may claim to be "official" that are not monitored or affiliated with UW-Madison. While many students utilize these to find fellow new students, we strongly encourage you to continue to follow official channels for important next steps information and to get your questions answered.

[@UWMadisonAdmissions](https://www.instagram.com/UWMadisonAdmissions)

[UWMadisonAdmissions](https://www.facebook.com/UWMadisonAdmissions)

YOU BELONG AT UW-MADISON

As a #FutureBadger, we hope you will join our community that welcomes all.

We are a dynamic and diverse community that celebrates and embraces students of color; members of the LGBTQIA+ community; transfer students; those first in their family to attend college; veterans and active military students; international students; adult students and working parents; rural students; students with disabilities; students who come from low income homes; students who speak different languages; students from different places; and students who come from a variety of cultures, religions, and lived experiences.

As a student at UW-Madison, you will have the incredible privilege of learning from and with those from different backgrounds and world views.

You will grow and learn, not just a student in the classroom, but as a person.

We celebrate your unique identities, experiences, and perspectives that you will bring to UW-Madison.
Our university will be made better because you are a part of it.

We all belong at UW-Madison.

[GO.WISC.EDU/YOU_BELONG](https://go.wisc.edu/you_belong) #BADGERSBELONG



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