



2012-13 Photos courtesy of UW System

## GOING TO COLLEGE IS LIKE DISCOVERING A BRAND-NEW WORLD.

### ENTERING THAT WORLD REQUIRES CAREFUL PLANNING AND HARD WORK.

Think about how scientists and engineers worked for years to develop the telescopes for us to see the stars. During your journey of discovery to see the things you want in life and achieve your goals, you'll need to work hard in school. The harder you work, the more you'll see. So gear up for college now—it'll make a world of difference later.

This brochure will help you start planning to become a student in the University of Wisconsin System. **Our System includes 13 universities, 13 freshman-sophomore UW Colleges, and UW-Extension.** The UW Colleges campuses offer you the chance to begin college at a lower cost and complete up to two years of study before transferring to another university.

# UW>HELP

HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATION PROGRAM

UW HELP, the UW System educational advising office, can answer questions about admission, financial aid, and other student services for any of the 26 UW System campuses and UW-Extension.

800-442-6459 (711 for Wisconsin Relay)  
[uwhelp@uwex.edu](mailto:uwhelp@uwex.edu)  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu)

### BUILDING ACCESS TO THE UW SYSTEM



# GEARING UP FOR COLLEGE

[UWHELP.WISCONSIN.EDU](http://UWHELP.WISCONSIN.EDU)

UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN SYSTEM  
**UW**

# DISCOVER A BRAND-NEW WORLD

## PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Admission to a UW System campus is based on a number of factors. Increase your chances of being admitted, and be more likely to succeed when you get there, by:

- ✗ Choosing high school courses that challenge you
- ✗ Studying hard and earning good grades
- ✗ Doing well on the ACT or SAT test
- ✗ Developing your unique talents, skills, and accomplishments
- ✗ Participating in extracurricular and community activities

Your academic record will be evaluated by the rigor of your classes as well as your grade point average (GPA), your class rank (comparing your GPA to those of your classmates), and your ACT or SAT score.

Plan to take the ACT or SAT in the spring of your junior year.

## CHOOSING HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Take high school classes that will help develop strong reading, writing and math skills. We also recommend foreign language classes—and some campuses require them. Preparation for some college majors goes beyond the classes generally needed for admission. For example, if you think you might want to major in engineering or science, you should take chemistry, physics, computer science, and four years of math.

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION

The following high school classes are the **minimum** you'll need to enter a campus. Some require more.

- ✗ **4 years of English**, including composition and literature.
- ✗ **3 years of math**, including algebra, geometry, and higher math.
- ✗ **3 years of natural science**, including laboratory science such as biology, chemistry, or physics.
- ✗ **3 years of social science**, including history.
- ✗ **4 years of electives** from the above areas, foreign language, fine arts, computer science, or other areas.
- ✗ **2 years of a single foreign language** is strongly advised, and is required by some universities.

Plan your high school classes now. By the time you graduate, you'll easily be able to meet college class requirements.

## OTHER WAYS TO GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE

**Launch yourself into new learning opportunities!**

Every UW System campus has programs for students of all ages. Precollege programs found at [uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/precollege](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/precollege) teach computer skills, journalism, science, art, athletics, study skills, and many other subjects.

You may also be able to take college courses or earn college credit while in high school. Ask your school counselor for more information.

Visit MajorMania at [majormaniaman.uwex.edu](http://majormaniaman.uwex.edu) to discover which UW System campuses have a major or program you're interested in exploring.

Visit [KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org](http://KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org), a site that motivates Wisconsin's youth to consider college.

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Half of all UW System students depend on financial aid. The financial aid office at each UW System campus will help you understand how to apply for aid and pay for your education through grants, loans, and work-study employment. Many college students work part-time.

Students and their families who need the most help to pay for college usually qualify for grants or work study that do not have to be repaid. For students and their families who need less help, most aid will be loan money that must be repaid after college.

You and your family should begin saving money for college as early as you can. Remember, the interest paid to you on your savings is money you don't have to earn or borrow.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, or other factors and do not require repayment. Scholarships are offered by all UW System campuses and many other sources. There are free scholarship searches online; [uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/scholarships](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/scholarships) is a place to start.



## FIND OUT MORE

- PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH:**  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/precollege](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/precollege)
- FINANCING:** [uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/payingforcollege](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/payingforcollege)
- MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMMING:**  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/preparing/multicultural.aspx](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/preparing/multicultural.aspx)
- GEARING UP:** [uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/gearingup](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/gearingup)
- MAJORMANIA:** [majormaniaman.uwex.edu](http://majormaniaman.uwex.edu)
- EDVEST:** [www.edvest.com](http://www.edvest.com)
- SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:**  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/special/services.aspx](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/special/services.aspx)
- KNOWHOW2GO:** [KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org](http://KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org)
- SCHOLARSHIP INFO:**  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/scholarships](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/scholarships)

Watch the new **JOURNEY TO COLLEGE** video:  
[uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/journey](http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/journey)

