

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



THE SEARCH

The Universities of Wisconsin invite applications and nominations for the position of Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The University of Wisconsin–Madison has long been recognized as one of America’s great public universities. Situated on a lakefront campus that is considered one of the nation’s most picturesque, this highly regarded public, land-grant institution includes a complete spectrum of liberal arts, sciences, research opportunities, advanced research training, and professional programs, and an unrivaled student experience.

THE OPPORTUNITY

UW–Madison is looking for an experienced and forward-thinking leader to build on its long tradition of excellence and who will:

Advance the University’s Tradition of World-Class Teaching and Research

The University of Wisconsin–Madison, the flagship campus of the statewide Universities of Wisconsin system, is recognized internationally for its rigorous academics, ground-breaking research across a great variety of fields and disciplines, and a steadfast commitment to public service known as the Wisconsin Idea. The university was founded in 1848 and was designated as the state’s land-grant institution in 1866. It has been at the forefront of education, innovation, and discovery since its establishment 178 years ago.

UW–Madison is a nationally and globally ranked leader in higher education and research across a broad array of disciplines. The university provides a learning environment in which faculty, staff, and students discover, examine critically, preserve, and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values to help ensure that this and future generations will thrive.

The university helps students develop an understanding of and appreciation for the complex cultural and physical world in which they live, prepare for future careers, and expand their understanding of themselves and their capabilities. The Chancellor must create a campus environment in which students, staff, and faculty can learn and flourish.

The Chancellor leads the university and its mission, supporting the long-held UW–Madison tradition of “fearless sifting and winnowing,” or the pursuit of truth through research, education, and scholarly inquiry. At a pivotal moment in history, with higher education facing significant headwinds, the Chancellor must understand that the broader higher education environment is dynamic and evolving, and be prepared to lead effectively today and in the future. This is especially true in an environment where fiscal pressures and state governance influence the daily work of the university’s leaders.

In supporting and growing the university’s overall research portfolio, the Chancellor is also responsible for setting an entrepreneurial vision for the university that will enhance UW–Madison’s research enterprise for the betterment of the state of Wisconsin, the nation, and the world, and in so doing, support the scholarship of faculty, staff, and students. The Chancellor is also tasked with ensuring the continued vitality, competitiveness, and strength of our world-class graduate and professional programs.



UW–Madison seeks to provide broad access to an exceptional, affordable educational experience with a priority on serving Wisconsin high school graduates, though UW–Madison students hail from 50 states and nearly 130 countries. Total student enrollment exceeds 51,000. The university continues to see record-breaking applications from around the nation and the world for a spot in its first-year undergraduate class. For example, for the upcoming academic year, UW–Madison received around 75,000 applications.

UW–Madison’s first-year student retention rate is 96%, 12 points above the national average, and its six-year graduation rate is near 90%, placing the university in the top 10 among the nation’s public universities. The average year-to-degree is 3.78 years. UW–Madison is also ranked 6th in the nation for study abroad participation.

Additionally, two-thirds of UW–Madison students graduate debt-free, in part due to several programs designed to help meet students’ full financial need. Bucky’s Tuition Promise, Bucky’s Pell Pathway, and the Wisconsin Tribal Education Promise are programs that ensure full financial support to qualifying Wisconsin students. The university offers another program, Badger Aid for Nonresidents, to low-income undergraduates from outside Wisconsin, in addition to grants and scholarships.

Envision and Communicate a Plan for Maintaining UW–Madison’s Outreach Mission to Improve Lives in Wisconsin and Beyond

One of the most cherished commitments at UW–Madison is the Wisconsin Idea, developed more than a century ago. The Wisconsin Idea signifies a general principle: that education (and research) should influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom and beyond the boundaries of the university. UW–Madison serves the state in multiple ways, and the Chancellor is a champion of the

Wisconsin Idea everywhere they go and is responsible for putting it into action.

UW–Madison promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development in Wisconsin and the world. Notably, UW–Madison is a key economic driver of the state’s economy, serving as an invaluable resource and asset to all Wisconsin citizens. The university, its affiliated organizations, and the startup companies it generates contribute \$38.9 billion annually to Wisconsin’s economy, placing it alongside major industries such as dairy, food processing, and tourism. UW–Madison generates \$21.66 in economic activity for every dollar invested in the university, and its research has spurred more than 400 companies that have strengthened some of Wisconsin’s fastest-growing industries, including biotechnology, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and energy.

UW–Madison, in close partnership with UW Health, an independent, nonprofit entity governed by the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority, provides access to world-class healthcare and cutting-edge treatments while training the healthcare workforce of tomorrow in service to the residents of Wisconsin. UW Health Hospitals, which includes University Hospital on the UW–Madison campus and UW Health East Madison Hospital on the east side of Madison, has been ranked #1 in Wisconsin 12 years in a row by U.S. News and World Report, and the system serves more than 800,000 patients each year in the upper Midwest and beyond. The university is also home to the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP), a grantmaking organization to address Wisconsin’s most pressing and complex health challenges. Since its inception in 2004, WPP has awarded \$300 million through competitive funding decisions across 635 funded projects that benefit all 72 counties in Wisconsin.

As the leader of the state’s flagship university, the Chancellor partners with the community and the state to extend



and apply UW–Madison’s research, education, and practice-based knowledge to foster learning and support innovation and prosperity throughout Wisconsin. The Chancellor collaborates with state and local government and industry, business, and community leaders in this pursuit to provide positive social, cultural, and economic impact.

UW–Madison is also a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers, ranking number one for the most Peace Corps alumni in 2025 and 2026, and second place as an all-time volunteer-producing institution, with more than 3,500 alumni serving since 1961.

Advance the Goals of Inclusive Excellence and Pluralism on the UW–Madison Campus

In 2025, the university launched the Wisconsin Exchange to enhance viewpoint diversity, promote vigorous discourse and debate, and reinforce a campus culture of civil dialogue where different perspectives are expected and respected. Pluralism is a key component of a UW–Madison education and experience.

Additionally, the university launched a new strategic framework in 2026 that was developed in close consultation with many members of the UW–Madison community. This framework articulates a set of community commitments – grounded in respect for human dignity and the mission of a leading research university – designed to allow everyone to participate, grow, and contribute to advancing the Wisconsin Idea. These commitments describe shared expectations

for how members of the UW–Madison community interact and work with each other, promoting civility, providing opportunities for growth and success, embracing complexity, and fostering connection and community.

The Chancellor is responsible for helping define what it means to be part of UW–Madison. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to these principles and will foster a culture of inclusive excellence in a world of diverse identities, backgrounds, and viewpoints. The candidate should also understand how the Wisconsin Idea furthers the diversity of ideas and the innovative spirit of UW–Madison. The candidate should respect and have a commitment to working with individuals with differing views to establish a university where all can thrive.

Expand and Strengthen a High-Performing Organization

UW–Madison endeavors to continuously improve its operations and the services it provides to students, faculty, and staff. This includes strengthening our historically strong financial performance by growing revenues and controlling costs. It also means providing high-quality administrative services and developing new and innovative ways to invest in our strategic priorities while maintaining a commitment to the highest ethical standards. As a campus, UW–Madison is committed to practicing environmental sustainability principles in stewarding university resources by recognizing our environmental responsibility to people and the planet.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated commitment to employee well-being and an eagerness to invest in an outstanding employee experience. They will also commit to modernizing and aligning systems, processes, and infrastructure to support collaboration, reduce administrative burden, and foster timely decision-making while aligning policies, resources, and accountability to support all members of the UW–Madison community in a manner that fosters viewpoint diversity.

Collaborate Effectively through Shared Governance

Shared governance provides representation to faculty, staff, and students who advise and participate in developing and updating university policies. Shared governance is an important aspect of life at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, with the right to participate in institutional governance codified in Wisconsin Statute.

The next Chancellor must build upon and support the university's high-quality and committed faculty and staff in ways that advance the mission and reflect the university's values. The Chancellor is a regular participant in shared governance meetings, and the successful candidate must be fully committed to and supportive of shared governance, which includes academic staff, university staff, faculty, and student groups.

Engage and Communicate the Value of the University to External Stakeholders

The Chancellor is the primary spokesperson for UW–Madison and must steadfastly and regularly speak to the value of the university to multiple stakeholders, from political and community leaders to alumni and donors.

This means working closely with elected political leaders at the federal, state, and local levels to advocate for policies and laws that strengthen the university while also explaining and defending the university to those who critique it. The Chancellor must always balance a variety of interests, risks, and opportunities to advance the university's best interests.

The university has more than 504,000 living alumni who constitute a key stakeholder group. The Chancellor meets with philanthropic supporters and alumni groups across the state, nation, and globe. Fundraising is an increasingly important source of revenue for the university, and the Chancellor plays a leadership role in this activity, particularly among the university's most generous friends and supporters.

The landscape of intercollegiate athletics has evolved significantly in recent years and has increasing reputational and financial implications for UW–Madison and universi-

ties like it. Wisconsin Badger Athletics, fielding 23 NCAA Division I teams and supporting 775 student athletes, is a major area of engagement with external stakeholders. The Chancellor serves on the Big Ten Conference's Council of Presidents and Chancellors and plays a significant leadership role in the university's decision-making with respect to the university's athletics enterprise. The successful candidate will commit to closely monitoring and tracking major developments in intercollegiate athletics overall.

Additionally, UW–Madison is a member of the Association of American Universities, an exclusive group of 71 of America's leading research universities. The Chancellor serves with their counterparts on AAU's presidents and chancellors group.

Collaborate with Affiliated Organizations

The university is strongly affiliated with its academic health system, UW Health, a \$6.3 billion integrated health system that includes a university hospital, community hospitals, a health plan, and clinics that serve the state of Wisconsin and populations in neighboring states. The Chancellor serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of UW Health.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) serves as an independent, affiliated organization that handles university technology transfer as well as licensing and commercialization of university-generated intellectual property. WARF translates university research into real-world benefit and makes important financial contributions to UW–Madison through an annual gift that supports university research and talent development. The Chancellor serves as a member of the WARF Board of Trustees.

The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association is the official fundraising and gift-receiving organization for UW–Madison. The Foundation is the university's development and financial partner. Established in 1945, the Foundation was created and is governed by a board of UW–Madison alumni and donors.

University Research Park (URP), an internationally recognized research and technology park located in Madison, supports UW–Madison's mission by creating space for technology, research, science, and education to flourish. The Chancellor serves as the permanent president of URP's Advisory Board.

For all of these affiliated organizations, the Chancellor represents the university and guides decisions and practices that best serve UW–Madison's interests and its long-term partnerships.



UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

Flagship of the Universities of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is the R1 flagship of the Universities of Wisconsin, a 13-member system that serves more than 164,600 students. Awarding more than 37,000 degrees annually, these public universities are Wisconsin’s talent pipeline, putting graduates in position to increase their earning power, contribute to their communities, and make Wisconsin a better place to live. Nearly 90% of in-state Universities of Wisconsin graduates stay in the state five years after earning a degree. The Universities of Wisconsin also contribute to the richness of Wisconsin’s culture and economy with innovative and life-changing research, new companies and patents, and boundless creative and intellectual energy.

Universities of Wisconsin Leadership Structure

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents for the Universities of Wisconsin consists of 18 members, 16 of whom are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Of these 16 members, 14 serve staggered, seven-year terms, and two are ex officio members. The two ex officio members are the state superintendent of public instruction and the president or a designee of the Wisconsin Technical College

System Board. Two Universities of Wisconsin students, one of whom is a non-traditional student, are also appointed to the Board for two-year terms. The Board of Regents is responsible for establishing policies and rules for governing the Universities of Wisconsin, planning to meet future needs for university education in the state, setting admission standards and policies, reviewing and approving university budgets, and establishing the regulatory framework within which individual units operate. The Board appoints the President of the Universities of Wisconsin and the Chancellors of the 13 universities. The Board also grants tenure appointments to faculty members.

Universities of Wisconsin President

As chief executive officer, the President of the Universities of Wisconsin has full executive responsibility for the operation and management of the Universities of Wisconsin. The Vice Presidents and Chancellors report to the President. Universities of Wisconsin Administration works collaboratively with UW–Madison leadership on behalf of UW–Madison and all 13 members of the Universities of Wisconsin.

Chancellors

As executive heads of their respective universities, the Chancellors are responsible for the leadership, strategic vision and execution, and administration of their units, including degree requirements; academic standards; grading systems; faculty appointments, evaluation, promotion, and recommendations for tenure; auxiliary services; and budgetary management. Chancellors work collaboratively with their Universities of Wisconsin chancellor counterparts to address priorities, initiatives, and other areas of shared interest.

STATUTORY

RESPONSIBILITIES

As executive head of the institution, the Chancellor is vested with the statutory responsibility of administering Board of Regents policies under the coordinating direction of the President of the Universities of Wisconsin and is accountable and reports to the President and the Board on the operation of the institution. Per statute and in alignment with Board policy, the Chancellor, in consultation with the Chancellor's leadership team and the faculty, is responsible for designing curricula and setting degree requirements; determining academic standards and establishing grading systems; defining and administering institutional standards for faculty peer evaluation and screening candidates for appointment, promotion, and tenure; recommending individual merit increases; administering associated auxiliary services; administering all funds, from whatever source, allocated, generated, or intended for use by the institution; and presiding over UW-Madison's separate statutory authority to administer university human resources programs for faculty and staff.

DESIRED

QUALIFICATIONS

UW-Madison seeks a Chancellor with the capacity to lead a complex, high-performing, and innovative land-grant institution within a large and dynamic public higher education system. Candidates will be evaluated on the following professional and personal characteristics:

- Commitment to scholarly values, academic excellence, academic freedom, and tenure, and an understanding of the diverse missions of a major public research university, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional instruction, research, public service, entrepreneurship, outreach, and amplifying the university's impact.
- Experience leading an organization in an evolving, dynamic, and uncertain higher education environment. This includes nurturing change where needed across the enterprise, from instructional and work modalities and technology to student services. Of great importance is recruiting/retaining top talent in all facets of university employment, and repurposing or maximizing resources where needed to ensure both efficient and effective administrative services.
- Academic or equivalent professional accomplishments, including:
 - Academic scholarship and teaching and/or research credentials and accomplishments, or equivalent professional leadership credentials and accomplishments, which will command the respect of the academic community.
 - A successful record of leadership, including experience in higher education or equivalent professional administration.
- Ability to manage and strengthen resource allocation within UW-Madison:
 - The Chancellor should be able to foster deep relations with industry and government agencies, continue to manage resources wisely, and maintain sound budgetary controls and principled resource allocation. Fulfilling UW-Madison's mission over the long term will be accomplished if revenues are increased and expenditures are made strategically.
 - The Chancellor should have a demonstrated financial acumen to sustain and strengthen the university's finances and ensure that it operates sustainably and proactively to address potential sources of financial stress.
 - The Chancellor will communicate effectively and build transparency with respect to budgeting processes, principles, and decisions, including a demonstrated





- commitment for securing research grants and funding.
- Commitment to promote and increase success in securing funding for the university through:
 - Federal, state, industry, and other grants and contracts;
 - State budget initiatives;
 - Innovative, revenue-generating initiatives that use the entrepreneurial spirit of the university to put resources to the highest and best use and diversify institutional revenue;
 - Working with alumni, business leaders, foundations, and other constituencies to support fundraising; and
 - Review of ongoing reinvestment of revenues derived from research patents, licenses, and entrepreneurial ventures.
- Outstanding leadership qualities and experiences, including:
 - Personal integrity, intellectual curiosity, compassion, resilience, and energy;
 - Demonstrated record of commitment to building a community that supports and encourages diverse identities, backgrounds, and viewpoints, and fosters a culture of excellence in which all members can thrive;
 - Allegiance to the student body demonstrated by continual direct student engagement;
 - A collaborative leadership style that emphasizes openness and fairness;
 - A commitment to Wisconsin's strong tradition of shared governance, which includes active participation in policymaking by faculty, staff, and students;
- Desire and ability to advance the university's mission in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs; to provide leadership and support to the faculty in teaching, scholarship, and public service; to link the curriculum to the needs of the people of Wisconsin and beyond; and to grow the research enterprise;
- Ability to build consensus and provide leadership to faculty, staff, administrators, students, and other constituents in implementing the current and future strategic frameworks;
- Demonstrated leadership in national higher educational or similar organizations;
- Data-driven decision-making, with administrative and business acumen to understand the present and future of higher education.
- Talent and energy to build broad support for the institution at local, state, national, and international levels, including:
 - The ability to represent the institution and work effectively with its many constituencies who may have differing visions and ideas for the institution, including: the Board of Regents; the Universities of Wisconsin President and administration; federal, state, and local elected officials and other governmental bodies; community and business leaders; other educational institutions at the secondary and post-secondary



levels in Wisconsin and nationally; alumni and parents of students; the Native Nations of Wisconsin; news media; campus affiliates; alumni networks; communities across the state; as well as the public at large;

- A commitment to seeing the university as an active and engaged member of the Madison and Dane County community, working for the betterment of its residents;
- Working collaboratively with the other Universities of Wisconsin chancellors;
- The ability to represent the institution's interests in key national organizations such as the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU), and the Big Ten Conference.
- A commitment to continually improve the university experience for students, faculty, and staff, including:
 - Leadership and passion for enhancing inclusion efforts that impact the campus community, including expanding diversity of identity and perspective among students, faculty, and staff, and broadly supporting their success;
 - Commitment to outreach and recruitment of learners in both the urban and rural sectors of Wisconsin;
 - Enhancing the quality of student life and strengthening the delivery of services to students;
 - Enhancing educational opportunities through appropriate use of innovative technologies;
 - Demonstrated commitment to equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and non-discriminatory practices;
- A vision for supporting the university's workforce through competitive, market-based compensation, process improvement, and nurturing the evolution of work modalities and leveraging these strategies to recruit and retain diverse top talent in all facets of university employment;
- Commitment to academic freedom, including the tenure process.
- A commitment to the Wisconsin Idea and the university's responsibility of public service through dissemination of the results of scholarly and scientific inquiry and creative expression, including:
 - Support of the university's public-service mission that benefits the state, nation, and the world;
 - Demonstrated commitment to enhancing environmental sustainability;
 - Demonstrated commitment to the role of academic health enterprises to expand accessible, affordable, and equitable high-quality care;
 - Ability and interest in promoting the state of Wisconsin's economic development through educational programs, knowledge, and technology transfer;
 - Support of the Wisconsin Idea through engaged scholarship;
 - Understanding of, and interest in, implementing appropriate use of innovative technologies to improve online education, continuing education, and outreach.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON: AN OVERVIEW

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of the premier public universities and research institutions in the United States. Created at the same time Wisconsin achieved statehood in 1848, the university became the state's land-grant university in 1866. It continues to be Wisconsin's flagship 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.

With a \$4.95 billion budget, UW-Madison educates more than 51,800 students and employs some 27,300 faculty and staff. Composed of 13 schools and colleges, with a new college launching in July 2026, the university offers nearly 300 undergraduate majors and certificates, as well as more than 250 master's, doctoral, and professional programs. UW-Madison's major academic units, led by a dean, include:

- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- School of Business
- College of Computing and Artificial Intelligence (launching July 1, 2026)

- Division of Continuing Studies
- School of Education
- Division of Extension
- College of Engineering
- Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
- Graduate School
- School of Human Ecology
- International Division
- Law School
- College of Letters & Sciences
- School of Medicine and Public Health
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Veterinary Medicine

With annual expenditures exceeding \$1.9 billion, UW-Madison's research enterprise is one of the most robust in the nation, consistently ranking among the top 10 universities in annual research expenditures according to the National Science Foundation's HERD survey. For fiscal year 2024, the university ranked 5th and, among all institutions in the top 10, UW-Madison was behind only UC San Francisco in its percentage increase in federal expenditures.

UW-Madison is guided by the Wisconsin Idea, a century-old principle and public-service charge that the university should improve people's lives beyond the classroom. The university is a member of the Big Ten Conference, and the Wisconsin Badgers brand is recognized internationally with 23 NCAA Division I teams. In 2026, UW-Madison was ranked fourth among public universities in the United States by Time magazine, which uses the rankings to highlight institutions that drive academic excellence globally. The university is 12th among public universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings in 2025.



Indigenous Significance and History of Teejop (DeJope) – Madison (Four Lakes)

The Ho-Chunk have called Teejop (pronounced Day-JOPE), meaning “Four Lakes” and identifying the shores of Waaksikhomikra (Where the Man Lies), home since time immemorial. The Ho-Chunk, along with the Menominee, are Indigenous nations whose Creation Stories are rooted in what is now known as Wisconsin.

Located on the shores of Lake Mendota, the contemporary campus of UW-Madison is considered to be among the most archaeologically rich campuses in the United States today, in part due to Teejop being located in a cultural center of the mound-building peoples who created massive, monumental art burial sites that circumscribed each of the area’s Four Lakes. In Dane County, conical mound (hemispherical) and linear mound (wall-like) burial sites were first created some 2,500 years ago, with effigy mound burial sites (representation figures) first created some 1,500 years ago. There were more than 1,200 burial sites known as conical, linear, and effigy mounds in Teejop, and there were more than 20,000 conical, linear, and effigy mounds located in what now comprises 41 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin. Today, there are 34 extant mound sites on campus.

UW-Madison acknowledges the First Nations People of Wisconsin, who are the original inhabitants of the state, and respect their inherent sovereignty. The land that UW-Madison lies upon is ancestral Ho-Chunk homelands, and UW-Madison acknowledges the Ho-Chunk as the stewards of the land for thousands of years. UW-Madison respects the sacredness of these lands and is thankful to be able to provide educational opportunities in such prominent, historic, and meaningful landscapes.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

At a moment of tremendous opportunity and rapid and often disruptive change, we are focusing on what it means to be a leading university in the 21st century, recommitting to a modern conception of the Wisconsin Idea, and redefining how we deliver on our mission.

This is the ambition of our strategic framework. Launched in 2026, this five-year framework is a living document crafted from the input of thousands in our community, built upon our history, and providing a shared compass for us as we move Forward, Together the Badger Way.

The strategic framework does not prescribe a single pathway; it is, by design, not a strategic plan. It is meant to be a guide for our schools, colleges, departments, divisions, and partners to create and pursue an array of aligned strategies and plans so we can meet the emerging opportunities of our time while remaining pragmatic about the local, national, and global challenges ahead.

UW-Madison’s strategic framework contains the following pillars to deliver unrivaled educational experiences to prepare students for their future:

- Discover, create, and innovate to change lives;
- Convene and collaborate for the public good;
- Cultivate a culture of excellence to ensure a resilient future.

For more information: strategicframework.wisc.edu



FALL 2025

ENROLLMENT

Undergraduate **37,198**

Graduate **10,069**

Clinical Doctorate **2,560**

Special **1,995**

Total **51,822**

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY

COMMITMENTS

A thriving academic community depends not only on shared values, but also on shared expectations for how we interact and work with each other. Grounded in respect for human dignity and the mission of our leading research university, UW-Madison has adopted interconnected commitments designed to help create a community where everyone can participate, grow, and contribute to advancing the Wisconsin Idea.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison community will:

- Practice civility. We engage one another with respect, humility, and care for the dignity of every person.
- Provide opportunities for growth and success. We support all Badgers – students, faculty, and staff – as they learn, grow, and pursue excellence.
- Embrace complexity. We approach difficult ideas with curiosity and critical thinking and invite the perspectives and experiences of others, welcoming opportunities to refine our views or challenge even our most deeply held convictions.
- Foster connection and community. We cultivate belonging, mutual support, and meaningful relationships across our campus, recognizing that a thriving community allows people and ideas to grow and connect.

UW–MADISON

RANKINGS

#1: Peace Corps volunteers (2026)

#1: Best Hospitals in Wisconsin (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2025–26)

#2: Most doctorates granted among U.S. universities (2024)

#4: Best public university in the U.S. (*Time magazine*, 2026)

#5: Total research expenditures among U.S. universities (2024)

#7: Best Schools for Financial Aid among public universities (*Princeton Review*, 2025)

Top 10 “new Ivy” among public universities in the U.S. (*Forbes magazine*, 2026)

#12: America’s Best Colleges among public universities (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2025–26)

#25 Best university worldwide (Center for World University Rankings, 2021)



CITY RANKINGS

- #1:** Cities with Best Work-Life Balance (smartasset.com, 2020)
- #1:** Best College Football Town in America (Sports Illustrated, 2019)
- #1:** Best Places in the U.S. for Raising Children (diversitydatakids.com, 2020)
- #2:** Best Cities for Bikes (peopleforbikes.org, 2020)
- #2:** Happiest Cities in America (menshealth.com, 2020)
- #2:** Best Places for Outdoor Enthusiasts to Live and Work (smartasset.com, 2020)
- #3:** Top 100 Best Places to Live (livability.com, 2020)
- #4:** Greenest Cities in the US (zippia.com, 2020)

MADISON, WISCONSIN:

A VIBRANT CAPITAL CITY

With a population of more than 260,000, Madison is Wisconsin's state capital and the hub of a large metropolitan area. Built on an isthmus and surrounded by lakes, UW-Madison and the city of Madison seamlessly blend together, creating opportunities and an atmosphere unlike any other campus.

As both a midsize city and college town, Madison has all the action and amenities of a major metro area. Milwaukee and Chicago are short drives away, and the Dane County Regional Airport directly connects Madison to major cities around the country. With a robust arts and dining scene, thousands of acres of natural areas, top-rated health care and school systems, and a thriving economy and technology sector, Madison has been recognized as a "Best Place to Live" by numerous publications.

For a virtual tour of Madison through the seasons:
madison.wisc.edu

FAST FACTS

- Metro area population: 664,865 (2019)
- Average commute time: under 20 minutes
- Lakes: 5 (12 public beaches)
- Parks: 260 (6,000 acres, 15 dog parks)
- Off-road paths and trails: 200+ miles
- One of five platinum-level bike cities in the U.S.
- One of two major U.S. cities built on an isthmus



NOMINATION AND

APPLICATION

PROCESS

Application materials must be submitted electronically and should include: 1) a letter of interest that addresses the candidate's experiences and qualifications as identified in the Search Prospectus, and 2) a curriculum vitae (please also list your personal email address and cell phone number). Candidates may request confidentiality until campus finalists are announced. For fullest consideration, application and nomination materials should be submitted by September 10, 2026, through the Isaacson, Miller website: imsearch.com/open-searches/university-wisconsin-madison/chancellor

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of Wisconsin-Madison would supersede any conflicting information in this document.



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an equal opportunity and affirmative action educator and employer. © 2026 Board of Regents of the Universities of Wisconsin System