

2025-26



School of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# SOAR

Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration



# Welcome!

## To the School of Education

The School of Education at UW–Madison is consistently ranked as one of the finest schools of education in the United States, and among the best in the world. The school embraces fields of study that define the human experience: education to challenge minds, health to improve lives, and the arts to enhance creative spirits. We also conduct world-class research to drive the conversation forward.

The School of Education offers undergraduate students unique opportunities and a broad array of undergraduate programs, that reflect the wide range of disciplines housed in the school:

- Small class sizes in many pre-professional and professional courses allow students to develop a strong sense of community
- Teaching staff that enjoy getting to know their students, providing individual attention and working with them to meet their goals
- A caring, secure, and supportive environment that encourages taking risks, expanding personal horizons, and developing both personally and professionally

At the School of Education Student Services office, we believe a strong and supportive community is essential to helping students thrive. We strive to create a space where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered to grow. By bringing together people with different perspectives and from all paths of life, we build a richer learning environment and a more connected campus. Supporting student well-being and their needs is at the heart of what we do.

We are here to listen, get to know you and your story, and help you create a plan for your undergraduate experience at UW–Madison.

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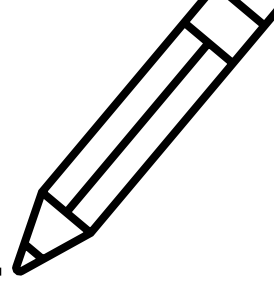


“If my freshman year self could look at me right now, oh my gosh, she wouldn’t believe me. She would be shocked that I went to Prague, she would be shocked at all of the internships and opportunities and ways that I’ve succeeded and thrived. And, being a senior, I’m just so immensely grateful and proud of myself. And it’s through getting into that discomfort, through trying to do the scarier option, that I was able to succeed in that. I really encourage you to lean into the discomfort and then really be proud of yourself and notice that growth and change.”

– **Maggie King**,  
Rehabilitation Psychology,  
Class of 2023



# Begin Your School of Education Journey Here!



**What majors and academic topics are you interested in?**

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**Are you considering specific careers? If so, what are they?**

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**Course ideas for upcoming semester:**

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**Notes/questions for your advisor:**

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# Majors and Certificates

## Majors

 <b>Arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art, BS/BFA</li><li>• Dance, BS/BFA</li><li>• Theatre and Drama</li></ul>
 <b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art Education</li><li>• Elementary Education</li><li>• Educational Policy Studies</li><li>• Physical Education</li><li>• Special Education</li><li>• Elementary Education and Special Education</li></ul>
 <b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Promotion and Health Equity</li><li>• Kinesiology</li><li>• Rehabilitation Psychology</li></ul>



Explore our programs: [go.wisc.edu/soar-undergrad-majors](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-undergrad-majors)

## Certificates

We offer a wide variety of certificates, meant to allow students to add to, deepen, and provide a new perspective on their primary majors. Similar to minors at other universities, certificates require fewer credits than a major and are often interdisciplinary in nature (including classes from multiple departments on campus). They give students the chance to earn an academic credential through a set of classes about topics like Promoting Activity for Diverse Abilities, Social Justice and Education, Game Design, Arts and Teaching, and more.



View our full list of certificates:  
[go.wisc.edu/soar-undergrad-certificates](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-undergrad-certificates)

# Advising Resources

## Advisors can help with all kinds of questions and topics!



### Classes/Majors/Careers

- How classes are going
- Schedule changes
- Dropping a class
- Exploring majors or certificates
- Post-graduation plans
- Study abroad
- Graduation requirements
- Academic/personal goals



### Your Transition to College

- Time management practices
- Study skills
- Adjusting to college



### Social Connections

- Meeting people
- Developing a support system
- Involvement and participation opportunities



### Health, Wellness, Identity

- What to do if you get sick or have an accident
- Concerns about anxiety or depression

## We can also help refer you to resources for things like:



## Need advising?

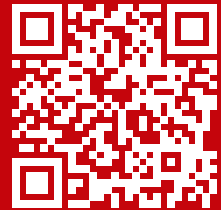
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,  
139 Education Building

### Advising options:

- **Scheduled:** 30 minutes via video, phone, or in person
- **Drop-ins:** 15 minutes, via video or in person, no appointment needed

### How to make an appointment:

- **Call us:** 608-262-1651
- **Schedule online:** log into myUW, click on Starfish, find your advisor's name, and choose a time that works for you. **Scan to make an appointment:**



[go.wisc.edu/soar-starfish](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-starfish)



# Advising Landscape

Throughout your journey at UW–Madison, you'll gather a team of advisors who will assist you with academic advising, career exploration, and professional development. Your starting point for this team is your **academic advisor** and your **career advisor**. Additional members may include **departmental**, **pre-professional**, or **scholarship** advisors .

## Academic Advisors



**A.J. Lara**  
(he/him)



**Alyssa Pon-Franklin**  
(she/her)



**Becky Smith**  
(she/her)



**Dr. Camille Bernier**  
(she/her)



**Jerry Jordan**  
(he/him)



**Dr. Mary Thompson-Shriver**  
(she/her)



**Sa Seng Xiong**  
(he/him)



**Amy Shannon**  
(she/her)  
Student Success &  
Support Manager

## Career Center Advisors



**Michael Rutkowski**  
(he/him)



**Zack Minnier**  
(he/him)



**Lore Bennett**  
(they/them)

Meet with your  
career advisor and  
get to know your  
support team

Discover a range of  
rewarding careers  
that match your  
chosen major

Ways to  
engage with the  
**Career Center**  
your first year

Learn  
how and  
where to get  
involved and  
gain experience

Enroll in  
the 1-credit  
career  
development  
course and jump  
start your career path



Learn more about advising:  
[go.wisc.edu/soar-advising](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-advising)



Connect with the Career Center:  
[go.wisc.edu/soar-cc-contact](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-cc-contact)

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## Departmental Advisors

Some departments/majors have “content experts,” who are your points of contact for questions about upper-level coursework, getting involved in research or student organizations, course access, and more.



**Dr. Dan Timm**  
Physical Education



**Jim Stauffer**  
Theatre and Drama



**Karen  
McShane-Hellenbrand**  
Dance



**Dr. Mary Hoefflerle**  
Art Education



**A'ha Vuong**  
Art



**Matt Mauk**  
Art



**Dr. Morgan Shields**  
Kinesiology



**Nancy  
Krattiger-Ziltener**  
Kinesiology



**Zoe Hurley (she/her)**  
Health Promotion and  
Health Equity

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## Pre-Professional Advising

These offices serve any students who are exploring, preparing for, and applying to law or health professional programs, such as medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, etc. They answer questions about application requirements, competitiveness, shadowing opportunities, internships, and more. They also frequently offer workshops, drop-ins, and sessions to help students prepare for their chosen career.

Center for Pre-Health Advising:  
[prehealth.wisc.edu](http://prehealth.wisc.edu)

Center for Pre-Law Advising:  
[prelaw.wisc.edu](http://prelaw.wisc.edu)

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## Scholarship and Service Program Advising

Some students are involved in a scholarship or service program, such as the Precollege Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence, Posse, Center for Educational Opportunity, Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program, or First Wave. You may have a program advisor who provides regular support in academic, social, and personal aspects of your educational journey. Visit: [go.wisc.edu/scholarship-service-programs](http://go.wisc.edu/scholarship-service-programs)

# Degree Requirements

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## General Education Requirements

Every student at UW–Madison **must** satisfy:

<b>Communication A</b>	Information literacy, and written and oral communication
<b>Communication B</b>	In-depth writing within a subject
<b>Quantitative Reasoning A</b>	Mathematics, computer science, statistics, or logic
<b>Quantitative Reasoning B</b>	Use of quantitative tools in the context of course material
<b>Ethnic Studies</b>	Increased understanding of marginalized racial or ethnic groups' experiences in the U.S.

*All other UW General Education Requirements are met through fulfillment of School of Education Liberal Studies, detailed on the next page.*

Interested in learning  
how your AP, IB,  
or A-level test  
scores transfer?

Scan here for more  
information:



[go.wisc.edu/soar-ap-credits](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-ap-credits)



# School of Education Liberal Studies

Each school or college has their own set of liberal studies or breadth requirements to fulfill.



## Humanities

Examines social, cultural, and personal aspects of the human condition

- Literature (minimum 2 credits)
- Fine arts (minimum 2 credits)
- Additional humanities to total 9 credits



## Social Science

Examines society and human behavior

- 9 credits of social science

Certain majors must complete the following courses as part of the 9 credits:

- Teacher Education: Either Poli Sci 104 or 205
- Kinesiology: Psych 202



## Science

Studies living organisms, non-living systems, and develops formal reasoning skills

- Any course with bio sci breadth
- Any course with physical sci breadth
- Additional physical, biological, or natural science to total 9 credits
- Laboratory requirement - one of the above courses must have a lab section



## Cultural and Historical Studies

Increases understanding of 1) the cultures and contributions of persistently marginalized racial or ethnic groups in the United States, 2) western history and its impact, and 3) cultures whose origins lie outside of the western tradition

- Ethnic studies (3 credits)
- United States or European History (3 credits)
- Global Perspectives (3 credits)



## Liberal Studies Electives

Additional liberal studies coursework to reach 40 Liberal Studies credits

# General Education Requirements

**Communication A** \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication B** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnic Studies** \_\_\_\_\_ (See Cultural Studies below)

**Quantitative Reasoning A** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantitative Reasoning B** \_\_\_\_\_

*UW–Madison students must satisfy all five General Education Requirements*

## Liberal Studies

### Humanities 9 credits total

Literature (2-3 cr) \_\_\_\_\_

Fine Arts (2 cr) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Credits \_\_\_\_\_

### Cultural and Historical Studies 9 credits total

Ethnic Studies (3 credits)  
\_\_\_\_\_

United States or European History (3 credits)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Global Perspectives (3 credits)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Science 9 credits total

Biological Science \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Science \_\_\_\_\_

Additional credits \_\_\_\_\_

Lab Science \_\_\_\_\_

### Social Science 9 credits total

Certain majors must complete the following courses as part of the 9 credits:

- **Teacher Education:** Either Poli Sci 104 or 205
- **Kinesiology:** Psych 202

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**View a list of approved courses that satisfy liberal studies requirements:**



[go.wisc.edu/soar-requirements](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-requirements)

### Liberal Studies Electives

Complete additional liberal studies coursework as needed to reach the required 40 Liberal Studies credits

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Enrollment Advice from Current Students

**Students typically take 12-16 credits their first semester, with some exceptions.**

A 3 credit class is typically 6-9 hours of class + studying + homework per week. 15 credits is approximately 45 hours of class + worktime per week!

**Don't overload your schedule. Make sure to add time for meals and breaks.**

Think about your routine. Do you like larger breaks to focus deeper, or do you get more done during smaller blocks of time?

**You are learning how to learn in this new environment. Don't discount the study skills and techniques you'll need to develop this semester.**

The transition to college counts as 1-2 extra "credits."

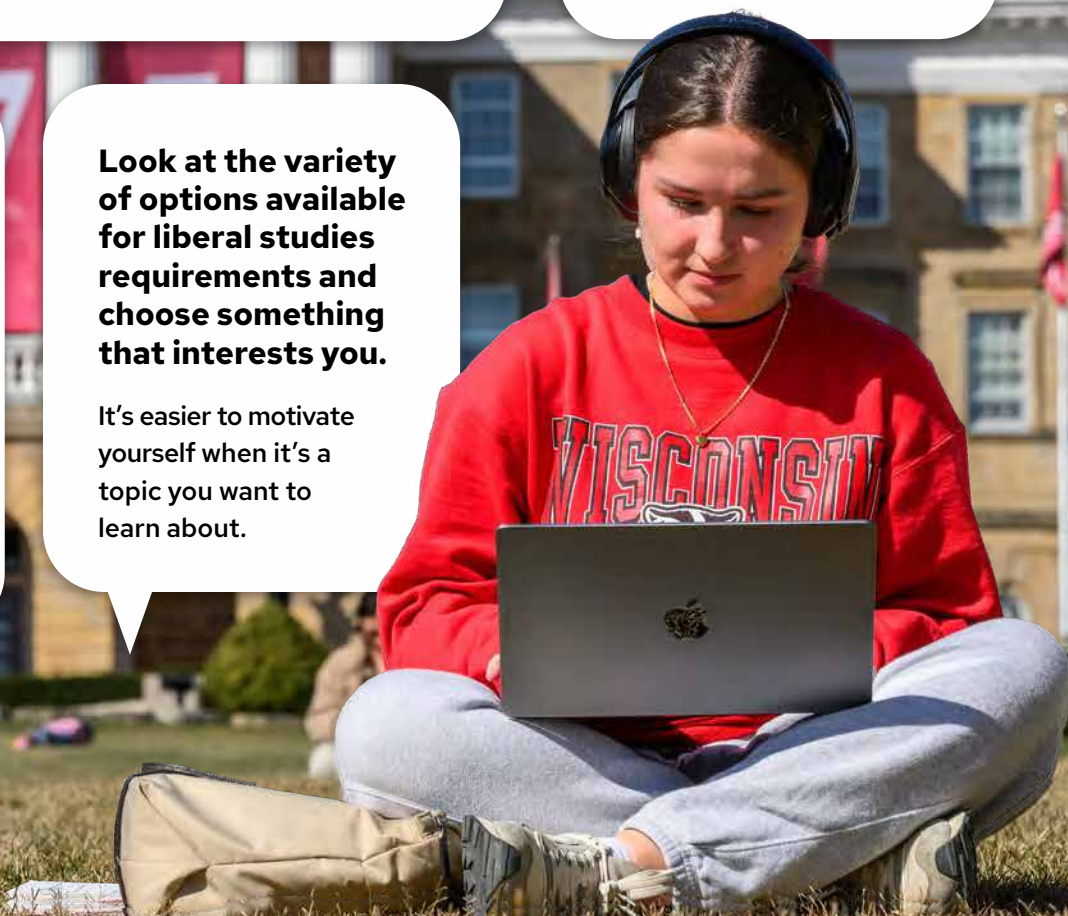
**Look at the variety of options available for liberal studies requirements and choose something that interests you.**

It's easier to motivate yourself when it's a topic you want to learn about.

**Ask yourself, "When do I do my best work?" You may like evening classes if you tend to focus better later in the day.**

Try something - if it doesn't fit, you know to try something different next semester.

If you know you're not a morning person, don't schedule an early class.



## Curious about accommodations?

Did you have accommodations in high school, like extended time on exams or recorded lessons? Contact the McBurney Center early to learn about their process. Scan the QR code or visit: [go.wisc.edu/soe-soar-accommodations](http://go.wisc.edu/soe-soar-accommodations)

# Personalize your UW Experience

## High Impact Practices

- Apply for Undergraduate Research Scholars
- Connect with Learning Communities
- Join a First-Year Interest Group
- Take a Seminar like WI Experience (CP 125) or Career Exploration (CP 110)

## Identity Centers

- Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Center
- Black Cultural Center
- Center for Interfaith Dialogue
- Disability Cultural Center
- Gender and Sexuality Campus Center
- Indigenous Student Center
- Latine Cultural Center

## Volunteer

- Badger Volunteers
- Morgridge Center

## Work/Internships

Work on campus  
([studentjobs.wisc.edu](http://studentjobs.wisc.edu))

## Specialized Coursework

- Add a certificate
- Add a second major

## Mentorship

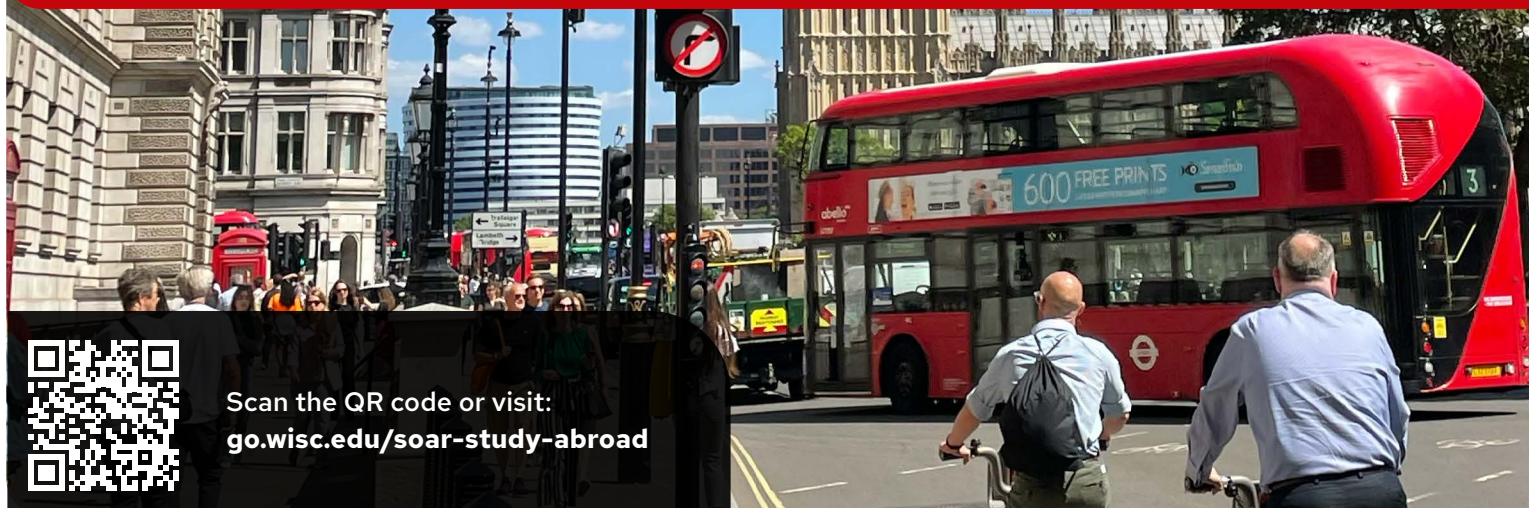
School of Education  
Buddy Program

## Student Organizations

- Join a club related to a shared major, identity, or interest
- Wisconsin Involvement Network ([win.wisc.edu](http://win.wisc.edu))

# Study Abroad

Interested in **studying abroad**?



Scan the QR code or visit:  
[go.wisc.edu/soar-study-abroad](http://go.wisc.edu/soar-study-abroad)

# Center for Community and Well-Being

Looking for a welcoming space to connect with others and engage in meaningful experiences on campus? The Center for Community and Well-Being offers events and programs that create community, encourage learning and growth, and strive for positive change on campus, in Madison, and beyond.

## Discover how you can get involved in upcoming opportunities:

- Getting what you came for: 4-Year Planning Workshop
- Community Kickback
- Lunch and Learn with Faculty Series
- Transitioning to College 101



Scan the QR code or visit:  
[go.wisc.edu/soe-soar-well-being](https://go.wisc.edu/soe-soar-well-being)



## Spending time outside of your home culture is an opportunity to:

- Expand your worldview
- Cultivate intercultural understanding
- Help you to be more competitive in the global workforce
- Improve or develop language skills

The School of Education provides exciting study abroad opportunities specifically geared toward School of Education students. Examples of current programs include Theatre in London; Education, Diversity and Community in the Galapagos Islands; Dancing Cultures in Greece; Disability Rights and Access in Australia.

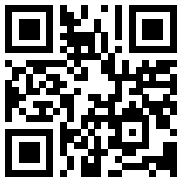


# Resources



Have questions about ...?

## Student Assistance and Support



[osas.wisc.edu](https://osas.wisc.edu)

Personal or family emergencies, crisis loans, hate or bias reporting, and issues of violence, sexual assault or harassment, or racial harassment

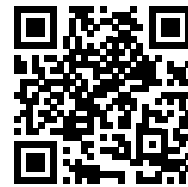
## International Students



[iss.wisc.edu](https://iss.wisc.edu)

Visas and immigration, taxes, travel, tuition, and employment

## Academic Support



[learningsupport.wisc.edu](https://learningsupport.wisc.edu)

Tutoring, study skills, drop-in tutoring, and weekly study groups

## Accessibility



[accessible.wisc.edu/  
guides/students/](https://accessible.wisc.edu/guides/students/)

Disability rights, classroom and housing accommodations, and care support

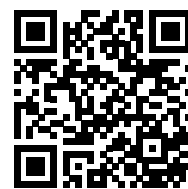
## Healthcare



[uhs.wisc.edu](https://uhs.wisc.edu)

Mental health, physical health, vaccinations, and survivor services

## Financial Aid



[financialaid.wisc.edu](https://financialaid.wisc.edu)

Scholarships, loans, grants, FAFSA, tuition costs, and emergency aid

**Have questions about anything at UW? Want to know what something means? Try the search bar!**

Go to [wisc.edu](https://wisc.edu), click the search bar (magnifying glass icon), and enter the term!

MyUW ▾

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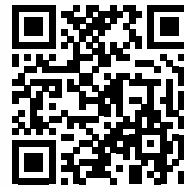


# Congrats, you've enrolled!



## Be sure to:

- Check your @wisc.edu email regularly
- Attend School of Education Fall Welcome in September
- Schedule an appointment with your School of Education advisor to check in (within first 4-6 weeks)
- Stay tuned for communication around required School of Education 101 tasks
- Pay attention to add and drop deadlines



Have questions about making changes to your schedule? Start with our FAQs: [go.wisc.edu/soar-faq](https://go.wisc.edu/soar-faq)

Still have questions?  
Email [soesoar@education.wisc.edu](mailto:soesoar@education.wisc.edu)

## Key Dates

### September

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> School of Education Fall Welcome	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> First day of class	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Deadline to drop a class or withdraw (without notation on your transcript)	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> Deadline to add a class, swap sections, or drop a class for 100% tuition adjustment	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> Deadline to drop a class for 50% tuition adjustment or request pass/fail
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### November

<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Spring enrollment begins	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> Deadline to drop a class	<b>27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup></b> November break (no class)
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### December

<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Last day of instruction	<b>12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup></b> Finals week
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Find all these dates and more by scanning the QR code:



or visit our website [registrar.wisc.edu/dates/#fall-2025](https://registrar.wisc.edu/dates/#fall-2025)