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Photo: UW-Green Bay

Webinars for Your Prospective UW System Students

UW HELP is rolling out a new alternative this spring that will bring the UW System wherever your school and families are located. Our team is creating an interactive webinar where we will talk about the UW System and the admissions process for your student and/or parents.

There will be a chance to ask questions over chat or phone. We estimate the webinars will last 30 to 45 minutes.

You will need to provide the physical environment for your students and an Internet connection. To inquire about this option, please email uwhelp@uwex.edu and we will work out the details.

UW HELP LiveLine for Counselors

UW HELP started the LiveLine a year ago, which is a free and open webinar addressing topics that high school counselors want more information about. We facilitated three LiveLines the past few months and all were very well attended. We covered topics such as common issues and resolutions with the UW System's application for admission, considerations for high school students who graduate early, and today's university housing landscape.

We are planning two more for this spring, so please watch your email for the invitation. If you did not receive the emailed invitations this past fall and are interested, email uwhelp@uwex.edu or call us at 800.442.6459.

Two Easy Ways to Get UW System Updates

This newsletter contains great information but is published only periodically. Our office has two easy ways for you to receive more timely updates.

If you have a Twitter account, follow us @UWSystemHELP

Have our blog posts emailed to you. Go to blog.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu and subscribe.

We welcome you to use our tweets and blog articles in your newsletters and other communications with your students. When you do, we'd love to hear about it!



Photo: UW-Parkside



Photo: UW-Oshkosh

Printable Materials for College Goal Wisconsin

College Goal Wisconsin is a statewide event that provides free information and assistance to families who are filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the federally required form for students seeking financial aid, such as grants and loans. Completing the FAFSA is the first and most important step in qualifying for aid.

The 2016 dates are February 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 17.

Times vary by each of the numerous locations across the state.

Besides submitting the FAFSA on time and error-free during College Goal Wisconsin, participating students are entered into a drawing for a scholarship.

Find details here: collegegoalwi.org/. Make sure to check out the "printable materials" tab that's specifically for counselors.

Regional Placement Testing

Now that seniors are starting to receive acceptance letters to our UW System campuses, it is time to start thinking about 2016 Regional Placement Testing. Registration for placement testing starts on February 1st. On the placement testing website you will find FAQs about testing and the placement testing contact list. Please note that the FAQs and contact list will be updated in the next few months so please check the website for these updates. You can find all of this information on the Regional Placement Testing website: testing.wisc.edu/centerpages/regionaltesting.html.

UW HELP has created a handy English and math placement chart with information for each campus. The chart provides information on the methods used to place students in math and English at each UW System campus.



Photo: UW-Parkside

UW Campus	Placement Testing Method
UW-Eau Claire	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Green Bay	Placement test is needed for math. ACT/SAT subscores will be used for placement into English.
UW-La Crosse	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Madison	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Milwaukee	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Oshkosh	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Parkside	ACT/SAT scores are used to place students for English and math.
UW-Platteville	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-River Falls	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Stevens Point	Placement test is required for math. English placement is determined through a writing sample that is completed during orientation.
UW-Stout	Placement tests are required for math and English.
UW-Superior	Placement test is required for math. ACT/SAT subscores will be used for placement into English.
UW-Whitewater	Placement test is required for math. ACT/SAT subscores will be used for placement into English.
UW Colleges	Placement tests are required for math and English.
Foreign language placement testing is available and optional at each testing site.	

Please note: This is the standard procedure for incoming freshman students. Please contact the campuses' testing office with special circumstances.

Major Changes

Following are some new majors that will begin Fall 2016. Seniors cannot apply for them just yet, but they can change their major to one of these choices when they arrive on campus.

New Majors

UW-Eau Claire is starting a major called Materials Science and Engineering.

UW-Madison is beginning a Neurobiology major.

UW-River Falls will have a new Agricultural Engineering major.

UW-Stevens Point is starting a Chemical Engineering major in January.

Renamed Majors

UW-Milwaukee renamed its Women's Studies major as Women's and Gender Studies.

UW-Oshkosh renamed their Radiologic Science major as Imaging.

UW-Stevens Point renamed Communicative Disorders as Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Suspended Major

UW-River Falls has suspended admissions for the "Science (Broad Area)" major.



Photo: UW-Platteville

Fall 2015 a Success for the UW System Application

Once again, this fall has been a successful one for the UW System application for admission, which performed smoothly during peak weeks.

Beginning this fall and through December 1, 2015:

87,459 applications were submitted.

89,907 new accounts were created.

Applicants logged in 806,656 times.



Photo: UW-Oshkosh

Scholarships

Students attending any UW System campus need to pay close attention to scholarship deadlines and processes. We have gathered all the information they need in one chart: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/scholarshipchart.pdf

High School Transcripts & Courses in Progress

There are two things that our admission offices are struggling with this year more than most other years, and they have to do with the senior year's courses.

Counselors, is there a way to have your high school transcripts show the courses that your seniors will be involved with during their entire senior year? That piece of information alone will save follow-up time with each application, and will therefore decrease processing time.

Also, please remind your students to include all of their senior year's courses on their applications. More students than in other years are indicating just the courses from their first term. Admission offices need to see the complete picture in order to make an admission decision.

Thanks for your help. We are already looking at how to improve the High School Courses in Progress section of the application



Photo: UW-Madison



Photo: UW-Stout

UW System Fall Workshops for Counselors

Did you miss the Fall Workshops for Counselors last September? Or, would you like to refresh your memory on the UW System updates? The PowerPoint used for the eight WI workshops is available for you at the very end of our website for counselors: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/counselors/index.aspx. If you are looking for the PowerPoint update for the IL or MN workshop, please email us at uwhelp@uwex.edu and we will be happy to send it your way.

We are in the process of confirming workshop locations for fall 2016, which will occur the weeks of September 12 and 19. Stay tuned for specifics.

Foster Youth to College

Foster youth have been subject to at least two traumatic experiences: the neglect or abuse that brought them to the attention of the authorities, and the removal from their family. These traumatic experiences bring unique barriers to attending college.

Foster youth are often not aware of college opportunities. They lack the knowledge and skills to navigate the college application process, they perceive the cost of college as more insurmountable than it is, and many are homeless after aging out of care.

School counselors and other educators can have a significant positive impact on youth that age out of foster care.

- Encourage foster youth to take advantage of precollege opportunities. The Department of Public Instruction's [Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program \(WEOP\)](#) provides free college and career readiness programs, resources, and support.
- Also, there are precollege programs offered at most colleges and universities in Wisconsin. Simply getting these youth on a college campus is a good start. For starters, see the searchable database of [UW precollege programs](#).
- Make sure they are aware of financial aid programs that help pay for college. Foster youth are considered "independent" for financial aid purposes, which means only the student's income and asset information is considered. As a result, they qualify for maximum grant aid. Encourage them to get help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). [College Goal Wisconsin](#) is an important free program to help students complete the FAFSA in a timely way.
- Know about the [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Scholarship](#). Scholarships up to the cost of attendance, not exceeding \$5,000, can be awarded by completing the application form and providing a copy of the letter of admit from the campus where the student plans to enroll. Make sure foster youth are aware of this funding!
- All not-for-profit colleges and universities in Wisconsin have identified a [foster youth contact](#). These caring individuals can help resolve problems and eliminate barriers. Contacts for University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Technical Colleges, and Wisconsin Private Colleges and Universities can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families site above.

Y'all Say Hi to Jesse

Jesse Morell is the latest addition to the UW HELP staff. Jesse has a background in residence life and admissions from Evangel University in Springfield, MO. She has been joyfully handling most of the correspondence for our new texting campaign. She's a great fit with our staff, and when you hear a fresh voice on the phone that's trying to disguise a slight southern twang, y'all say hi.

Connect

Web site uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

Email uwhelp@uwex.edu

Phone 800.442.6459 (via 711 relay)

UW HELP

5602 Research Park Blvd. Suite 300
Madison, WI 53719