Investing in your dreams

For many people, college is a huge step toward achieving their dreams. It can open doors to the opportunities, skills, experiences, and expertise you’ll need to build the life you want.

We all have different dreams: doctor, engineer, teacher, accountant, or something else. And each dream has its own path and its own requirements. What you need to reach your dream will likely be different than anybody else.

What are your dreams?

A UW for everyone

Luckily, you have a ton of college options, right here in Wisconsin, including the remarkable University of Wisconsin System.

The University of Wisconsin System is made of 26 different campuses, each with its own degree offerings, specialties, size, charms, and student communities. Finding an option that’s right for you is about finding the perfect balance between what you want to study, how you like to learn, and where you want to live.

What’s most important to you?

Two-year or Four-year

There are two types of UW campuses: 2-year and 4-year. Two-year UWs have lower costs, smaller class sizes, and can often be the perfect place to start. Four-year UWs are more selective and are often the best path for professional careers or advanced studies.

Which UWs are right for you?

Start thinking about the future you

Sure, college is still years away, but did you know there’s a lot you can do right now to start getting ready? Let’s dig in to find out how.
Everything starts with you

You wouldn’t purchase something big and expensive without first thinking about why you were buying it, would you? College is a big investment. But it’s an investment in you. So, the best thing you can do right now is to start thinking about why college might make sense for you. How will it help you reach your dreams? What do you want it to do for you? Only you can answer these questions. The sooner you start thinking about it, the sooner you can prepare — and the more time you have to research ways to make it more affordable.

You’re already on your way

Whether you know it or not, you are already influencing your future. You’re learning how to study and learn, manage your time, and work with others. These are all lifelong skills. As you enter high school, it will be important to continue building these skills and earn strong grades to best prepare for college.

You’re also learning how to set goals for yourself — and how to achieve them. One of life’s biggest goals is what you want to do for a career. That’s why it’s such a great time to start thinking about where you want your education to lead you. Because if you know where you want your education to take you, you’re a lot more likely to get there. Plus, knowing where you’re going can make it a lot more enjoyable to do the work it takes to get there.

Are you ready to get started?

Match your interests to your UWs

You’ve probably already heard about career clusters. Here’s where you can really start putting them to use.

Career clusters are great for exploring what you might want to do when you grow up. They help you think about all the possible careers you can choose. They can also help you choose which UWs are right for you. UWs tend to specialize in different subjects. You can use career clusters to find out which UWs have the best programs in the subjects that interest you most.

What careers inspire you?

Why is college right for you?

We’re here to help

The good news, of course, is that you are still just beginning your journey to college. You have plenty of time to explore, discover new interests, change your mind, and set new goals.

Even better, you have a world of people who are here to help you along the way: family, friends, school counselors — and us. We’re UW HELP and our whole job is to help students find, choose, and apply to the right University of Wisconsin campuses. As you begin to consider a UW campus, we’d love to hear from you. Look us up at uwhelp.wisconsin.edu. We have a ton of helpful resources for students, just like you.

Too many options?

There’s an app for that. Our UW Journey app lets you explore and discover which UWs are right for you. It’s free to download and free to use. Find it at uwjourney.wisconsin.edu.