

SOAR

Center for the First-Year Experience

Freshman Student/Guest Schedule



Student Schedule

DAY 1

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Check-In

After completing check-in, feel free to explore Union South. There are a variety of eateries available if you're looking for a bite to eat. Seating for the Welcome Session will begin at 12:15 p.m.

Alumni Room, Union South (2nd floor) -or- University Housing

12:45 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

Welcome

Current students and staff members will welcome you to SOAR, provide an overview of the two-day program, and introduce the Wisconsin Experience.

Varsity Hall, Union South (2nd floor)

1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

Starting Your Wisconsin Experience Today: Introduction to Academic Advising

Begin your UW–Madison academic career by learning about the purpose of a college education and how a UW degree prepares you for the future. Get an overview of undergraduate advising resources and learn how they can help you achieve your academic and career goals. The session will conclude with an overview of SOAR advising and the selection of your advising group. Students will then depart for advising; parents/guests will remain at Union South.

Varsity Hall, Union South (2nd floor)

1:45 p.m.–5:10 p.m.

Academic Advising (students only)

Throughout the afternoon, you will work in your advising group to explore academic interests, previous academic work and placement test scores, UW–Madison degree requirements, and first-semester course options.

College Library in Helen C. White Hall

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Campus Resources Fair

Students and parents/guests will have the opportunity to learn about campus resources, including departments and programs that will help you with tomorrow's course enrollment. This is also an opportune time to discuss what you and your parents/guests have learned at the separate SOAR programs.

Union South (1st floor)

5:30 p.m.–6:20 p.m.

Dinner

A buffet dinner will be served in Varsity Hall. We ask all SOAR participants to wait on the first floor of Union South until Varsity Hall is ready for dinner. Participants with dietary concerns/needs should contact a SOAR staff member for assistance. Following dinner, parents/guests and students will depart to separate programs.

Varsity Hall, Union South (2nd floor)

6:20 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Student Large Group Presentation

A presentation by student staff members who will discuss the transition and challenges new students may face as well as share campus resources to support your transition.

The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

7:00 p.m.–8:15 p.m.

Student Small-Group Discussion

A New Student Leader will facilitate a small-group conversation on the transition to college and life at UW–Madison.

Union South (locations vary)

8:15 p.m.–9:15 p.m.	Evening Fun and Entertainment in The Sett
	Enjoy a relaxing time bowling, playing billiards, rock climbing, and more with your future classmates and SOAR student staff. Remember to bring socks to go bowling.
	Lower Sett, Union South
	OR
	Bascom Hill Tour
	Go on a 50-minute tour that shares the history and cultural significance of campus. Campus and Community Welcome Desk, Union South (1st floor)
DAY 2	
8:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m.	Academic Advising and Course Enrollment
	Academic advising, exploration, and planning continues. Once you are ready, you will enroll for your fall semester courses with the assistance of the SOAR advising staff. You will join Student Life Small Group Sessions on a rolling basis as you finish advising.
	College Library in Helen C. White Hall
	(Location varies by advising group; return to same room as Day One)
9:45 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Student Life Small Group Sessions
	A New Student Leader will facilitate a small group session on maximizing campus resources and how to be a successful student at UW–Madison.
	Locations vary
11:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	Message from your Dean of Students
	Your Wisconsin Experience has started—what will your legacy be? Vice Provost and Dean of Students Lori Berquam will talk through elements of the Wisconsin Experience and the hope for UW–Madison students to engage in the following areas of intellectual and personal growth: Empathy and Humility; Relentless Curiosity; Intellectual Confidence; and Purposeful Action.
	Before you leave campus today, there are three take-home points to consider: Are you ready? Be Open. What do you stand for?
	Humanities Building, Room 2650
12:15 p.m.–12:45 p.m.	Multicultural Student Welcome
	The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) is hosting a session for students and their families to learn about community resources that the MSC and UW–Madison offer. The session will discuss ways in which the UW can support students if they confront any obstacles related to racial identity. We welcome all students, and this session may be of particular interest to those who identify as African, Black, African American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Latino/a, Native American, Middle Eastern, or biracial/multiracial.
	Fifth Quarter Studio, Union South (2nd floor)
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	Campus Walking Tour
	Students and parents/guests are invited to go on a 60-minute walking tour of campus. Tours depart from the Campus and Visitor Relations Welcome Desk at Union South. Campus and Community Welcome Desk, Union South (1st floor)

Guest Schedule

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Varsity Hall, Union South (2nd floor)

1:45 p.m.–1:55 p.m.

Break

1:55 p.m.–2:05 p.m.

Parent/Guest Program Welcome

Center for the First-Year Experience staff will formally welcome you to SOAR and provide an overview of the parent/guest program.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

2:05 p.m.–2:35 p.m.

Understanding Academic Advising at UW–Madison

UW advising staff will share details about SOAR advising, the enrollment process, the structure of academic advising, and how advising contributes to student success.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

2:35 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

What is the Wiscard and How Do Students Use It?

The Wiscard is UW–Madison's campus photo ID card. This session will highlight the many ways students can use it throughout campus.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Managing Finances—Financial Aid and Paying Tuition

Staff from the Bursar's Office and the Office of Student Financial Aid will share details about the cost of attendance, tuition billing process, and payment methods and refunds, as well as provide an overview of the financial aid process and resources.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 p.m.–4:25 p.m.	Concurrent Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in University Housing Learn about the experiences, programs, and resources University Housing provides to create an environment built for student success. The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor) OR • Building Community for Students Living Off Campus Learn how the university supports students living off campus. Fifth Quarter Studio, Union South (2nd floor)
4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	Campus Resources Fair Students and parents/guests will have the opportunity to learn about campus resources, including departments and programs that will help students with their course enrollment. This is also an opportune time to discuss what you and your student have learned at the separate SOAR programs. Students will return from advising on a rolling basis. Union South (1st floor)
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6:35 p.m.–7:35 p.m.	Understanding Family Transition and Life with a College Student A presentation and conversation with UW staff members to discuss the significant transition facing new students and their families. A panel of New Student Leaders will also share stories and advice from their personal experiences. Discovery Building or Union South
7:35 p.m.–7:45 p.m.	Break
7:45 p.m.–9:15 p.m.	Parent/Guest Small Group AND Discovery Tour Parents/guests will split into two groups and switch activities half way through. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity 1: New Student Leaders will facilitate a small group conversation and provide an opportunity for parents/guests to connect through shared experiences and concerns. Discovery Building or Union South • Activity 2: Take a guided tour of the Discovery Building, a modern and interactive institute that researches the connectivity between information in cells, societies, and technological networks Discovery Building

Guest Schedule (continued)

DAY 2

8:45 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

- Concurrent Session 1**
- Careers and Internship Success**
Your student's career development and exploration should start during the first semester at UW–Madison. Learn how you can help your student achieve career success.
Northwoods Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- Making the Most of Getting Involved on Campus**
Involvement is an integral part of a student's experience at UW–Madison and the transition to campus. The Center for Leadership & Involvement staff will guide you through the following topics: benefits of getting involved, balancing involvement with academic responsibilities, the different types of involvement, finding involvement opportunities, online tools and resources, and a brief overview of the Leadership Certificate Program.
Industry Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- Tech Made Easy: A Student Perspective**
Current UW students share what they wish they had known about their freshman year, including essential technology products and resources provided by the Division of Information Technology, to help your student connect, engage, and learn on campus.
Fifth Quarter Studio, Union South (2nd floor)

9:15 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Break

9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

- Concurrent Session 2**
- Your Student's Health and Safety**
University Health Services and University Police will discuss campus health and safety resources and recommend conversations you should have with your student about these topics.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)
OR
- Careers and Internship Success**
See description from Concurrent Session 1.
Northwoods Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- Enhancing the Wisconsin Experience through Study Abroad**
A quarter of all UW–Madison undergraduates make study abroad an integral part of their Wisconsin Experience. International Academic Programs offers more than 200 UW study abroad programs spanning 60-plus countries for students of all majors. This session will cover the benefits of study abroad, funding opportunities, how to make the most of study abroad academics, health and safety considerations, and how to talk with your student about planning a study abroad experience.
Industry Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- Tech Made Easy: A Student Perspective**
See description from Concurrent Session 1.
Fifth Quarter Studio, Union South (2nd floor)

10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Session 3

- Your Student's Health and Safety**
See description from Concurrent Session 2.
The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)
OR

- **Enhancing the Wisconsin Experience through Recreational Sports Programs**
Rec Sports provides programs, services, and facilities that promote and inspire the social, mental, and physical well-being of the campus community. In this session, you will learn about the many ways your student can play hard, get fit, and live well on campus, including: employment opportunities, open recreation, intramural sports, group fitness classes, sport clubs, personal training, tennis and swim lessons, and more.
Northwoods Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- **Service: For Education, for Career, for Life**
The Morgridge Center for Public Service connects the UW campus to local and global communities through service-learning opportunities. These experiences are specifically designed to enhance your students' Wisconsin Experience, help them develop real-world skills, and instill within them a lifelong ethic of civic engagement. In this session, you will learn more about service learning as well as volunteer programs, community fellowships, and more.
Industry Room, Union South (3rd floor)
OR
- **Campus Area Housing**
While your student may have just decided where to live this year, the pressure to make a housing decision for the following year will be felt early in the fall semester. This session is designed to share the resources the UW Campus Area Housing office has to offer in the search for housing options for next year. With hundreds of privately owned housing options in the Madison area, Campus Area Housing is here to simplify the search.
Fifth Quarter Studio, Union South (2nd floor)

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Academic Success at UW–Madison**

Faculty and UW Libraries staff will highlight the faculty perspective and academic support resources available on campus.

The Marquee, Union South (2nd floor)

11:30 a.m.–11:50 a.m. **Message from the Division of Student Life Leadership Team**

Members from the Division of Student Life will talk through elements of the Wisconsin Experience and the hope for UW–Madison students to engage in the following areas of intellectual and personal growth: Empathy and Humility; Relentless Curiosity; Intellectual Confidence; and Purposeful Action.

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Campus and Community Welcome Desk, Union South (1st floor)



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON