

# GRADUATE GUIDE

The *Graduate Guide* provides an overview of UW–Madison programs that offer graduate degrees, doctoral minors, graduate/professional certificates, and capstone certificates. The *Graduate Guide* is the key source for program-specific policies regarding admission, degree requirements, funding, prior coursework, and more.

## EDITIONS AND ARCHIVES

The information in this *Guide* is current for the academic year, including the summer, fall, and spring terms. The *Guide* is an official document of record and is reviewed and updated every year.

The *Guide* is published only online; printed copies are not available. Archived editions from past years are available in the Archive (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>).

Students are responsible for meeting the academic requirements that were in effect at the time they matriculated, including satisfactory progress and degree requirements. In situations when academic requirements change during a student's time of enrollment, the Graduate School and the academic program, together with the student, may elect to enforce requirements that are in the best interest of the student.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL DEGREES

The UW–Madison Graduate School confers:

- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master of Accountancy (MAcc)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Engineering (ME)
- Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA)
- Master of Music (MM)
- Master of Public Affairs (MPA)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
- Educational Specialist (EdS)
- Doctor of Audiology (AuD)
- Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The Graduate School oversees the administration of those degrees, doctoral minors, graduate/professional certificates, and capstone certificates. Some major programs have identified sub-majors, known as “named options”. Official named options are approved by university governance and appear on the transcript when the degree is conferred. Some programs also have unofficial pathways that do not appear on the transcript.

Degree programs must be rationally unified, with courses that contribute to an organized program of study and/or research. Courses must be selected from groups embracing one principal subject of concentration called the major (see Degrees (p.      )).

The major field is normally coextensive with the work of a single department or with one of the subjects under which certain programs have been formally arranged. The Graduate School requires all doctoral programs to incorporate a **breadth requirement**. The breadth requirement is designed to represent a coherent body of work, taken as a graduate student, and should not be simply an after-the-fact ratification of a number of courses taken outside the major department.

Graduate School minimum credits and other requirements necessary to earn degrees are listed in the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements (p.      ) and Policies (p.      ) sections; each program may set degree requirements and expectations more stringent than Graduate School policy.

## GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

The Graduate School (<http://grad.wisc.edu/>) offers links to information about admissions (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>), program data profiles (<https://grad.wisc.edu/academic-programs/>), funding resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>), diversity (<https://grad.wisc.edu/diversity/>), professional development (<https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/>), graduate student life (<https://grad.wisc.edu/current-students/>), and other resources.

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures Glossary (<http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provides information about Graduate School academic and administrative policies, procedures and definitions of commonly used terms in graduate education. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW–Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). This glossary reflects current policies and procedures of the Graduate School, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of the Bursar, the International Students Services (ISS), and other university units.

Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (GAPP) (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/>) outlines employment-related practices for graduate student teaching, research, and project assistantships.

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development and Communications (OPDC) coordinates, develops, and promotes learning opportunities to foster the academic, professional, and life skills of graduate students.

Professional development topics include Individual Development Plans (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp/>), communication, mentoring, grant writing, dissertation writing, career exploration, job search strategies, and more. The office provides a wealth of resources and events tailored to the needs of UW–Madison graduate students.

The Office of Professional Development and Communications developed and maintains DiscoverPD (<https://my.grad.wisc.edu/DiscoverPD/>), an innovative tool for UW–Madison graduate students to advance their academic and professional goals. DiscoverPD introduces eight areas (or “facets”) of professional development, includes a self-assessment, and provides a customized report of areas of strength and weakness. The report comes with recommendations to help graduate students strengthen their ability within each area.

More information on campus resources for student professional development is available at Professional Development (<http://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>). Students may keep up-to-date by reading GradConnections (<https://kb.wisc.edu/grad/68207/>), the newsletter for graduate students, bookmarking the Events Calendar (<https://grad.wisc.edu/events/>) to keep tabs on upcoming workshops of interest, and following the Graduate School's X (<https://twitter.com/UWMadGSEd/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/uwmadgradschool/>), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/UWMadisonGraduateSchool/>), or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/uwmadgsd/>) accounts.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, EQUAL ACCESS, AND NON- DISCRIMINATION

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is committed to providing equal opportunity and equal access in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and Universities of Wisconsin and university non-discrimination policies and procedures.

### POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Office of Compliance promotes ethical conduct and compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and UW–Madison policies. UW–Madison's non-discrimination statement, contact information for the university's Equal Opportunity Investigations Administrator, Title IX Coordinator, ADA Coordinator as well as information regarding UW–Madison's Equal Opportunity Complaint process is available on the Office of Compliance's website (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/>).

### DISABILITY RESOURCES

The McBurney Disability Resource Center is an office within the Division of Student Affairs that views disability as an important aspect of the diversity of UW–Madison. The Center is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive educational experience for students, by partnering with students, faculty, and staff to design accessible environments and to provide academic accommodations so that students can engage, explore and participate in the Wisconsin Idea.

The Center works with UW–Madison students with physical, learning, hearing, vision, psychological, health and other disabilities substantially affecting a major life activity (e.g., walking, communicating, learning, seeing, breathing, reading, etc.). Many students have non-apparent disabilities such as depression, anxiety, autism spectrum, learning disabilities, AD/HD and health conditions such as Crohn's disease or fibromyalgia.

Common accommodations include extended time and/or small group environment for exams, note taking support, sign language interpreting, real time and media captioning, and conversion of printed materials to accessible formats. McBurney Center staff members also collaborate with students and faculty to determine reasonable flexibility with regard to attendance, participation, and deadlines for conditions that fluctuate in severity over the course of enrollment. The Center makes referrals to other campus offices or community resources for non-classroom accommodations related to housing, transportation, personal care needs, and so on. Students should contact the Center upon admission to begin the eligibility for services process. Early notice is essential in order to have accommodations in place prior to the start of the semester. For detailed information, see apply for accommodations (<https://mcburney.wisc.edu/apply-for-accommodations/>).

McBurney Disability Resource Center  
702 West Johnson Street, Suite 2104  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-263-2741 (voice)  
608-225-7956 (text)  
608-265-2998 (fax)  
[mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu)  
[www.mcburney.wisc.edu](http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/) (<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>)

## ACCREDITATION

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is accredited by the:

Higher Learning Commission (<http://www.hlcommission.org/>)  
230 South Lasalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
telephone 1-800-621-7440  
[www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org) (<http://www.hlcommission.org>)

UW–Madison, which was first accredited in 1913, was last accredited in 2019, and will go through a reaccreditation process again in 2028–29.

See Mark of Affiliation (<https://guide.wisc.edu/>).

**Registration with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education:** The University of Wisconsin–Madison is a public institution registered as a "Private Institution" with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education pursuant to sections 136A.61 to 136A.71. Registration is not an endorsement of the institution. Credits earned at the institution may not transfer to all other institutions.

**The information, policies, and rules contained herein are subject to change.**