

## Our Wisconsin Customizations for Fall 2023/Spring 2024

New text is **highlighted in yellow**

### **Introduction Module**

#### **Introduction Letter**

Header-

Welcome to Our Wisconsin

Text-

Dear Student,

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison we are committed to supporting your Wisconsin Experience through opportunities related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. The Our Wisconsin program is intended to help you learn more about these topics and develop skills to build the inclusive campus climate and community we want for all Badgers.

**The deadline for completing this course for students beginning in the fall 2023 semester is Thursday, August 24th, 2023.** If you have not completed this course by the deadline, you will have a hold placed on your student account preventing registration for the following semester. If you have any questions about this course, please visit the [Our Wisconsin website](#). We hope you enjoy Our Wisconsin, and we wish you all the best in your time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sincerely,

Our Wisconsin Team

Course Accessibility & Usability

For information about the accessibility and usability of Our Wisconsin, to report an accessibility or usability barrier, or to request assistance, please contact us at [ourwisc@studentaffairs.wisc.edu](mailto:ourwisc@studentaffairs.wisc.edu).

Please see [Diversity & Inclusion Training Accessibility & Usability Information \(Students\) KB](#) for details on navigating the module.

Image Description-

Aerial view of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and surrounding downtown Madison featuring Lake Mendota and several buildings including the Red Gym, Memorial Union, and Helen C. White Library.

## Page 12 Welcome Video

Header -

Welcome to Our Wisconsin Video Message

Text-

A message from Noel Mariano (they/she), Our Wisconsin Program Coordinator, Office of Inclusion Education at UW-Madison

Video filmed by University Communications

 2023/2024 Welcome and Closing Video Scripts

Video link:

<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/y7fwac8p849yg96189bsx2dawn1doltk>

## **Identities Module**

### **Page 3 Configurable Content Page**

Header-  
Building the Foundation

Text-

UW-Madison is committed to diversity, inclusion, and belonging and developing our capacity to create change. This Our Wisconsin course strives to serve as a foundation, allowing you to build upon your knowledge and experiences as a key part of your overall Wisconsin Experience.

You can expect this course to challenge you and cause you to reflect. You will be engaging with content focused on understanding social identities, the impact of systems of oppression and power, and building our ability to create inclusive communities. It is important to remember that what is important to us often requires time, dedication, and ongoing learning. Creating change, within ourselves and our communities, is no different.

At UW-Madison we believe that every member of the Badger community brings identities and experiences that enrich our campus. In this section you will be learning about concepts such as social identity, privilege, and intersectionality. We encourage you to incorporate breaks and reflection times into your experience with Our Wisconsin. The system will automatically save your progress towards completion, allowing you to process and engage with the resources and opportunities mentioned in the course.

Thank you for engaging in this work and playing a crucial part in making the Badger community a place where all can be welcomed, included, and celebrated.

Image Description-

Close up image of the front columns and steps at the Memorial Union where the United States flag and the LGBTQ+ pride flag are flying.

## **Page 7 Configurable Resources Page**

Header-

Campus Resources-Identity Development and Support

Text-

UW-Madison has many resources to support how you think about identities as you transition to the campus community.

### [Center for Cultural Enrichment \(CCE\)](#)

The CCE provides a safe and all-inclusive space that brings to life the Residence Life core values of academics, diversity, community, and involvement. We achieve this mission through outreach, programming, and promoting diversity of thought. University Housing also offers several identity based and inclusive learning communities including the Multicultural Learning Community, Open House Gender and Sexuality Learning Community, International Learning Community, and several others.

### [Center for Religion and Global Citizenry](#)

The mission of The Center for Religion and Global Citizenry is to increase UW-Madison students' religious literacy and their facility for communicating across boundaries of faith so that they may function effectively as citizens of a religiously diverse world.

### Gender and Sexuality Campus Center

The Gender and Sexuality Campus Center provides education, outreach, advocacy, and resources for UW-Madison LGBTQ+ student communities and their allies to improve campus climate and their daily intersectional experiences.

### International Student Services

International Student Services (ISS) serves UW-Madison students on F and J visas by providing holistic support through advising on immigration, personal, and cultural matters, and by organizing events and activities to support students' engagement and development within the campus community.

### McBurney Disability Resource Center

The McBurney Disability Resource Center is the office for students with disabilities and classroom accommodations on the UW-Madison campus. The staff at McBurney works with 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.).

## Multicultural Student Center

The primary mission of the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) is to collaboratively strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus where all students, particularly students of color and other historically underserved students, can realize an authentic Wisconsin Experience.

- Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Student Center

- Black Cultural Center (BCC)

- Indigenous Student Center (ISC)

- Latinx Cultural Center (LCC)

## Office of Inclusion Education

The Office of Inclusion Education provides opportunities and programming to engage with and grow understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The office offers programs such as Our Wisconsin, campus action teams within the Social Justice Hub, a Social Justice Leadership Retreat, and social justice workshops.

## Transfer Transition Program

As a part of the Center for the First-Year Experience, the Transfer Transition Program provides support and resources for prospective, incoming, and current transfer students. The Transfer Transition Program also hosts the Transfer Engagement Center as a place for transfer students to connect and build community through a variety of programs throughout the year.

## Identity Specific University Health Services Resources

University Health Services (UHS) is the UW–Madison student health center, with a mission to enhance learning and student success by promoting, protecting, and restoring health and well-being. UHS provides a variety of services that include: medical, mental health, wellbeing, and survivor services, to name a few.

## University Veteran Services

University Veteran Services supports the Wisconsin Experience of military-connected students by fostering personal transitions and pursuit of academic success.

## Influence Module

### Page 6 Configurable Content Page

Header-

Exploring UW-Madison's History

Text-

One way in which we can begin to understand how power, privilege, and oppression influence and impact UW-Madison and how different people experience it is to take a look at the history of the university. Although some of this history may seem distant to current events, it is important to consider the lasting impacts of that history and the way in which positive change has been both advanced and resisted over time. UW-Madison has not always been an inclusive or diverse place, which is why as a community, we need to learn to recognize the way in which this history continues to shape our campus. By doing so, we can begin to more intentionally build the equitable and inclusive community we aspire to.

To begin diving into the history of our university community, let's revisit the Our Shared Future statement that was mentioned in the welcome video:

*The University of Wisconsin–Madison occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory. Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin. This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation. Today, UW–Madison respects the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with the eleven other First Nations of Wisconsin.*



This statement, written collaboratively by leaders of the Ho-Chunk nation and university representatives, asks us to reflect, if only briefly, on the history of the land we are on. This is likely not familiar to many of us, but it is important to acknowledge and conceptualize the vastness of experiences, lives, and tragedies that inform our “shared future”.

Another important moment in UW-Madison's history was the [1969 Black Student Strike](#). Amidst the social upheaval of the civil rights era, a group of Black UW-Madison students tirelessly pushed for campus leadership to better serve their Black students, both at UW-Madison and other UW System schools. The strike relied on a list of 13 demands put forth by Black students. There were numerous large-scale marches that included students, staff, faculty, and community members; class boycotts; National Guard deployment, and more. One of the culminations of this student activism was the founding of the [Department of Afro-American Studies](#).

A more recent demonstration of student activism involves students organizing in response to blatantly racist slurs and sentiments expressed in a viral social media video during the end of spring semester 2023. The Blk Pwr Coalition, along with numerous allies, demanded that campus leadership respond and take action to better support Black students and address the impact of racial bias on campus.

UW-Madison exists as it does today due, in part, to student advocacy to make this a more inclusive and equitable community. We encourage you to learn more about this complex history and help to continually craft and advocate for a stronger, more socially just, UW-Madison community where all Badgers feel like they belong.

For more information about these events and more, please visit the following pages:

- [Our Shared Future](#) (information and history of the Ho-Chunk nation)
- [Videos from 2019](#) (featuring UW students interviewing activists from the 1969 strike)

[-Response to Blk Pwr Coalition](#), condemning racism and offering student support

Image Description-

Close up of the black Our Shared Future plaque with a beige inscription featuring the dedication of the Ho Chunk land.

## Page 6 Configurable Resource Page

Header-Reckoning with Our History

Text-

The University of Wisconsin–Madison’s [Public History Project](#) was a multi-year effort to uncover and give voice to those who experienced, challenged and overcame prejudice on campus.

The broad intent of the project was to ensure that all students and alumni are aware of the full history of the university, including the accomplishments of campus community members from marginalized populations whose stories previously may have been hidden or not widely known.

Spanning over 150 years, [Sifting & Reckoning: UW–Madison’s History of Exclusion and Resistance](#) brought to light stories of struggle and perseverance. Through archival objects, photographs, and oral histories the exhibit illuminated under-recognized histories in the university’s past.

This physical iteration of the exhibition was on view at the Chazen Museum of Art in fall 2022, garnering positive critical feedback and seeing visits from thousands of people and hundreds of groups. An [interactive digital version](#) of the exhibition continues to welcome visitors online.

Following the overwhelmingly positive reception of the Project's work, the university [announced](#) in January 2023 that it will establish the Rebecca M. Blank Center for Campus History, housed within the Division for Teaching and Learning. The new center's full-time staff will build on the Project's efforts, continuing to educate the campus community about the university's past in ways that will enrich the curriculum, inform administrative decisions and bolster efforts to achieve a more equitable university.

## Page 7: Configurable Content Page

Header-  
Expanding Your Influence

Text-

College is a time of self-discovery and growth. For many of you, this may be your first time away from home. This may be the largest city in which you've lived, or it may be smaller than you imagined. You may be thousands of miles away from home or just a few blocks.

Regardless, you are embarking on a new journey in your life as you become a Badger. Each day you will have the opportunity to shape your life in some way or another. While we strive to provide you with an education and experiences that support your future careers and goals, we also want to provide you with knowledge and opportunities that allow you to grow as a person, as a friend, a learner, a citizen, and more.

Here at UW–Madison, we believe that the ability to exchange, consider, and challenge different ideas is central to the educational process. This means that those who come to UW–Madison must be prepared to have their beliefs and ideas challenged, sometimes in ways they find uncomfortable or, in some instances, even offensive. We recognize that it can be difficult and sometimes even painful to hear points of view with which individuals powerfully disagree. Even hate speech is protected

speech. However, permitting the expression of challenging, and even potentially offensive, beliefs is the cost of the freedoms that allow UW–Madison to generate knowledge at the forefront of academic disciplines and holistically assess the implications of change on our world. We encourage you to learn more about [free expression at UW-Madison](#) and consider how you will engage in dialogue and experiences to challenge and expand your perspective and influence.

## **Who do you want to be? What community do you want to create?**

Image Description-

Sign with a Vel Phillips quote in white letters on red and white background with blue circles that says, "you make a living by what you earn. but you make a life by what you give. Make a life."

## **Community Module**

### **Page 4 Configurable Content Page**

Header-

We're All in This Together

Text-

It's no exaggeration that college can be rife with challenges. Layered on top of what may already be stressful life situations, such as making new friends, living in a new place, and balancing academics, these challenges can wear on us and make it difficult to survive, let alone thrive.

Understanding this, it should be clear that we all have a responsibility for contributing to a respectful community that ensures we're supporting and caring for one another.

That's what being a Badger is about. It's leading with respect and supporting one another. It's asking for help when you need it, admitting

when you are wrong, and allowing ourselves to learn and change our minds when presented with new information. If those are the things we want out of our community, then we all have to do a bit of work to live out those values and expectations. We all have something to contribute and something to learn. It's not always easy, but if we're in it together, we can succeed!

Image Description-

Close up of the outside of the grey and beige stone Mosse Humanities Building showing landscaping in the shape of red flowers making a large "W" and green grass in the background.

## **Page 8 Configurable Resources Page**

Header-  
Campus Resources

Text-

### [Center for Leadership and Involvement](#)

The Center for Leadership & Involvement (CfLI) assists students in intentionally connecting with the far ranging opportunities that exist throughout campus, including registered student organizations and the Leadership Certificate.

### [Center for the First Year Experience](#)

The Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE) helps incoming students adjust to life at UW-Madison, while educating faculty and staff on ways to connect with first-year students. CFYE oversees campus wide orientation (SOAR), Wisconsin Welcome, the Wisconsin Experience Seminar (CP 125), and the Transfer Transition Program.

## Dean of Students Office

The Dean of Students Office works directly with students who have a variety of concerns (access to food, emergency loans, reporting incidents, etc) as well as provides information on campus policies, procedures, and resources.

## -Reporting Bias or Hate Incidents

## Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement (DDEEA)

DDEEA supports the mission of the University of Wisconsin–Madison as it works to create a diverse, inclusive and excellent learning and work environment for all students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners at the university. DDEEA includes several scholarship and service programs such as the Center for Educational Opportunity (CEO), the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) and the First Wave Program, the Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program, Posse, and the Pre College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE).

## Fraternity and Sorority Life

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) provides support, advising, and leadership development to the members of the nearly 60 organizations affiliated with four councils fund on campus: Interfraternity Council (IFC), Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Panhellenic Association (PHA).

## Morgridge Center for Public Service

The Morgridge Center for Public Service connects University of Wisconsin-Madison students, staff and faculty to local and global communities to build partnerships and solve critical issues through service and learning. The Morgridge Center oversees the Badger Volunteer Program as well as several community-based learning courses, and civic engagement opportunities.

### Recreation and Wellbeing

Recreation and Wellbeing (RecWell) offers programs, services, and facilities for students to develop and engage in healthy habits such as intramural sports, fitness classes, and wellbeing workshops.

### Student Affairs

Student Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is dedicated to serving students and to helping them succeed in and out of the classroom in areas including health and well-being, identity and inclusion, leadership and engagement, and student advocacy.

### Wisconsin Union

The Union, both Memorial and Union South, connects students, faculty, staff, members and visitors through shared cultural, social and recreational events and experiences. Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) is the student programming board for the Wisconsin Union.

## **Page 9 Configurable Content Page**

Header-The Badger Way

Text-

We hope this course has allowed you to learn more about yourself and what it means to be a Badger. While you may have certainly learned a lot, the learning doesn't stop here. One of the values we live at UW-Madison is a commitment to lifelong learning. That means that we stay open-minded and curious, willing to engage in new ways and have our ideas challenged. We see learning as a lifelong endeavor, not something that ends when grades are submitted.

UW-Madison has an extensive number of ways to continue your learning, expand your community, and find support. Here you'll find some of the campus resources that will support you in staying engaged in the topics covered in these modules, as well as find resources for developing your empathy and humility, intellectual confidence, purposeful action, and curiosity. On, Wisconsin!

Image Description-

A red W crest banner flutters in the wind on Bascom Hill at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **Conclusion Module**

### **Page 3: Configurable Content Page**

Header-

Moving Forward

Text-

Thank you for completing the online module for Our Wisconsin. After the completion of this online module you will receive an email to complete the Part 2 follow-up survey, which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.



We hope that you continue to find other ways to engage in conversations and actions related to diversity, inclusion, and belonging during your time at UW-Madison. It is important to remember that this course is just the beginning of your opportunity to engage in conversations and experiences centered on these topics. [The Our Wisconsin experience will continue for students with additional in-person programs during Wisconsin Welcome including Bucky's Big Event, a campus wide day of service on Friday, September 1st, 2023 and opportunities to learn and practice dialogue skills through the Constructive Dialogue Institute.](#)

Please refer to resources provided throughout the Our Wisconsin module for your continued learning and engagement with Our Wisconsin and visit the [Office of Inclusion Education](#). We are committed to supporting you on this journey towards creating an inclusive campus community and climate.

Sincerely,

The Our Wisconsin Team

Image Description-

Silver plaque on a wooden ledge overlooking Lake Mendota in Alumni Park that says, "make your mark on the world."

#### **Page 4 Configurable Video Page**

Header-

Our Wisconsin Conclusion

Text-

[Closing message from Noel Mariano \(they/she\), Our Wisconsin Program Coordinator, Office of Inclusion Education at UW-Madison](#)

[Video filmed by University Communications](#)

## 2023/2024 Welcome and Closing Video Scripts

Video link:

<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/y7fwac8p849yg96189bsx2dawn1doltk>

## Additional Resources

Header-

Additional Policies Related to Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging at UW-Madison

Text-

Gender Inclusive Restroom Facilities Policy (<https://kb.wisc.edu/94023>)

Institutional Statement on Diversity (<https://diversity.wisc.edu>)

Reporting a Bias or Hate Incident

(<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/report-an-issue/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)

Use Guidelines for Names and Pronouns

(<https://students.wisc.edu/documents/pronoun-guide/>)

Free Expression at UW-Madison

(<https://free-expression.wisc.edu/>)