

Activities to Support Student Success and Close the Achievement Gap

To more effectively serve students and close the achievement gap, we are aligning and integrating a range of initiatives that include precollege educational opportunities to enhance college readiness, efforts to increase financial aid, expanded high-impact education practices that have demonstrated benefits to retention and graduation rates, innovations in curriculum and course delivery, and improved undergraduate advising. Many of these activities have been made possible through funding allocated from the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU). Specific examples include:

- Financial Aid. UW-Madison has increased need-based institutional financial aid through the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates and the Great People Campaign to \$23.3 million in 2010-11, up from \$6.2 million in 2007-08. In 2010-11, UW-Madison provided \$36.8 million in total institutional aid (grants and scholarships) to undergraduates with financial need.
- High-Impact Practices. Educational experiences such as Residential Learning Communities, First-Year Interest Groups, internships, research with faculty, and capstone experiences have a positive impact on retention and graduation rates. Targeted minority graduates participate in at least one of these activities at higher rates (92%) than all graduates (89%).
- Undergraduate Advising. UW-Madison is reorganizing undergraduate advising efforts by creating a new director of undergraduate advising position, hiring new academic advisors to better support students, and implementing advising methods in some support programs that guide students closely and include regular, mandatory meetings with an advisor.

Post-Graduation Success

One measure of post-graduation success is accomplishment on post-baccalaureate exams. UW-Madison students routinely meet or exceed the national average for a variety of such tests.

Post-Baccalaureate Examination		UW-Madison	National
Professional Licensure or Certification Pass Rates	Nursing	90%	87%
	Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	76%	52%*
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores	Verbal (200-800)	517	471
	Quantitative (200-800)	657	596
	Writing (0-6)	4.24	3.87
Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) Scores	Verbal (1-15)	8.8	7.9
	Physical Sciences (1-15)	9.3	8.3
	Biological Sciences (1-15)	9.9	8.8
	Total Score (3-45)	27.9	25

*Pass rate for CPA National comparison is from Wisconsin graduates only.
 Nursing and CPA pass rates are calculated based on count of test instances.
 Figures for GRE and MCAT represent average scores.