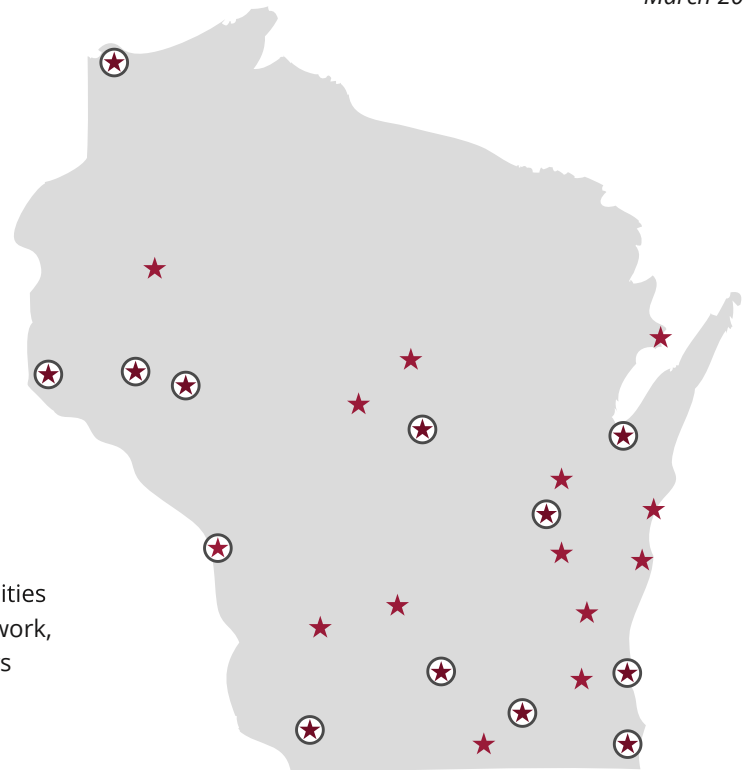




UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM 2021 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

March 2021



UW SYSTEM'S IMPACT ON WISCONSIN

The University of Wisconsin System, with 13 universities across 26 campuses and a statewide extension network, serves approximately 165,000 students and employs 39,000 faculty and staff statewide.

UW SYSTEM'S ONGOING RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Our universities remain open with students in classrooms – both in person and online. To help ensure the continued safety of our campus communities, we continue to use aggressive testing and mitigation strategies.

DATA POINTS

- The University of Wisconsin System has experienced both significant cost increases and revenue reductions associated with the pandemic.
- Through December 2020, UW institutions have incurred a total of \$466.7 million in COVID-related costs and lost revenue, including a state budget cut of \$86.1 million over FY20 and FY21 and refunds issued for housing, dining, and parking. When accounting for the funding UW Institutions received via the CARES Act, through December 2020, the net financial impact to the UW System has been a loss of \$317.7 million dollars.
- Even after accounting for the \$101.3 million in institutional funds received through the recently enacted Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), the net financial impact to the UW System is expected to be a loss of at least \$216.4 million. Importantly, however, the UW System must still quantify the financial exposure for the 2021 spring and summer semesters and the net financial loss is expected to be even greater.

ASK

We remain hopeful that with the vaccine, continued public health efforts, and a decrease in COVID-19 cases, a slow return to a pre-pandemic normal will be possible. However, even with the generous federal support to this point, the University of Wisconsin System estimates we will need an additional \$30 million in funding and further flexibility to maintain and expand our ongoing testing, contact tracing, and virus mitigation efforts across our campuses.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION: PROMOTING ACCESS AND DEGREE COMPLETION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to modernize the Higher Education Act to reflect a 21st-century model of higher education and to give more students access to an affordable, quality education.

ASK

As Congress continues efforts to reform and reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the University of Wisconsin System hopes to be a resource on matters of higher education policy, including on areas of regulatory reform, innovation, and the priorities included in this document.

FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT INVESTMENT: WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Financial aid funding is critical to our students' success as it plays an integral role in access, retention, graduation, and ultimately, employment.

DATA POINTS

- In 2019-20, over two-thirds (68 percent) of UW System undergraduates, or 97,000 students, received some form of financial aid. Undergraduate and graduate students received nearly \$1.4 billion in financial aid in 2019-20 (the most recent year for which data are available), including \$681 million in grants, \$737 million in loans, and \$13 million in work-study funding.
- In the UW System during the 2019-20 academic year, 66,000 undergraduates and 8,700 graduate students received a student loan. The Pell Grant program provided \$125 million to over 29,000 Wisconsin resident undergraduates (28 percent of resident undergraduates), with an average grant of nearly \$4,200.
- In 2019-20, Wisconsin resident undergraduates in the University of Wisconsin System faced an unmet need of \$10,178 after accounting for family contributions and state/federal need-based financial aid. Over two-thirds, or 68 percent, of Wisconsin resident baccalaureate recipients had student loan debt averaging \$29,671.
- In 2019-20, the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program awarded \$11.8 million in grants to over 18,000 students.

ASK

The University of Wisconsin System asks Congress to consider the following when looking at financial aid:

- Reinstating the annual inflation-based index for Pell Grant awards.
- Continuing support for federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG).
- Simplifying and consolidating the array of federal loan repayment plan programs.
- Continuing and expanding the Perkins Loan concept with a replacement program to reduce the financial aid "gap" created by the expiration of the program.
- Increasing authorization levels and access for TRIO and GEAR UP.

RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS: INVESTING IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The University of Wisconsin System is committed to research that helps promote economic, social, and cultural development on all our campuses. To remain globally competitive, the United States needs to increase investments in research and development.

DATA POINTS

- The University of Wisconsin System is home to two Research I institutions, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.
- The University of Wisconsin System is a major source of research and innovation, with more than \$1 billion of sponsored research activity annually across our 13 institutions.
- See charts (page 4) with federal awards data.

ASK

The University of Wisconsin System supports institutional efforts that provide more opportunities for student participation in research, as well as expanding capacity-building initiatives and undergraduate research. Sustaining – and, where appropriate, increasing – funding for basic and applied research is also of critical importance.

FOSTERING TALENT AND DIVERSITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We value programs that increase college participation and completion by students from all walks of life. We support policies that attract the brightest international students, faculty, and researchers and make them feel welcome on our campuses and in our communities.

ASK

The University of Wisconsin System supports efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which includes support for students brought to the United States as young children and talented international students who want to remain in the country after graduation. Further, we ask that the Duration of Status rule change, which was authored during the last administration, not be reintroduced, and for Congress to examine the ways to improve the efficacy of visa processing and review without compromising national security interests.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Allison Steil

Director of Federal Relations

608-263-3362 | asteil@uwsa.edu

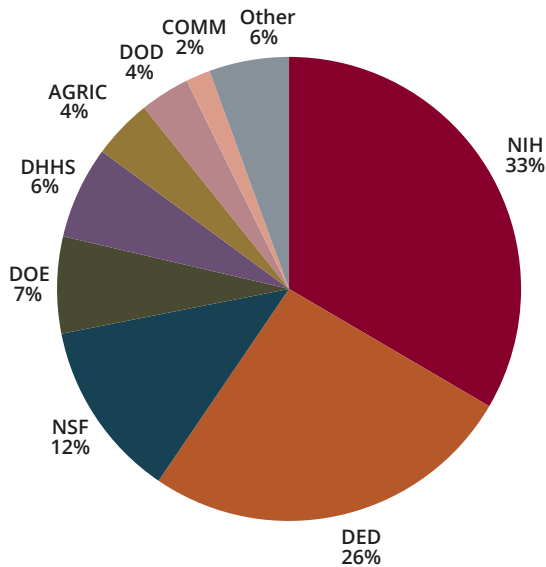
wisconsin.edu

UW SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD

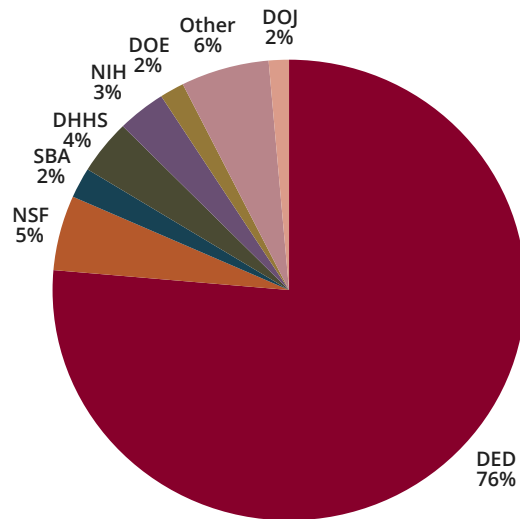
Visit wisconsin.edu/accountability for more data on UW System's performance and service to Wisconsin

UW SYSTEM FEDERAL AWARDS

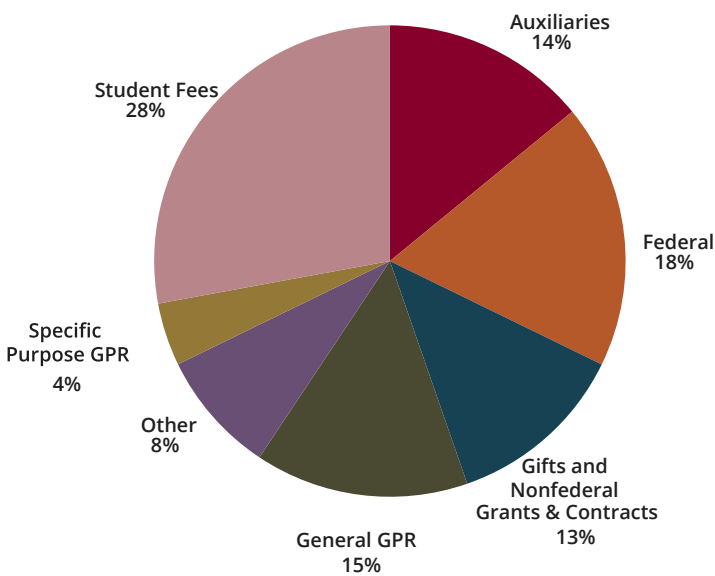
FEDERAL AWARDS : \$1,096,294,575



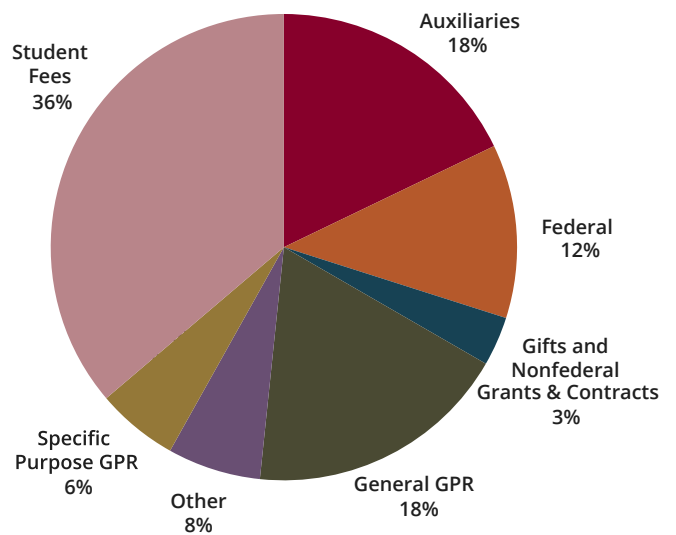
FEDERAL AWARDS (without Madison): \$297,238,864



TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,667,764,236
FEDERAL SOURCES: \$1,029,093,872



TOTAL REVENUES (without Madison): \$2,349,832,587
FEDERAL SOURCES: \$283,182,656



These four charts are from State Fiscal Year 2020 and exclude federal funding for the Direct Student Loan program.