

Higher Education

Top Ranked Universities

- UW-Madison
 - #12: Top Public Universities
 - #14: Best Undergraduate Teaching
- UW-La Crosse
 - #4: Top Public Midwest Universities
- UW-Eau Claire
 - #5: Top Public Midwest Universities
- UW-Stevens Point
 - #6: Top Public Midwest Universities
- UW-Whitewater
 - #10: Top Public Midwest Universities

UW System

- 13 universities; a unified, two-year college system with 13 campuses and a statewide extension.
- The UW System is one of the largest merged systems in the county, reenrolling approximately 179,000 students

Technical College

- 16 colleges serving more than 326,000 students
- 93% of tech college graduates are employed within 6 months of graduation, 79% in a job related to what they study
- 93% of graduates stay in Wisconsin
- Median starting salary for an associated (2-year) degree holder is \$41,000
- Prior graduates have reported that, within 5 years of graduation, average salaries have increased by 54%

Improving the UW System:

- In the [2017-19 budget](#), Republicans invested \$209 million in infrastructure on campuses across the state
- Increased funding to the UW System by \$34,250,000
- Created a School of Engineering at UW-Green Bay.
- Expanded the UW Carbone Cancer Center to bring access to precision medicine to more cancer patients statewide. (\$980,000)

Investing in our Students:

- Voted to freeze tuition for six consecutive years
- Provided an addition \$4 million for the need-based Wisconsin Grant scholarships, ensuring low income students get the training they need in the Wisconsin Technical College System. ([Act 59](#))
- Encouraged employers to contribute to an individual's Wisconsin 529 account while receiving a non-refundable 25% tax credit on every dollar up to the max annual contribution allowance ([Act 197](#))
- Created a merit-based scholarship for students attending the UW System valued at \$5,000 each ([Act 314](#))
- The Republican Assembly voted to expand the Tools of the Trade apprenticeship grant by providing an additional \$100,00 per year to tech college students who have undertaken an apprenticeship in conjunction with their course of instruction ([AB 808](#))
- Improved the Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship program ([Act 91](#))

- Improved transfer policies for college credit, saving high school students who have passed college equivalent courses tuition in their freshman year. ([Act 215](#))

Preserving Academic Freedom:

- Created the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership to facilitate research, teaching, and outreach of needed policy reforms regarding effective public leadership to improve the practice of American government ([Act 59](#))
- Assembly Republicans passed a bill to ensure the free expression of students on college campuses, one of the first in the nation. ([AB 299](#))

Myth: Republicans aren't doing anything to make higher education affordable.

Fact: Republicans are focused on providing the best, most affordable education to students. Through numerous reforms, Republicans froze tuition for six consecutive years, saving the average student \$6,000 over four years. In addition, they froze allocable segregated fees and directed the Board of Regents to develop system-wide policies governing allocable segregated fees. Republicans created the Early College Credit program to help high school students take college courses earlier, saving students up to \$12 million annually.

Myth: Republicans continue to slash funding for the UW System

Fact: In 2013, a LFB report stated the UW System had \$648 million in reserve funds, the majority of which came from banked tuition dollars. The UW System had nearly doubled the tuition balance from \$212.8 million in 2009 to \$414.1 million in 2013.

In 2013, Republicans cut funding to the UW System by \$250 million, forcing the universities to utilize their enormous reserve (the same amount Gov. Doyle cut his first year in office while allowing the system to raise tuition by \$150 million) In addition, Republicans froze tuition for students, preventing the system from continuing their assault on the tax payer.

Over the past few budgets, Republicans have implemented numerous reforms in an effort to hold the University accountable for their use of taxpayer dollars. This budget alone, Republicans increased funding to the UW System by \$34,250,000, totaling \$12 billion in funding over the biennium. Only 4% less than 2010. They also invested \$209 million in campus infrastructure, built a school of engineering at UW Green Bay, expanded the UW Carbon Cancer Center all while freezing tuition for resident undergraduates for the sixth consecutive year.

Republicans also required an independent audit of the UW System and approved a faculty workload study to ensure students have adequate classroom instruction. Republicans also created an outcomes-based funding model to grow and ensure student access, progress, and completion while expanding workforce contributions and enhancing overall efficiency and effectiveness

Resources:

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/search?location=Wisconsin&ranking=top-public&school-type=regional-universities-midwest>

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public>

<https://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2018/aug/06/tony-evers/tony-evers-figures-are-wrong-attack-scott-walker-o/?hootPostID=b1ab8531b303255722a66a896ac327d8>

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/proposals/ab64>

<https://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2015/mar/25/robin-vos/robin-vos-says-walker-cut-uw-budget-similar-doyles/>