

WISCONSIN SENATE REPUBLICANS

ISSUE BRIEFS FOR THE 2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HIGHER EDUCATION: UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

www.wisenategop.com

BACKGROUND

The University of Wisconsin System was created on October 11, 1971, by Chapter 100, Laws of 1971, which combined the two public university systems of the state under a single board of regents. Today the UW is comprised of 13 four-year universities, 13 freshman-sophomore UW Colleges campuses, and statewide UW-Extension.

THE FOUR YEAR UNIVERSITIES INCLUDE:

- UW-Eau Claire
- UW-Green Bay
- UW-La Crosse
- UW-Madison
- UW-Milwaukee
- UW-Oshkosh
- UW-Parkside
- UW-Platteville
- UW-River Falls
- UW-Stevens Point
- UW-Stout
- UW-Superior
- UW-Whitewater

THE FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE UW COLLEGES INCLUDE:

- UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
- UW-Barron County
- UW-Fond Du Lac
- UW-Fox Valley
- UW-Manitowoc
- UW-Marathon County
- UW-Marinette
- UW-Marshfield/Wood County
- UW-Richland
- UW-Rock County
- UW-Sheboygan
- UW-Washington County
- UW-Waukesha

OTHER UW STATISTICS:

ENROLLMENT: Approximately 180,000

FINANCES

- ANNUAL BUDGET: \$6 billion
- STATE FUNDING: \$1.2 billion
- GIFTS, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS: \$1.5 billion

ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$15+ billion annually

DEGREES AWARDED: More than 36,000 annually

EMPLOYEES: 32,333

- Professors: 2,699
- Associate Professors: 1,977
- Assistant Professors: 2,159
- Instructors: 45
- Unclassified Staff: 15,099
- Classified Staff: 10,354

FUNDING:

Table 10: UW System Operating Budget -- 2014-15 Fiscal Year

Source of Funds	Amount	Percent
State GPR	\$1,178,197,283	19.3%
Tuition	1,348,961,629	22.1
Federal	1,664,977,207	27.3
Auxiliary Operations	848,179,027	13.9
Gifts and Trust Income	572,847,745	9.4
Operational Receipts	299,560,054	4.9
Indirect Cost Reimbursement	149,147,917	2.4
Services Provided to Hospital Authority	<u>36,000,000</u>	<u>0.6</u>
Total	\$6,097,870,862	100.0%

UW System Spending, 2014-2015

1. Instruction (22.1%)
2. Financial Aid (19.1%)
3. Research (17.5%)
4. Student Services (8.2%)
5. Academic Support (7.2%)
6. Auxiliary Enterprises (7.0%)
7. Physical Plant (5.6%)
8. Public Service (4.6%)
9. Institutional Support (4.0%)
10. Debt Service on Academic Buildings (4.0%)
11. Hospitals (0.6%)
12. Farm Operations (0.2%)

For further information, see the following link:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2015/0032_university_of_wisconsin_overview_informational_paper_32.pdf

TUITION:

Governor Walker and the Republican legislature have made massive strides in controlling the cost of tuition in the UW System. In the five years Republicans have had control, UW system tuition has been frozen for three school years. To put this in perspective, in 5 years of the Doyle administration, from the 2006-2007 school year to the 2010-2011 school year, in-state undergraduate tuition at UW-Madison increased by \$2,257. In five years of the Walker administration, from the 2011-2012 school year to the 2015-2016 school year, in-state undergraduate tuition at UW-Madison increased by \$745.

Wisconsin has also remained competitive in terms of affordability with other Big Ten institutions. UW-Madison resident undergraduate, non-resident undergraduate, resident graduate, and non-resident graduate tuition are all lower than the average Big Ten School's tuition for those respective categories. UW tuition is also increasing at a far slower rate than that of the average Big Ten institution.

In addition to freezing tuition to stop the rising cost of a college education, the Republican legislature has passed measures to assist with the burden of student loans that today's college student's face. The average freshman at UW-Madison takes out \$7,400 of student loans in their first year at the university. The average loan amount per year for students at UW-Madison is \$6,890. Sixty-eight percent of the Class of 2012 graduated from Wisconsin colleges and universities with student loan debt, giving the state the No. 8 national ranking for percentage of new grads with debt. Wisconsin ranked No. 14 for average amount of loan debt: \$28,102. Our measures to lower the amount of debt students graduate with is detailed in the legislation listed below.

LEGISLATION:

- **SB 21 (ACT 55)**- Prohibits increases in undergraduate, resident tuition above that charged in the 2014-15 academic year; Exempts construction funded through gifts/grants from DOA approval, supervision, and other requirements
- **AB 741 (ACT 282)**- Creates and funds a \$130,000 program to award grants up to \$500 per student per year to UW college students for emergency financial need. This approach has been credited with increasing the likelihood a student finishes his or her degree in difficult situations by increasing student retention
- **AB 742 (ACT 283)**- Funds two positions within the Office of Skills Development at DWD. These positions would work with employers and institutions throughout the state to build and grow relationships between higher education institutions and employers, so students can gain job skills, which will assist in filling open positions and connecting our graduating students to Wisconsin employers
- **AB 744 (ACT 284)**- Requires institutions of higher education to annually provide a letter to each student that contains certain information about the student's loans, the institution's cost of attendance, and the amount of grants the student receives. The letter also includes financial literacy information
- **AB 808 (ACT 279)**- Prohibits certain discipline by the UW System against a student who commits an underage alcohol beverage violation, if that student is a victim or bystander of sexual assault and cooperates with emergency responders