

WHAT IS Badger Promise?

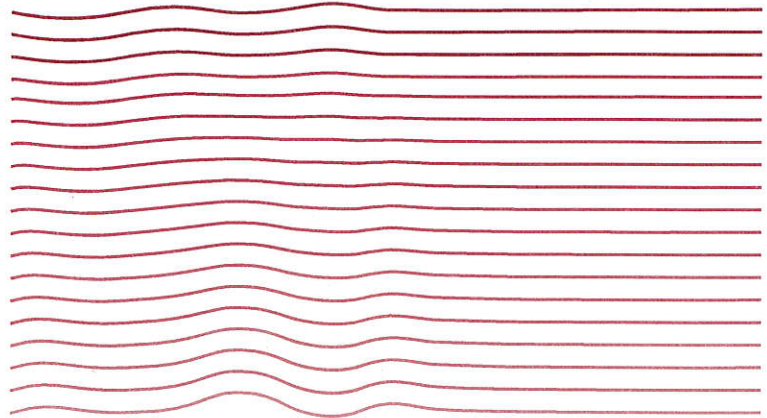
Badger Promise is a commitment to first-generation Wisconsin residents. The program guarantees a period of free tuition and fees to those who have successfully transferred from any of the two-year UW Colleges campuses or from liberal arts associate degree programs at Madison College (Madison Area Technical College), Milwaukee Area Technical College, Nicolet College, the College of Menominee Nation, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.

Who is eligible?

UW-Madison has existing transfer agreements with partner institutions that guarantee admission to students meeting the academic requirements. Badger Promise builds on that, providing free tuition and fees to qualifying Wisconsin residents whose parents did not graduate from a four-year college. Those students will receive grant/scholarship aid of up to two semesters of in-state tuition and fees (currently \$10,534 for full-time enrollment). Those who have shown federal Pell Grant eligibility at UW-Madison will receive up to four semesters of in-state tuition and fees (currently \$21,067 for full-time enrollment).

What if I don't attend full-time?

The aid commitment will cover the full cost of tuition for the number of credits that a student chooses to take. However, it will only be available for two (2) or four (4) semesters (depending on student eligibility for Pell Grants).



What grants/scholarships will a Badger Promise student receive?

Structured as a last-dollar award, Badger Promise would supplement the gap between any merit or need-based aid offered outside of this program and the full cost of tuition. If the student receives other merit-based aid from any source, these awards would be considered in determining the gap between current grant/scholarship aid and the full cost of tuition.

When does Badger Promise begin?

Immediately. Eligible students who transferred to UW-Madison for fall 2017 from one of the partner institutions will be notified by the Office of Student Financial Aid and will receive an updated award package.

Do students need to apply for Badger Promise?

No. Badger Promise is automatic for eligible students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). No separate application is necessary, and eligible students will be automatically notified by the Office of Student Financial Aid.



To be eligible, must a student have signed a Declaration of Intent to Participate (the form typically submitted before sophomore year) in a transfer agreement?

No. Because transfer agreements with our partner institutions were updated just this past year, the initial cohort of Badger Promise students will not be required to have signed a transfer agreement. As the program continues in future years, we will work with our two-year partner schools to ensure that prospective Badger Promise transfer students are able to meet the full expectations of our transfer agreements (a signed Declaration of Intent to Participate, at least 54 credits, etc.)

How is Badger Promise funded?

Badger Promise students will be funded from a package of institutional, state, federal and private sources, depending upon their situation and the funding for which they qualify. Regardless of the source of the funds, UW-Madison will commit tuition funding for one or two years depending on their Pell Grant status.

How many students does UW-Madison expect to benefit from this program?

The first cohort this fall will consist of 139 transfer students from our partner schools. We expect a cohort of similar size next year.

What will the average award be per student?

Each student will receive whatever award is needed to cover the full amount of their tuition and fees. For the first cohort of Badger Promise students, the average award will total approximately \$4,800 in new funding per student. This is on top of any other sources of need-based aid for which a student may qualify.

What is the definition of “first-generation?”

Neither parent holds a four-year college degree.

Why are only transfer students eligible for Badger Promise?

The transfer student pathway at UW-Madison represents a vital component of our commitment to the state. We believe a four-year degree is valuable and want to eliminate as many barriers as possible for students who want to pursue one. Students who transfer from our two-year partner schools are 70 percent more likely to be first-generation college students than students admitted as new freshmen, and they are almost twice as likely to be Pell Grant eligible. Students transferring into UW-Madison through our two-year partner schools can earn some portion of their degree credits at lower-cost schools closer to their homes and then receive a guaranteed level of aid at UW-Madison, significantly increasing access by lowering the overall costs of their education.

