

GRADUATE STUDENTS: CRUCIAL TO UW-MADISON

UW-Madison: A world-class institution serving Wisconsin

- ✧ UW-Madison's research, educational and outreach activities are a source of pride for Wisconsin.
- ✧ Undergraduates learn from and work with top-flight faculty and graduate students.
- ✧ Roughly two-thirds of Wisconsin residents who apply as freshmen are offered admission, and many others transfer in later from other state schools.
- ✧ The university's continuing education programs served 149,000 lifelong learners in 2006.

UW-Madison: Economic engine for the state

- ✧ By educating Wisconsin residents, creating jobs and stimulating private-sector entrepreneurship, UW-Madison has a huge impact on the state's economic vitality.
- ✧ In 2005, the university ranked fifth out of U.S. universities for number of patents awarded. The work of nearly 100 Wisconsin companies is based on patented inventions from UW-Madison.
- ✧ UW-Madison's activities create roughly 75,000 jobs and generate \$347 million in state and local tax revenue in Wisconsin.
- ✧ UW-Madison contributes nearly \$5 billion to the state's economy annually, more than 10 times the state's investment.

Graduate students in research

- ✧ Graduate students serving as Research Assistants and Project Assistants provide the skilled labor faculty members rely upon to perform essential research, run their labs and complete their projects.
- ✧ Virtually all graduate students engage in their own research, raising new questions and opening up new avenues of investigation for other researchers.
- ✧ Graduate students question assumptions and methodologies in ways that others do not.
- ✧ Graduate students mentor others doing research, especially undergraduates.
- ✧ World-class faculty choose UW-Madison because of the opportunity to work with top graduate students.

Graduate students in education

- ✧ Graduate students employed as Teaching Assistants lead discussion sections, facilitate lecture activities and mentor undergraduates.
- ✧ Of the time undergraduates spend learning from faculty, lecturers and Teaching Assistants, 30% is spent learning from Teaching Assistants.
- ✧ The support that Teaching Assistants provide to faculty, such as administering exams, leading discussion sections and grading papers, allows popular and required courses to be larger and keeps time to degree to a minimum.

Graduate students in outreach

- ✧ Project Assistants are employed in a variety of outreach activities. These include facilitating volunteer efforts with local nonprofits through the Morgridge Center, helping local youth make the transition to college through the PEOPLE Program and many others.
- ✧ Project Assistants help coordinate public talks and symposia through departments.

Impacts of reduced funding opportunities for graduate students

- ✧ A decline in the number of Research, Teaching or Project Assistantships will cause the number and quality of graduate students to drop.
- ✧ Many graduate students already hold significant debt from their undergraduate years, and are either unwilling or unable to pay tuition at UW-Madison.
- ✧ The best and brightest graduate students will be the first to leave UW-Madison.
- ✧ Decreased graduate student quality will encourage top faculty to also leave UW-Madison.
- ✧ Reduced funding opportunities will disproportionately impact interdisciplinary programs, putting the innovative and socially relevant work these programs often perform at risk.