

SOAR

Center for the First-Year Experience

STUDENT CONFIRMATION

August 23-31 Sessions



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Welcome to UW-MADISON!

Thank you for making a reservation to attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR). We look forward to meeting you in late August. Please review the confirmation email, verifying your reservation for SOAR. If you need to modify your reservation, visit soar.wisc.edu to make your updates. When you come to SOAR, you will be taking the next step toward becoming a Badger. Welcome!

SOAR Expectations

When you check in at SOAR, you will receive a detailed itinerary. You are required to be at SOAR for the entire program, so please schedule your travel to ensure that you arrive in Madison before your SOAR session date. Housing is available for international students for a per-night charge beginning August 15 for those with a fall University Housing contract. International students living in University Housing will be able to move into their halls on August 23. This option is only available to students; parents and guests will need to find alternative hotel accommodations. Domestic students should refer to their University Housing contract for move-in information.

For hotel accommodations during the SOAR Program, please review the "Make Your Overnight Accommodations" section on soar.wisc.edu.

SOAR Preparation WHAT TO BRING

In addition to the items you bring with you for school and your new residence, please bring the following to SOAR:

- **Your Passport, F-1 or J-1 Visa** (Canadians are excluded), and I-20 or DS-2019 (for international students only).
- **A government-issued photo ID** (you will need this to pick up your Wiscard).
- **Campus ID number** (you should begin to memorize this number).
- **Log-in and password for your NetID** (used to log in to MyUW and WiscMail).
- **A battery-operated nongraphing calculator, two #2 pencils, and a small snack** (if you are required to take any placement tests).

- **Official transcripts.** If you have not already submitted your transcripts to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment, please do so now. Check the status of your final transcript in your Student Center on MyUW at my.wisc.edu.
- **Pen, umbrella (for inclement weather), comfortable attire, and walking shoes.** During August, the weather in Madison varies greatly. Please check the weather forecast prior to your arrival.

Please review information in this confirmation and online at soar.wisc.edu.

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND COURSE ENROLLMENT

During the SOAR program, you will meet with academic advisors and enroll in your first-semester courses. You will receive a more detailed schedule of academic advising at SOAR check-in.

There will be a separate program for parents and guests. By attending this program, parents and guests will learn more about how to support their students, as well as learn about health and safety on campus, technology, involvement, and other topics.

PLACEMENT TESTING

Freshmen

You are required to take placement tests in mathematics and English or English as a Second Language. You also have the option of testing in a world language. **You are expected to complete your placement test before attending SOAR.** If you have questions, email soar@studentlife.wisc.edu or visit soar.wisc.edu.

Transfer Students

Shortly after you were admitted, you received an email from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment that indicated which placement test(s) you are required to take. **You are expected to complete your placement testing before you attend SOAR.** If you have any questions about taking your placement tests, email soar@studentlife.wisc.edu or visit soar.wisc.edu.

If you are unsure about whether placement testing is required, contact the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at 608-262-3961 or email: onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit

If you have taken higher-level IB exams, A-level exams, or AP exams, you may be eligible for advanced standing or transfer credit. Please make sure that your IB scores and A-level results slips are submitted to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment as soon as they are available.

If you are currently enrolled in courses at another institution, please verify that your courses will be completed prior to your departure for the SOAR program. Many international institutions are on different academic calendars, and some courses may not end in time for you to start school at UW-Madison. If you are making changes to your current schedule, consult the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu to see if this change will have an effect on your admission status.

Getting Around at SOAR

Be prepared to walk and/or take campus buses between SOAR program locations, and please allow plenty of time for travel.

If you would like to familiarize yourself with the campus, you can view the interactive online campus map at map.wisc.edu. Parking can be challenging on the UW-Madison campus. If you plan on using a car during the SOAR program, please visit the Transportation Services website at transportation.wisc.edu for information about visitor parking.

Participants with Disabilities

Disability accommodations are available for student participants and their parents and guests for both permanent and temporary disabilities. In order to best serve you, we request notification in advance of your attendance. If you did not indicate your need for disability accommodations for SOAR when you made a reservation, please contact SOAR at soar@studentlife.wisc.edu.

RESERVATION CHANGES/ CANCELLATIONS

Because resources are committed in advance, any changes to your SOAR reservation must be made at least one week prior to your attendance. No refunds will be made for changes or cancellations occurring within one week of your attendance, except in extreme circumstances.

Next Steps

Please complete the following before you attend SOAR:

- **Review your reservation confirmation and online information carefully** to make sure that all information is correct. Make any necessary changes online at soar.wisc.edu more than one week before your session.
- **Pay your fee.** Two weeks before your session, you will receive an email with your complete invoice and payment instructions. No fees were collected at the time you made your reservation.
- **Make travel plans** to arrive in Madison before your SOAR session. Please make sure to arrive on campus early enough to get situated for your SOAR session.

Transitional housing is available to international students for short-term stay; please review the overnight accommodations information on soar.wisc.edu. For pre-arrival information and travel tips from ISS, please see: iss.wisc.edu/students/new-students/pre-arrival.
- **Review the information** that is provided on the SOAR website: soar.wisc.edu.
- **Visit YouAtUW.com** and learn about other first-year students and their transition to campus.

International Student Services (ISS)

MANDATORY ISS CHECK-IN AND ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Mandatory check-in with ISS and orientation sessions are required for new international students. Your required ISS orientation session will take place shortly before or after your SOAR session. In the ISS Orientation sessions, UW–Madison staff members offer presentations that address issues such as health services and insurance, F-1 and J-1 immigrations rules, adapting to a new academic system, and UW–Madison policies and services.

For detailed information about ISS check-in and to sign up for ISS welcome events, visit iss.wisc.edu/students/orientation/fall-orientation or refer to your confirmation email for more information.

ISS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

ISS offers F-1 and J-1 visa advising to all international students and their dependents. If you have any questions about your student visa status or wonder about your visa rights, please feel free to ask the staff at ISS.

In addition, ISS offers a variety of programs for international students, ranging from fun social activities to educational service-learning opportunities to multiple forums for personal and professional enrichment. Popular ISS programs include BRIDGE, an international friendship program in which new students are paired with U.S. students, and Reach, a global speakers program in which international students act as ambassadors of their countries by making presentations about their countries and cultures.

ISS also provides workshops for international students to help with adjustments to life in the U.S. The office strives to assist international students with their personal, academic, and professional success.

SOAR Program Check-In

On the day of your registered SOAR session, check in for the program at Memorial Union.

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Memorial Union (800 Langdon Street)

Still have questions?

The Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE) is here to help support your transition to campus. Visit soar.wisc.edu to review information about:

- UW placement testing
- SOAR program logistics and information about both the student and parent/guest programs
- Tips about how to prepare for academic advising
- Information on the SOAR program (both student and parent/guest programs)

SOAR Information

soar.wisc.edu
SOAR@studentlife.wisc.edu
608-262-4707

MCBURNEY DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

mcburney.wisc.edu
mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu
608-263-2741(voice)
608-225-7956 (text)

For disability accommodations during SOAR, please call the SOAR Information Line at 608-262-4707.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

admissions.wisc.edu
onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu
608-262-3961

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS)

iss.wisc.edu
iss@studentlife.wisc.edu
608-262-2044

UNIVERSITY HOUSING ASSIGNMENT OFFICE

www.housing.wisc.edu
assignme@housing.wisc.edu
608-262-2522
608-262-6830 (TTY/TTD)

CAMPUS AREA HOUSING

campusareahousing.wisc.edu
campusareahousing@uwmadwisc.edu
608-263-2400

GET CONNECTED

 facebook.com/uwnewstudent
 facebook.com/ISSatUW
UW–Madison Official Class of 2021 group
 twitter.com/uwnewstudent
twitter.com/UW_ISS
 instagram.com/uwnewstudent
instagram.com/uw_iss
#uwsoar

Connect with new Badgers:

youatuw.com
#youatuw

