Center for the First-Year Experience

August 22–30 Sessions
Student Confirmation
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 your SOAR email for accuracy. 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. Transitional housing is available to international students with a university housing contract. This housing is available beginning August 15 for a per night charge. International students living in University Housing will be able to move into their halls on August 21. 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 Accomodations” section at 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).
- Login 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 mywisc.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.

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 as a Second Language. You also have the option of testing in a world language. You are expected to complete your placement tests 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: onwiscin@admissions.wisc.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Advanced Standing & 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 onwiscin@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.

Meals

During one-day SOAR sessions, students and guests will be able to select food options from a variety of eateries or buffet stations. During two-day sessions, dinner will be provided. If students or parents/guests have food allergies or dietary restrictions, please contact the SOAR office as soon as possible. All meals will include a vegetarian entrée option.
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 SOAR confirmation and email 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 SOAR. Transitional housing is available to international students for a short-term stay; please review the overnight accommodations information at soar.wisc.edu. For pre-arrival information and travel tips from ISS, please see: iss.wisc.edu. For pre-arrival information and accommodations information at soar.wisc.edu more than one week before your session.
- Visit YouAtUW.com and learn about other first-year students and their transition to campus.

International Student Services (ISS)
Mandatory International Student Orientation (ISO)
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/home/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 social activities to service-learning opportunities to 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 (800 Langdon Street), Annex Room.

August 23 and 30: 7:30–8:30 a.m.

August 23–24, 27–28, and 28–29: 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

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

International Student Services (ISS)
iswisc.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

UW GUIDE APP
For more detailed information about SOAR schedules, construction updates, and other program details, download the UW Guide app by Guidebook Inc. from the App Store or the Google Play Store or visit go.wisc.edu/soar2018.

GET CONNECTED
facebook.com/ UWnewstudent
facebook.com/ISSatUW
UW–Madison Official Class of 2022 group
twitter.com/ UWnewstudent
twitter.com/ UW_ISS
instagram.com/ UWnewstudent
instagram.com/ UW_ISS
#uwsoar
Connect with new Badgers:
youatuw.com
#youatuw
SOAR TIPS

UW–Madison has been hosting SOAR for many years, and in that time, we have heard from previous attendees about what they wish they had known before arriving. Here are a few tips!

- Keep an open mind! UW–Madison has more than 150 majors and more than 1,000 student organizations; take some time to explore!
- Summer weather in Wisconsin can be unpredictable; check the forecast before arriving, and bring umbrellas or any other relevant gear. SOAR takes place rain or shine!
- The SOAR program happens all over campus; wear comfortable shoes. If you need accommodations for this travel, please contact the SOAR front desk at 608-262-4707.
- The temperature in campus buildings varies. We recommend bringing a sweater or light sweater to help you comfortable.
- Bring a snack to help keep you focused during advising.