

***Undergraduate Admissions Holistic Review:
Guidelines
FOR THE 2021-22 ENROLLING CLASS***

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY



OFFICE OF
Admissions and Recruitment
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Admission Decisions

The goal of the Office of Admissions and Recruitment is to admit the most desirable students from our applicant pool. We consider the context in which a student has been educated and consider how a student has excelled according to what is offered at their school. These guidelines should serve as a starting point to help you make an informed admission decision. There will be times when a decision is not clear cut or an applicant falls between decision guidelines; in these cases, use your professional expertise or consult a more senior member of the team to make the best decision. Consider your recommendation carefully and always ask for clarification if you are unsure about the best course of action.

**Summer/Fall Freshman Admitted Students:
2018, 2019, 2020**

Middle 50% Range

GPA: 3.8 – 4.0 Class rank: 85-97th percentile

ACT: 28 – 33 SAT: 1340 – 1480 TOEFL: 102-110

*ACT and SAT scores not required between Spring 2021 and Spring 2023

**Spring/Summer/Fall Transfer Admitted
Students: 2018, 2019, 2020**

Middle 50% Range

GPA: 3.4 – 3.9

Freshman Decision Guidelines

Admit

Applicants recommended for admission will be academically competitive based on the context of their education taking challenging advanced level courses based on what rigor has been available to them at their high school. They will be largely earning grades of As and Bs or the equivalent. Admissible students are likely to be highly rated in multiple areas of our holistic review. They will have Academic Rigor and Academic Performance ratings that reflect the most challenging curriculum and grades of what is available to them at their high school.

Admit Wisconsin Residents

We remain committed to the residents of Wisconsin as our first priority. Wisconsin students who have good grades and are taking competitive course work based on what's available to them at their high school are likely to be admissible. Generally, these are students who are earning AB grades or better in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Or if rigor isn't available to them, earning straight As in [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. If class rank is available, our most competitive Wisconsin students are ranked in the top [REDACTED] of their graduating class unless a very small high school or a very competitive high school that doesn't weight rigor. Wisconsin residents who have demonstrated good fit and academic potential, along with having factors that meet institutional priorities should be considered strongly for admission. Applicants we are considering for admission must be academically prepared and demonstrate academic readiness to find success in the classroom at UW-Madison.

Admit Non-Residents

Our out-of-state applicant pool is highly competitive, and applicants are expected to stretch themselves in all areas of our holistic review, generally reflecting the top of the competitive range. Generally, these are students earning AB grades in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. If rigor isn't available to them, earning straight As in [REDACTED]. If class rank is available or school profile information that shares class placement, competitive applicants will be in the top [REDACTED] of their graduating class in most schools unless a very small high school or a

very competitive high school. [REDACTED], and we are confident that these applicants can find success on our campus.

Defer (Early Action)

Applicants recommended for defer are students who are likely to find success on our campus but are not the most competitive in our pool. They may have overall good grades with declining grades of B- to C grades in most recent semester or year. They may be lacking rigor compared to peers or may not present as strongly in holistic factors compared to peers from same high school or compared to others from similar educational curriculum. There may be compelling reasons to defer students with low ratings on our holistic review but seek consultation from more senior staff in these cases. Space constraints may limit the number of defer students that are eventually admitted. We wait to review mid-year senior grades for freshman applicants who have been deferred. We will make a final decision by the end of March.

Wait list (Regular Decision)

Applicants recommended for wait list are students that show academic potential earning mostly B grades or better but may not present as the strongest applicants in our pool due to more competitive students from the same context earning strong grades and/or taking more rigor. We may not have space for applicants we wait list at this time, or we may want to see additional information from the student, such as updated grades. Generally, wait list students will have mid-level ratings, although a few lower ratings may be seen in non-academic areas if there are other compelling factors.

Wisconsin residents will be offered the opportunity to participate in Connections, in addition to being offered a spot on our wait list. Select Illinois residents may be offered the opportunity to be a part of Road to Wisconsin, in addition to being offered a spot on our wait list.

Deny

Applicants are recommended for denial for a variety of reasons. They may be lacking competitive academics including weak rigor compared to peers or poor academic performance. Sometimes applicants are denied because there is limited space and there are a number of more competitive applicants in the applicant pool.

Transfer Decision Guidelines

Admit

Applicants who have taken strong academic preparation for the program they are pursuing while earning good grades [REDACTED] are prepared for UW-Madison. They will have taken a wide breadth of course work in challenging courses that align with course work offered at UW-Madison. Applicants who have demonstrated good fit and academic potential may be admitted.

Defer

Applicants who have the potential for success but may be borderline in our holistic review, can be deferred for another term of grades. Students who have not completed a full year of college level course work or whose most recent grades indicate a soft spot or two, may be able to demonstrate readiness with another semester of college

course work. These students will be reviewed again, once updated grades are provided. We will make a final decision in January for spring transfer applicants and June for fall transfer applicants.

Deny

Applicants are recommended for denial for a number of reasons. Applicants may have weak academic records raising questions about their preparedness to find success on campus or they may not demonstrate strong fit based on other factors in our review. Sometimes applicants are denied because they are lacking minimum requirements or have a large number of credits that don't align with their program.

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