Why come here for research?
UW-Madison is a top research institution

- **Research expenditures:** $1.2 billion in 2018-19; sixth overall; top 1-5 public schools
- **Research university ranking:** Top five for each of the past 20 years
- **PhDs granted:** First (2017)
- **Patents granted to a university:** Eighth
- **Number of grad programs ranked in the top ten nationally:** 40
There are outstanding facilities and centers at UW-Madison for research

- Biophysics Instrumentation Facility
- Mass Spectrometry Facility
- National Magnetic Resonance Facility
- LS-CAT Synchrotron Beamline
- Waisman Clinical Biomanufacturing Facility
- Peptide Synthesis Facility
- Molecular Interaction Facility
- Gene Expression Center
- Genome Center of Wisconsin
- Transgenic Animal Facility
- Cryo-EM Facility
- W.M. Keck Lab for Biological Imaging
- Lab for Optical and Computer Imaging
- Materials Science Center
- Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery
- Flow Cytometry Facility
- Keck Small Molecule Screening Facility
- Biology Media Lab
- Wisconsin Center for Applied Microelectronics
- Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation
- DNA Sequencing Lab
There are a lot of new laboratory buildings on campus
UW-Madison can provide a quality education

• Ranked consistently among the premier research universities in the country

• Campus is home to approximately 44,000 students; of these, over 8,900 are graduate students

• Over 100 Doctoral Programs
UW-Madison Biological Science Programs

• Agronomy: MS, PhD
• Animal Sciences: MS, PhD
• Applied Biotechnology: MS
• Audiology: AuD
• Bacteriology: MS (for PhD, see Microbiology)
• Biochemistry: PhD
• Biomedical Data Science: MS, PhD
• Biometry: MS
• Biophysics: PhD
• Biotechnology: MS
• Botany: MS, PhD
• Cancer Biology: PhD
• Cellular and Molecular Biology: PhD
• Cellular and Molecular Pathology: PhD
• Clinical Investigation: MS, PhD
• Clinical Nutrition: MS
• Communication Sciences and Disorders: MS, PhD
• Comparative Biomedical Sciences: MS, PhD
• Dairy Science: MS, PhD
• Endocrinology - Reproductive Physiology: MS, PhD
• Entomology: MS, PhD
• Environmental Conservation: MS
• Epidemiology: MS, PhD
• Food Science: MS, PhD
• Forestry: MS, PhD
• Freshwater and Marine Sciences: MS, PhD
• Genetics: PhD
• Horticulture: MS, PhD
• Kinesiology: MS, PhD
• Medical Physics: MS, PhD
• Microbiology: PhD
• Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology: PhD
• Molecular and Environmental Toxicology: MS, PhD
• Neuroscience: PhD
• Nursing Practice: DNP
• Nursing: PhD
• Nutritional Sciences: MS, PhD
• Occupational Therapy: MS (For PhD, see Kinesiology)
• Occupational Therapy: OTD
• Pharmaceutical Sciences: PhD
• Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics: MS, PhD
• Plant Pathology: MS, PhD
• Population Health: MS, PhD
• Wildlife Ecology: MS, PhD
• Zoology: MA, MS, PhD
Our Students

• Each graduate program individually works to create a sense of community amongst its students

• University-wide programs and groups enhance students’ experiences during graduate school
  • They organize community activities, outreach opportunities and professional development sessions to help connect underrepresented students
Student organizations on campus

- SACNAS student chapter
- Wisconsin Black Students Union
- Dreamers of UW-Madison
- Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP)
- Q-Grads
- OSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Science and Medicine Graduate Research Scholars (SciMed GRS)
Funding opportunities at UW-Madison

• We have a lot of training grants (39 to be exact)
• There are institution specific grants
  • From Morgridge
  • From WARF
  • From colleges on campus
• There are travel grants from the Graduate School
• Funding stipend levels and mechanisms are set by individual graduate degree programs
  • Funding is typically available to STEM students with satisfactory progression towards their degree for the duration of their program
  • Additionally, all funded graduate research students qualify for tuition remission and are eligible for a comprehensive benefits package
Living in Madison

- Madison is a vibrant community where many outdoor recreation activities are possible including boating, swimming, biking, skiing, and hiking.
- Madison’s early city planners incorporated gardens, parks and green spaces to blend urban life with the natural landscape.
- Consistently ranked as one of the healthiest cities in the United States.
Living in Madison

• The farmers market on the capitol square is the largest producer-only farmers market in the country, meaning everything you see there is sold by the growers themselves
• Madison has a focus on sustainable living and is consistently ranked as one of the greenest cities in the United States
Living in Madison

• World-class sports teams call UW-Madison home
  • Consistently nationally ranked teams in football, basketball, hockey and volleyball
  • Also home to the Madison Mallards baseball team and the Forward soccer team
• There are a lot of excellent restaurants where you can watch your favorite sports teams play
  • And most places have cheese curds
Living in Madison

- There are many different festivals that occur in Madison, WI throughout the year
  - Kites on Ice
  - Willy St Fair
  - Art Fair on the Square
- There is a vibrant music scene in Madison, with top artists regularly visiting venues such as the Majestic, the Orpheum and the Sylvee
Choosing a Graduate Program

Biological science graduate programs vary in many ways:

- Size
- Focus/scope (highly interdisciplinary versus more focused)
- Laboratory rotations vs. direct admission
- Faculty
  - Many faculty are trainers in multiple programs!
- Course requirements
- TA requirement
- Admissions requirements
Advice on Applying

• You can (and should!) apply for up to 3 programs with one application fee
  • Application fee is $75, but you may be eligible for an application fee waiver; contact the program you are interested in and/or visit [https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/fee-grant](https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/fee-grant) to see if you qualify

• Faculty do read your entire application!
  • More focus on holistic admissions among many programs
  • Admissions committees focus most on research experience, as explained in your personal statement, CV, and letters of recommendation
The GRE is NOT required for these programs:

- Biochemistry
- Cancer Biology
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Cellular and Molecular Pathology
- Dairy Science
- Forestry
- Microbiology
- Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
- Neuroscience
- Nursing Practice, DNP
- Nutritional Sciences
- Occupational Therapy, OTD
- Wildlife Ecology
- Zoology

- Biophysics (will consider if submitted)
- Botany (will consider if submitted)
- Comparative Biomedical Sciences (will consider if submitted)
- Genetics (will consider if submitted)
- Molecular and Environmental Toxicology (will consider if submitted)
Personal statement tips

• Why should you be selected for an interview?
  • Talk about your motivations and goals
• How have you prepared for entering a PhD program?
  • Describe previous research experiences, including general details of the project and what you learned
• Why are you interested in this PhD program?
  • What faculty are you interested in working with? How will this PhD program help you achieve your goals?
  • **Custom for every program you apply for**
Letters of recommendation tips

• Should be from those who can attest to skills that will help you in a bioscience graduate degree program
  • Research abilities, problem solving skills, scientific creativity, work ethic, leadership, data interpretation, maturity, etc.
• You **need** to have letters from research mentors
  • Letters from postdoc or graduate student mentors are beneficial in addition to a letter from the PI
• Letters from course instructors are okay if the courses are relevant to the degree you are pursuing
  • i.e. no letters from your French instructor