



First-Year Goals:

University of Wisconsin–Madison

As faculty and staff at UW–Madison, it is our responsibility to guide students toward meeting certain goals during their first year. The Center for First-Year Experience has created the following first-year goals and welcomes your participation in using the goals to enhance your work with new students. No one person, class, or organization can help a student meet all of these goals, but if all UW–Madison community members use the goals as a basis for interactions with first-year students, each student will be able to create a meaningful, productive first-year experience for themselves.

Gaining confidence and competence as a college-level student

If you are meeting this goal you are:

- Gaining competence in reading, writing, oral communication, time management, and research at the college level.
- Learning academic content in your courses.
- Using UW–Madison and other resources to help you achieve your goals.
- Developing your educational and career goals.
- Gaining skill in thinking critically, analytically, and integratively.
- Seeking opportunities for learning in and out of the classroom.
- Taking advantage of opportunities to talk with and learn from people who have differing opinions, perspectives, and experiences than your own.

Making positive connections with faculty, staff, and peers

If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Establishing relationships with peers who provide support for academic and social endeavors.
- Interacting with professors and teaching assistants in and out of the classroom.
- Meeting with your academic adviser.
- Welcoming friendships with people who are different from you (different in race, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, political views).

Engaging in behaviors that promote your personal health and balance

If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Coping with stress and adversity.
- Developing a sense of personal potential and personal direction.
- Displaying healthy behaviors around alcohol and drug use.
- Displaying healthy behaviors around nutrition, sleep, and exercise.
- If you choose to engage in intimate or sexual relationships, doing so in a healthy way.

Understanding yourself as a member of the socially diverse university community

If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Developing an awareness of and respect for differences between people.
- Beginning to understand the impact of people's social background and characteristics such as gender, race/ethnicity, class, and where they grew up on their power, status, opportunities, and how you and others treat them.
- Becoming aware of university values and learning appropriate academic and community conduct.
- Becoming actively involved in your community.

Developing awareness of the impact of your personal choices

If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Becoming aware of your own values and how they are similar to and different from other people's values.
- Behaving in an ethical and principled way.
- Taking responsibility for choices and decisions you make as a student and member of the university community.
- Recognizing the impact of your actions on the larger community.
- Taking responsibility for your academic success.



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