SOAR
Center for the First-Year Experience

Freshman Student Confirmation
Welcome to UW-MADISON!

Thank you for making a reservation to attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR). Please see the enclosed confirmation letter to be sure that your SOAR session and date are correct. If you need to modify your SOAR reservation, please contact the SOAR office at 608-262-4707 or soar@studentlife.wisc.edu.

SOAR Expectations

UW-Madison has the following expectations of SOAR participants:

- **Complete your placement tests** prior to attending SOAR. There are no exceptions. For more information about testing, go to testing.wisc.edu.
- **Review your reservation confirmation letter** and update your online information at soar.wisc.edu. Make any necessary changes online at least one week prior to your session. Because resources are committed in advance, the SOAR Program is not able to offer refunds less than one week ahead of your program date.
- **Pay your SOAR fee.** Two weeks before you arrive, you will receive an email with your complete invoice and payment instructions. No fees were collected at the time you made your SOAR reservation.
- **Prepare.** Learn how to best prepare for your SOAR experience at soar.wisc.edu.
- **Attend all activities** during SOAR. If you leave SOAR early, you won’t be able to enroll in courses, and you’ll miss important information.
- **Be active and open to new ideas.** At SOAR, you will work with professional academic advisors and peer advisors to help create a course schedule that works for you!
- **Verify that you have completed all steps** necessary to finalize your admissions: admissions.wisc.edu/freshman.php.
- **Get social.** Connect with the Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE) at facebook.com/uwnewstudent, instagram.com/uwnewstudent, and twitter.com/uwnewstudent. Ask SOAR questions on Twitter using #uwsoar.

**SOAR Preparation**

**WHAT TO BRING**

- A government-issued photo ID (i.e., passport, driver’s license, or state ID card). You’ll need this to obtain your Wiscard.
- Your campus ID number. (Memorize this number!)
- Your Net ID and password. (You will need this info to register for classes.)
- A pencil or pen.
- Any academic/scholarship information you have received from UW–Madison that relates to your course enrollment.
- Complete the Preparing for SOAR module in your MyUW. Bring any documentation for AP/IB tests and transcripts for college classes you reported.
- Essentials. Bring comfortable shoes and socks: student programming for SOAR takes place in various locations on campus, and you will need to walk between locations. Also, check the weather before attending: summer weather in Wisconsin can be unpredictable!
- Optional: Bring socks for evening activities.

**COMPLETE PLACEMENT TESTS BEFORE SOAR**

All incoming freshmen are required to complete placement testing in English (or English as a Second Language) and mathematics, regardless of previous coursework. Students are strongly encouraged to test in a world language as well. For more information about testing, see testing.wisc.edu.

**ARRIVAL TIME & LOGISTICS**

Please note that UW-Madison is a large campus, and it can take more time than you expect to move between program locations and parking. Plan your travel accordingly!

View the online campus map at map.wisc.edu prior to arrival to help navigate campus.

For recommended places to stay during SOAR, please visit soar.wisc.edu, and refer to the insert included in this confirmation packet.

**PARKING & GETTING AROUND**

If you plan to drive to campus, you should have indicated a need for a parking space during the SOAR reservation process. If you requested parking, enclosed in this packet is your gate code and specific parking instructions. If you didn’t reserve a parking space and anticipate needing to park on campus, a list of available lots with real-time vacant stall counts can be found at transportation.wisc.edu/parking/lotinfo_occupancy.aspx. Parking costs $12 per day. If you reserved a space, the cost will be billed with your SOAR fees; otherwise, you can pay when you exit the parking ramp.

**PROGRAM CHECK-IN**

**For students not staying in University Housing during SOAR**

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Union South (1308 West Dayton Street)

**For students staying in University Housing during SOAR**

Smith Hall (June sessions)
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Smith Hall Lobby (35 North Park Street)

Waters Hall (July and August sessions)
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Waters Hall Lobby (1200 Observatory Drive)

Please note that there is no parking available at the residence halls. For these locations, you will need to drop off passenger(s) and luggage and continue to parking as directed by SOAR staff.

**PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Disability accommodations for SOAR are available for students and their parents/guests with either permanent or temporary disabilities. During the program, students will walk up to 2.1 miles per day on gentle (0–6 percent) and moderate (6–9 percent) grades. Students who may need assistance traveling this route should contact the SOAR Information Line at 608-262-4707.

**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. SOAR will not grant refunds for changes or cancellations made within one week of your attendance, except in extreme circumstances.

**DINNER**

During SOAR, dinner will be provided. If students or parents/guests have food allergies or specific dietary restrictions, contact the SOAR Office at 608-262-4707 or soar@studentlife.wisc.edu as soon as possible. All dinners will include a vegetarian entree option.

**FINALIZE YOUR ADMISSION**

Verify that you have completed all the steps necessary to finalize your admission. Check your status on your Student Center on MyUW, the same place you accepted your admission. The Office of Admissions and Recruitment must receive a final transcript with confirmation of graduation, even if you self-reported your
final grades online. Please review email correspondence from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment for important information about this requirement.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?
Visit soar.wisc.edu to view the SOAR checklist and to learn about:
- UW placement testing.
- Where to stay.
- Parking during your visit to campus.
- Academic advising preparation.
- Preparing for SOAR (both students and parents/guests).
- Frequently asked questions, and more!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS
SOAR Information
608-262-4707
(8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Central time weekdays)
soar.wisc.edu
soar@studentlife.wisc.edu

McBumey Disability Resource Center
608-263-2741 (voice) / 608-225-7956 (text) / 608-265-2998 (fax)
mcburney.wisc.edu
For disability accommodations during SOAR, please call the SOAR Information Line at 608-262-4707.

Testing & Evaluation Services
Placement Testing
608-262-5863
testing.wisc.edu

Undergraduate Admissions
608-262-3961
onwiscstudentadmissions.wisc.edu

University Housing
Academic year: 608-262-2522
AssignMe@housing.wisc.edu
SOAR housing: 608-262-5576
soar.housing@housing.wisc.edu

GET CONNECTED
facebook.com/uwnewstudent
twitter.com/uwnewstudent
instagram.com/uwnewstudent
#uwsoar

Connect with new Badgers:
youatuw.com
#youatuw

SOAR OVERVIEW

Students and parents/guests will receive a detailed itinerary during SOAR check-in. Please use the following schedule to arrange your arrival and departure logistics. You are required to remain at SOAR for the entire program. Please do not plan to arrive late or leave early. Dinner is included on Day One. Visit soar.wisc.edu for more information.

STUDENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DAY ONE
SOAR Program Check-In
See “Program Check-In” section for details
Welcome & Introduction to the Wisconsin Experience
(Students & Parents/Guests)
12:45–1:15 p.m.
Union South (1308 West Dayton Street)
School/College Advising Sessions
(Students Only)
1:45–5:30 p.m.
Resource Fair (Students & Parents/Guests)
4:30–5:30 p.m.
Dinner (with Parents/Guests)
5:30–6:20 p.m.
Student Evening Program
(Students Only)
6:20–9:15 p.m.

DAY TWO
School/College Advising Sessions
(Students Only)
Begins at 8:30 a.m.
Student Life Information Sessions & Closing Session from the Dean of Students
(Students Only)
9:45–11:30 a.m.

PARENT/GUEST PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DAY ONE
SOAR Program Check-In
See “Program Check-In” section for details
Welcome & Introduction to the Wisconsin Experience
(Students & Parents/Guests)
12:45–1:15 p.m.
Union South (1308 West Dayton Street)
Sessions for Parents/Guests
Advising and Enrollment, Bills, and Housing
1:55–4:25 p.m.
Resource Fair (Students & Parents/Guests)
4:30–5:30 p.m.
Dinner (with Students)
5:30–6:20 p.m.

DAY TWO
Concurrent sessions on Technology, Careers, Involvement, Health and Safety, Study Abroad, and Academic Success
8:45–11:50 a.m.

Multicultural Student Welcome
(Students & Parents/Guests)
12:15–12:45 p.m.
Join staff from the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) to be officially welcomed to campus and learn about campus life.

CAMPUS TOURS 1–2 p.m.
All SOAR participants will have the opportunity to participate in a 60-minute campus walking tour in the afternoon.
SOAR Sites
1. Program welcome: Union South
   1308 West Dayton Street
2. Recommended Parking: Lot 46 (no permit)
   301 North Lake Street
3. Parking: Lot 17 (permit)
   1525 Engineering Drive
4. Smith Hall (June sessions)
   35 North Park Street
5. Waters Hall (July/Aug sessions)
   1200 Observatory Drive
6. SOAR Advising (students only):
   College Library (in Helen C. White)
   600 North Park Street

Transportation
- Bike Trails & Footpaths
- Bus Route 80 (Free)
- Complete bus schedule:
  mytristatus.com

Interactive online map available at map.wisc.edu

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. Over the course of the day, students will walk up to 2.1 miles (0.8 miles at a time) outside. 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 sweatshirt or light sweater to help keep you comfortable!
- Bring a snack to help keep you focused during advising.