Education in Great Britain and the United States

Reifsnyder & Dewhurst
AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Getting into College

☀ Planning

☀ Expectations of the University
  ☀ Academic Qualifications
    ☀ GPA: 3.5 to 3.94
    ☀ Class rank: 85-95%
    ☀ AP credits
  ☀ Test Scores (SAT 1180-1350)
  ☀ Non-academic Qualifications

☀ Standardized Tests: SAT and ACT
The Application

- general information about yourself
  - high school and college courses taken
  - academic information
- list of extracurricular activities
- essay or statement about yourself (Harvard)
  - Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe that influence.
  - Describe a character in fiction, an historical figure, or a creative work that has had an influence on you and explain that influence.
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

- standardized test for all students applying to institutes of higher education
- scored on a scale of 200-800
- taken by high school juniors and seniors
- administered seven times a year

Components
- Critical Reading
- Math
- Writing section (essay, grammar)
Sample SAT Question

Looking up from the base of the mountain, the trail seemed more treacherous than it was.

- Looking up
- While looking up
- By looking up
- Viewing
- Viewed
Sample ACT Question

If Judy would not have missed the deadline, the yearbook delivery would have been on time.

- would not have
- missed
- should have not missed
- wouldn’t have missed
- had not missed
- would have have not missed
HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

General Information
Important Terms

- undergraduate vs. graduate student
- freshman, sophomore, junior, senior
- faculty = academic staff
- tuition (Studiengebühren)
multi-campus vs. single campus

- State universities can have just **one** campus or **multiple** campuses
- There is usually one main campus
- The campuses are located under one system, but function independently
**college vs. university**

- Colleges are usually smaller than universities and have only one specialty or field.
- A university usually has several colleges within its system.
- When you apply to a university, you usually apply to a specific college within the university.
- The terms “college” and “university” can be used interchangeably as a general term.
  - *I’m going to college next year.*
  - *Where are you going?*
  - *to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.*
- British “college” is different from American “college”.

I’m going to college next year. Where are you going? to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Colleges within the University of Wisconsin-Madison

• 1. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
• 2. School of Business
• 3. School of Education
• 4. College of Engineering
• 5. School of Human Ecology
• 6. College of Letters and Sciences (Humanities)
• 7. Medical School
• 8. School of Nursing
• 9. School of Pharmacy
Types of Colleges and Universities

- Large Research Universities
- Smaller Doctorate-Granting Universities
- Comprehensive Institutions
- Baccalaureate Institutions
- Associate Degree Institutions
- Specialized Institutions
- Vocational/Technical Institutions
Private vs. Public Universities

**Public**
- majority of high school graduates choose public universities
- lower tuition
- many public universities & colleges also have good reputations

**Private**
- the majority of colleges and universities are private
- accept less applicants on average
- higher tuition
- generally smaller in size
- can be religiously affiliated
"the Berkeley campus of the University of California and the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin, for example, have reputations that equal those of such elite private universities as Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford." (Maud and Oakland, American Civilization 315)

"There is no clear distinction between the quality of education provided at public and private colleges or institutions. The public universities of California and Virginia, for example, are generally rated on a par with the Ivy League, an association of eight prestigious private schools in the northeastern United States." (USIA)
Elite Private Universities

• Ivy-League
  • Harvard
  • Yale
  • Princeton
  • Columbia
  • Dartmouth
  • Cornell
  • U of Pennsylvania
  • Brown

• Non-Ivy League
  • MIT
  • Stanford
Harvard University

- 20,987 applied, 2,095 accepted
- Tuition: $29,060
- Room & board: $8868
- 6,635 undergraduate students
- student/faculty: 8 to 1
Public Institutions of Higher Learning

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Courses of Study

- **Distributed Course Requirements**
  - students must take a certain number of courses in different areas
    - arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, languages, math, philosophy
  - students gain a general understanding and basic competence in all areas
  - not the same as high school courses

- **Concentrated Program of Study**
  - major (Hauptfach)
  - minor (Nebenfach)
  - interdisciplinary majors
  - **Students usually select their major and minor ONLY AFTER enrolling at the university and usually after they have finished their distributed course requirements.**
College of Letters and Science

- **Humanities (or Arts)**
  - languages and literatures, classics, ancient languages, philosophy, religion, history, art & music

- **Social Sciences**
  - anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology

- **Natural Sciences**
  - astronomy, atmospheric sciences, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, environmental sciences, math, physics
Languages taught at UW-Madison

- **African languages**
  - Afrikaans, Bamana, Chichewa, Fula/Puular, Hausa, Luganda, Pedi, Swahili, Twi, Wolof, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu

- **Central Asian**
  - Kazakh, Turkish, Uzbek

- **East Asian**
  - Chinese Japanese, Korean

- **South Asian**
  - Hindi, Nepali, Pali, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telegu, Tibetan, Urdu

- **Southeast Asian**
  - Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Pilipino/Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese
- **Western European**
  - Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
- **Central and Eastern European**
  - Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian
- **Scandinavian**
  - Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Old Norse, Swedish
- **Middle Eastern**
  - Arabic, Hebrew, Persian
- **Native American**
  - Ojibwe, Quechua
Types of Courses

- lecture courses
- seminars
- laboratory courses
- studio or performance courses
- fieldwork courses
- practica or clinical courses
- independent research
Grading & Degrees

- credit hours
  - number of hours of instruction per week
  - courses meet more than once a week
- course grades
  - A to F
  - pass/fail
- GPA

- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
  - Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) education (B.Ed.), nursing (B.S.N.)
Student Life
Student Organizations

- 700 registered student organizations at UW-Madison
  - Badger Ballroom Dance Team
  - Finance and Investment Society
  - Poultry Science Club
  - Society of Women Engineers
  - Hoofers Scuba Club
  - Hip Hop Generation
  - Freestyle Footbag Club
- sororities and fraternities
- University Residential Halls (Dorms)
Badger Athletics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Varsity</th>
<th>Women's Varsity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>basketball</td>
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<td>volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>football</td>
<td>softball</td>
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</tbody>
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Student Resources

- Libraries
  - UW-Madison has 20 libraries
  - 6 million volumes
  - some open 24 hours
- Campus Information and Visitor Center
- Student Union
- University Health Services
- McBurney Disability Center
- International Student Services
- Division of Information Technology
Student Union
MONEY MATTERS
## Tuition

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<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Wisconsin Resident</th>
<th>Wisconsin Non-resident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>5,860</td>
<td>19,860</td>
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<td>Books and Supplies</td>
<td>830</td>
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<td>Room and Board</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,250</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,250</strong></td>
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Student Financial Aid

- **Scholarships & Grants**
  - awarded to students who excel in a particular field or show extreme financial need
  - do not need to be repaid

- **Student Loans**
  - based on financial need
  - must be repaid
  - mostly federal aid (Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA)

- **Student Work-Study**
- **Internships & Externships** (some are paid)
- **Part-time Employment**
Historically Black Colleges

Howard University