

**Our operating budget request for 2021-2023 will be 3.5% in each year of the biennium. That’s $31.9 million each year for a $95.7 million total over the biennium.**

In no particular order, **10 budget initiatives:**

1. Launch the Wisconsin Tuition Promise, to extend UW-Madison’s Bucky’s Tuition Promise to all UW System campuses.

* Provide free tuition and segregated fees (four years for freshmen and two years for transfer students) for those families with an adjusted household gross income of $60,000 or less. This is a “last dollar” aid program so it would be applied after all other scholarships and grants have been exhausted. Seeking $28 million over the biennium.

1. Expand and enhance online educational opportunities.

* Shorten the development phase of new programs, create partnerships with businesses, aggressively scale programs, and implement other changes to expand the breadth and reach of online education.

1. Advance Wisconsin’s teachers and school leaders.

* Increase funding for existing student loan forgiveness programs; expand eligibility for existing loan forgiveness programs, and work with partners to provide UW students stipends to teach in schools during their second semester of junior year.

1. Diversify revenue sources.

* Generate more revenue from assets, such as land and buildings, in a way that we’d still have a controlling interest but where we could potentially have partners who might add resources and opportunities to help revitalize our state economically.

1. Modernize our administrative and financial processes, and expand our financial options, including new borrowing authority.

* Enable the UW System to borrow to augment liquidity and mitigate sharp revenue losses that may irreparably harm the campuses due to the current pandemic.
* Create a new statutory section so that UW System’s program revenue–supported capital projects may be funded with the proceeds of UW revenue bonds authorized by the Board of Regents and, further, to pledge program revenues to be received for capital projects in a separate and discrete fund to secure against the repayment of UW revenue bonds.

1. Increase regulatory flexibility.

* Reduce UW System reporting requirements. The UW System is currently statutorily required to submit more than 45 reports annually. We are asking for 15 of those reports to be repealed as they require significant administrative effort at the campus level to compile and are rarely reviewed or employed for a public policy objective.

1. Move forward with the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin.
2. Expand initiatives to support students’ mental and behavioral health.
3. Extend additional support to Wisconsin’s agriculture sector.

* Support 20 county-based agriculture positions within the Division of Extension at UW-Madison.

1. Expand educational opportunity into Wisconsin’s prisons.

Additionally, we will ask to designate that UW System be able to renegotiate the continuation of the Tuition Reciprocity agreement with Minnesota. This request would allow the UW System campuses that are educating Minnesota students to retain more of the revenue generated between their resident tuition rate and their peer Minnesota institution.

We are requesting an additional $4.5 million over the biennium for the Wisconsin Grant, the state’s primary needs-based financial aid program, to fully fund all eligible students at the current statutory maximum award of $3,150. This funding is appropriated through the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB).

**Capital Budget:**

The proposed capital budget request of $1.2 billion overall will renovate 2.9 million square feet – or 4 percent – of the more than 67 million square feet comprising the UW System.