2025-26 Center for Student Experience and Talent

Annual Report

Graduating Career-Ready & Community-Minded Students

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE | Center for Student Experience & Talent

Contents

3 Panther Edge
4 SET Year in Review
5 Internships
6 Career Communities
7 Career Fairs
8 Community Engagement
9 Experiential Learning
10 Careers in the Classroom
11 On-Campus Student Employment

Center for Student Experience & Talent

uwm.edu/SET

The Center for Student Experience and Talent (SET) helps students graduate with the Panther Edge—a set of key career-readiness competencies identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as essential for success.

By integrating the Panther Edge into the student experience, SET ensures graduates leave UWM with the skills, confidence, and connections to thrive after college. In partnership with local non-profit, corporate, and government organizations, SET fuels the region's talent and leadership pipeline while advancing UWM's recruitment, retention, and graduation goals.

Year in **Review**

UWM students completed

39,157

total volunteer hours

which equals four and a half years of hours

Just under

50%

of undergrads connect with SET

7,834 students in the 25-26 academic year

Average salary of

$65,493

91% of GROW participants **agree** or **strongly agree** they see connections between their **job** and **classes**

compared to only 67% of non-GROW participants

Students who have taken a service-learning course are

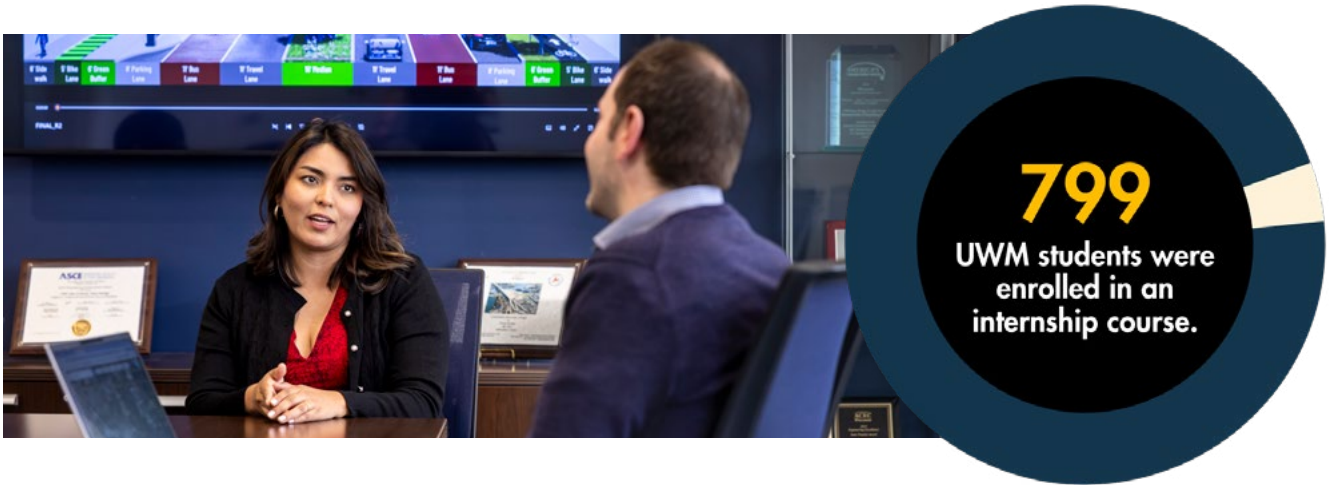
26% more likely

to graduate within 6 years

than students who have never taken a service-learning course

Internships

Internships are a critical part of the college experience for many students. SET helps students access paid internships to gain workplace skills, experience, and connections. Internships ensure students develop a sense of civic responsibility, essential workplace skills, establish a professional network, and provide opportunity for career exploration.



SET Funded Internship Statistics

Students	Partners	Total Hours	Total Wages Earned
168	111	35,902	$777,846

Averages $4,630 per intern

"My education at UWM provided a strong foundation that helped me succeed in this internship. Through coursework and hands-on projects, I developed skills that I was able to apply in a professional environment. In return, this internship enhanced my education by giving me real-world experience. My advice for students is to gain as much hands-on experience as possible through internships, projects, and labs."

Luke Schreiner, Trusted Fraternal Life, Service Desk Specialist

Career Communities & Services

Our career communities help students explore areas of interest and potential career paths with valuable industry-specific resources within each community.

Health, Medicine, and Wellness

Film and Arts

Business and Communications

Public Impact, Government, and Education

STEM and Architecture

Exploration

3,408
Advising appointments

3,302
Combined career community event attendance

4,591
Mock interviews with Big Interview

2,148
Career assessments taken with PathwayU

Career Fairs

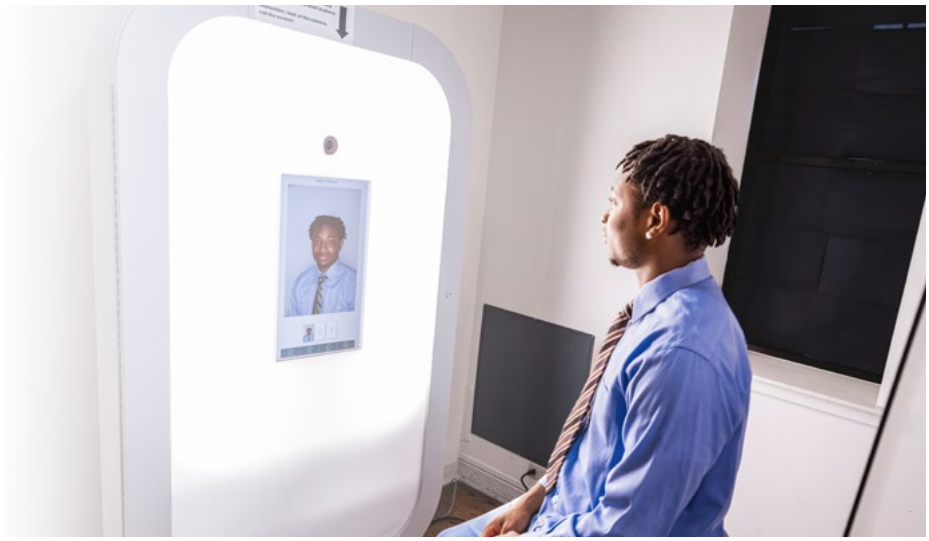
SET hosts several industry-based career fairs throughout the year to facilitate connections between UWM students and employers. To prepare for the career fairs, SET hosted resume review and professional pitch workshops as well as employer panels.

3,620
Students attended

470
Employers participated

Career Studio

The Career Closet and Iris Photobooth are resources for students to enhance their professional brand. The closet provides students with access to a diverse collection of free new and gently used professional clothing. While the photobooth allows them to update their headshot at anytime for free.



1,742
Students visited the Career Closet and Iris Photobooth

Community Engagement

Through partnerships, SET offered a diverse range of community engagement and service opportunities for UWM students, faculty, and staff during the 25-26 academic year.

Program or Initiative	*Hours*
Service-Learning (93 class sections)	34,387
Make a Difference Day	1,612
Episodic Volunteer Events	804
Student Service Record Program*	810
Alternative Spring Break	460
Total	**39,157**

The national value of an hour of service is $36.14**. UWM tracked 39,157 hours, making the value of UWM student service to the community valued at

$1,415,133

"NourishMKE has partnered with UWM for several years to provide hands-on learning opportunities in community settings for students through internships and service-learning. The students have brought their passion and knowledge into our community food centers, expanding our programming and outreach. In return, they've learned relational skills in trust-building, and developed empathy and understanding for neighbors experiencing food insecurity. We are so grateful for this partnership which builds strength and resilience across Milwaukee."

Valerie MacMillan, Executive Director, NourishMKE Community Food Centers

"The Center for Student Experience and Talent introduced me to service work and allowed me to connect with students outside my field of study. Since then, I've felt more confident engaging with other volunteer opportunities and campus resources. I've received help from SET to feel prepared when pursuing internships as well."

Tarynn Lassiter, Biological Science

*Total hours reported do not include service-learning hours.
**As reported in 2024 by the independent sector (most recent year of data available). For more information see: https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/.

Experiential Learning

All UWM students can build on what they learn in class with hands-on experiences and community connections. Our students travel to other countries, do research, create startups, teach in Milwaukee classrooms, and more. No matter what you choose to study, you can get experience in your field, connect with others and graduate from UWM with a valuable degree and impressive resume.

Undergraduate Research

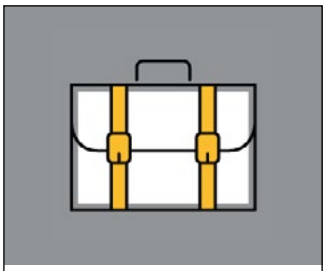
Study Away

Leadership Experience

Internships / Work Experience

Creative / Entrepreneurial

Service-Learning



Professional

Technical / Vocational

Careers in the Classroom

All UWM students, regardless of major, should have access to career exploration and readiness content in their classes. In 25-26, the Center for Student Experience and Talent introduced Life Design through presentations, career and internship classes, and other course collaborations across campus.

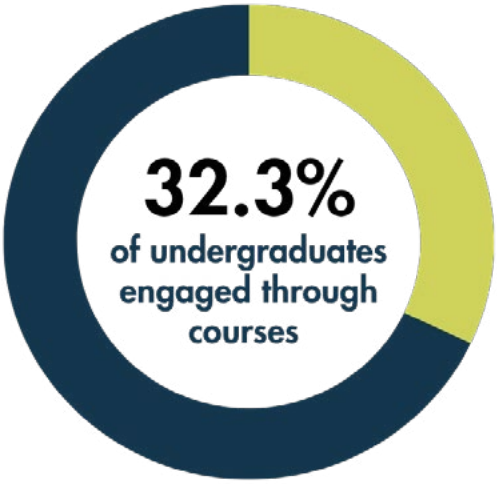
Career Tools

The career readiness toolkit **and assessment**, created by faculty fellows, supports the integration of career readiness into coursework and help evaluate learning outcomes while gathering course feedback.

Import ready-made career development modules directly from the **SET Canvas Sandbox** to add career readiness assignments and resources into your course.

2,229

Students across 19 majors received a classroom presentation



Designing Your Life

Life Design is a simple exploration method that allows students to find their purpose and dream big about possibilities for their future.

> It is more important than ever that students understand why their education matters, and one way that we, as instructors, can support this is by integrating career content into the classroom to help students better see the connection between their degree and different possible careers. From classroom visits, to technological tools, to modules that can be integrated into existing classes, SET can offer the support that we need to start these conversations with our students.

Leslie Harris, Professor, Communications

On-Campus **Student Employment**

The Center for Student Experience and Talent (SET) works with students and campus staff to ensure on-campus employment is an opportunity for meaningful learning and skill building. Through Panther GROW (Guided Reflection on Work)* students have structured conversations with supervisors about how their on-campus job connects to class work and future careers.

3,028
Student employees

277
GROW supervisor participants

> These conversations have reinforced for me that, as supervisors, we need to help employees understand how their work experience connects to their future goals. When we take time to explain how the skills they are developing relate to their coursework, career interests, or long-term professional goals, it helps students see the value of their work beyond the task at hand. It transforms a campus job from simply earning a paycheck into a meaningful out-of-classroom learning experience.

Beth Lobner, Facilities Associate Director, University Housing

*UWM SET uses the trademark with permission from the University of Iowa (IOWA GROW®).

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

Center for Student
Experience & Talent

get-experience@uwm.edu

Vogel Hall
3253 N. Downer Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

414-229-4486

uwm.edu/SET