



BADGER
Precollege

2025 IMPACT REPORT



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Division of Continuing Studies
precollege.wisc.edu



What is Badger Precollege?

The mission of University of Wisconsin–Madison Badger Precollege is to engage, encourage, and guide youth in turning their passions into academic pathways. We are proud to offer a variety of engaging high-quality precollege academic programs at UW–Madison for youth ages 9–18.

Youth explore arts and music, language and culture, business, leadership, STEM, college preparation, or a combination of these topics, in programs that range from a single afternoon to multiple weeks in one or more of 18 Badger Precollege programming sessions.



"For decades, Badger Precollege programs have provided opportunities for discovery, growth, and academic excellence for thousands of young learners across Wisconsin and beyond. Through immersive programs in science, the arts, leadership, and college readiness, we've helped students unlock their passion to envision pathways to their futures.

In 2025, we saw a significant increase in students applying for scholarships; in tandem, we experienced a significant funding loss, which has directly impacted the communities we serve. In 2025, over \$370,000 in scholarships were awarded. In 2026, we anticipate a continued growth in scholarship requests and hope to continue expanding access to precollege opportunities at UW-Madison to all students by providing need-based scholarships to 25% of our applicants. We're turning to you – our community of alumni, families, educators, and friends – to help us preserve and strengthen the vital work and scholarship programs that exist at Badger Precollege. We hope you will consider investing in future generations of leaders by supporting our scholarship drive"

-Olha Skyba, Director of Badger Precollege

"At the Division of Continuing Studies, we're all about lifelong learning, and Badger Precollege is the spark that ignites a journey of curiosity and growth. It's the place where the next generation of leaders take their first, powerful step onto a college campus. For many young learners, this is a moment that changes everything.

Badger Precollege opens the door to a powerful realization: 'I belong here.' We help build confidence and provide a sense of community for bright students from every corner and every background.

Creating these early, accessible college experiences – the kind that truly transform a young person's trajectory – requires immense dedication, creativity and heart. To our donors, you are more than supporters. You are the essential partners and catalysts who turn academic curiosity into endless possibilities. Thank you for investing in the future, one bright young mind at a time."

-Jeffrey Russell, Dean of Continuing Studies & Vice Provost for Lifelong Learning



Badger Precollege Senior Programs

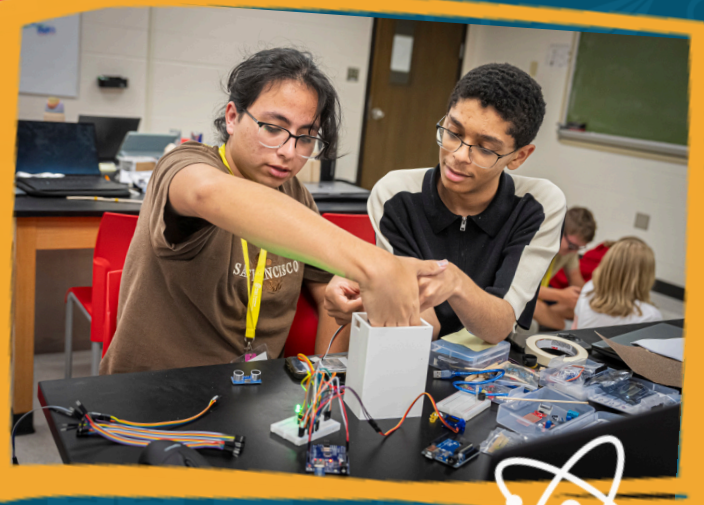
Grades 9-12

Badger Summer Scholars (BSS)
Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)
College Ready
Summer Arts Clinic

In 2025, **86%** of high school students felt better prepared for college academics after participation in Badger Precollege program

Nearly **1 in 4** high school students relied on scholarships to participate in Badger Precollege in 2025

"Badger Pre College helped me understand more of my passions and interest in life. I got to work under professional guidance and work with peers that are like-minded. It was amazing getting to work and understand the science on a much deeper level, getting access to tools I have no idea existed."
- ALP Student



Students have the opportunity to explore a wide range of courses

- Bio Frontiers
- Civil Engineering
- Economics and Society
- Engineering Fundamentals
- Environmental Studies & Society
- Forensic Science
- Human Body and Disease
- Insights into Engineering
- International Law
- Political Science, Policy, and Law
- Intro to Computer Science
- Intro to Medical Fields of Study
- Introduction to Critical Reasoning
- Microbiology
- The Business of Sports
- Neuroscience:
- Psychology of Learning
- The Entrepreneur in You
- Think STEM!
- Veterinary Science
- Writing Works

"I enjoyed the opportunity to explore campus and see the classes that are available. I also was grateful for the opportunity to live in the dorms and see how day-to-day life is for college students. It was also enjoyable to meet new people from all around the world."
- BSS Student



"I felt that this course gave me opportunities to learn, explore, and expand my knowledge in ways that are not available otherwise in my academic career while also providing an environment to grow as a student and a person"
-ALP Student

Badger Precollege Junior Programs

Grades 4-8

Precollege Academic Campus
Experience (PACE)

Summer Transitional Enrichment
Program (STEP)

1 in 4 PACE and STEP students take
2 or more Badger Precollege classes
each year, helping them discover new
subjects and pathways.

In 2025, **94.5%** of STEP and PACE
students enjoyed participating in
Badger Precollege

*"I thought this
program gave me an
amazing chance to
express myself and
make new friends in
fun ways."
- STEP Student*



Students have the
opportunity to explore a
wide range of subjects

- Acting Up Academy
- A Touch of Business
- Biotechnology Lab
- Classical Mythology
- Game Design & Programming
- Creative Writing
- The Acting Workshop
- Engineering Design Challenges
- Engineering Foundations
- Everyday Chemistry
- Intro to Psychology
- Forensic Science
- Graphic Novels
- Human Anatomy
- Computer Science
- Law 101
- Mysteries of the Mind
- Neuroscience
- Environmental Science
- Pet Care Academy
- Plant Kingdom
- Space Exploration
- Storytellers' Workshop
- Tech Talk
- Themes in Literature
- UW Art: Behind the Curtain
- UW Science
- World of Insects
- World Mythology

*"My favorite part
about this program is learning about
things I may have never tried before
but am now interested in!"
- PACE Student*

SUMMER MUSIC CLINIC

Grades 6-12

SMC Junior Session

SMC Senior Session

3 Mini Music Clinics

Odyssey Junior Music Lessons

Summer Music Clinic invites young musicians to a week of music and memory making on the UW-Madison campus. Students explore their passions in band, choir, guitar, music and media production, orchestra, piano, songwriting and more!

In 2025, Summer Music Clinic programs welcomed **1,020 students** of all experience levels in grades 6-12

1 in 4 Summer Music Clinic students rely on scholarships to participate

BADGER *Precollege*

in partnership with
Mead Witter School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



New courses in 2025 included:

- Mariachi Ensemble
- Body Awareness
- Film Music History
- Compositional Sign Language
- Make Your Own Film and Video
- Game Soundtrack
- Pop Strings Collective
- Progressive Drumming

Celebrating **97 years**, Summer Music Clinic stands as the **oldest** precollege music program in the United States housed on a university campus!



"This was a wonderful experience and I am so beyond grateful I was able to experience it! Everyone was so supportive and kind, I felt included and I loved sharing interests with everyone around me! I improved as a player & as a person as well, I learned how strongly music connects everyone, and I will definitely remember this experience!"

-SMC Senior Student



*"I left the clinic
brimming with newfound
confidence in my musical abilities,
a stark contrast to the uncertainty I
felt when I arrived...Being part of a
band and playing alongside such
talented clarinetists sparked a flame
of confidence and joy within me that I
had never felt before.
-SMC Senior Student*

International Programs

Ages 15-18

Wisconsin International Precollege Academy (WIPA)
Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)
Badger Summer Scholars (BSS)
Social Impact Leadership

In 2025, **89%** of international high school students felt more prepared for college majors in the U.S. after participating in Badger Precollege

In 2025, **100%** of WIPA students felt the program helped them develop their intercultural communication

"The first week, truly learning about the admissions and college in general really helped me to broaden my perspectives on international processes and allowed me to open my well-solidified plan to more and different opportunities."

- WIPA Student



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Students from 33 countries enrolled in 2024-25 Badger Precollege Programs



- Canada
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Chile
- China
- Costa Rica
- Guinea
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- South Korea
- Macao
- Macedonia
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

2025 Year in Review

2,086

student enrollments

27

states represented

211

programs & course options

49

Wisconsin counties represented

662

Badger Precollege students have matriculated to UW-Madison since 2018

20

countries represented

430

students awarded scholarships to attend Badger Precollege programs

148

donations to support Badger Precollege scholarships

I liked how much we learned, but it never felt like school. I looked forward to coming each day, and the environment was so welcoming and supportive. This has been my favorite part of my summer.
-BSS Student



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GUCCI

Impact of Your Donation

\$100 can fund classroom supplies and books for two students

\$200 can fund weekend summits and field trips for one student

\$500 can help support international students attend an online program

\$875 can fully support one commuter student participating in a week-long Summer Music Clinic program

\$1,000 can help expand science kits for STEM classes

\$2,000 can support a scholarship for one student attending one of our residential programs

Ways to Give



[Make a gift to Badger Precollege Scholarship Fund online](#)



[Check if your employer has a donation matching program](#)



[Turn your gift into forever money with endowments](#)

Create Lasting Impact

Contribute to Badger Precollege Endowment Funds

Smith, Erle – Doc DeHaven Music Clinic Fund – Fund #132627980;

In memory of Doc DeHaven, former music teacher at Monona Grove Schools and local trumpeter and jazz musician; and Erle Smith who was a musician with Doc and his band.

Gilbert, Dale SMC Memorial Scholarship Fund – Fund # 132625244;

In memory of former Summer Music Clinic Director, School of Music Voice Professor, and Director of the School of Music, Dale Gilbert; with Emmitt Sarig who was SMC Director from 1951-1961.

Ulrich, Paul D. Fund for Summer Music Clinic – Fund #13290024; In memory of long time band teacher at Madison Memorial High School and frequent teacher at SMC, Paul Ulrich.

Clasen Scholarship for Badger Precollege Academically Advanced Youth Fund –

Fund # 132300053 In memory of Dr. Robert Clasen and Dr. Donna Rae Clasen, who were both prominent leaders in gifted & talented education in Wisconsin



Thank You To Our Donors!

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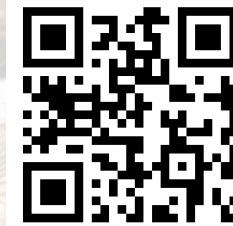
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UW-Madison Badger Precollege



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