

# First-Year Goals:

## University of Wisconsin–Madison

As faculty and staff at UW–Madison, it is our responsibility to guide students toward meeting certain goals during their first year. The Orientation & New Student Programs Advisory Committee has created the following first-year goals and welcomes your participation in using the goals to enhance your work with new students. No one person, class, or organization can help a student meet all of these goals, but if all UW–Madison community members use the goals as a basis for interactions with first-year students, each student will be able to create a meaningful, productive first-year experience for themselves.

### **Gaining confidence and competence as a college-level student**

#### **If you are meeting this goal you are:**

- Gaining competence in reading, writing, oral communication, time management, and research at the college level.
- Learning academic content in your courses.
- Using UW–Madison and other resources to help you achieve your goals.
- Developing your educational and career goals.
- Gaining skill in thinking critically, analytically, and integratively.
- Seeking opportunities for learning in and out of the classroom.
- Taking advantage of opportunities to talk with and learn from people who have differing opinions, perspectives, and experiences than your own.

### **Making positive connections with faculty, staff, and peers**

#### **If you are reaching this goal you are:**

- Establishing relationships with peers who provide support for academic and social endeavors.
- Interacting with professors and teaching assistants in and out of the classroom.
- Meeting with your academic adviser.
- Welcoming friendships with people who are different from you (different in race, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, political views).

## Engaging in behaviors that promote your personal health and balance

---

### If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Coping with stress and adversity.
- Developing a sense of personal potential and personal direction.
- Displaying healthy behaviors around alcohol and drug use.
- Displaying healthy behaviors around nutrition, sleep, and exercise.
- If you choose to engage in intimate or sexual relationships, doing so in a healthy way.

## Understanding yourself as a member of the socially diverse university community

---

### If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Developing an awareness of and respect for differences between people.
- Beginning to understand the impact of people's social background and characteristics such as gender, race/ethnicity, class, and where they grew up on their power, status, opportunities, and how you and others treat them.
- Becoming aware of university values and learning appropriate academic and community conduct.
- Becoming actively involved in your community.

## Developing awareness of the impact of your personal choices

---

### If you are reaching this goal you are:

- Becoming aware of your own values and how they are similar to and different from other people's values.
- Behaving in an ethical and principled way.
- Taking responsibility for choices and decisions you make as a student and member of the university community.
- Recognizing the impact of your actions on the larger community.
- Taking responsibility for your academic success.

