



University Relations

1700 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706
wisconsin.edu • facebook.com/uwsystem • twitter.com/uwsystem

Media Contact universityrelations@uwsa.edu or 608-263-1700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2017

UW System Academic Programs Tied to Meeting Wisconsin’s Workforce Needs

Today, at the Board of Regents meeting, the UW System presented new programs it has added during the past year, highlighting those in the STEM, healthcare and entrepreneurship fields. UW System graduates are an ongoing source of support for Wisconsin’s economy, and these additions in the academic program array are closely tied to Wisconsin’s workforce needs.

“Our institutions produce well-rounded individuals who contribute to our society and economy – they are informed, engaged citizens,” says UW System President Ray Cross. “As we set forth in our 2020FWD strategic framework, we are committed to preparing our graduates with critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. It is also vitally important that we provide degree programs in the UW System that are aligned with the projected highest growth occupations in Wisconsin.”

Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows significant projected growth for positions in the STEM and healthcare industries from 2014-2024. Below are examples of job growth:

Projected Growth Between 2014-2024 Requires Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	
Audiologist	28.6%
Biomedical engineer	23.1%
Forensic science technician	26.6%
Operations research analyst	30.2%
Nurse practitioner	35.2%
Personal financial advisor	29.6%
Physical therapist	34.0%
Physician assistant	30.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Occupational Outlook 2014-2024

Further, according to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development data, many of Wisconsin’s top 25 highest growth occupations will require a post-secondary degree.

Wisconsin’s 25 High-Growth Occupations 2014-2024 Requiring Post-Secondary Degree	
#1 Operations Research Analysts	#17 Market Research Analysts
#4 Computer Systems Analysts	#18 Software Developers
#5 Personal Financial Advisors	#20 Chemist
#9 Web Developers	#21 Nurse Practitioners
#11 Biochemists & Biophysicists	#22 Actuaries
#16 Real Estate Brokers	

Source: WI DWD Wisconsin’s WORKnet

Twenty additional UW System degree programs were authorized in 2016, and these programs are aligned with state and national trends and demand.

20 UW System Degree Programs Authorized In 2016					
STEM	Health Care	Entrepreneurial & Business	Education	Social Sciences	Agriculture
Data Analytics	Health and Wellness Management	Flex degree in Business	Early Childhood	Geospatial Analysis and Technology	Dairy Science
Computer Science	Nursing (accelerated)	Sports management	Special Education	Social Work	
Microbiology	Clinical Nutrition		Secondary Education	Urban Studies	
Natural Resources	Athletic Training (2)		STEM Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence		
Information Science and Technology					

The UW System's [2020FWD strategic framework](#) builds on the feedback heard at listening sessions around the state to build stronger connections between the UW and the state's communities and businesses. It is focused on the University's longstanding commitment to strengthen Wisconsin's economy, develop the workforce of tomorrow, and keep college affordable for students and families.

- END -