

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2024-25 Adjusted Base	Governor		2025-27 Change Over Base Year Doubled		2024-25	Governor		2026-27 Over 2024-25	
		2025-26	2026-27	Amount	%		2025-26	2026-27	Number	%
GPR	\$1,346,632,600	\$1,692,868,500	\$1,691,949,000	\$691,552,300	25.7%	17,697.49	17,904.49	17,911.49	214.00	1.2%
FED	1,893,123,900	1,893,123,900	1,893,123,900	0	0.0	5,791.48	5,791.48	5,791.48	0.00	0.0
PR	4,663,345,000	4,672,461,800	4,659,987,900	5,759,700	0.1	14,598.88	14,598.88	14,598.88	0.00	0.0
SEG	41,750,200	41,815,700	41,815,700	131,000	0.2	151.55	151.55	151.55	0.00	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,944,851,700</b>	<b>\$8,300,269,900</b>	<b>\$8,286,876,500</b>	<b>\$697,443,000</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>38,239.40</b>	<b>38,446.40</b>	<b>38,453.40</b>	<b>214.00</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

## Budget Change Items

### 1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

GPR	\$63,658,000
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**Governor:** Adjust funding annually for standard budget adjustments as shown in the following table.

Full Funding of Cont. Pos. Salary/Fringe	\$31,361,000
Full Funding of Lease/Directed Moves	<u>468,000</u>
Total	\$31,829,000
 Biennial Total	 \$63,658,000

### 2. DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATE

GPR	- \$77,358,600
PR	<u>5,759,700</u>
Total	- \$71,598,900

**Governor:** Modify funding by -\$41,511,200 GPR and \$9,116,800 PR in 2025-26 and -\$35,847,400 GPR and -\$3,357,100 PR in 2026-27 to reestimate debt service costs.

### 3. SUPPLIES AND SERVICES 5% INCREASE

GPR	\$444,400
SEG	<u>131,000</u>
Total	\$575,400

**Governor:** Provide \$222,200 GPR and \$65,500 SEG annually to increase the following UW System sum certain appropriation's supplies and services funding by 5%: \$112,400 GPR annually for the UW freshwater collaborative (base funding of \$2,514,600); \$47,700 GPR annually for the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership (base funding of \$1,550,500); \$62,100 GPR annually for the State Laboratory of Hygiene general program operations (base funding of \$12,975,400); \$12,800 SEG annually from

the critical hospital assessment fund for the rural physician residency assistance program (base funding of \$874,800); and \$52,700 SEG annually from the universal service fund for UW System campus telecommunications services (base funding of \$1,054,800).

#### 4. FUNDING INCREASE

**Governor:** Increase the University System's largest GPR (general program operations) appropriation over the 2024-25 adjusted base by \$703.2 million (\$354.9 million in 2025-26 and \$348.3 million in 2026-27). The funding would support a variety of programs that generally mirror the System's 2025-27 budget submission. These items, and the recommended funding for each, is listed below in items #5 thru #10. Although specific funding is shown for each initiative, because the amounts are included in one appropriation, the UW System has the flexibility to modify the resources for each program. Of the total amount, \$390,626,000 is placed on the unallotted reserve line in the budget system to allow UW System maximum flexibility to determine how the funds would be allocated.

#### 5. OPERATIONS AND OUTREACH

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$308,343,900	34.00

**Governor:** Provide \$130,146,100 in 2025-26 and \$178,197,800 in 2026-27 in the UW System's largest GPR appropriation to expand student access to UW System institutions. The Department of Administration indicates that the provided funding is intended for the following:

	Salaries	Fringe	Unallotted Reserve	Total	Positions
<b>2025-26</b>					
Operational Increase	\$0	\$0	\$81,948,800	\$81,948,800	0.0
Tuition Share of 5%/4% Wage Adjustment	19,953,300	3,144,000	0	23,097,300	0.0
Merit-Based Salary Adjustments	10,362,700	1,637,300	0	12,000,000	0.0
Dual Enrollment Programs	600,000	231,200	6,418,800	7,250,000	12.0
Student Outreach and Recruitment	375,000	144,500	2,480,500	3,000,000	5.0
Direct Admissions Program	100,000	38,500	1,361,500	1,500,000	2.0
Welcome Back Wisconsin	0	0	600,000	600,000	0.0
Improving Transfer Pathways	541,400	208,600	0	750,000	15.0
Total	\$31,932,400	\$5,404,100	\$92,809,600	\$130,146,100	34.0
<b>2026-27</b>					
Operational Increase	\$0	\$0	\$109,948,800	\$109,948,800	0.0
Tuition Share of 5%/4% Wage Adjustment	36,680,300	5,818,700	0	42,499,000	0.0
Merit-Based Salary Adjustments	10,362,700	1,637,300	0	12,000,000	0.0
Dual Enrollment Programs	600,000	231,200	6,418,800	7,250,000	12.0
Student Outreach and Recruitment	375,000	144,500	2,480,500	3,000,000	5.0
Direct Admissions Program	100,000	38,500	1,361,500	1,500,000	2.0
Welcome Back Wisconsin	0	0	1,250,000	1,250,000	0.0
Improving Transfer Pathways	541,400	208,600	0	750,000	15.0
Total	\$48,659,400	\$8,078,800	\$121,459,600	\$178,197,800	34.0
Biennial Total	\$80,591,800	\$13,482,900	\$214,269,200	\$308,343,900	34.0

a. **Operational Increase.** Additional funding to all system campuses to offset increased inflationary costs of goods and services, backfill the universities' share of pay plan increases from 2018-19 to 2021-22, and provide ongoing support for general operations.

b. **Tuition Share of Wage Adjustment.** Funding for the tuition share of a 5% wage adjustment on July 1, 2025, and an additional 4% wage adjustment on July 1, 2026, for UW System's faculty, academic staff, university staff, and limited appointments. Traditionally, GPR has funded approximately 70% of general wage adjustment costs while tuition funds 30% of costs. The funding provided would fund the tuition share of wage adjustment costs and merit pay increases. (Funding for the GPR portion of general wage adjustments for UW System employees, totaling \$58,460,900 GPR in 2025-26 and \$107,568,100 GPR in 2026-27, is provided under "Compensation Reserves.")

c. **Merit-Based Salary Adjustments.** Funding for the tuition share of merit-based salary increases and other market-based compensation salary increases to attract and retain high performing faculty, particularly at campuses outside of UW-Madison, where average salaries are below those of peer institutions. UW indicates the increase would raise starting salaries to be more competitive and provide funds for merit and market-based increases.

d. **Dual Enrollment Programs.** Dual enrollment programs allow high school pupils to earn college credit, either by enrolling in courses on college campuses or by enrolling in college level courses taught in high schools by college professors. Funding would develop additional capacity for high school students to access dual enrollment programs. The positions would include 12 dual enrollment program director positions. UW estimates the funding would expand the program to an additional 15,000 students. In 2023-24, 15,588 high school students took dual enrollment courses through UW System institutions.

e. **Student Outreach and Recruitment.** Funding would support student outreach and recruitment, including marketing materials and state and regional travel to additional outreach locations. The positions would include 3.0 admissions and recruitment coordinators, 1.0 assistant director of admissions, and 1.0 multimedia designer beginning in 2025-26.

f. **Direct Admissions Program.** The direct admission program provides eligible Wisconsin high school graduates with guaranteed undergraduate admission to a UW System institution. The funding and positions would support implementation and expansion of the program including outreach and coordination between high schools and participating universities as well as technology, publication, and mailing costs. Under 2023 Act 95, UW is required to offer guaranteed admission to Wisconsin high school pupils based on their class ranking. Pupils who finish in the top 5% of their class are guaranteed admission to UW-Madison, while pupils who finish in the top 10% of their class are guaranteed admission to other UW institutions. Direct admission is another, UW-initiated program in which participating universities (all of the UW institutions except UW-Madison, UW-La Crosse, and UW-Eau Claire) offer admission to qualified pupils based on their grades and coursework at the end of their junior year without pupils needing to submit an application or standardized test scores or pay an application fee. Under the program, approximately 350 participating public and private high schools in the state provide data directly to UW to make admissions decisions.

g. **Welcome Back Wisconsin.** Funding would be used for recruitment of non-traditional students, particularly Wisconsin residents with some college but no degree, and resources to help support returning students. Funding could also be used to waive or reduce outstanding balances for students who left college without earning a credential, and whose outstanding tuition or fees balance is preventing them from returning to higher education.

h. **Improving Transfer Pathways.** Funding would support students transferring into and within the UW System, including developing curricular pathways and technology to improve transfer planning and enrollment. UW System data indicates approximately 10,000 students per year transfer to UW universities from Wisconsin technical colleges, out-of-state colleges, private colleges, or other locations. The positions would include advisors, student success professionals, recruiters, and enrollment specialists to support transfer students' transitions, learning success, and outcomes.

## 6. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

GPR	\$128,970,000
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**Governor:** Provide \$56,360,000 in 2025-26 and \$72,610,000 in 2026-27 for financial aid efforts including: (a) \$11,860,000 in 2025-26 and \$28,110,000 in 2026-27 for an expansion of the tuition promise initiative outside of UW-Madison; (b) \$42,000,000 annually for veteran tuition remission and support services; and (c) \$2,500,000 annually to expand the tribal educational promise initiative to campuses outside of UW-Madison.

a. **Tuition Promise Expansion.** Funding would provide a program similar to UW-Madison's Bucky's Promise program to all UW universities.

The Bucky's Tuition Promise program at UW-Madison was implemented beginning in fall, 2018, and provides scholarships and grants to cover tuition and segregated fees for students whose household adjusted gross income is \$65,000 or less (\$60,000 under the original program). Incoming freshmen are eligible for eight consecutive semesters (four years) and transfer students are eligible for four consecutive semesters (two years). Eligible students are required to file a Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by UW-Madison's December 1 priority enrollment deadline. Aid is provided after other student aid, such as grants and scholarships, are applied, resulting in a student's net cost of zero for tuition and fees. UW System provided funding for one cohort of an expanded Wisconsin tuition promise program for resident students whose household adjusted gross income is \$62,000 or less and who enrolled in fall, 2023. UW System estimates 5,000 students would receive assistance through the proposed expanded tuition program in the first two years.

b. **Veteran Tuition Remission.** Funding would reimburse universities for statutorily-required tuition and fee remissions that are provided to veterans and eligible family members and provide additional support to veterans.

Under current law, the UW System Board of Regents (and technical college district boards) must remit 100% of tuition and fees, less any amount paid under the federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer, to eligible veterans. Veterans who are eligible for benefits under the federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill are required to use those benefits

before accessing state tuition and fee remissions. The federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill provides education benefits, including the direct payment of tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance, and an annual books and supplies stipend, to veterans who served at least 90 days of active duty (or 30 days in the case of a service-related disability) after September 10, 2001. In addition, the UW System Board of Regents (and each technical college district board) must remit 100% of tuition and fees, less any amount paid under the federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, to the spouse, unmarried surviving spouse, and children of eligible veterans. The Montgomery G.I. Bill provides a monthly stipend to veterans who are enrolled as students, which can be used for tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses. Veterans whose stipend under the Montgomery G.I. Bill or certain other federal education programs would have exceeded the amount of the monthly housing allowance provided under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (adjusted to reflect the annual books and supplies stipend) are reimbursed by the institution attended for the difference in those benefits.

A GPR appropriation under the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) has been provided to reimburse, in part, the UW Board of Regents and technical college district boards for remissions provided to veterans, for remissions provided to the children and spouses of certain veterans, and for reimbursement/supplemental payments made to veterans, children, and spouses. In fall, 2023, UW-System institutions provided remissions to 3,795 students under veterans and related veteran family member remission programs.

c. **Tribal Educational Promise Expansion.** Funding would expand UW-Madison's tribal promise program to all UW campuses to fully fund tuition and segregated fees for enrolled members of a recognized tribal nation in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Tribal Education Promise program at UW-Madison was announced in December, 2023, and first offered to all eligible students enrolling for an on-campus program for fall, 2024, including continuing students, new freshmen, and transfer students. To be eligible, students must be a Wisconsin resident, be pursuing their first undergraduate degree, and be verified as an enrolled member of any one of the eleven federally-recognized American Indian Tribes in Wisconsin. The program covers tuition and fees for eligible students. Aid is provided after other student aid, such as grants and scholarships, are applied, resulting in a student's net cost for tuition and fees of zero. In the first year of the program, 73 undergraduate students participated.

**7. INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Positions</b>
GPR	\$104,285,000	14.00

**Governor:** Provide \$87,585,000 in 2025-26 with 7.0 positions and \$16,700,000 in 2026-27 with 14.0 positions for UW System to invest in innovative technologies such as new curriculum and classroom applications, online programs, and subject areas such as artificial intelligence (AI). The Department of Administration indicates that the provided funding is intended for the following:

	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Fringe</u>	<u>Unallotted Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Positions</u>
<b>2025-26</b>					
AI Research and Infrastructure	\$0	\$0	\$72,625,000	\$72,625,000	0.0
AI Curriculum	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.0
Dairy Hub	0	0	3,500,000	3,500,000	0.0
AI Faculty	1,414,700	545,300	700,000	2,660,000	7.0
Freshwater Collaborative	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0.0
Online Collaborative Programs	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total	\$1,414,700	\$545,300	\$85,625,000	\$87,585,000	7.0
<b>2026-27</b>					
AI Research and Infrastructure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
AI Curriculum	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.0
Dairy Hub	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0.0
AI Faculty	3,103,800	1,196,200	1,400,000	5,700,000	14.0
Freshwater Collaborative	0	0	3,500,000	3,500,000	0.0
Online Collaborative Programs	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total	\$3,103,800	\$1,196,200	\$12,400,000	\$16,700,000	14.0
Biennial Total	\$4,518,500	\$1,741,500	\$98,025,000	\$104,285,000	14.0

a. **AI Research and Infrastructure.** One-time funding of \$72,625,000 in 2025-26 would be provided for infrastructure resources such as servers and research facilities at all UW System campuses to facilitate the use of AI in research and teaching.

b. **AI Curriculum Development.** Funding would be utilized for AI curriculum development, teaching methods, and professional development, including convening representatives from various disciplines to establish systemwide discipline-specific AI learning goals.

c. **Dairy Hub.** Funding would be used to expand the existing Dairy Hub, a collaboration between UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-River Falls to use research and development to support Wisconsin's dairy community. The Hub focuses on four priority areas: (1) stewarding land and water resources; (2) enriching human health and nutrition; (3) ensuring animal health and welfare; and (4) growing farm businesses and communities.

Under 2019 Act 9, \$1,000,000 GPR in 2019-20 and \$7,800,000 GPR in 2020-21 was provided in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for release to the UW System upon request and approval by the Committee for a UW System Dairy Initiative (Innovation Hub). On October 2, 2019, the Committee approved the UW System's request for release of the funds, including the specification that the \$7.8 million GPR in fiscal year 2020-21 be ongoing.

d. **AI Faculty.** Funding would be used to recruit seven AI faculty in each year of the biennium in such areas as computer science, data sciences, mathematics and statistics, engineering and robotics, machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and cognitive sciences. Funding would be used for salaries and for research startup funds.

e. **Freshwater Collaborative.** Funding would provide continued support to the Freshwater Collaborative, a training and research initiative that connects all UW campuses, plus

government agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and community members, with the goal of making Wisconsin a leader in water sciences and training students for water-related careers. In addition to research, the collaborative offers students water-related courses, field experiences, lab and technical experiences, and internships.

2021 Act 58, the 2021-23 biennial budget act, provided \$2.5 million GPR in 2021-22 and \$2.5 million in 2022-23 in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for release to the UW System upon request and approval by the Committee for the UW Freshwater Collaborative. The Act also created a new, continuing appropriation under the UW System for the Freshwater Collaborative to which funding would be transferred upon release by the Committee. The funding was released on February 1, 2022, and continues at \$2.5 million annually.

## 8. STUDENT SUPPORT

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$83,638,000	159.00

**Governor:** Provide \$41,819,000 and 159.00 positions annually for talent development. The Department of Administration indicates that the provided funding is intended for the following:

	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Fringe</u>	<u>Unallotted Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Student Mental Health	\$4,080,000	\$1,572,400	\$5,347,600	\$11,000,000	57.0
Student Retention and Support	4,800,000	1,849,900	3,250,100	9,900,000	87.0
Career Readiness	975,000	375,800	4,399,200	5,750,000	15.0
Teacher Loan Forgiveness	0	0	5,250,000	5,250,000	0.0
Continuing Education	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.0
Discussion Project	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0.0
High Impact Practices	0	0	1,700,000	1,700,000	0.0
Prior Assessment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>719,000</u>	<u>719,000</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total	\$9,855,000	\$3,798,100	\$28,165,900	\$41,819,000	159.0
Biennial Total	\$19,710,000	\$7,596,200	\$56,331,800	\$83,638,000	159.0

a. **Student Mental Health.** In addition to staff salaries and fringe, funding would also support telehealth services, counseling, telepsychiatry, an online wellness platform, and 24/7 peer and crisis support services. The additional 57.0 positions would be counselors, increasing counseling staff to meet the recommended 1:1,000 counselors-to-student ratio. Of the new counselors, 11 would provide direct support to student athletes.

b. **Student Retention and Support.** Funding would support 60.0 academic advisors to improve the ratio of advisors to students; 13.0 student affairs assistant directors/financial aid assistant directors (one per campus) to support students who have aged out of the foster care system; 13.0 associate director/director of academic advising positions (one per campus) to connect students to on and off-campus resources to address their basic needs; and 1.0 disability services director position to assure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act's digital accessibility requirements.

c. **Career Development.** Funding would support scholarships and financial aid for student experiential learning and internships that would otherwise be unpaid or not affordable, and

outreach to private sector entities to create new student opportunities. Funding would also be used for professional development for career services professionals and faculty and new technology for career exploration and readiness skills development. Additionally, funding would be available for faculty and staff for initiatives that increase employer engagement and support student career readiness.

d. **Teacher Loan Forgiveness.** Funding would support a teacher loan forgiveness program which would provide loans to students enrolled in programs leading to a teacher's license. Loans would be forgiven after four years of teaching post-graduation.

e. **Continuing Education.** Funding would support ongoing relationships with regional employers, expand training in employer-chosen, on-demand online seminars, and fund reskilling and upskilling programming.

f. **Discussion Project.** Funding would support continuing to offer the Discussion Project civil dialogue training professional development series at the School of Education at UW-Madison, which provides faculty and staff training on using research-based techniques to design and implement equitable, inclusive, and engaging classroom discussion.

g. **High Impact Practices (HIP).** High impact practices are evidence-based teaching, learning and research practices that increase student engagement, promote student success, develop transferrable skills (such as critical thinking and problem solving), and contribute to gains in retention and degree completion. Funding would support HIP programming such as service learning, undergraduate research, and student internships.

h. **Prior Learning Assessments.** Funding would support reviewing, improving and expanding prior learning assessment activities at UW System campuses, which involve evaluating college-level learning attained outside of a university setting, such as through industry-based training, to potentially award credit for such activities.

## 9. MERIT AND MARKET-BASED COMPENSATION

GPR	\$56,000,000
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**Governor:** Provide \$28,000,000 (\$23,575,900 salary and \$4,424,100 fringe in 2025-26 and \$23,576,000 salary and \$4,424,000 fringe in 2026-27) annually for merit-based salary increases and other market-based compensation salary increases to attract and retain high performing faculty, particularly at campuses outside of UW-Madison.

According to data from the American Association of University Professors 2023-24 Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, outside of UW-Madison, average salaries of full-time, nine-month faculty at all other UW System campuses are below the national average for public comprehensive universities (with the exception of assistant professors at UW-Eau Claire where average salaries were slightly above the national average), and average salaries at UW-Milwaukee are also below the national average of public doctoral universities. According to UW System, the additional funding would allow institutions to raise starting salaries to be more competitive as well as provide for limited merit and market-based salary increases.



**10. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH**

GPR	\$22,000,000
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**Governor:** Provide \$11,000,000 annually for student mental health support services to meet increasing need and demand for these services at UW System institutions.

**11. VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY MICROBIOLOGISTS**

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$1,137,000	7.00

**Governor:** Provide \$568,500 (\$418,000 salary and \$150,500 fringe) annually beginning in 2025-26 with 7.0 positions (6.0 microbiologists and 1.0 sample receiving technician) beginning in 2025-26.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) is the sole provider of chronic wasting disease (CWD) and foreign animal disease (FAD) surveillance, investigation, and outbreak response for Wisconsin. Providing CWD diagnostic testing supports Department of Natural Resources (DNR) efforts to manage CWD (an infectious prion disease). In addition, the diagnostic testing provides hunters with important food safety information. Each year, the VDL provides testing for 16,000 to 24,000 whitetail deer samples and 75% of the samples are submitted within a four to six-week period following the November nine-day gun deer hunting season. During this testing surge, the CWD diagnostic facility operates for 20 hours per day, seven days per week. In 2021, VDL indicates a seasonal labor shortage and staff overload led to an increase in CWD testing turnaround time from nine to 19 days. The additional six microbiologists and one sample receiving technician would assist in decreasing testing turnaround time to a week or less to provide quicker results to Wisconsin hunters. VDL indicates that the six microbiologist positions would also be cross-trained for diagnostic testing so that they could provide testing to support the poultry, dairy, and bovine industries in the event of an FAD, such as the current avian influenza outbreak.

**12. VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY STAFF RETENTION**

GPR	\$434,600
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**Governor:** Provide \$217,300 (\$159,800 salary and \$57,500 fringe) annually to retain specialty-boarded veterinary staff. Currently, the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) staff include eight anatomic pathologists boarded by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. In addition, VDL staff include client services veterinarians who provide animal and herd health consultation to complement diagnostics. The VDL specialists perform diagnostic and scientific duties similar to those of the faculty at the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). However, while the VDL is connected to UW-Madison and operates under the SVM umbrella, unlike the SVM, the VDL does not have dedicated funding for recruiting and retaining veterinary specialists at competitive salaries.

Funding would provide an increase in salary and fringe for eight VDL veterinary specialists and staff who have joint faculty appointments at UW-Madison including: bacteriology and serology section head (clinical associate professor), veterinary pathologist (clinical professor), large animal internal medicine specialist (clinical assistant professor); four veterinary pathologists (clinical assistant professors); and virology, molecular and genomics section head (clinical associate professor).

### **13. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LOAN PROGRAM EXPANSION**

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to allocate at least \$1,001,500 in each year of the 2025-27 biennium for the healthcare provider loan program from the UW System's largest GPR appropriation (general program operations which, under the bill, is appropriated \$2.9 billion for 2025-27).

Under the health care provider loan assistance program, the Board of Regents may repay up to \$25,000 in education loans on behalf of a health care provider, defined as a dental hygienist, dental therapist, physician assistant, nurse midwife, or nurse-practitioner, who agrees to practice in one or more eligible practice areas in Wisconsin. To be eligible for loan repayment, the health care provider must enter into a written agreement with the Board in which he or she agrees to practice at least 32 clinic hours per week, 45 weeks per year, for three years in an eligible practice area. Loans are required to be repaid as follows: (1) 40% of the principal up to \$10,000 in the each of the first and second years; and (2) 20% of the principal up to \$5,000 in the third year. Total state funding for the health care provider loan assistance program and the companion physician and dentist loan program is \$798,700 in 2024-25. Of this amount, \$488,700 is from tribal gaming revenues and \$310,000 is from the critical access hospital assessment fund. The critical access hospital assessment funds may only be used to make repayments on behalf of physicians practicing in rural areas. In addition, approximately \$300,000 in federal funding is provided annually for program participants meeting certain criteria. In 2023-24, 111 awards were provided to 111 health care providers including 31 new awards to nine physicians, 13 nurse practitioners, three physician assistants, four dentists, and two dental hygienists.

The bill would expand the definition of eligible health care provider to include the following: (a) dental assistant, defined as an individual who holds a certified dental assistant credential issued by a national credentialing organization; (b) dental auxiliary, defined as an expanded function dental auxiliary holding a Wisconsin certification; (c) behavioral health provider, defined as an individual who is certified under Wisconsin statutes as a social worker or licensed in Wisconsin as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or a professional counselor; (d) substance abuse treatment provider, defined as an individual who is certified in Wisconsin as a substance abuse counselor, clinical supervisor, or preventable disease specialist; and (e) medical assistant, defined as an individual who has received a medical assistant technical diploma from a WTCS technical college or who has successfully completed the national certification examination for medical assistants. Specify that loans for medical assistants may be for up to \$12,500 (rather than \$25,000, as for other providers). Further specify that loans to medical assistants are required to be repaid as follows: (1) 40% of the principal up to \$5,000 in each of the first and second years; and (2) 20% of the principal up to \$2,500 in the third year.

[Bill Sections: 631 thru 646, 9147(6)(a), and 9147(6)(b)2.]

### **14. ALLOCATIONS OF EXISTING FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES**

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to allocate at least the following amounts of general purpose revenue from the UW System's general program operations appropriation: (a) \$1,209,500 in 2025-26 and \$1,612,500 in 2026-27 to increase assistance to veterans and military

personnel enrolled in the system and to their families; (b) \$500,000 in each year of the biennium to establish or continue foster youth programming for eligible students enrolled in the system; (c) \$300,000 in each year of the biennium for the UW-Madison's UniverCity Alliance program that leverages the university's academic and research resources to address challenges faced by urban areas; (d) \$1,000,000 in each year of the biennium to support journalism programs and fellowships for students and graduates of journalism programs at system institutions; and (e) \$250,000 in each year of the biennium for UW System to provide education, training, research, and technical assistance to support small businesses and entrepreneurs, economic development practitioners, and communities in the development of entrepreneurial activity in rural Wisconsin. In addition, require the Board of Regents to provide a grant of \$450,000 from the UW System's general program operations appropriation in each year of the 2025-27 biennium to the Institute for Healthy Aging to support programs in fall prevention and recovery training.

[Bill Sections: 9147(6)(a), 9147(6)(b)1., 9147(6)(b)3. thru 9147(6)(b)6., and 9147(7)]

## **15. MISSING IN ACTION RECOVERY AND IDENTIFICATION PROJECT**

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to provide \$500,000 in each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the UW System's general program operations appropriation for the University of Wisconsin Missing in Action (MIA) Recovery and Identification Project to perform a mission for the recovery and identification of Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action. At the conclusion of the mission, require the MIA Recovery Project, through its representative, to submit a report on the mission's findings and an accounting of expenditures for the mission to the Governor, Joint Committee on Finance, Board of Regents, the standing committees of each house of the Legislature dealing with veterans matters, and the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Military Affairs.

[Bill Section: 9147(3)]

## **16. PARKINSON'S DISEASE REGISTRY**

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to allocate at least \$3,900,000 in 2025-26 and \$2,400,000 in 2026-27 from the UW System's general program operations appropriation to establish a statewide Parkinson's disease registry.

Require the Population Health Institute (PHI) at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health (or its successor) to establish and maintain a Parkinson's disease registry for the collection, storage, and dissemination of information about the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease and parkinsonisms in Wisconsin, after consultation with the Department of Health Services, by no later than the 19<sup>th</sup> month after the effective date of the bill. In addition, by no later than that date, require the PHI to establish and maintain a public website dedicated to the Parkinson's disease registry and require the PHI include all of the following: (a) downloadable annual reports on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease in Wisconsin, which the PHI must update by no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year; (b) relevant data, as determined by the PHI, about Parkinson's disease and parkinsonisms for the five-year period prior to the effective date of

the bill; and (c) other helpful resources about Parkinson's disease, as determined by the PHI. Specify that the Department of Health Services may do all of the following: (a) assist the PHI in the establishment and maintenance of a Parkinson's disease registry; (b) make recommendations to the PHI on the data to be collected in the Parkinson's disease registry; (c) advise the PHI on the Parkinson's disease registry; and (d) make recommendations to the PHI on the best practices for the establishment of the Parkinson's disease registry.

## **Definitions**

Specify that Parkinson's disease means a chronic and progressive neurologic disorder resulting from deficiency of the neurotransmitter dopamine as the consequence of specific degenerative changes in the basal ganglia, which is characterized by tremor at rest, slow movements, muscle rigidity, stooped posture, and unsteady or shuffling gait. Define "parkinsonism" as a condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease, including tremor at rest, slow movements, muscle rigidity, stooped posture, or unsteady or shuffling gait, which often overlap with and can evolve from what appears to be Parkinson's disease. Define health care provider as a physician, surgeon, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and health care facility as defined under section 155.01(6) of the statutes (which includes any hospital, nursing home, community-based residential facility, county home, county infirmary, county hospital, county mental health center or other place licensed or approved by the Department of Health Services under certain other statutes).

## **Reporting Requirements**

Require the PHI to create, and regularly review and revise, a list of information that health care providers and health care facilities must report to the PHI. Specify that the list must include the incident of a patient's Parkinson's disease or parkinsonism; necessary triggering diagnostic conditions, consistent with the latest version of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems; resulting case data on issues including diagnosis, treatment, and survival; and patient demographic information, including age, gender, and race. Specify that the Board of Regents may promulgate rules to implement and administer this list.

Require that, beginning on the first day of the 25<sup>th</sup> month after the effective date of the bill, if a health care provider diagnoses a patient with Parkinson's disease or a parkinsonism in Wisconsin, or, for a health care provider who has primary responsibility for treating a patient's Parkinson's disease who treats a patient's Parkinson's disease or parkinsonism in Wisconsin, the health care provider or the health care facility that employs or contracts with the health care provider do all of the following: (a) offer the patient the opportunity to do all of the following: (1) review any informational materials developed by the PHI about the Parkinson's disease registry; (2) speak with and ask questions of their health care provider about the Parkinson's disease registry; and (3) affirmatively decline, in writing, to participate in the collection of data for the purposes of the Parkinson's disease registry; (b) with the exception of patients who decline in writing, report the information specified in the list of information that PHI requires health care providers and facilities to report to the PHI in the format prescribed by PHI; (c) notify the patient orally and in writing about the reporting requirement; and (d) if the patient affirmatively declines in writing to participate in the collection of data for purposes of the Parkinson's disease registry, report only the

incident of the patient's Parkinson's disease or parkinsonism to the PHI in the format prescribed by the PHI. Require the PHI to collect and store in the Parkinson's disease registry the data reported by the health care providers and health care facilities and prescribe the format for reporting such data. Further, require the PHI to publish notice, on its website, of the reporting requirement no fewer than 90 days before the reporting requirement takes effect. Specify that a health care facility that employs or contracts with a health care provider diagnosing a patient with, or treating a patient with, Parkinson's disease or a parkinsonism is ultimately responsible for meeting the disease registry reporting requirements.

### **Confidentiality**

Specify that any information provided to PHI that could identify a patient or health care provider must remain confidential.

Specify that UW-Madison may enter into agreements in order for the PHI to securely and confidentially receive information from reporting entities and their associated electronic medical records vendors related to Parkinson's disease testing, diagnosis, and treatment. Specify that UW-Madison may enter into agreements in order for the PHI to disclose data collected in the Parkinson's disease registry to another state's Parkinson's disease registry, a federal Parkinson's disease control agency, a local health officer, or a researcher who proposes to conduct research on Parkinson's disease. Before disclosing such data containing confidential information, require UW-Madison to require the entity to specify the purpose for the requested disclosure, agree in writing to maintain the confidentiality of the information, and, if the entity is a researcher, provide all of the following to UW-Madison: (a) a written protocol to perform research; (b) documentation of approval of the research protocol by an institutional review board of a domestic institution that has a federalwide assurance approved by the office for human research protections of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and (c) documentation that demonstrates to UW-Madison's satisfaction that the researcher has established procedures and has the capability to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

Further, specify that, to ensure privacy, the PHI is required to use a coding system for the data stored in the Parkinson's disease registry. If UW-Madison or PHI discloses confidential information, require UW-Madison or PHI to include in the disclosure only the information necessary for the purpose specified in writing by the requesting entity. Specify that a person who obtains confidential information from UW-Madison or the PHI may use the information only for the requested purpose specified by the entity and may not redisclose the information. Require PHI to maintain an accurate record of all persons given access to confidential information related to the registry and require the record to include all of the following: (a) the name of the person authorizing access; (b) the title, address, and organizational affiliation of any person given access; (c) the dates of access; and (d) the specific purpose for which the information is to be used. In addition, require PHI to make such records available for public inspection during PHI's normal operating hours. Further, specify that confidential information under the registry is not available for subpoena and may not be disclosed, discoverable, or compelled to be produced in any civil, criminal, administrative, or other proceeding and is not admissible as evidence in any civil, criminal, administrative, or other tribunal or court for any reason.

[Bill Sections: 630, 2197, 2519, and 9147(5)]

## 17. FEE REMISSION FOR STUDENT TEACHERS

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to grant full remission of tuition and academic fees to student teachers during their semester of student teaching. Define a student teacher as an individual enrolled in a UW System institution who is a resident of this state and who is participating in the student teaching component of an educator preparatory program approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Provide that this provision would first apply to individuals who commence student teaching in the first semester that begins after the effective date of the bill.

[Bill Sections: 628 and 9347(4)]

## 18. ELIGIBILITY FOR FEE REMISSION FOR HMONG-LAO VETERANS

**Governor:** Expand the statutory definition of "veteran" for the purposes of qualifying for remission of UW System tuition and fees to include either of the following: (a) any state resident who was naturalized as a U.S. citizen pursuant to the federal Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000; or (b) any state resident who is a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence and who the DVA Secretary determines served honorably with a special guerilla unit or irregular forces operating from a base in Laos in support of the armed forces of the United States at any time during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978.

Under current law, the Board of Regents must remit 100% of tuition and fees, less any amount paid under the federal Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer, to eligible veterans who maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

[Bill Sections: 624, 627, 711, 712, 722, 724, 2403, and 2404]

## 19. NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN NATIVE AMERICANS

**Governor:** Specify that a person who meets all of the following requirements is entitled to an exemption from UW System nonresident tuition, but not from incidental or other fees: (a) the person is a member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or band in Wisconsin or is a member of a federally-recognized tribe in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, or Michigan; and (b) the person has resided in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, or Michigan, or in any combination of these states for at least 12 months immediately preceding the beginning of any semester or session in which the student enrolls in a UW System institution. Specify that this provision would first apply to persons who enroll for the semester or session following the effective date of the bill.

Current law allows the Board of Regents to charge different tuition rates to resident and nonresident students. Current law also includes nonresident tuition exemptions, under which certain nonresident students pay resident tuition rates. The bill would create an additional nonresident tuition exemption for certain Native American persons who meet the criteria specified in the bill.

[Bill Sections: 623 and 9347(1)]

## **20. FEE REMISSION FOR CERTAIN TRIBAL MEMBERS**

**Governor:** Require the Board of Regents to grant full remission of academic fees and segregated fees to any student enrolled in a UW System institution who meets the following criteria: (a) the student is a resident of this state; and (b) the student is an enrolled member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe in this state. Specify that a student would be eligible for remission of fees for 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer, and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 to remain eligible for the fee remission. Provide that this provision would first apply to individuals who enroll for the semester or session following the effective date of the bill.

[Bill Sections: 626 and 9347(3)]

## **21. NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION FOR UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS**

**Governor:** Specify that a person who is a citizen of a country other than the U.S., while they continue to be a resident of Wisconsin, would be entitled to an exemption from UW System nonresident tuition, but not from incidental or other fees, if that person meets all of the following requirements: (a) the person graduated from a high school in Wisconsin or received a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation from Wisconsin; (b) the person was continuously present in this state for at least three years following the first day of attending a high school in Wisconsin or immediately preceding receipt of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation; and (c) the person enrolls in an institution and provides that institution with proof that the person has filed or will file an application for lawful permanent resident status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as soon as the person is eligible to do so. Specify that this provision would first apply to persons who enroll for the semester or session following the effective date of the bill.

Current law allows the Board of Regents to charge different tuition rates to resident and nonresident students. Current law also includes nonresident tuition exemptions, under which certain nonresident students pay resident tuition rates. The bill would create an additional nonresident tuition exemption for a person who is not a legal permanent resident of the United States and who meets the criteria specified in the bill.

[Bill Sections: 625 and 9347(2)]

## **22. VOTER IDENTIFICATION**

**Governor:** Require each UW system institution to issue student identification cards that meet the requirements to qualify as voter identification under current law.

[Bill Section: 629]