



**A UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN DEGREE**  
on your busy schedule?

**NOW**, it's an option.



**UW flexible option**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

[flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu)

Would you like to earn a UW degree,  
but don't have time for classes?

Have you considered taking courses online,  
but worry about quality, credibility, and cost?

Do you have significant skills and knowledge  
gained through prior education or work  
experience?



THEN THE  
UW Flexible Option  
WAS MADE FOR YOU!

With the UW Flexible Option, you can:



Earn credit for what  
you know (no matter  
where you learned it)



Advance at your own pace



Start and stop your  
studies when you want



Test when you are ready



Graduate with the skills  
employers value

## IT'S TIME to flex your **POTENTIAL**

You're smart. Hardworking. You have the potential to go far. But without a college degree, it's not easy to get ahead. You'd like to go back to school, but between work and family, how would you make it fit?

Introducing the **University of Wisconsin Flexible Option**—a more personalized, convenient, and affordable way to reach your education and career goals.

### Take control of your education

A partnership between University of Wisconsin System campuses and UW-Extension, the UW Flexible Option is specially designed to fit the lives of working adults like you.

Its self-paced, competency-based format lets you start any month, work at your pace, and earn credit for what you already know. With the Flexible Option, you don't come to campus and you'll never spend time or money taking courses you don't need.

At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you need to advance your career—whenever and wherever your schedule allows!

### TURN THE PAGE

to see how the UW Flexible Option  
lets you earn a respected degree  
at a pace that fits your life.

## COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

# IT'S WHAT YOU KNOW

## that counts

The University of Wisconsin Flexible Option offers a new way to earn a UW degree or certificate because it awards credit based on competency, not class time. This special difference puts you in control of your education as never before.

In education, the term *competency* refers to the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and abilities that students are expected to master in a field of study. In other words, competencies are learning outcomes—the things you should know and be able to do.

The idea of competencies is not unique to the UW Flexible Option. What is unique is the Flexible Option's competency-based format. Unlike traditional degree programs, the Flexible Option lets you earn credit based on how well you've mastered the competencies that are essential to your chosen degree—not on the number of hours you've spent in a classroom.

### Learn at your own pace . . .

By emphasizing competency over credit hours, the UW Flex Option lets you advance toward a UW degree at a pace you decide. As soon as

you can pass an assessment that proves you have mastered a competency—whether it's a test, thesis paper, interview, or hands-on demonstration—you can move on to the next competency and assessment.

### . . . and earn credit for what you already know.

A major benefit of competency-based education is that it allows you to draw upon existing knowledge to make progress toward your degree. It doesn't matter where you gained your knowledge—from prior courses, work experience, military training, or other experiences. If you know it, you can use it to pass assessments more quickly—and potentially accelerate your time to graduation.

## ACCREDITED PROGRAMS ARE

# FLEXIBLE & focused on you

The UW Flexible Option puts you at the center of your college education. Its competency-based format gives you the freedom and tools to earn a respected University of Wisconsin degree at your own pace, whenever and wherever your schedule allows.

### Start and stop studies when you want

- » Begin any month
- » Study when and where it's convenient
- » Take breaks when you need to

### Advance at your own pace

- » Make progress by passing assessments
- » Accelerate your time to graduation
- » Take more time if you need it

### Test when you're ready

- » Take practice assessments
- » Prepare using quality learning resources

### Earn credit for what you know

- » Complete assessments using existing knowledge
- » Never spend time or money taking courses you don't need

### Get support from an Academic Success Coach

- » Create a personalized learning plan
- » Get help preparing for assessments
- » Plan a schedule that's right for you

### Master essential competencies

- » Gain real-world skills
- » Prove your knowledge through rigorous assessments
- » Be prepared to succeed in the workplace

### Graduate with a genuine UW credential

- » Receive your degree from a partnering UW System institution
- » UW Flex Option degrees are the same degrees offered by traditional programs

### Master the skills employers value

A degree is only as good as the education behind it. That's why distinguished UW faculty draw upon the latest standards in business and industry to identify the essential competencies required for graduation. This ensures that UW Flexible Option students are equipped with the knowledge and skills employers want and need.



# move forward **AT YOUR OWN PACE**

WITH HELP FROM A PERSONAL SUCCESS COACH

Earning a UW degree through the Flexible Option format is every bit as challenging as earning a UW degree through traditional means. You'll be expected to meet the same rigorous academic standards for which all UW degrees are known. That's why the UW Flexible Option partners every student with an Academic Success Coach for personalized mentoring and advising.

Your coach will work with you to create a learning plan and timeline customized to fit your goals and knowledge. He or she will also help you prepare for assessments and

point you to the learning resources you need to succeed. These resources can include textbooks, Web pages, and free online resources offered by other universities—as well as credit-based courses, structured internships, service projects, and work and practical experiences.

The UW Flexible Option puts you in control of your own learning, but your Academic Success Coach is always there to help.

## Save time and money with flat-rate tuition

The UW Flexible Option offers an affordable way to earn a UW degree or certificate. Instead of paying by course or by credit, you pay a flat rate for a subscription period you choose. Are you highly motivated with lots of experience? Choose the "All-You-Can-Learn" option to move as fast as you are able through your competencies and assessments. Want to study at a slower pace? The "Single Competency-Set" option is for you. Visit [flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu) for details.

## Hiring managers prefer public university degrees

When asked their overall opinion of the four major higher education options, hiring managers ranked public universities highest (88% positive) compared with private (82%), community (76%), and for-profit colleges (60%).

Source: Brand Perceptions in Higher Education (US), ipsos OTX, commissioned by Google, fall 2011.

# achieve **YOUR GOALS**

WITH A UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION

Where you get your degree is important. The University of Wisconsin System is one of the largest and most widely respected organizations in the country for delivering public higher education. UW Flexible Option programs are created by the same faculty using the same rigorous content and standards as traditional UW programs. That means you will graduate with the same high-quality degree as students who attend class on campus. A degree that is recognized and respected. These are UW degrees, made to fit your schedule—so you can flex your potential!

## IS THE UW Flexible Option RIGHT FOR YOU?

Now's a great time to find out!

Visit [flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu) for more information, including a list of current degree program offerings. Then call 1-877-895-3276 for a personalized consultation to discuss your goals and readiness for this innovative program.



GETTING A UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN EDUCATION

just got more  
**FLEXIBLE**

Built on the long-standing foundation of high-quality University of Wisconsin degree programs, the UW Flexible Option offers busy adult learners a smart new way to earn a degree or certificate. Start anytime, advance at your own pace, and earn credit for what you already know. At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you've always wanted, but never had time to get.



University of Wisconsin-Extension  
Office of Student Success  
5602 Research Park Blvd., Suite 303  
Madison, WI 53719



## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN **INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

A self-paced degree program from UW-Milwaukee

Offered for the first time in the new UW Flexible Option format, the Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Technology (IST) degree from the UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies (SOIS) is the only IT degree program of its kind in the state of Wisconsin.

Focusing on a core set of IT competencies, this program encourages students to expand their skills and knowledge through a personalized degree plan they help create. Students will learn how information is retrieved, organized, manipulated, repackaged, and applied in nearly every aspect of our increasingly digital culture and economy. The degree immerses students in information science, information architecture, information organization, storage and retrieval, and applications of the Internet.

### Now in a self-paced, competency-based format

The UW Flexible Option offers busy adults a new way to earn a college degree, different from traditional face-to-face classroom or online instruction. As a student in this program, you will:

- » **Start any month.** Earn your degree without being locked into (or out of) a traditional semester schedule.
- » **Earn credit for prior learning.** Make the most of what you already know.
- » **Advance at your own pace.** Make progress by passing assessments. Pass one and move on to the next.
- » **Receive personalized support.** Get help and guidance from an Academic Success Coach.
- » **Learn skills employers value.** By passing rigorous assessments, you will prove your mastery of key skills.

Best of all, you will graduate with a degree from a University of Wisconsin institution that is recognized and respected.

### Who should apply?

This self-paced degree program is ideally suited for:

- » Working IT professionals who have completed some college, technical school, or previous certification
- » Individuals who have significant experience as IT professionals
- » Motivated, disciplined self-starters who can work independently
- » Anyone who desires the prestige and value of a University of Wisconsin degree



### Find out if the Flexible Option is right for you

Take the Flex Fit self-evaluation—a free online survey designed to help you and a Flex Admission Specialist determine whether a Flexible Option program is a good fit for you. Visit [flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu).

## Areas of Study

In addition to the General Education Requirements and elective credits necessary to earn a UW-Milwaukee bachelor's degree, the core competency sets in the IST program encompass the study of the concepts and tools of information science, information architecture, and information technology—all of which are fast becoming important tools of most disciplines.

- » Information science: the study of the organization, storage, retrieval, dissemination, and use of information
- » Information architecture: the investigation, analysis, organization, and implementation of information content where users' needs and specifications are of major importance
- » Information technology: the collection of tools that make it possible to access and use information

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The IST program includes a total of 120 credits. These credits are distributed in the following areas:

- » Area I: General Education Requirements (21 credits)
- » Area II: IST Core Competency Sets (27 credits)—see core competency sets below
- » Area III: Information Studies Upper Division Electives (15 credits)
- » Area IV: IST Cross-functional Electives (15 credits)
- » Area V: General Electives (42 credits)

## IST CORE COMPETENCY SETS (AREA II)

- » INFOST 110—Introduction to Information Science and Technology
- » INFOST 210—Information Resources for Research
- » INFOST 230—Organization of Knowledge
- » INFOST 240—Introduction to Web Design
- » INFOST 310—Human Factors in Information Seeking and Use
- » INFOST 340—Introduction to Systems Analysis
- » INFOST 410—Database Information Retrieval Systems
- » INFOST 440—Web Application Development
- » INFOST 490—Senior Capstone

## NEXT STEPS

Take the Flex Fit self-evaluation—a self-paced, online survey designed to help you and a UW Flexible Option Admission Specialist find out if this innovative educational format is the right fit for you. There is no cost for taking the Flex Fit, and no obligation.

Ready to get started? Call 1-877-895-3276 or visit [flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu) today!

## About the UWM School of Information Studies

- » Has offered the innovative IST degree on-site and online since 2003
- » A mix of tenure-track faculty and IT professionals provides assessments and designs the curriculum
- » Students can custom-design their degree plans based on transfer credits and elective credits to match their career goals



## TAKE THE FREE **FLEX FIT SELF-EVALUATION** TODAY

Find out if the UW Flexible Option is the right fit for you!

The UW Flexible Option offers busy and working adults a smart, new way to earn a college degree. But self-paced learning is not for everyone. Before you apply for admission to a UW Flexible Option program, it is important to first find out if this competency-based learning format is right for you.

That's why we ask every prospective student to complete a Flex Fit self-evaluation. This self-paced online survey is designed to help you and a UW Flexible Option Outreach Specialist determine whether Flex is a good match for your experience, educational needs, and goals. There is no cost for taking the Flex Fit, and no obligation. Once you complete the survey, you will have the option to talk with us about your next steps.

### The Flex Fit self-evaluation has two parts:

**Part 1** is a first-step introductory survey. It will take less than five minutes to complete. Following the survey, you will receive feedback about your readiness for the program, as well as information about next steps.

**Part 2.** If Part 1 shows that the Flexible Option may be a good fit, then you will receive a link to Part 2 of the Flex Fit survey. This in-depth survey will take about 30 minutes to complete and is designed to measure factors such as your learning style, life circumstances (such as your access to resources and how much time you have to devote to your education), your computer skill, typing speed, and more.

Following the survey, you will receive an assessment of your readiness for a Flexible Option program and you will have the opportunity to discuss next steps with a Flexible Option Outreach Specialist if you wish.

## ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

Visit [flex.wisconsin.edu](http://flex.wisconsin.edu) to take the Flex Fit survey now!



### About the UW Flexible Option

Built on the long-standing foundation of high-quality University of Wisconsin degree programs, the UW Flexible Option offers busy adult learners a more personalized and convenient way to earn a respected degree or certificate. Start anytime, advance at your pace, and earn credit for what you already know. At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you've always wanted, but never had time to get!