ASSOCIATE OF **ARTS & SCIENCE**
A self-paced degree program from UW Colleges

Now offered for the first time in the new UW Flexible Option format, the Associate of Arts and Science (AAS) degree is the foundation for more than 200 college majors. All University of Wisconsin four-year institutions, including UW-Madison, consider the AAS degree from UW Colleges to satisfy the university-wide general education breadth requirements. (See sidebar on back for more about UW Colleges.) An associate degree also signals to employers that you have the advanced skills in communication and critical thinking necessary to succeed in today’s workplaces.

**A smart way to meet General Education Requirements**
For students who seek admission to a University of Wisconsin bachelor’s degree program but have not yet satisfied that degree’s General Education Requirements, the competency sets offered by this flexible AAS program can be used to meet those requirements.

**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:

» Motivated, disciplined self-starters who can work independently
» Students who may have completed some college-level work
» Adults with valuable professional work experience
» Anyone who desires the prestige and value of a University of Wisconsin degree
Areas of Study

To earn this degree, students must complete a total of 60 credits, including core requirements in writing and mathematics, and a minimum number of credits in breadth categories such as Fine Arts and Humanities, plus electives. If you have already completed equivalent courses, those credits may be eligible for transfer. If you possess prior knowledge in a subject area, the Flexible Option gives you the opportunity to prove your mastery through an assessment and move ahead at your own pace.

CORE REQUIREMENTS
» ENG 102—Critical Writing, Reading, and Research II
» MAT 110—College Algebra

FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES (Minimum of 9 credits)
» MUS 173—Music and Literature
» GSW 102—Women’s Voices
» SPA 101—First-Semester Spanish

MATHEMATICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES (Minimum of 11 credits)
» BIO 141—Heredity
» CHE 124—Applied Chemistry and Society (Laboratory Science)
» GEO 125—Physical Geography
» HES 209—Nutrition and Weight Control
» PHY 110—Physics for Health Sciences

SOCIAL SCIENCES (Minimum of 9 credits)
» ANT 100—General Anthropology
» SOC 101—Introduction to Sociology
» POL 104—American Government and Politics
» PSY 202—Introduction to Psychology

APPLICATION AND PERFORMANCE (Minimum of 3 credits)
» ART 161—Introduction to Photography
» BUS 201—Introductory Accounting
» CPS 139—Web Page Development
» CTA 103—Introductory Public Speaking
» EGR 110—Engineering Graphics
» EDU 201—Concepts, Issues, and Field Experience in Education

ETHNIC STUDIES (Minimum of 3 credits)
» HIS 102—History of the United States: From the Era of the Civil War to the Present
» MUS 273—Jazz History and Appreciation

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (Minimum of 3 credits)
» REL 101—Introduction to the Study of Religion
» GSW 101—Introduction to Women’s Studies

NEXT STEPS
Take the Flex Fit self-evaluation—a self-paced, online survey designed to help you and a UW Flexible Option enrollment adviser 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 today!
A UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN DEGREE on your busy schedule? NOW, it’s an option.

flex.wisconsin.edu
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!

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!

Then the UW Flexible Option was made for you!
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.

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.

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!

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, IRI, Ipsos OTX, commissioned by Google, Fall 2011.

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 for details.

IS THE UW Flexible Option RIGHT FOR YOU?

Now’s a great time to find out!

Visit 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.