State Budget Cuts Could Lead to Longer Time to Graduation, Outdated Facilities for UW Students

Wisconsin lawmakers cut state funding for the UW System by $125 million per year for the budget period that runs between July 2015 and June 2017, reducing Wisconsin’s investment in keeping higher education accessible and jeopardizing the economic benefit that Wisconsin residents receive from the UW System.

UW officials have released descriptions of planned and ongoing cuts to academics, facilities, and services at each campus that have been made to reduce costs in the wake of the budget cut. Many campuses are reducing the number of classes offered, potentially increasing the amount of time students must spend in school before they can receive credit for courses required for graduation. Other campuses are postponing updates to outdated facilities, cleaning buildings less often, and reducing advising and mentoring services for students. This map shows a selection of the cuts made at each campus, along with each location’s share of the $125 million budget cut.

Superior: $0.6 million —
Eliminate several degree programs, including library science and teaching reading
Cut library acquisition funds and hours of operation

Stout: $4.7 million
Cut back on updates for laboratories
Reduce custodial staff by nearly half

River Falls: $2.9 million
Reduce mentoring for students conducting research
Eliminate lab science requirement
Reduce hours library is open

LaCrosse: $5.6 million
Significantly reduce maintenance, repair, and cleaning of buildings
Limit library’s ability to provide students with access to electronic databases

Platteville: $3.1 million
Reduce seats in required courses, increasing time to graduation
Postpone renovations to outdated science building

Eau Claire: $6.9 million
Offer 197 fewer class sections, a 12% drop
Increase class size by an average of 14%
Reduce workforce by 179 FTE, or 15%

Stevens Point: $5.1 million
Offer 17 fewer sections of accounting and business classes
Reduce sections of life science classes, causing bottlenecks for pre-med students
Reduce career advising services

Oshkosh: $6.6 million
Offer fewer class sections and increase class sizes
Eliminate two athletic programs
Reduce flexibility to respond to regional and state business needs

Stout: $4.7 million
Cut back on updates for laboratories
Reduce custodial staff by nearly half

Milwaukee: $15.9 million
Provide less support for startups
Reduce maintenance, resulting in functionality and safety issues for some buildings

Green Bay: $2.4 million
Reduce access to journals, databases, and other learning resources
Reduce resources for student internships

UW Colleges: $4.4 million
Reduce non-instructional workforce by 22%, resulting in a 533:1 student to advisor ratio

UW Extension: $4.6 million
Cut staff that connect residents with agricultural, economic development, and parenting resources

Parkside: $1.6 million
Reduce workforce by 64 FTE, or 12%

Whitewater: $5.1 million
Offer 42 fewer courses and 188 fewer course sections
Cut 40 positions