



NEW LAWS

[2023 WISCONSIN ACT 95](#)

2023 Senate Bill 367

Effective Date: February 22, 2024

GUARANTEED ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

This new law creates a guaranteed admission program into the University of Wisconsin System for certain Wisconsin high school students. Under the program, undergraduate applicants, beginning with applications for the 2025-26 academic year, will receive guaranteed admission to a University of Wisconsin System school if they satisfy certain admission requirements. In addition, this law creates a new requirement for school districts to prepare class rankings of students, which will be used to determine those students who meet class rank requirements for guaranteed admission.

Guaranteed Admission Requirements (*first applies to applications for admission for the 2025-26 academic year*)

Under the new law, applicants interested in guaranteed admission must complete a range of courses established by the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and must satisfy certain additional admission requirements. Examples of some of the admission requirements for students seeking guaranteed admission to a University of Wisconsin System school (not including the University of Wisconsin-Madison) include:

- The applicant is enrolled in a Wisconsin public, private, or tribal high school and is ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class;
- The applicant is a Wisconsin resident enrolled in a home-based private educational program in Wisconsin or virtual private school, and achieves a college entrance examination score that places them in the national 90th percentile ranking or higher; or
- The applicant has been designated as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

For guaranteed admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, admission requirements are more stringent and include some of the following:

- The applicant is enrolled in a Wisconsin public, private, or tribal high school and is ranked in the top 5 percent of their high school class;

- The applicant is a Wisconsin resident enrolled in a home-based private educational program in Wisconsin or virtual private school, and achieves a college entrance examination score that places them in the national 98th percentile ranking or higher; or
- The applicant has been designated as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

For purposes of guaranteed admission into a University of Wisconsin System school or the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the new law defines college entrance examination score as “a composite ACT examination score resulting from a single test date.”

Creation of Pupil Class Rankings *(first applies in the 2024-25 school year)*

Under the new law, school boards, operators of charter schools, and governing bodies of private and tribal schools that offer high school grades 11 and 12, must, for each high school, prepare a class ranking of pupils. The ranking only applies if there are at least 15 pupils in the class and is based on enrollment as of the class's completion of grade 11. Under the new law, pupil class rank will be based on academic achievement and the sole criterion for ranking pupils will be the pupil's grade point average.

Class rankings must identify the pupils who rank in the top 5 percent or top 10 percent of their high school class. Pupils who rank in the top 5 percent or in the top 10 percent of their high school class must be notified by their respective school board, charter school operator, or private or tribal school governing body that the pupil is ranked in the top 5 percent or in the top 10 percent on the pupil's high school transcript as of the pupil's completion of grade 11. If a high school's class enrollment is at least 15 but less than 20 pupils, the highest ranked and 2nd highest ranked pupils in the class will be identified, with the highest ranked pupil being considered to be in the top 5 percent and the 2nd highest ranked pupil being considered to be in the top 10 percent of the high school class.

Notes: The full text of this Act can be found at: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/95>