WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Master of Science in Biotechnology

Program Handbook

2025-2027

School of Medicine and Public Health

Reference this handbook to learn about the expectations, policies, requirements, procedures, and resources for graduate students in the MS in Biotechnology Program

Last updated: June 2025

Table of Contents

Navigating Policy and Resources at UW-Madison

This handbook is one of many sources to consult as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms of graduate education at UW-Madison:

How to Use This Handbook

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures provide essential information regarding general University requirements. The Master of Science (M.S.) in Biotechnology Program serves to administer the policies and procedures and explain how our degree requirements specifically fit within them. Students are required to follow the policies and procedures listed in the handbook. Information in the handbook, along with individual communications with program staff and faculty, is used to ensure that all degree requirements are met.

Providing direct and timely student support is a hallmark of this professional degree. While this handbook is a valuable resource, the MS in Biotechnology Program encourages students to contact program staff whenever they have questions or concerns or need assistance.

Who to Contact for Questions

Several key positions in this master's program and on campus are ready to answer your questions:

Program Staff Contacts:

Michele Smith, Graduate Program Manager	michele.smith@wisc.edu
Barbara Bielec, Graduate Advisor	bielec@wisc.edu
Bryan Husk, Administrative Associate Director	bthusk@wisc.edu
Natalie Betz, Academic Associate Director	nabetz@wisc.edu

Graduate Program Coordinators

Each graduate program will have at least one department staff person typically called a Graduate Program Coordinator who serves as a point person for program policy and procedures. Graduate Program Coordinators are well versed in most elements of graduate education that extend beyond academic instruction in your program and will likely be your first stop for questions related to anything in this handbook.

Michele Smith is the MS in Biotechnology Program's Graduate Program Manager and Bryan Husk is the Administrative Associate Director. Both facilitate Graduate Program Coordinator functions for the MS in Biotechnology.

Director of Graduate Studies

Each graduate program has one faculty member designated to direct its educational vision and structure. Dr. Natalie Betz, Academic Director, serves in this role for the MS in Biotechnology Program.

Names and contact information of your Graduate Program Coordinator and Director of Graduate Studies can be found on the “Biotechnology MS” program’s page in the *Graduate Guide*:
guide.wisc.edu/graduate/medicine-public-health-school-wide/biotechnology-ms/

Faculty Advisor
In a departmentally based research master’s degree, the name and contact information of your faculty advisor would be found on your Student Center on MyUW (my.wisc.edu) under “Academic Progress” and then “Advisors.”

By contrast, the MS in Biotechnology is a standalone professional degree designed for adults working full-time and living off-campus. The program staff and faculty serve as academic and career advisors for all students in the program.

Opportunities to directly engage faculty and staff are available during scheduled course meetings. Additionally, students are encouraged to reach out to program staff and faculty if an individual meeting is preferred.

Your Advisor Team Contacts:

Natalie Betz, Academic Associate Director	nabetz@wisc.edu
Bryan Husk, Administrative Associate Director	bthusk@wisc.edu
Michele Smith, Graduate Program Manager	michele.smith@wisc.edu
Barbara Bielec, Graduate Advisor	bielec@wisc.edu

Graduate School Services
For general inquiries and graduate student services from the Graduate School, see the operations and front desk contact information on this contact page:
grad.wisc.edu/contacts/

Department & Program Overview

The MS in Biotechnology program provides an integrated curriculum in science, policy, law, and business preparing students to LEAD the development and commercialization of new and promising technologies.

To provide a learning environment, rich in academic and industrial collaboration by drawing on the resources and expertise of global leaders in biotechnology, the MS in Biotechnology Program is designed for biotechnology professionals who are ready to broaden their understanding and skills—and advance their careers.

See the following for program and departmental overview:

- MS in Biotechnology Program Guide https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/medicine-public-health-school-wide/biotechnology-ms/

Learning Outcomes

1. Integrate core scientific, business, and legal principles to assess new biological discoveries and their potential development into commercial products for diverse biotechnology industries and applications.

2. Utilize science, policy, law, and business tenets to lead the development and commercialization of new and promising technologies.

3. Compare how regulations are developed and how they interact with science, business, and finance to influence the formation and growth of technology companies.

4. Implement the technical, sociological, and leadership skills necessary to successfully direct projects on a global scale.

5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills appropriate for the audience.

6. Evaluate modern biotechnology technologies through hands-on participation in the laboratory.

7. Research modern biotechnology technologies using peer-reviewed journals, databases, and global regulatory agency and legal documents.

How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UW-Madison, you have a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides opportunities for professional networking.

In Our Discipline

Most students in the MS in Biotechnology Program are working full time, as well attending classes full time. The program provides several ways for networking within the

biotechnology industry and staying involved as part of the “Biotech Badger” alumni group. You can find students and alumni on this url with direct LinkedIn profiles: https://ms-biotech.wisc.edu/current-students-and-alumni/

Additionally, students and alumni are encouraged to attend the BioForward annual Wisconsin Biohealth Summit. Visit the BioForward website: www.bioforward.org/

In Our Program

Students and alumni network events, including invited speakers, are scheduled throughout the year. The alumni group benefits through expanding their networks, learning about where others are employed, and discussing how to move up the career ladder.

On Campus & In the Community

The Wisconsin Idea is the principle that education should influence and improve people’s lives beyond the university classroom. For over 100 years, this idea has guided the University. www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea

You will find a list of ways to engage in campus and local community life at:

The Graduate School’s Current Student Page
grad.wisc.edu/current-students

Getting Started as a Graduate Student

Each new student cohort must attend our August orientation session. This allows incoming students to meet each other and faculty before the start of class.

The Fall 2025 orientation schedule includes:

- Thursday evening 8/21 from 6:00pm—9:00pm at **University Research Park**, **MGE Innovation Center**, 510 Charmany Drive, Room 50, Madison, WI 53719
- Friday 8/22 from 8:30am—5:00pm at the **BTC Institute**, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI 53711. Program staff will invite all students to this event.

Advising & Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members alike.

The MS in Biotechnology Program advising team is different than traditional graduate advising because of its locked curriculum. The advising team serves in a greater capacity to assist students who are struggling with class expectations, work/life balance, career opportunities, and navigating various university entities including the registrar, bursar, and library.

The locked curriculum means that MS in Biotechnology **students are not eligible to enroll in other courses available on campus**.

In addition, **students are not eligible to accept tuition-remitting graduate assistantships** (research or teaching). Students may work on campus, but they must be considered and paid as hourly employees. The program advisors work with students and other departments to maintain these guidelines.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. Be sure to discuss this with your advising team.

Your Advisors

The program advising team includes both faculty and staff members in the program. To learn more about the faculty and staff in our program, consider consulting the following sources:

- Our program website (ms-biotech.wisc.edu/)
- Faculty publications and/or LinkedIn Profiles
- Students will be paired with two faculty mentors (one scientific and one business) for their final Capstone project.
- Throughout the program, staff serve as advisors to all students in terms of coursework, individual and group projects, and career decisions.

Changing Your Advisor

As the advisor-student relationship is one of mutual agreement, it may be changed by either party. The MS in Biotechnology Program staff are here to serve as advisors for both students and faculty. If you decide that you would prefer working with a different advisor, discuss this with your program staff to seek the change.

We understand that some people work better with others. Students are encouraged to work with program staff when challenges arise. We will work together to find the best advisor(s) and mentor(s) for each student throughout the program.

Mentoring Networks

In addition to your formal advisor, you are encouraged to develop a broad network of individuals who can provide academic and professional mentorship during and beyond your time as a graduate student.

Your mentoring network while a student includes program staff, course faculty, guest speakers, and your cohort. This network remains throughout your career. As you rely on them, they will rely on you for input, mentoring, career growth, and advice.

Degree Requirements

Master's Degree

All students in the MS in Biotechnology Program are responsible for knowing the following requirements to complete the degree.

Requirements

For all current requirements to complete your degree (e.g., credits, courses, milestones, learning outcomes/goals, etc.) see your program's "Requirements" page in the *Graduate Guide*.
https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/medicine-public-health-school-wide/biotechnology-ms/#requirementstext

Similarly, see "Policies" from the navigation bar of your program's page to learn about policies affecting these requirements (e.g., prior coursework, probation, credits per term allowed, time constraints, grievances and appeals, etc.).
https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/medicine-public-health-school-wide/biotechnology-ms/#policiestext

Note that when you look at the *Guide* to learn about program requirements, you will be viewing the current year's version. To find past versions of program requirements, see the Guide Archive and search for your program and the year you would like to reference.

Capstone Information

Capstone Topic & Mentors

For the MS in Biotechnology Capstone you will identify a global biotechnology problem, find a novel technical solution, analyze all aspects from a business, regulatory, and intellectual property perspective, and deliver a final written capstone thesis.

Your Capstone mentor team will be chosen from the program faculty and will comprise of one scientific or technical mentor, as well as one business mentor. The mentoring team, along with advisory team, provides guidance on refining your Capstone topic. The actual topic selection is the responsibility of each student.

Procedures

The Capstone project follows a series of checkpoints where the student submits parts of the project to mentors who provide feedback. Checkpoint communication may occur in the following manner: face to face interactions, email correspondence, and written submissions with written feedback.

Course Schedule

The MS in Biotechnology Program is a locked curriculum. All students within the cohort take the same courses in the same order. Courses are concentrated in **seven "sessions" that occur every other week throughout the semester**.

Program courses are locked in the following fashion. Full course calendars for each student cohort are available on the program website

Year 1: Fall Semester 2025

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CLASS TIME
BIOMDSCI 800 (2 credits)	Intellectual Property, Patents, & Licensing	Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm
BIOMDSCI 801 (2 credits)	Business of Biotechnology: Business Fundamentals	Fridays, 8:00am-12:00pm
BIOMDSCI 803 (2 credits)	Molecular Technologies I: Diagnostic Testing	Fridays, 1:00pm-5:00pm
BIOMDSCI 802 (2 credits)	Biotechnology Regulation and Ethics	Saturdays, 8:00am-12:00pm

Year 1: Spring Semester 2026

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CLASS TIME
BIOMDSCI 810 (4 credits)	Biotechnology Operations	Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm Fridays, 8:00am-12:00pm
BIOMDSCI 812 (2 credits)	Project Management and Leadership	Fridays, 1:00pm-5:00pm
BIOMDSCI 813 (2 credits)	Molecular Technologies II: Biomanufacturing	Saturdays, 8:00am-12:00pm

Year 2: Fall Semester 2026

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CLASS TIME
BIOMDSCI 820 (4 credits)	Early Drug Discovery	Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm Fridays, 8:00am-12:00pm
BIOMDSCI 822 (2 credits)	Business of Biotechnology: Commercialization Pathways	Fridays, 1:00pm-5:00pm
BIOMDSCI 823 (2 credits)	Molecular Technologies III: Assay Development	Saturdays, 8:00am-12:00pm

Year 2: Spring Semester 2027

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CLASS TIME
BIOMDSCI 830 (1 credit)	Professional Development and Effective Management	Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm
BIOMDSCI 831 (3 credits)	Advanced Biotechnology: Global Perspectives	Fridays, 8:00am-12:00pm
BIOMDSCI 832 (3 credits)	Business of Biotechnology: Corporate Strategy	Fridays, 1:00pm-5:00pm
BIOMDSCI 834 (1 credit)	Biotechnology Capstone	Independent work

Master's Degree Checklist: Timeline & Deadlines

The Graduate School maintains a list of steps to complete your master's degree, including deadlines and important things to know as you progress toward graduation: grad.wisc.edu/current-students/masters-guide.

Program staff work directly with the graduate school regarding warrants and other materials required for graduation. The checklist to graduation includes:

1. Completing all required coursework
2. Meeting minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00
3. Completing the Capstone project

4. Student declaring intent to graduate (from the Student Center in MyUW)
5. Program staff submitting warrant request to the Graduate School

Enrollment Requirements

You are responsible for following Graduate School policies related to course enrollment requirements and limitations:

Adding / Dropping Courses: grad.wisc.edu/documents/add-drop

Canceling Enrollment: grad.wisc.edu/documents/canceling-enrollment

Enrollment Accountability: grad.wisc.edu/documents/enrollment-accountability

Enrollment Requirements: policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1208

The MS in Biotechnology Program is a locked curriculum; students must take the courses in the required sequence. Students are expected to successfully complete each semester's coursework before moving onto the next semester. Incompletes are rarely allowed and must be resolved for a final grade before continuing to the next semester's courses.

Students are expected to reach out to the program staff and course instructors at any time they perceive problems in completing assignments or attending class.

Students who withdraw from the program may request approval to reapply to the MS in Biotechnology Program. Students will have to wait a full year to join the next student cohort's course sequence. For example, if a student withdraws and drops all courses for the fall 2025 semester, the student will have to wait until the following fall 2026 semester to take these courses.

Academic Exception Petitions

Academic exceptions are considered on an individual case by case basis and should not be considered a precedent. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the program recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Petitions for exceptions to the Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct) shall be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies or relevant committee chair (example Curriculum Chair).

The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. The specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition must be identified.
2. The student's academic advisor must provide written support for the petition.
3. All course work substitutions and equivalencies will be decided by appropriate faculty and the program's Academic Director.

More generally, the Academic Director, in consultation with the student's advisors, may grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances (similar to tenure extensions) as noted in university regulations. This includes childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic illness, or circumstances beyond one's personal control. Where warranted, the petition should provide good evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with the standard and to acceptably complete the program. The normal extension will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances. Extensions will be granted formally with a note of explanation to be placed in the student's file.

Capstone Project

A student who fails the final may not graduate from the program. A student who has not satisfied the Capstone within 36 months of entering the program will be dropped from the program.

Extension Requests

Students who have not completed the degree on schedule may request extensions. Requests for a one-semester/year extension can be made to the program's Academic Director. The Academic Director is authorized to approve these requests upon written justification from the student. The student must describe the reasons for the request and provide a proposed timetable for completing all program requirements. The major professor must sign the request form and write comments endorsing the request. The request should be made as soon as the need for an extension becomes apparent. The Academic Director may request additional documentation as needed. Appeals or requests for additional extensions must be approved by the program's Academic Director.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Your continuation as a graduate student at UW-Madison is at the discretion of your program, the Graduate School, and your faculty advisor(s). Any student may be placed on probation or dismissed from the Graduate School for not maintaining satisfactory academic progress, and this can impact your academic standing (detailed below), financial aid (see this policy page: policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1218), or funding (consult your sources of funding, as applicable). Our program has its own definition of

satisfactory academic progress and related procedures that supplement Graduate School policy, as described in this section.

Definition

Information about how the Graduate School determines satisfactory academic progress can be found on this policy page: policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1218. In addition to the Graduate School's monitoring of satisfactory academic progress, this program regularly reviews the satisfactory academic progress of its students, defined as the following:

The MS in Biotechnology Program follows the graduate school policy on academic progress. Students enrolled in the MS in Biotechnology Program must maintain an average GPA of 3.0 or better. Students with a lower than 3.0 cumulative GPA will be notified via email and placed on academic probation. Students are placed on an academic hold while on probation and are not able to enroll in courses until after final grades for the semester have been posted.

Grades lower than a C are considered unsatisfactory and may lead to dismissal from the program. Students are allowed to appeal the final grade following the exception rules stated in this handbook.

Not Meeting Academic Expectations

Student progress will be reviewed through coursework during each semester. If the advisors and Academic Director find at any other time that a student has failed to achieve satisfactory progress in the academic expectations set in this handbook, the student will be notified and given an opportunity to submit a response within a set time period (typically 2 weeks).

Program leadership and faculty advisor(s) will review the response within 2 weeks and determine if further action is needed. Students may be dismissed from the program. Students may, alternatively, be placed on probation for one semester and then reviewed by the program advising team following the probationary semester. Students placed on probation may be dismissed or allowed to continue based upon review of progress during the probationary semester. If a student wishes to appeal any decision stemming from this review process, they can do so within 2 weeks of the date of the decision letter through submitting a letter to the Academic Director.

Personal Conduct Expectations

Professional Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards maintains detailed guidance on student rights and responsibilities related to learning in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability. You are responsible for keeping aware of their policies and procedures, found on the following page: conduct.students.wisc.edu.

Student Code of Conduct

In addition, the MS in Biotechnology Program has a Code of Conduct for all students to sign. Please refer to the New Student Orientation course site in Canvas and the "Read and Sign Your Code of Conduct" assignment for further information.

Policy for Using Generative AI in the MS in Biotechnology Program 2025-2026

AI is a rapidly evolving technology that is impacting all aspects of daily life and learning, including graduate school. The MS in Biotechnology Program allows the use of AI in limited circumstances.

Please see the latest policy for using AI in the MS in Biotechnology Program:

- 2025-26 Policy for Using Generative AI in the MS in Biotechnology Program

Note: This policy applies to all courses in the program unless otherwise indicated in a particular course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

The Graduate School

Academic Policies & Procedures: Misconduct, Academic:
https://policy.wisc.edu/library/Info-112

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Academic Misconduct Website:
conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct

Nonacademic Misconduct

Nonacademic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes nonacademic misconduct, and procedures related to nonacademic misconduct, see:

The Graduate School

Academic Policies & Procedures: Misconduct, Nonacademic
https://policy.wisc.edu/library/Info-113

Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards

Nonacademic Misconduct Website
conduct.students.wisc.edu/nonacademic-misconduct

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

Chapter 17: Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/17

Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/18

Research Misconduct

Graduate students are held to the same standards of responsible conduct of research as faculty and staff. Further information about these standards and related policies and procedures can be found at the links listed below.

The Graduate School

Academic Policies & Procedures: Responsible Conduct of Research
grad.wisc.edu/documents/responsible-conduct-of-research

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Research Policies
research.wisc.edu/compliance-policy

Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying)

Hostile and intimidating behavior (HIB), sometimes referred to as “bullying,” is prohibited by university policy applicable to faculty, academic staff, and university staff. For further definition, policy, and procedures related to HIB see: https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/ Students who feel they have been subject to HIB are encouraged to review the informal and formal options on the “Addressing HIB” tab of the website.

Grievance Process

Each college or program on campus has a grievance process that students can use to address other concerns regarding their experience in the program. This program’s grievance process can be found detailed at: https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/medicine-public-health-school-wide/biotechnology-ms/#policiestext

Process and Sanctions for Violations of Conduct Standards

The program advising team administers the regulations established by the faculty. It makes sure students are meeting the program expectations and imposes sanctions when appropriate. Faculty and faculty committees determine whether the quality of a student’s work and conduct are satisfactory, while the program advising team determines whether the student is satisfying the academic requirements in a timely fashion and meeting program conduct expectations. Students who are falling behind academically or not meeting conduct expectations are first warned, then put on probation, and then dropped from the program if they cannot complete the requirements or remedy their conduct. Within boundaries set by the faculty, the program advising team is authorized to take account of individual circumstances and problems, and to grant extensions of deadlines and waivers of requirements.

Possible disciplinary actions might include but are not limited to:

- Verbal and written reprimand
- Imposition of specific terms and conditions on continued student status
- Probation • Restitution
- Removal of the student from the course(s) in progress
- Failure to promote
- Withdrawal of an offer of admission
- Placement on leave of absence for a determined amount of time
- Suspension from the program for up to one year with the stipulation that remedial activities may be prescribed as a condition of later readmission. Students who meet the readmission condition must apply for readmission and the student will be admitted only on a space-available basis. See the Graduate School policy on readmission: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1230 .
- Suspension from the program, ranging from one semester to four years

- Dismissal from the program
- Denial of a degree

Incident Reporting (Hate, Bias, Sexual Assault, Hazing, Students of Concern, Bullying)

The Dean of Students Office maintains a portal to report incidents of hate, bias, sexual assault, hazing, dating/domestic violence, stalking, missing students, and students displaying other concerning behaviors at UW-Madison:

Dean of Students Incident Reporting: https://osas.wisc.edu/report-an-issue/

As noted above in “Personal Conduct Expectations,” students who feel they have been subject to hostile and/or intimidating behavior (i.e., bullying) are encouraged to review the informal and formal options for addressing this behavior (including filing complaints when desired) at:

Human Resources Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Website: https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/

Funding, Employment, and Finances

“Funding” is a term used to describe university employment or support to cover some or all of your costs of graduate education. It varies in kind, amount, and level of guarantee.

Students enrolled in the MS in Biotechnology Program are **NOT eligible** for funding that is linked with tuition remission. This includes graduate, research, and program assistantships that are tied to 101 funding or tuition remission and/or stipends.

Students may find work on campus but must be paid an hourly wage as an employee of the university. Most students enrolled in this program are working professionals who may receive tuition reimbursement from their employers. Students may be eligible for financial aid following university policies. It is up to you to investigate these possibilities but contact Michele if you would like assistance.

Finding Funding Without a Guaranteed Appointment

Campus-Wide and External Sources

To help you find resources to pay for costs related to graduate education, the Graduate School provides a comprehensive overview of the funding process on campus as well as

descriptions of the types of funding available, sources of funding, minimum stipend rates and benefits, and links to applicable human resources policies at:

Graduate School: Funding and Financial Aid: grad.wisc.edu/funding

UW-Madison Libraries Grants Information Collection:
library.wisc.edu/memorial/collections/grants-information-collection

Additional Policies & Resources

Employee Disability Resources (for students employed at UW-Madison):
employeedisabilities.wisc.edu

Professional Development

When you participate in professional development, you build skills needed to succeed academically and thrive in your career. The following are professional development activities that we recommend for your consideration. Required professional development will be detailed in “Degree Requirements” above.

On Campus

The Graduate School develops and curates a wide variety of resources for professional development, including a tool to assess your skills, set goals, and create a plan with recommended activities on campus (e.g., the popular “Individual Development Plan” or IDP) as well as programming to help you explore careers, prepare for a job search, build your network and learn from alumni, manage projects, communicate about your research, and much more.

DiscoverPD helps master’s and doctoral students at UW-Madison advance their academic and professional goals with customized recommendations based on a skills self-assessment. The 400+ professional development recommendations available in the DiscoverPD database are available in a range of formats to best meet your diverse needs, including in-person, virtual, asynchronous, and synchronous opportunities. All of this can be found at:

Professional Development from the Graduate School
https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/

The Graduate School communicates professional development opportunities through an e-newsletter, *GradConnections*, that all graduate students receive at their wisc.edu email. Graduate students in traditional graduate degree programs receive the newsletter weekly during the academic year and every other week in the summer.

In Our Program

UW-Madison offers a wealth of resources intended to enrich your graduate studies and enhance your professional skills. Starting your first year on campus, it is expected that you will take full advantage of the career and professional development resources that best fit your needs and support your goals.

Since our alumni thrive not only in academia but also in industry, corporate, government, and non-profit arenas, we strive to keep up to date with contemporary, holistic, and innovative approaches that meet the diverse professional development needs of our students. By actively participating in these professional development opportunities, you will build the skills needed to succeed academically at UW-Madison and to thrive professionally in your chosen career.

Professional Development and Effective Management Course

The MS in Biotechnology provides an interactive professional development course in the final semester designed to develop, enhance, and practice the critical tools of developing and managing careers in biotechnology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze skills required to influence, prioritize, and set goals for self and staff in a biotechnology company.
2. Evaluate team culture in terms of what really matters to enable results and provide psychological safety.
3. Create situational, behavioral, and impact driven feedback strategies so that both the employee and manager are successful.
4. Explore the differences between managing and coaching the team through case studies and scenarios.
5. Generate a career development plan that includes effective resumes, cover letters, networking, and employment research skills.

MS in Biotechnology Alumni Association

Beginning with the first graduating Class of 2004, the MS in Biotechnology Program today boasts an alumni base of nearly 500 graduates. As a group, the program's alumni have consistently found value and support in the relationships within their graduating cohort, and across all the alumni sharing this degree.

Current students are strongly encouraged to participate in any planned alumni events. The MS in Biotechnology alumni participate in annual social networking events, milestone celebrations and scientific presentation events.

LinkedIn and Other Social Media

The MS in Biotechnology Program uses LinkedIn as the primary method for developing professional relationships, maintaining alumni contacts, and relaying job opportunities and career events.

All current students and alumni are strongly encouraged to create a professional LinkedIn profile.

Also, though used less than LinkedIn, the program has a Facebook page worth visiting.

If interested, please “Like” and/or “Follow” the program’s social media accounts.

MS in Biotechnology Social Media

- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/ms-in-biotechnology-uw-madison/
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/msbiotechprogram

Campus-wide Resources for Professional Development

The Writing Center (writing.wisc.edu)

Many of the assignments given in the program require strong writing skills. All students are encouraged to access the services provided by the UW-Madison Writing Center, especially students who speak English as a second language.

The Writing Center's programs are staffed by career writing instructors, doctoral teaching assistants from composition and rhetoric and literary studies, and undergraduate Writing Fellows. All tutors in the Writing Center programs are highly trained, expert readers and are qualified to offer help with writing in all disciplines and at all levels.

Book online to make or cancel an appointment with the Writing Center, (writing.wisc.edu). You can also call (608) 263-1992 or visit 6171 Helen C. White (600 North Park Street) to make an appointment.

UW Libraries Services (library.wisc.edu)

You will regularly need to locate research articles and scholarly materials to complete projects and papers assigned to you. Fortunately, the UW Libraries services are convenient, extensive and easy to use.

The MS in Biotechnology Program has a UW Libraries liaison assigned to work with the program. Please contact Paije Wilson, the Health Sciences Librarian at the Ebling Health Sciences Library with any questions on how to obtain information

through the UW Libraries services. Paije's email is paije.wilson@wisc.edu and her work phone number is (608) 262-2372.

MS in Biotechnology Program Students, Faculty, and Staff

Located on the program's website:

- The "Biotech Badgers" Community
  https://ms-biotech.wisc.edu/the-biotech-badgers/

- Program Students and Alumni
  https://ms-biotech.wisc.edu/current-students-and-alumni/

- Program Faculty and Instructors
  https://ms-biotech.wisc.edu/the-biotech-badgers/program-faculty-and-instructors/

- Program Staff
  https://ms-biotech.wisc.edu/contact-us/