





A student walks across a snowy Bascom Hill on January 22, 2025. Photo by [Jake Piper](#) | The Daily Cardinal

CAMPUS NEWS

Wisconsin has a new budget. Here's what UW-Madison will receive

Though state lawmakers awarded crucial funding for renovations at Dejope and Chadbourne, the University of Wisconsin-Madison fell short of funding requests for a new residence hall and demolishing the aging Mosse Humanities building.

By [Annika Bereny](#)

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Gov. Tony Evers signed Wisconsin's 2025-27 bipartisan state budget into law Thursday morning, securing a \$256 million increase to the University of Wisconsin System budget after months of negotiations with Republican lawmakers. It's a far cry from the \$856 million the system requested, but a welcome alternative to the \$87 million cut Republican [legislators floated](#) just two weeks ago. Here's what that money will mean for the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alongside \$27 million annually to "attract faculty in high-demand fields of study," more than \$160 million has been [approved](#) for "critical" renovations to Science Hall, which will "restore the building's historic character while improving accessibility, addressing deferred maintenance issues and adding an atrium."

UW-Madison will receive \$10 million to renovate and add to Dejope Residence Hall and almost \$19 million to renovate Rhetta's Market in Chadbourne Residence Hall. However, no funding was approved for the construction of a new residence hall on campus, set to meet the growing number of new students UW-Madison admits each year.

In a [statement](#) Tuesday, UW-Madison called a new residence hall "much-needed," and said they were "disappointed" to not receive bonding approval, especially since it would have been funded "entirely with university resources."

In the past few years, UW-Madison has struggled to house its students. The campus only [has space for](#) 8,800 students, with UW-Madison's [ever-growing freshman classes](#) straining capacity. Trying to find housing after freshman year has been [described](#) by students as a "Hunger Games" scenario, and for those who wish to return to university housing after their first year, there are only about 1,000 spots available for the 2,000-2,400 students [who want them](#).

In late 2024, the Wisconsin State Journal [reported](#) that a lobbyist group for Madison-based landlords pushed the UW Board of Regents to stall construction of a new residence hall until further research on its necessity could be completed. This request was ultimately not heeded and the Regents approved the building plan.

UW-Madison also received \$287 million less than they had requested to demolish the Mosse Humanities building. The university [requested](#) \$292 million to relocate academic programs within the School of Letters & Sciences and demolish the 56 year old building, but was awarded only \$5 million.

In their Tuesday [statement](#), the university suggested the \$5 million would be put towards relocation of the departments that remain in Mosse, rather than demolition costs.

Construction has already begun on Irving & Dorothy Levy Hall — the new home of the College of Letters & Science — which is expected to open in 2026.

The budget deal also includes a 3% pay raise for all state employees in 2025 and 2% in 2026, including at UW-Madison.

While the budget deal came as a relief to UW-Madison amid threats of state funding cuts, further federal cuts still loom. Just last week, an email was sent to all faculty and staff informing them of 5-7% cuts to all departments effective July 1, when the 2026 fiscal year begins.

The UW System's original request of \$856 million would have halted further campus closures across the state, [according](#) to UW System President Jay Rothman. The Board of Regents are set to meet on July 10 and are expected to discuss potential campus closures and tuition increases.

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