

## ANNOUNCING THE 2021 ANNUAL UW-MADISON LIBERAL ARTS ESSAY COMPETITION

*Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison General Education Committee*

### **This Year's Topic:**

University of Wisconsin-Madison requirements encourage students to complete a program of study that is both broad and deep. The General Education Committee sponsors this essay contest because its members are interested in how these requirements help prepare students to lead informed, engaged, and purposeful lives. To that end, please reflect on the following:

From the unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different communities, to the ongoing struggle for racial justice, recent events have brought issues of equality and racism to the fore. Using specific examples from at least two courses you have taken at UW-Madison, describe how the breadth of your liberal arts education helps you understand at least one of these issues and prepares you to be an agent for positive change.

Strong student essays will invite reader engagement through description and reflection on personal experience, as well as demonstrate careful consideration of the prompt. To learn more about the goals of a liberal education you may wish to check the liberal education learning outcomes at <https://www.aacu.org/leap/essential-learning-outcomes>.

[Click here for the application link.](#)

Past winning essays from related competitions can be reviewed at the sites below:

<https://ls.wisc.edu/search?q=liberal+arts+essay>

<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/university-wisconsin-system-liberal-arts-scholarship-competition>

NOTE: All submissions are to be original essays, 1,000-1,250 words in length, typed, double-spaced. Each essay must include a title page with the following information: title of essay, student's name, major, college and home address, e-mail address, telephone number, and the following statement: "I hereby affirm that this is an original essay and my own work."  
It is recommended to upload Microsoft Word or a pdf document.

### **Awards:**

2 finalists will be selected by the University General Education Committee. The 1st place essay prize is \$1,000 and the 2nd place prize is \$500. Winning essays are made available to the public on University websites.

### **Eligibility:**

This competition is open to *all* UW-Madison undergraduates (regardless of school or college) in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

### **Instructions/Submission/Selection:**

The UW-Madison deadline for submission of essays is **Friday, March 12, 2021 by 11:59 p.m.** Essays must be uploaded through the Wisconsin Scholarships Hub (WiSH) [here](#).

Final selection of winning essays will be determined by a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Education Committee. Recipients will be notified in April 2021.

**Make an appointment with the Writing Center:**

It is recommended that entries be reviewed and discussed prior to submission by making an appointment at [the Writing Center](#). Receiving feedback from others makes the work stronger and more competitive.

Please contact [scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu](mailto:scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu), 262-2941 with questions.