



## TOP 25 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON TRADITIONS TO EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU BECOME AN ALUM

1. **Newest on the list: Take a selfie at Alumni Park.** If you're in need of suggestions, here are three: next to the Bucky statue; with the Welcome Plaza Fountain spray as an artistic backdrop, and in front of the Lantern sculpture illuminated at night.
2. On football game day, fill up on breakfast at Mickies Dairy Bar or go the all-sweet route with donuts from Greenbush Bakery. Save room for brats when you tailgate on Regent Street.
3. Enjoy football game day music, starting with the pregame concert at Union South featuring the marching band. Then follow the tubas to Breese Terrace. During the game, jump up and down when the song "Jump Around" comes on. Sing "Varsity!" Stay for the Fifth Quarter when the marching band puts on an encore. On Homecoming weekend, add the Homecoming parade to your playlist.
4. Count Bucky's push-ups to mark UW's score at Badger football games.
5. Flock to Bascom Hill on "Fill the Hill" day in the fall to see a sea of flamingos, each one placed there to mark a donation that day to the university via the Annual Campaign. The flamingo is the unofficial bird of UW-Madison, thanks to a prank by the 1979 student government party known as Pail and Shovel, whose leaders placed 1,008 of the pink plastic lawn ornaments on the hill on the first day of classes.
6. Buy a postcard showing the Statue of Liberty "sinking" into the ice of Lake Mendota off the shore of Memorial Union. This was another prank by the Pail and Shovel Party, with just a portion of Lady Liberty's head and torch, constructed of Styrofoam, assembled on the frozen surface of the lake back in 1979, and for many years after.
7. Watch the sun set over Lake Mendota at Memorial Union Terrace relaxing on one of the Terrace's iconic chairs.

8. Join Hoofers, the largest student organization at the University of Wisconsin – Madison with more than 2,500 members, and learn how to sail on Lake Mendota.
9. Pull an all-nighter doing something other than studying for exams, namely lounging with your apartment belongings curbside overnight on August 14, rental move-out day, until you can move in to your new digs on August 15. With apartment trappings often abandoned, it's also known as "Hippie Christmas."
10. In elaborate costume or merely as observer, head to State Street for the Halloween festivities known as Freakfest.
11. Take a stand. Gather at Library Mall for political discourse. March down Bascom Hill and up State Street for a cause.
12. Study in the stacks at Memorial Library. If you're a grad student, reserve a locked carrel, a.k.a. cage.
13. Stroll State Street from Bascom Hill to the State Capitol. When you get to the Capitol, look up at statue atop the dome. She's named "Wisconsin" and was placed there as a symbol of the state's motto, "Forward."
14. Have your photo taken sitting on Abe's lap (that would be the statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of Bascom Hall) on graduation day; just expect a line. For soon-to-be law school graduates, take part in the tradition of running down the field before kickoff at the Homecoming football game and tossing a cane over the goal post. Tradition has it that, if you catch your cane, you will win your first case.
15. Decompress with scenic pursuits. Walk to Picnic Point and back. Stroll the UW Arboretum. Take photos of your favorite flowers at the Allen Centennial Gardens.
16. Sled down Observatory Hill or Bascom Hill on a cafeteria tray.
17. Buy the latest Red Shirt (the Alumni Association has alum vote on a new design each year) to go with a pair of red and white striped bib overalls. Now that's the definitive "Badger pride" fashion statement.
18. Get up early on Saturday and head to the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square for hot-and-spicy cheese bread.
19. Participate in a mass snowball fight on Bascom Hill. Choose your side by dorm affiliation, either Lakeshore or Southeast.

20. Show you have a cultured side too with a visit to the Chazen Museum of Art, Wisconsin Film Festival, Madison World Music Festival, and Line Breaks Festival. Or show off your talent at Just Bust!, Madison's longest running open mic.
21. Attend the Wisconsin Annual Spring Powwow, a student-run event begun nearly 50 years ago that creates ties between the University and all 12 tribal nations in the state, and be enthralled by the drumming and dance.
22. Indulge in a Babcock ice cream, with bonus points if you visit the Dairy Cattle Center on campus to view milking.
23. Grab lunch at one of the food carts on Library Mall.
24. Learn the words to "On, Wisconsin!", the fight song of the Wisconsin Badgers. Did you know: "On, Wisconsin!" was the cry Arthur MacArthur, Jr. used in the Battle of Chattanooga at Missionary Ridge in the Civil War. One more Did You Know: "On, Wisconsin!" was the work of two Chicago roommates and originally intended for entry in a contest offering a \$100 prize for a new University of Minnesota football song. One roommate had attended UW from 1908 to 1909 and convinced the other roommate to abandon the plan and instead rework the music and lyrics for Wisconsin. The irony is not lost on alumni, given the Badgers and Gophers have faced off on the field every year since 1890, making it the most played rivalry in all of college football.
25. Live the Wisconsin Idea in your own life.

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Carbine, Director, Alumni Park, [mary.carbine@supportuw.org](mailto:mary.carbine@supportuw.org), 608-308-5142  
Tod Pritchard, Media Relations, [tod.pritchard@supportuw.org](mailto:tod.pritchard@supportuw.org), 608-609-5217, @WisAlumni