The university traces its roots to a clause in the Wisconsin Constitution, which decreed that the state should have a prominent public university. In 1848, Nelson Dewey, Wisconsin’s first governor, signed the act that formally created the university, and its first class, with 17 students, met in a Madison school building on February 5, 1849.
1849

UW-Madison Campus Map 1849

John Hiram Lathrop
Chancellor
1849-1858
This quote was included in a report by the Board of Regents on Sept. 18, 1894, in response to accusations by a board member that Richard Ely, head of the UW’s School of Economics, was a socialist and teaching utopian, impractical, or pernicious doctrines. After an investigation, Ely was declared innocent. In the statement, the Board of Regents introduced the concept of academic freedom by stating that the university should never censor or limit its members’ quest for knowledge. The following quote is now on a plaque in Bascom Hall. The class of 1910 dedicated the plaque to the UW.
The Wisconsin Idea is our pledge to the state, the nation, and the world that our endeavors will benefit all citizens.

FORWARD 2019

Rebecca Blank Chancellor 2013 to present
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis

A bit about us

we go by ELPA

No. 1 ranked

we are prone to bragging...

but only about the

University, School of Education, Department, ELPA students, and the city of Madison....but that’s about it...
Mark Your Calendar

July 8
Enrollment Opens
https://registrar.wisc.edu/

August 28
Graduate School Welcome

August 29
29 ELPA Welcome - 4:00-5:00 – Wisconsin Idea Room 159
29 ELPA Social – 5:00-7:30 – Wisconsin Idea Room 159
(food and beverages provided) Families Welcome

September 4
Classes Begin
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Welcome to the ELPA Community

School of Education Building
1000 Bascom Mall