Fact Sheet: 2015

Our 150 staff and faculty provide leadership, administrative oversight, program development, and marketing support for UW–Madison’s noncredit offerings. In addition, we teach and direct hundreds of programs and courses that address the professional development and personal enrichment needs of face-to-face and online learners. Continuing Studies also advises and admits people enrolled in certain credit or capstone programs, as well as adults pursuing undergraduate degrees.

Liberal Arts and Applied Studies
Arts and humanities, behavioral health, workplace skills, and distance education training

- 461 personal enrichment programs—8,122 enrollments
- 216 professional development programs—6,652 enrollments

Highlights:
- The Distance Teaching & Learning Conference brings together experts and practitioners in online learning to share resources, research, and best practices; nearly 850 people attended the 2015 event.
- From aging to addiction to life coaching, practitioners and state agencies count on in-depth training, outstanding quality, and expert instruction through 100 behavioral health courses offered each year.
- The Writers’ Institute is the Midwest’s premier conference for established and new writers of fiction and nonfiction; three days of education and entertainment inspired more than 350 participants.
- Created in 2003, the UW-Odyssey project empowers 30 low-income adults each year through access to a challenging humanities class. Students receive free tuition, textbooks, childcare, and a weekly dinner—they earn six credits from UW-Madison and often build the confidence to transform their lives.

Adult Career and Special Student Services
Admissions, advising, and career exploration

University Special Students: visiting or nondegree
- 4,300 applications processed annually
- 5,200 total enrollments (includes multiple-term students)
- 700 students attended orientation sessions

Highlights:
- The Visiting International Student Program (VISP) welcomed 540 college students from around the globe in 2015. Continuing Studies launched VISP in 2012 to admit students from abroad for short-term study at UW-Madison, as well as to extend our global connections.
- The Capstone Certificate Program reached a record 342 students enrolling in 18 post-baccalaureate certificates. This is a significant growth from 10 certificates and 70 students in 2012.
- Career counselors helped 1,400 adults assess their career development through individual sessions, career planning programs, career transition workshops, and a weekly job search support group.

Educational Innovation Program Development
Enriched learning experiences and inventive approaches

- 13,000 Summer Term enrollments
- 46 online/accessible post-baccalaureate programs with 1,700 enrollments

Highlights:
- In 2013-14, four pilot Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) engaged 135,600 participants from around the world. Building on that momentum, six new MOOCs launched in 2015-16 covering Shakespeare’s dramas and the digital humanities, energy, Aldo Leopold’s land ethic, and climate change, policy, and public health.
- A new website—advanceyourcareer.wisc.edu—presents the 46 online, hybrid, accelerated, and evening/weekend degrees and certificates currently offered across UW-Madison, with more coming every day. The site also connects nontraditional students to special career services available for them.

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