

Employee Benefits and Resource Fair

October 8, 2026

Schedule

Open Benefits Lab

Hours: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Room: Traditions Room, Second Floor

Hosted by Madison Benefits Services

Have you made your 2027 benefits decisions? Are you ready to make your elections/changes? If you want help with the enrollment process, attend this open lab where UW–Madison Benefits Services staff will be available to assist you and answer your questions. You can immediately confirm your online submissions.

Benefits 2027: What You Need to Know

- 9:15–10:15 a.m.
- 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Room: Marquee Theater, Second Floor

Presented by Madison Benefits Services

Open Enrollment is October 5–30, 2026. Insurance premiums and plan designs change from year to year, and some plans require re-enrollment to continue into 2027. Attend to learn about 2027 plan changes, your benefit election options, and the decisions you need to make by the deadline. In most cases, Benefits Open Enrollment is the only time employees can enroll in or make changes to benefits for the coming year.

Building Your Financial Foundation Workshop: Retirement Basics

9:15–10:15 a.m.

Room: Northwoods, Third Floor

Presented by Frederick Ballenger, Fidelity Investments

With this presentation, you will learn how important it is to save for your future, see the power of saving small amounts over time, and learn about different savings vehicles for retirement.

Navigating Employee Support Services: A Collaborative Overview

10:30–11:30 a.m.

Room: Northwoods, Third Floor

Presented by Courtney Realpozo and Sarah Walters, Employee Disability Resources Office; Jamie Dregne, UW–Madison Benefits Services; and Michelle Discher, Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance

This session provides a high-level overview of accommodations (ADA/PWFA), leave (FMLA/medical), disability benefits, and Worker's Compensation, including how these services may intersect to support employees. Participants will learn when to engage each area and what to expect when navigating these processes.

Libraries at UW–Madison

10:30–11:30 a.m.

Room: Fifth Quarter, Second Floor

Presented by Christopher Perez, UW–Madison Libraries

A crash course on the most popular resources the libraries offer for staff. The presentation will include time for hands-on participation and Q&A.

Your Journey to Retirement

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Room: Fifth Quarter, Second Floor

Presented by Wisconsin Deferred Compensation

Whether you are participating in the State of Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program (WDC) or not, join us to learn about the value and the benefits of saving and investing for your retirement, especially through the WDC. In this session, we will help you understand:

- WDC basics such as enrolling, contribution limits, investment options, and pre-tax vs. Roth contributions
- Risk and asset allocation
- Rollovers into the WDC
- What is included in a Retirement Readiness Review

Talking about Retirement Together: Sharing Resources and Wisdom for Employees at All Stages of Work Life

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Room: Northwoods, Third Floor

Presented by Retirement Issues Committee (RIC) and University Retirement Association (UWRA)

This session invites participants at all stages of their work life to ask questions and share their experiences related to preparing for retirement (and other big transitions). Our goal is to inspire employees to learn more about their options, explore resources, and approach preparing for retirement with curiosity. Participants will learn about contributing to university-sponsored retirement saving options; developing habits that build financial confidence; developing financial, mental, and emotional resilience in times of transition; and using available resources for retirement planning. Participants will also receive a useful collection of resources, created by the UW Retirement Issues Committee, to explore further on their own. This session outlines a process employees can use to initiate and facilitate conversations about preparing for retirement within their own work units. Feedback from those who have attended past sessions indicates that having better conversations about preparing for retirement can contribute to wellbeing and resilience.

Retire with Confidence: Unlocking the Power of Retirement Journey

1:00–2:00 p.m.

Room: Fifth Quarter, Second Floor

Presented by Jeff Begovatz, TIAA

Ready to take charge of your retirement future? Join us for this engaging session where you will discover how TIAA's Retirement Journey Planner can put personalized, on-demand advice right at your fingertips. Whether you are just starting to plan or fine-tuning your strategy, this session will show you how to understand your current financial picture, make more informed decisions, maximize your savings, and build a sustainable retirement income—all with tools designed to adapt as your life changes. You will get a guided, step-by-step tour of the platform, learn how to access it easily through the TIAA website or the TIAA mobile app, and see firsthand how simple it is to turn your retirement strategy into action. As Gandhi once said, "The future depends on what we do in the present," so do not wait to start building the retirement you deserve.

Health Insurance Literacy

1:00–2:00 p.m.

Room: Northwoods, Third Floor

Presented by Caroline Gomez-Tom, Covering Wisconsin

Learn key terms and concepts in health insurance such as deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and provider networks. Then apply your learning to real-life scenarios to understand how different health insurance plans affect your health care expenses.

Covering Wisconsin is a free program of Extension that helps Wisconsin residents navigate Medicaid programs and HealthCare.gov (the Health Insurance Marketplace). The program promotes health insurance literacy throughout Wisconsin.

Resource Booths

- AFSCME Local 171
- Campus Supervisors Network
- Community Partnership and Outreach Staff Network
- Commute with Enterprise
- Covering Wisconsin
- Cultural Linguistic Services
- Dean Health Plan
- Delta Dental of Wisconsin
- DesignLab
- Division of Continuing Studies
- Edvest 529
- Employee Assistance Office
- Employee Career Counseling Program
- Employee Disability Resources Office
- Event Producers Group
- Fidelity Investments
- Group Health Cooperative of South Central WI
- HealthChoice
- HR Communities of Practice
- IT Connects
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve
- Learning and Talent Development
- LifeMatters by Empathia
- Madison Academic Staff Network
- Madison Benefits Services, Office of Human Resources
- Navitus Health Solutions
- Office of Child Care and Family Resources
- Office of Cybersecurity
- Office of Sustainability
- Office of the Secretary of the Academic Staff
- Project Manager Community of Practice
- Quartz
- Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion Team (UHS Prevention & Campus Health Initiatives)
- Superior Vision by MetLife
- TASC
- TIAA

- Transportation Services
- United Faculty and Academic Staff
- UW–Madison Libraries
- UW–Madison Police Department (UWPD)
- UW–Madison Retirement Association
- Well Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program
- Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF)
- Wisconsin Union
- Zurich North America

Questions?

Learn more at benefits.wisc.edu/2027.



Scan here for details.

If you have questions about employee benefits, email benefits@ohr.wisc.edu.