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Welcome to UW Independent Learning

University of Wisconsin Independent Learning offers a more convenient way for you to meet your goals through a large catalog of online and distance learning courses.

The Courses You’ve Been Looking For. Where and When You Need Them.

At University of Wisconsin Independent Learning, we’re focused on you. Our distance learning courses are available whenever and wherever you need them. So no matter where you are in life—high school, college, your first job, retirement—you can receive a high-quality UW education.

What began as a correspondence study program in the 1890s has evolved to meet the needs of today’s learners by offering both print and online college-level courses developed and taught by UW faculty. UW Independent Learning brings the Wisconsin Idea to life by expanding education and lifelong learning opportunities beyond the boundaries of a classroom.

Whether you want to get an early start on college coursework, earn the final credits you need to graduate college, or gain professional or personal enrichment, UW Independent Learning offers courses that are:

- Distance learning: All of our courses can be completed from anywhere, and most are offered fully online. You can complete coursework without ever traveling to a campus.
- Accessible: Our program does not require an application and does not limit enrollments. If you meet the prerequisites for a course, you’re guaranteed a spot.
- Convenient: Courses are always open, allowing students to enroll any day of the year. Your first day of class is the day you register, so there’s no waiting for a new semester to start.
- Self-paced: You’re in charge of your own progress and pace. You set your own deadlines and have six months to complete your course, with options to extend up to a full year if you need more time.
- Transferable: With a transcript issued by UW Extension, our courses transfer to all 26 UW System campuses and many other colleges and universities around the country.

With an ever-growing catalog of over 70 courses, you’ll find an option that meets your needs—whether it’s a general education requirement, a professional development course, or simply a topic that interests you.