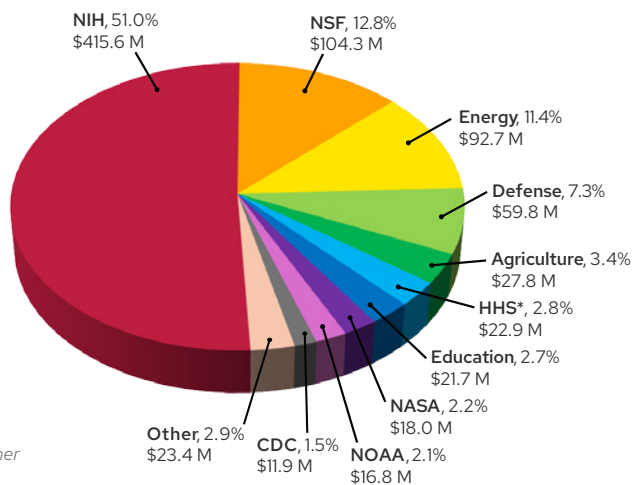


Research and Innovation at UW–Madison



The University of Wisconsin–Madison is a research powerhouse with annual expenditures exceeding \$1.93 billion, a figure that ranks among the top 5 universities in the nation for research volume. From education to entrepreneurship, research touches every part of the UW–Madison experience. We turn our discoveries into commercial opportunities that directly benefit industries across the entire state of Wisconsin and help solve some of the biggest challenges at home and around the globe.

2024-25 Federal Research Awards



16th greatest source of U.S. patents from a survey of the world's top universities, **12th** among U.S. universities

128 patents issued in FY 2024 to the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation for UW inventions and **363** disclosures

Federal investment in research is crucial for national economic growth, technological advancement, and public well-being. It drives innovation, supports a skilled workforce, and addresses critical challenges in areas like health care, energy, and national security.

\$1.93 B

invested in research annually

5th

in nation for research expenditures

7th

in nation for science & engineering research expenditures

20

Nobel Prizes by faculty & alumni

400+

startups formed from UW–Madison research

160+

Master's and specialist programs, **100+** doctoral programs, and more than **11,000** graduate and clinical doctoral students

750+

PhD degrees awarded annually

Office of Federal Relations, University of Wisconsin–Madison

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WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

FEBRUARY 2026

Federally Funded Research at UW–Madison

NIH: UW–Madison is leading a nationwide research initiative to investigate the neurobiology of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. The five-year study, **Clarity in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Research Through Imaging (CLARiTI)**, will provide state-of-the-art imaging and blood-based biomarkers for researchers around the world to study and advance the field of Alzheimer’s and related dementias, which affect seven million Americans and their loved ones.

NSF: The **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** is the first detector of its kind, designed to observe the cosmos from deep within the South Pole ice. Encompassing a cubic kilometer of ice, IceCube searches for nearly massless subatomic particles called neutrinos. These high-energy astronomical messengers provide information to probe the most violent astrophysical sources: events like exploding stars, gamma-ray bursts, and cataclysmic phenomena involving black holes and neutron stars.

DOE: UW–Madison researchers are uncovering the behavior of plant enzymes to inform the production of easily extractable, energy-rich aromatics. Based at UW–Madison’s Wisconsin Energy Institute in collaboration with Michigan State University and other partners, the **Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC)** brings together biologists, chemists, engineers and economists to continue work on converting non-food plants into vital materials including polyester, nylon, lubricants and plastics.

DoD: Based in the UW–Madison Department of Mechanical Engineering, the **PANTHER** program spans academia, industry and federal agencies to pursue new strategies

for preventing and better detecting concussions and other traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). **PANTHER** research, funded through the U.S. Office of Naval Research in the Department of Defense, has already led to better, more comprehensive brain injury diagnosis. It has also produced a lightweight, ultra-shock-absorbing foam made from carbon nanotubes for helmets that will better protect athletes and military personnel from strong blows. Ongoing projects include improving the ballistic performance of helmets for the military.

USDA: The **Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA)**, a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, develops and administers programs providing technical assistance and grants to dairy farms and businesses across the Midwest. From increasing on-farm diversification to creating specialty cheeses and other value-added dairy products to advancing export opportunities and practices, DBIA supports research and activities that improve profitability for dairy farmers and processors.

NASA: **Polar Radiant Energy in the Far InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE)**, a collaborative research project led by the UW–Madison Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS), is using satellites to gather far-infrared (FIR) data from the Arctic and Antarctic to fill major gaps in knowledge of the role of FIR radiation in Arctic warming, sea ice loss, ice sheet melt, and sea level rise. More accurate predictions of sea level changes will reduce uncertainty and inform key policy decisions. **PREFIRE** launched satellites that began collecting data in July 2024.

NOAA: The **Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS)** has advanced weather and climate research since 1980. CIMSS’s end-to-end support of meteorological satellite applications improves forecasts and trend analyses while training future scientists. CIMSS also maintains strategic alliances with the National Weather Service, domestic and international universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry, and other stakeholders.

ED: The **Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Quality Employment (VRTAC-QE)**, housed within the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education, aims to increase the knowledge and skills of state vocational rehabilitation agencies and community partners that help people with disabilities achieve quality employment and career advancement. In addition to providing a central hub for training and technical assistance, VRTAC-QE researchers conduct multi-level, comprehensive review studies to identify and disseminate best practices leading to quality employment for individuals with disabilities.

CDC: The **Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease (MCE-VBD)** is a regional organization centered at UW–Madison that addresses issues of critical importance to management of vector-borne disease. It tests and improves new products and methods of mosquito and tick management and bite prevention, trains medical and public health entomologists, and strengthens ties between academic scientists, public health organizations, mosquito control operations, and private pest control service providers.

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