SNAPSHOT

DEPARTMENT OF

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Top things to know

Working closely with industry partners, as well as graduate students and faculty mentors in research laboratories, our undergraduate students gain hands-on experience working on scientific and engineering projects that impact societal needs and prepare them to become leaders in materials science and engineering.

Our faculty are recognized leaders in the field. Two are members of the National Academy of Engineering, four are fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and 10 have earned national young investigator awards.

Our graduate students have received numerous internal and external fellowships, including those through the U.S. Department of Energy Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP); the U.S. Department of Defense Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART); the National Science Foundation, Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellows, and College of Engineering Graduate Engineering Research Scholars, among others.

National public ranking

U.S. News and World Report

#8
Undergraduate

#8
Graduate

Student enrollment

Fall 2026

102
Undergraduate

89
Graduate

Degrees conferred

2025-2026

30
Undergraduate

33
Graduate

Undergraduate outcomes

Approximate per year

$75K+
Median starting salary

95%
Placement

Department of Materials Science and Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Explore more about the department

Accomplished faculty

10

Federal Young Investigator Awards

4

American Association for the Advancement of Science fellows

21

Tenured or tenure-track faculty

2

National Academy of Engineering members

Degrees offered

Undergraduate

- BS, Materials Science and Engineering

Graduate

- MS, Materials Science and Engineering
- MS, Materials Engineering
- PhD, Materials Science and Engineering

Department chair



Xudong Wang
Thomas and Suzanne Werner Engineering Chair
Professor and Department Chair
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Research

$9M+

Research funding
Total value of research expenditures in FY 2025

Areas of research

- Electronic and quantum materials
- Computational materials and materials informatics
- Soft and hybrid materials
- Materials for extreme environments and advanced manufacturing

Research facilities

- Biological and Biomaterials Preparation, Imaging and Characterization Laboratory
- Materials Research Science and Engineering Center
- Wisconsin Centers for Nanotechnology
- Wisconsin Center for Applied Microelectronics
- Wisconsin Applied Computing Center