

Unemployment Benefits: Frequently Asked Questions

Unemployment Benefits during Furlough

Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

Information on eligibility can be found in the [Handbook for Claimants](#) from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). For additional information regarding Unemployment and COVID-19, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui.htm. See the list of [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#) for other helpful information.

Can furloughed UW employees apply for unemployment benefits?

Yes. Anyone can apply for unemployment benefits. For more information on applying for unemployment and eligibility, please visit dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/. See the list of [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#) for other helpful information.

If I work part time, can I apply for unemployment?

Yes. Anyone can apply for unemployment benefits. For more information on applying for unemployment and eligibility, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/. See the list of [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#) for other helpful information.

My hours have been reduced. Can I apply for unemployment even though I still have a job?

Wisconsin unemployment benefits are available to individuals partially unemployed due to reduced hours. For more information on applying for unemployment and eligibility, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/. See the list of [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#) for other helpful information.

Will I be eligible for unemployment benefits under Campus-wide, Intermittent Furloughs?

No. Employees who are subject to Campus-wide, Intermittent Furloughs are most likely not eligible for unemployment benefits.

If I am under a Work-Share program or Position-Specific Furlough, will I be able to apply for unemployment benefits?

Employees who are under a Work-Share program or Position-Specific Furloughs will be able to apply for unemployment benefits to replace lost wages. With the recent increased federal funding, many employees in this situation who have lower incomes could receive supplemental unemployment benefits equal to current wages until the end of July.

Where can I find more information about Wisconsin unemployment benefits?

Information can be found on the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) website at dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/ and in the Handbook for Claimants at dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/handbook/. For

additional information regarding Unemployment and COVID-19, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui.htm.

How do I apply for unemployment benefits?

Applications are filed directly with the DWD at dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/. See the list of [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#) for helpful information and videos on how to apply.

How much will I receive in unemployment benefits?

For information on how your weekly benefit is calculated, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/handbook/english/contentspart5.htm

In addition to the weekly benefits shown in these calculations, most workers will receive a temporary emergency increase of \$600 per week in unemployment benefits as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This increase expires at the end of July 2020. For more information, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/fpuc/.

Have unemployment benefits been expanded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes, for most workers. As a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act, most workers may receive additional unemployment benefits. That increased benefit expires at the end of July 2020. To learn more about how the CARES Act impacts unemployment, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/caresact/.

What is Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)?

FPUC is a temporary emergency increase of \$600 per week in unemployment benefits. This increase expires at the end of July 2020. FPUC provides an additional payment to most individuals who are collecting benefits. No separate application is required to receive this additional benefit; it is provided automatically to those who qualify. For more information, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/fpuc/.

Are unemployment payments and payments from federal CARES Act programs subject to income taxes?

Yes. All unemployment benefits you receive are considered income for federal and state tax purposes. You can request to have state and federal taxes withheld from your unemployment payments. For more information, please refer to dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/withholding.htm and contact your tax advisor.

What is UW–Madison’s role in the application process for unemployment benefits?

Unemployment insurance/compensation claims are processed by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). UW–Madison’s role is to answer the DWD’s request for information in a timely and factual manner.

Where should I direct questions about unemployment benefits?

Unemployment benefits are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) at dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/. You will find answers to many questions in the [DWD Unemployment Benefits Resources](#).

If you are unable to go online, you can call the Department of Workforce Development at (414) 435-7069 or toll-free at (844) 910-3661 during business hours, Monday through Friday. 7:35 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The DWD reports that they are experiencing an unprecedented call volume to their unemployment phone lines, so you should expect delays in reaching them.

The easiest way to contact the DWD is to send an email using the contact form at dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwdsendmail/mailtodwd.aspx. You can use your wisc.edu email account when contacting the DWD by email.

UW–Madison can provide guidance on the process for requesting unemployment benefits. Contact the Office of Human Resources at (608) 265-2257 or furlough@ohr.wisc.edu.

For interpretation and translation services from UW–Madison, please call Cultural Linguistic Services:

ESPAÑOL / SPANISH: (608) 265-0838; HMOOB / HMONG: (608) 263-2217

བོད་ཡིག / TIBETAN: (608) 890-2545; 中文 / CHINESE: (608) 890-2628; नेपाली / NEPALI: (608) 262-7521

Is sign language interpretation available from the Department of Workforce Development?

Yes. If you need special accommodations, please indicate this on your application for unemployment benefits. A sign language interpreter will be provided at no cost, and sign language will be provided in your native language.

Is language assistance available?

Yes. The Department of Workforce Development will provide a language interpreter at no cost for non-native English speakers. Unemployment and COVID-19 information is provided in Spanish at dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui-s.htm. Unemployment and COVID-19 information is provided in Hmong at dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui-h.htm. Directions are provided in language blocks at dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/applylb.htm.

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Unemployment Benefits: Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Resources

DWD Unemployment Website: dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/

Handbook for Claimants: dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/handbook/

How to Apply for Unemployment Benefits

Apply for Benefits Online (How to)

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/apply/

How to Apply for Benefits (6-minute video)

media.wisconsin.gov/ui/ext/benefits/how_to_apply.htm

Online Benefit Services Logon Frequently Asked Questions

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/faqs/logon.htm

How to Create a User Name and Password (2½-minute video)

media.wisconsin.gov/ui/ext/benefits/username_creation.htm

Information You Need to Apply (information and documents to have ready)

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/information-needed.htm

COVID-19 and Unemployment

Unemployment COVID-19 Public Information

dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui.htm

COVID-19 Coronavirus and Wisconsin Unemployment Benefits, Which Unemployment Program is for You? dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/ui/pua-18786-p.pdf

CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) and Unemployment Benefits

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/caresact/

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/fpuc/

How Weekly Benefits are Calculated

dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/handbook/english/contentspart5.htm

Helpful Tips and Information

Top 10 Things You Should Know When Filing Your Claim

dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/ui/ucb-17144-p.pdf

Unemployment Benefits: How to Apply and Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/ui/ucb_15533_p.pdf

Spanish

Unemployment Benefits: How to Apply and Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/ui/ucb_15533_s_p.pdf

Hmong

Unemployment Benefits: How to Apply and Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/ui/ucb_15533_h_p.pdf