



CROWE white paper series “The Economics of UW-Madison” – Fourth paper addresses “Administrative Intensity at UW-Madison”

MADISON, Wisconsin, April 26, 2024 – The Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE) is delighted to present the fourth paper of a multi-part white paper series “[The Economics of UW-Madison](#).” The issue of administrative costs in higher education has been at the forefront of many debates concerning the efficiency of allocation of resources within higher education.

“We are pleased to present measures of administrative intensity for UW-Madison and comparisons with peer institutions in the paper “[Administrative Intensity at UW-Madison](#),” says CROWE co-director Ananth Seshadri, who also holds the Mary Sue and Mike Shannon Distinguished Chair at UW-Madison’s Department of Economics.

The first measure is administrative spending per undergraduate and second is the ratio of non-instructional to instructional staff. Under the first measure, UW-Madison is near the median of its peers. But when using the second measure, UW-Madison is above the median of its peers. This ranking persists even if we were to remove non-administrative positions (e.g., researchers) from non-instructional staff. The analysis suggests that the growth in instructional staff at UW-Madison has not kept pace with the growth in undergraduate enrollment in the last ten years.

About CROWE

The Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE) was established in 2017 within the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. CROWE's mission is to support and disseminate economic policy research from a market perspective, with a particular focus on the Wisconsin economy and state-level economic policy issues. CROWE is an integral part of both the campus and the broader business and policy community in the state. The work at CROWE spans three main areas: research, student engagement, and public outreach.

For more information on CROWE, visit crowe.wisc.edu

For questions on the report, email Ananth Seshadri ananth.seshadri@wisc.edu

To download the report, visit crowe.wisc.edu/2024/04/26/administrative-intensity-at-uw-madison/

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