

Pre med student begins bachelor's degree studies at UW Fond du Lac



Megan Wetherbee enjoys UW-Madison status at UW-Fond du Lac, where she's collaborating on research that may lead to a publishable paper.

A positive experience on student council at Horace Mann High School in North Fond du Lac cemented Megan Wetherbee's interest in contributing to student life on the [University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac](#) [1] campus. She specifically enjoyed participating through the Student Activities Committee, which she now leads.

"I like that you plan activities that are fun, and my creative side gets use," says Megan, a biology/pre-med major. "You get to see the participation, and make campus more welcoming."

While she applied to UW-Madison and was accepted there, Megan chose to complete her first two years of college close to home in Fond du Lac. She is part of an elite Wisconsin-resident student group known as Madison Connections, which provides the opportunity to begin bachelor's degree studies at a partner institution and finish at UW-Madison, while holding distinctive UW-Madison status the entire time.

Campus size and faculty connection also provided Megan with a collaborative research opportunity unusual at this level of education. She worked with biology Professor David Demezas to investigate the invasive properties of garlic mustard.

Their research began with a simple conversation.

"I needed to do research for med school, and went to talk with him," recalls Megan, who links her long-time desire to become a pediatrician to her childhood relationship with a cousin with cystic fibrosis. She left the professor's office with an invitation to work on his project. Megan collaborated with her professor her entire time at UW-Fond du Lac and has hopes the duo will be able to finish the research, write about it and submit a paper.

"I was a shy person, so leadership roles helped fix that," Megan says of her UW-Fond du Lac campus service. "It's been great. I've been able to take the classes I need. The professors help and are there for you. It's smaller and easier to get around; it's been beneficial."

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