



Memo of Understanding to Transfer Resources from the College of Letters & Sciences to Create TBD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries, economies, and daily life at an unprecedented pace. As one of the world's leading research institutions, the University of Wisconsin–Madison must seize this moment to build on its strength in computer, data, and information sciences. UW-Madison has continued to evolve in this space and needs to continue to position the institution as a national leader, fostering cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and workforce development. Building on the successes of creating a School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences in the College of Letters & Science, including a new building being opened this summer, a 2023 working group of experts in a field advised formalizing CDIS and seeking approval to create a **TBD**. The initial organization will rely heavily on the transfer of resources from the College of Letters and Science.

What follows is a memo of understanding that lays out at a high level what elements of the College of Letters & Science will be a part of a reorganization of existing units to form the **TBD**. The purpose of this is to provide an outline of the resources that will be a part of **TBD** and to express the commitment of the faculty and staff of L&S and **TBD** to work together to make the new division a reality.

Upon approval by the Board of Regents to restructure existing units in the College of Letters & Science to form **TBD**, the following assets will be moved to the new academic division. This memo does not detail the processes for moving assets to the new division, the transfer of these assets will follow established UW-Madison policies and procedures.

The units from L&S that will form the foundation of the new college are:

- Department of Computer Sciences
- Information School
- Department of Statistics
- Computer, Data and Information Sciences administrative unit

These departments are comprised of faculty and staff, academic programs and courses, research programs, centers and institutes. Below includes information to understand the size and scope of what will move out of Letters & Science and into TBD. The appendix provides additional data regarding what would move and the impact on L&S.



General Program Operations Budget (FY26)

Computer Sciences	\$21,000,000
Information School	\$4,500,000
Statistics	\$9,000,000
CDIS Administration	\$2,000,000
ART Staff:	\$400,000
TOTAL:	\$36,500,000

Academics

- 4 bachelor’s degree programs
- 3 undergraduate certificates
- 6 master’s degree programs
- 3 research doctorate programs
- 3 doctoral minors
- 3 capstone certificates

There are 293 active courses in three subject listings that are a part of the departments that will move to TBD.

- Computer Sciences (COMP SCI)
- Library and Information Studies (L I S)
- Statistics (STAT)

Human Resources

October 2024	Computer Sciences	Information School	Statistics	CDIS Administration¹	TBD Total
FTE	304.5	69.9	102.6	4.0	481.0
Annual Payroll	\$27,400,000	\$5,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$411,000	\$43,011,000
Headcount	478	109	153	4	744

¹CDIS Administration does not include 3.0 staff from the L&S ART group that are noted above as will be included in the move to TBD.

There are 9 people who have a split appointment with a unit outside of those that will be a part of TBD.



Research

2023-2024	Computer Science	Information School	Statistics	TBD Total	L&S Total
Federal Awards	\$16,072,449	\$1,478,866	\$786,491	\$18,337,806	\$145,109,011
Non-Federal Awards	\$6,313,762	\$452,899	\$224,879	\$6,991,540	\$63,768,114

Research Groups

- Collaborative Computing
- Computer Architecture
- Computer Vision
- Data Science @ UW
- Data Science in Computer Sciences
- Data Science in Statistics
- Database Systems
- Ethics, Values and Information Lab
- Graphics/Visual Computing
- Human Computer Interaction
- Machine Learning
- Optimization
- People and Robots
- Programming Languages and Software Engineering
- Robotics
- Security and Privacy
- Statistical Inference and Applications
- Systems
- Theory
- Wisconsin Advanced Internet Laboratory (WAIL)
- Wisconsin Internet & Systems Research (WISR) Group
- Wisconsin Wireless and NetworkinG Systems (WiNGS) Laboratory

Centers and Institutes

- American Family Insurance Data Science Institute
- Center for High Throughput Computing
- Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture
- Institution for Foundations of Data Science
- N+1 Institute
- Technology Entrepreneurship Office



Collaboration to Seek Support

Part of the process of submitting a proposal to the Board of Regents is a requirement to consult with governance and other bodies within the university that have an interest in the restructuring and creation of TBD. Representatives of L&S and TBD will request time on the agendas of the following to provide information about the plan for creating TBD and to solicit support.

Chancellor and Provost
Dean's Council (10 September 2025)
University Committee (22 September 2025)
Academic Staff Executive Committee
University Academic Planning Council (16 October 2025)
Faculty Senate (6 October 2025)
Board of Regents Education Committee (4 December 2025)

Timeline for Transfer to TBD

Upon approval by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents to restructure existing units to create a new academic division, representatives from L&S, CDIS and central campus administration will meet to discuss the necessary steps and timeline for transitioning the elements listed above from L&S to the new division. The implementation will begin in fiscal year 2027 (beginning July 1, 2026).

Actions include, although are not limited to:

- Approval by Faculty Senate of the new division as a tenure home (“transfer” tenure from existing departments to new division/departments)
- Creation of administrative positions and units.
- Movement of faculty and staff to new division and academic departments.
- Transfer of budget to new division.
- Transfer of academic programs and courses.

The process for transferring academic programs to the new division will take multiple years. In the meantime, the new division and L&S will develop a written agreement about tuition allocation given that the existing academic programs will be part of L&S and will need to utilize L&S services (dean's services, DARS, career services, etc.) and the faculty and staff who will administer the programs (advising, course scheduling etc.) will be in the new division. The agreement should also outline a joint governance relationship. The expectation would be that minimal changes would be made to existing courses and programs during the transition and there will be routine updates that are needed as a part of the annual Guide publication cycle.



Appendix A FY26 Budget

General Program Operations (101)	\$ 36,542,633
General Program Operations Extension (104)	106,753
Tuition and Fees (131/132)	8,706,283
General Operations Receipts (136)	441,693
Federal Indirect Cost Reimbursement (150)	3,299,548
Grants (133/144)	26,481,600
Gifts (135/161/233)	<u>7,190,039</u>
Sub-total Estimated Budget for Existing Operations	82,768,549
New Funding Requirements	<u>2,376,421</u>
Total Estimated CDIS Budget	<u>\$ 85,144,970</u>

Appendix B Academics

List of academic programs

Undergraduate

- Computer Sciences, BA and BS (BA/BS/MAJ 229)
- Information Science, BA and BS (BA/BS/MAJ 572)
- Data Science, BA and BS (BA/BS/MAJ 252)
- Statistics, BA and BS (BA/BS/MAJ 949)

- Certificate in Computer Sciences (CERT/SCRT229)
- Certificate in Data Science (CERT252)
- Certificate in Statistics (CERT949)

Graduate

- Computer Sciences, MS (MS 229L&S)
 - Computer Sciences (229MSCMPSC)
 - Professional Program (PROF PROG)
- Data Engineering, MS (MS 246L&S)
- Library and Information Studies, MA (MA 612L&S)
 - Campus Program (CAMPUS)
 - Online Program (DISTANCE)
- Information, MS (MS 572L&S)
 - Campus Program (572MSCAMPR)
 - Online Program (572MSONLNE)
 - Research (572MSRSRCH)



Data Science, MS (MS 252L&S)
 Statistics, MS (MS 949L&S)
 Applied Statistics (949MSAPPST)
 Statistics (949MSSTAT)
 Biostatistics (BIO)
 Statistics and Data Science (DS949MS)

Computer Sciences (PHD 229L&S)
 Statistics (PHD 949L&S)
 Statistics (949PHDSTAT)
 Biostatistics (BIO)
 Information (PHD 572L&S)

Statistics (GMIN948)
 Computer Sciences (GMIN229)
 Print Culture History (GMIN830)

Capstone Certificate in Computer Sciences for Professionals (UNCS214)
 Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision Making (UNCS300)
 Capstone Certificate in User Experience Design (UNCS980)

Credits follow the instructor (CFI) 2024-2025

2024-2025	Computer Sciences	Information School	Statistics	TBD Total	L&S Total
Credits	65,095	17,641	27,796	110,533	706,549 (15.6%)

Awards

2023-2024	Computer Sciences	Information School	Statistics	TBD Total	L&S Total
Bachelor's degree	775	32	447	1254	5,263
Certificates	204	10	233	447	2,351
Clinical Doctorate					11
Master's	142	129	81	352	1,019
Research Doctorate	29	1	9	39	356



Appendix C Human Resources

FTE by Job Group October 2024

Job Group	FTE
Academic Services & Student Experience	28.8
Administration	12.2
Advancement	0.5
Communications and Marketing	5.0
Faculty	87.8
Financial	6.0
Human Resources	4.0
Information Technology	21.2
Instructional Category	2.4
Libraries, Archives, & Museums	3.9
Post Degree Training	6.4
Research	19.1
Sponsored Programs, Grants & Contracts	4.6
Student Assistant	228.4
Teaching and Learning	50.7
TOTAL	481.0