

THE ODYSSEY PROJECT

WHAT IS THE ODYSSEY PROJECT?

If you face economic barriers, the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Odyssey Project can provide you with a chance to start college. A team of UW–Madison faculty will lead you in lively discussions of great works of literature, American history, philosophy, art history, and music. Classes will also help you improve your skills in writing and critical thinking. The project director is Emily Auerbach, professor of English and recipient of numerous teaching, arts, and broadcasting awards. Many guest faculty and artists also join the class.

The program provides a variety of support services. You will receive individual help in writing, counseling on the process of applying to college, and guidance on financial aid.

Participants in the program are enrolled as University Special Students at UW–Madison. This status is not the same as regular undergraduate admission to the university, but it does carry many of the same benefits, such as library access, bus passes, etc. If you successfully complete the September-to-May program, you will receive six college credits.

Tuition for the program is free. Books are provided at no charge. Children and grandchildren of Odyssey Project students may participate in Odyssey Junior, our youth enrichment program for ages 2 to 18, offered at the same time as our class.

WHERE AND WHEN DO CLASSES MEET?

Odyssey Project classes meet at 2238 South Park St. in Madison, from 6 to 8:30pm, each Wednesday. The program runs from September to May, with breaks for holidays. Supper is provided beginning at 5:30pm. Free child care and enrichment activities for children ages 2 to 18 are available.



"I enrolled my three children in Odyssey Junior with the hopes that they would find their voices, like I found mine in Odyssey. My children love this program and count down the days until Wednesday."

— **Nissa Uriostegui**, 2015 Odyssey graduate

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

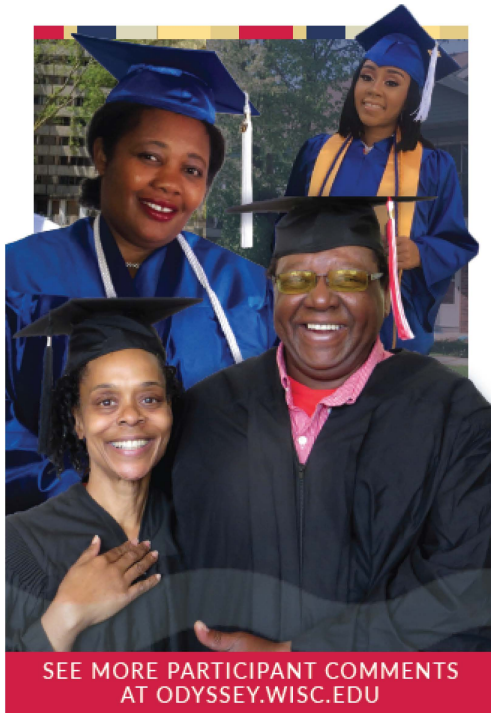
To be eligible to participate, you must:

- be at least 18 years old,
- possess a high school diploma or GED/HSED,
- have demonstrated financial need (income at or near the federal poverty level),
- possess the ability to read challenging books in English, and
- make a commitment to attend classes regularly and complete weekly assignments.

Applications will be reviewed individually to determine if a potential student's needs match the program's goals. If you are considered for the program, you will be invited to attend an interview. You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Enrollment is limited to approximately 30 students each academic year. To find out more about the Odyssey Project, please call Emily Auerbach at 608-262-3733, or email emily.auerbach@wisc.edu.

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SEE MORE PARTICIPANT COMMENTS
AT ODYSSEY.WISC.EDU



WHAT IS THE ODYSSEY DIFFERENCE?

Graduates of the Odyssey Project report...



"As a single father facing financial hardship, I would have given up on finishing my education had it not been for the Odyssey Project. I hope to earn my master's in social work and help empower others."

— **Brian Benford**, 2007 Odyssey graduate, UW–Madison

"The Odyssey Project has taught me to think strong even when I feel weak, and prepare for the worst but also be ready for achievement. It is the trials that we go through in life that make the tribulations worth living through."

— **Dominique Christian**, 2009 Odyssey graduate, UW–Whitewater

"The Odyssey Project is responsible for supporting my capacity to confront my academic endeavors. Odyssey saw me in a different light than I knew myself to be."

— **Mai Neng Thao**, 2016 Odyssey graduate, Madison College



Odyssey Project
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

A JUMPSTART COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES FOR ADULTS
FACING ECONOMIC BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ODYSSEY.WISC.EDU



The Odyssey Project opens your eyes, helps you believe again, and makes you feel dignified and respected. Students gain a voice they can use to change their circumstances and the circumstances of those around them."

— **Corey Saffold**, 2006 Odyssey graduate, Madison police officer, and UW–Whitewater student

ODYSSEY PROJECT APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Please complete this application online at odyssey.wisc.edu/apply or return it to: Emily Auerbach, Odyssey Project Co-Director, 2238 S. Park St., Madison, WI 53713 or leave it at the circulation desk of the Madison Public Library, South Madison Branch.

Address: _____

City: Zip:

Email:

Home phone: _____ Other phone: _____

Is English your first language? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, what is?

I am a: ☐ U.S. citizen ☐ Permanent resident ☐ Other (specify):

Did you graduate from high school? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, year: _____ If no, highest grade completed: _____

Did you earn a HSED or GED? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, year:

Have you attended college before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, where, how many credits did you earn, and why did you stop?

What is your marital status? ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Single ☐ Widowed

Who do you live with: ☐ No one ☐ Parents ☐ Friends ☐ Spouse or companion ☐ Siblings ☐ Other (specify):

Do you work? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, where?

What is your annual **household income** before taxes (everyone who lives with you in the same household)?

What is your annual **family income** before taxes (you, your spouse, and children)?

Which, if any, entitlements (such as SSI, WIC, TANF) do you receive?

Do you have children? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what ages?

Will you need child care to participate in this program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Use the space below, or a separate sheet, to write a thorough statement describing yourself, your interests, and why you want to participate in this program.

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