



Teaching Assistants Association
-
The Union for Graduate Workers
at UW-Madison

Sign our Union Pledge
taa-madison.org/pledge



YES! I pledge to sign a **union card**, indicating my wish for the TAA (UW's graduate labor union; American Federation of Teachers local #3220), to represent me, upon the restoration of collective bargaining rights for graduate workers in Wisconsin.

and

YES! I support the request by the TAA for a regular **"meet and confer"** relationship with the chancellor to discuss working conditions and other labor issues facing UW-Madison grad workers.

Name (First & Last)

Pronouns

Email (preferably *not* @wisc.edu)

Program type:

☐ PhD

☐ MA/MS

☐ other: _____

Program or Department

Fall '25: TA PA RA other:_____ Spring '26: TA PA RA other:_____

Signature

Date

*This is not a union card. Neither this pledge nor the union card itself is the same as **joining the union**. Dues-paying union members contribute to the fight for workers rights at UW-Madison, and can vote in officer elections, decide how we spend our dues, and more. Join at taa-madison.org/join*

☐ I want to talk to my co-workers — sign me up to organize the union!

☐ Send me a link & a reminder to join the union!

☐ Text me with updates! _____

Phone number

Issues I would like UW administration to discuss with grad workers:

☐ Paid family and medical leave

☐ Graduate worker stipends

☐ Bullying/harassment protections

☐ Universal 12-month appointments

☐ Seg fees/international student fees ☐ Other: _____



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What is the Teaching Assistants Association (TAA)?

The TAA is the labor union representing all graduate student workers at UW–Madison (TAs, PAs, RAs, GAs, and Fellows). We are the oldest graduate employee union in the world. Organizing began in 1966 and the first contract with the university was completed in 1970. **Join our fight for grad workers rights by joining the TAA now! →**



What is Act 10?

Anti-union legislation passed under governor Scott Walker, including 2011's Act 10 and 2015's Act 55, have severely restricted bargaining rights for public employees in the state of Wisconsin, including graduate workers. In 2023, we joined a lawsuit to overturn these restrictions, and in 2024, a District Court judge ruled large portions of them unconstitutional. The ruling is stayed pending appeals, but the end of Act 10 and the restoration of full bargaining rights for public sector employees across Wisconsin, including graduate workers at UW Madison, is a very real possibility.

If and when our bargaining rights are restored, graduate students will be able to compel UW admin to meet with us and develop a collective bargaining agreement governing our rights and benefits as workers.

What is “meet and confer”?

“Meet and confer” is a legal term for regular negotiating meeting between the union and the UW-Madison administration. These meetings are legal under Wisconsin law, and would give the union an opportunity to bring and discuss demands. The TAA previously has had a meet and confer relationship with the administration post-Act 10.

Why do we need Meet and Confer?

The UW system faces a dire fiscal reality. In spite of the state's record surplus of \$4 billion, the system is seeing furloughs, layoffs, and program cuts. Our union needs a voice in how resources are allocated on campus, especially when those decisions impact our working conditions.

What about Shared Governance/ASM?

Shared governance and ASM play an important role in curricular matters, student rights and services, and other academic issues. However, our union is the only organization singularly devoted to advancing the needs of graduate students as workers on campus. If shared governance actually protected grad workers, then we would already have paid family/medical leave, fee remission, and a living wage. But we don't. **In 2024, both ASM and Governor Evers have endorsed our call for Meet and Confer.**

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