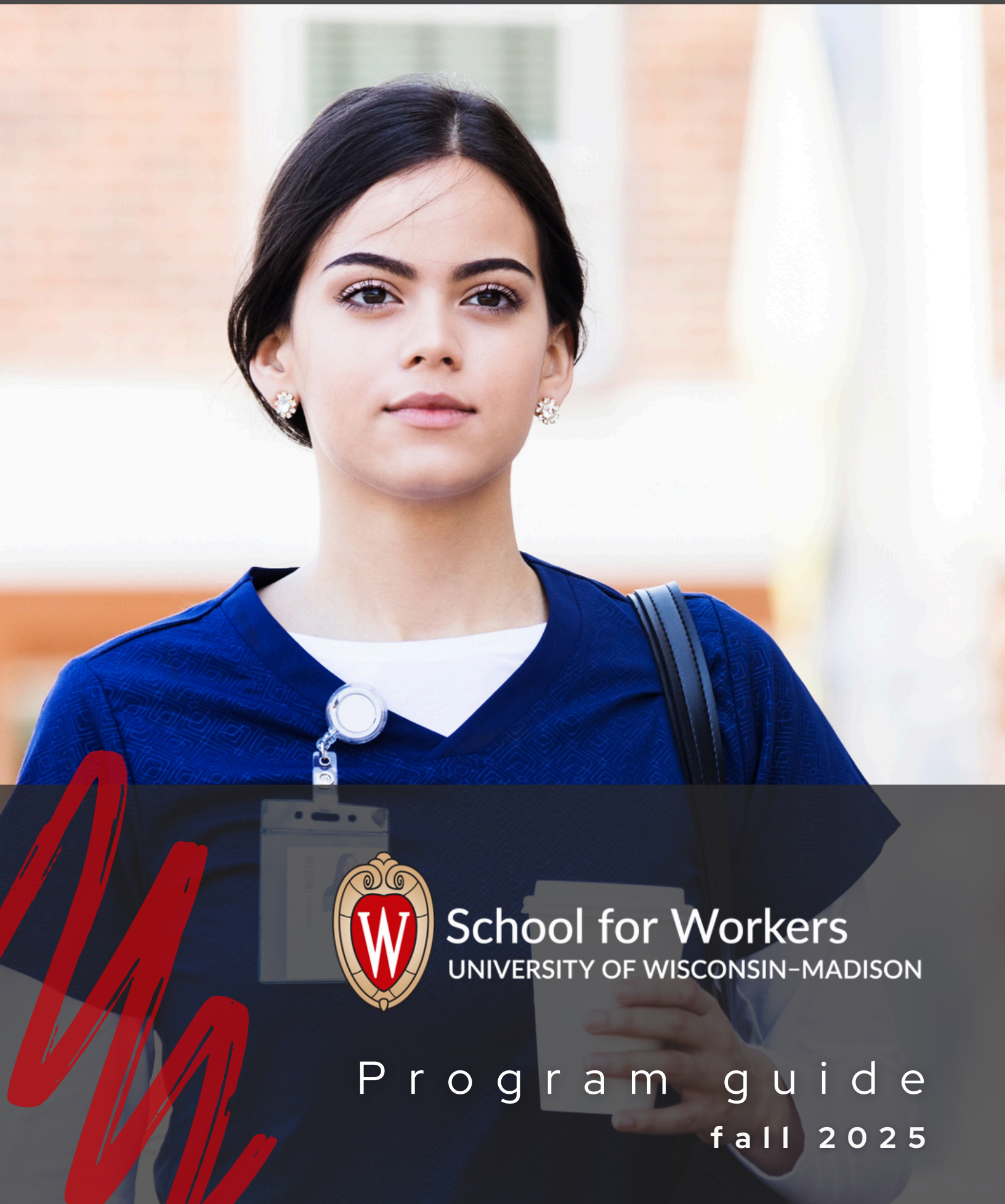


education for workplace democracy



School for Workers  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Program guide  
fall 2025



**School for Workers**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Institute types

### Residential institutes

In-person, non-credit courses, taught by university faculty in Madison, Wisconsin. Each residential institute is 2-5 days in length and offered as a fall or spring session program.



610 Walnut St., WARF Rm 1140  
Madison, WI 53726

### Online institutes

High-quality, non-credit courses developed for accessibility and flexibility. The institutes are structured into weekly instructional units, containing readings, short videos, activities, and student discussion boards. Faculty are actively involved in the course throughout the units.



[schoolforworkers@dcs.wisc.edu](mailto:schoolforworkers@dcs.wisc.edu)

### On-demand institutes

Comprehensive, online courses developed by university faculty on a user-friendly platform. Students can access the course 24/7, for up to six months after registration, to explore and complete the course material at their own pace. University faculty and staff are available for support throughout.



[schoolforworkers.wisc.edu](https://schoolforworkers.wisc.edu)



608-262-2112





## Institute info

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School for Workers provides education for workplace democracy and worker empowerment. Institutes are intended for union members, officers, and staff seeking to advance their knowledge and skills.

### Registration and payment

Register by phone at 608-262-2112 or online at [schoolforworkers.wisc.edu/register](https://schoolforworkers.wisc.edu/register). Credit card payments can be made at [charge.wisc.edu/schoolforworkers](https://charge.wisc.edu/schoolforworkers) or send a check payable to UW-Madison to 610 Walnut St., WARF Room 1140, Madison, WI 53726.

### Class location and lodging

Residential institutes are held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Fluno Center, located at 601 University Ave., Madison, WI 53715. A block of hotel rooms is also available for class participants to reserve at the Fluno Center. Participants are responsible for arranging their own lodging and parking. We encourage you to secure your lodging soon after registering for your class to ensure a hotel room for your stay in Madison. To reserve your room, call the Fluno Center directly at 608-441-7117. If you need parking, inform the center when you book your room.

### Cancellation policy

To receive a full refund, cancellation notification must be received 14 days before a residential institute and 48-hours before an online institute start date. On-demand institutes are non-refundable. Notification can be made by calling 608-262-2112 or by e-mailing [schoolforworkers@dcs.wisc.edu](mailto:schoolforworkers@dcs.wisc.edu). When enrollment criterion is not met or conditions beyond control intervene, School for Workers reserves the right to cancel the institute. If the school cancels an institute, registrants will be notified, and tuition is refunded in full; participants will be responsible for all their personal traveling arrangement costs.

### Accessibility

UW-Madison provides equal opportunities in programming. If you are in need of an interpreter or have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the School for Workers office. Requests are confidential.



# Institute descriptions

## Production Standards in Union Settings

Online institute

Sun, Oct 5 – Sun, Oct 26, 2025

Register by: Sep 22, 2025 | Tuition: \$230

This three-week online course explores the genesis of production standards, the scientific management theory of Fredrick Taylor, the fundamentals for setting production standards, and the characteristics of various systems in use today. Developing a union philosophy around the use of standards and how these systems intersect with grievance procedures and contract bargaining is also discussed.

This online institute utilizes class materials, short videos, activities, and student discussion in three one-week modules. Participants can access the course whenever it fits their schedule, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Participants will spend time working on their own during the weeklong modules, and there will be optional live Q/A sessions via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. (CT).

## Power and Purpose: Why Unions Matter

Residential institute

Oct 27 – 29, 2025

Mon – Tue, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Wed, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Register by: Sep 26, 2025 | Tuition: \$735

Why Unions Matter is a dynamic, engaging three-day course that explores the “big picture” and broader understanding that every union leader and activist needs. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, participants will learn how unions have shaped history, their impact on society, and how they continue to champion workers’ rights and social justice. We’ll cover legal rights, effective workplace representation, member engagement, and the role of unions in today’s world. Whether you’re a seasoned leader or a new union activist, this fun and informative course will offer useful insights and inspiration for anyone who cares about fairness at work and building the voice of workers on the job and in society.

# Institute descriptions

## Worker's Compensation

Residential institute

Nov 11 – 14, 2025

Tue – Thu, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Register by: Oct 10, 2025 | Tuition: \$960

Gain an understanding of WI Workers' Compensation law and improve your skills in representing injured workers. This course reviews the WI Workers' Compensation Act, examining the theory underlying the system, filing Workers' Compensation claims with employers and opening claims at the Department of Workforce Development. We will review workers' rights and explore benefits available under the WI Workers' Compensation Act, including the calculation of benefits. We will also learn about representing workers before Administrative Law Judges at the Office of Workers' Compensation Hearings. This institute is intended for representatives who need an introduction to WC law as well as those with a working knowledge of the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation system, whether from previous instruction or job-site experience. Participants will apply their new skills in a mock hearing before an administrative law judge. You will learn about:

- Basics of the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act
- Benefit calculations for injured workers
- General licensing and permissions needed to represent injured workers
- Common pitfalls experienced by workers in attempts to receive benefits

## Collective Bargaining Institute

Residential institute

Dec 8 – 12, 2025

Mon – Thu, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Register by: Nov 7, 2025 | Tuition: \$1,110

This comprehensive training program will prepare your union's negotiating team with the knowledge and skills needed for the entire bargaining process. Participants will enjoy detailed educational presentations and engage in discussions and hands-on exercises, including a negotiations simulation. We will learn about:

- Sources of bargaining power
- Preparation, planning, and research
- Labor law for collective bargaining
- Writing contract language and costing economic proposals
- Bargaining table conduct and tactics
- Maximizing member involvement and communications



*Learn more and register at  
[schoolforworkers.wisc.edu](http://schoolforworkers.wisc.edu).*





## On-demand institutes

*Anytime access. Self-paced. Just \$99 per course.*

### 20th Century Labor History

On-demand institute | Tuition: \$99

History can provide critical lessons for today. Through the exploration of recent labor history, learn not only the 'what' but the 'how' and 'why' unions and workers' rights have evolved to what we know today. Explore the U.S. labor movement's modern victories and defeats, seeking lessons to point a way forward. Topics include:

- How the National Labor Relations Act came about
- The surge of labor organizing in the 1930s and 1940s
- The growth of unions in the public sector
- The impacts of the PATCO strike, globalization, and the transformation of work
- Signs of future labor movement renewal

### Essentials for Union Stewards

On-demand institute | Tuition: \$99

Union members know their workplaces better than anyone, and effective stewards are one of a union's most important assets. Stewards are the eyes, ears, and embodiment of the union in the workplace. This Essentials for Union Stewards institute is designed to prepare members to understand labor in the economy, know their legal rights, recognize potential grievances, and investigate and assist bargaining unit members in the workplace and in grievance or investigatory meetings. The institute is self-guided and accessible 24/7, giving students the flexibility to study and learn at their own pace. Becoming a steward requires taking on more responsibility than being a member, but this class prepares students to confidently fulfill that role and find the satisfaction of making a real difference in their workplace.

### Fundamentals of the Family Medical Leave Act

On-demand institute | Tuition: \$99

Most workers understand that employees at workplaces with 50 or more employees have the right to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid time off for either their own serious health condition or that of a close family member. But applying the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in practice gets complicated. Which employers are covered? Who are close family members? What conditions are covered? This course is designed for any worker curious to know more about the FMLA and worker representatives responsible to help workers navigate the process to learn the essentials of workers' FMLA rights.

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# School for Workers

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ph: 608-262-2112

e-mail: [schoolforworkers@dc.wisc.edu](mailto:schoolforworkers@dc.wisc.edu)

website: [schoolforworkers.wisc.edu](http://schoolforworkers.wisc.edu)

