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Data Resources

2006 Graduating Senior Survey Student Comments Peck School of the Arts

"Why" or "why not" responses to question "if you had to do it over again, would you choose to attend UWM?"

UW-Milwaukee has a great art education program, and it is only getting better. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities and the art scene of Milwaukee is also great.

Film school has a great opportunity for hands on training but the creativity is limited by the faculty or program.

I really enjoyed the classes that I took here at UWM, especially in my later semesters!

The Film department is unique in many ways, but most of all a great value b/c of low tuition and excellent profs.

It's 3am and I don't feel like filling this out.

School size, art funding, program weaknesses

Milwaukee does not have much to offer as a city. The school should have more rigorous training and academics.

As I have almost finished both my majors and minor, UWM was a great place to have the opportunity to do both, quite different programs of study

I know this is probably trivial, but the financial aspect of going to college was a problem. I was given a loan based on what my father's income is, even though I paid for everything myself. This made it very hard to get by financially. As for the school itself, I am really frustrated at the frequent changing of requirements which required me to take more and more useless classes. Right now I am struggling through Materials Engineering...and it has nothing to do with my majors. There were some changes that occurred in the JMC and Theatre departments which narrowed down my options for taking certain classes. The parking was atrocious, considering 2/3 of the students commute. And the JMC department had a less than adequate program for students wanting to go into radio. Knowing then what I know now, I would've shopped around a little more. However, I am proud to be a Panther and always will be.

I enjoyed the film program very much. It is unique and I don't think I could find that experience anywhere else.

I really was not impressed with the painting and drawing program. I also felt that my advising for the first couple of years in school were lacking.

The film and arts program seems like it has really strong programs.

Too close to home

I think I received a good overall education. I wish I would have explored other options earlier, just to see what else was possible.

This University has been so helpful with any questions I have had over the past 5 years. I've always had friendly acquaintances, and all of my professors were sincere and passionate about their work here.

UWM has a good music program and the professors I wanted to study with.

The traffic and location was not practical for me.

I was looking for an art school. The art dept here is fine, but I feel my education would have been more extensive if it had been at an art exclusive school.

It is a great campus to be on, and close to home.

Because Whitewater didn't have quite the same course work.

If I happen to continue to live in Wisconsin, I will definitely attend UWM if I decide to pursue another degree.

the administration is running a business and more often than not impede my ability to learn then help it.

I have a good experience and I feel that UWM met all of my educational needs.

I would have preferred a school that had a more dedicated photo program, though now, looking back, I appreciate my education and the classes I went through.

Because it was a convenient location and my advisors were extremely helpful in helping me plan my classes School is school. It doesn't matter where you go.

Better theatre program in a larger city.

Because Milwaukee is the Capital of Beer

I really did not look at the any other colleges but i still would consider making UWM my first choice.

It is close to home and my work.

Decent education, ok resources, good teachers, for a fraction of the cost of high end schools.

The faculty in the art department do not teach anything. For example, for someone to learn how to use a computer program, it would be nice if the instructor new how to use it.

I came here to study with a specific instructor and I am very glad that I did.

I worked closely with a world class musician and one of the best teachers in the music business.

I like the school and I like the city

I liked the campus a lot. My program was well suited to what I was looking for in my education.

There are certain things that have upset me while attending UWM, but they are all issues I am likely to encounter at any school I attend. Overall I was unhappy with the steady increase in tuition, which I never saw what use it was put to.

I originally enrolled in the School of Education and applied only to UWM. Had I originally been a School of the Arts student, I may have looked at other schools.

I like the university.

The University-type college may not have been the best choice for me as an art student, I may have benefited from a more focused education as an undergraduate at an art institute.

It was a mostly useful experience, and I like the city.

while the university itself is something that I am disgusted with and have no pride in having attended, the few classes and professors that actually gave a damn about my education made these last four years worth it, for the most part.

The teaching staff has been excellent to work with and learn from. They made this a challenging experience. However, the advising staff was almost no help at all. Whenever I had a meeting, I felt like I was an inconvenience to them, and they did not listen to what I wanted to do in my semesters.

I have a unique situation, since I started at UW-Madison my freshman year, but was unable to keep up with my work due to my sleeping disorder, narcolepsy, which I didn't know I had at the time. I appealed and they kicked me out, even though earlier in the year I did seek their medical assistance and I was told that their was nothing wrong with me. So I came to Milwaukee and my first year here I was introduced to the theatre education major. My junior year I realized that education was my field and I also turned to the Norris Health Center to get their opinion on what was wrong with me, after I already had pretty much figured it out, doing hours upon hours of research online. So I was referred to a nuerologist and got diagnosed with narcolepsy and was put on medication to keep me awake. Since I got the disease my freshmen year, I never really was awake enough to use my brain like I could in high school. The medication I started taking in April 2005 kept me awake and I was able to think and comprehend again. I already had about a 3.0 cumulative GPA at Milwaukee before I was diagnosed and since I have been on my meds I have gotten straight A's and haven't felt too chalenged at all. The people that I know that go to this school don't think logically and they don't seem to care about their education very much. They also don't comprehend simple tasks which frustrated me incredibly. Also, I found myself this year, being a senior and on the education track, teaching my professors how to teach. I suggested exercises to do or topics to discuss in all of my classes this semester and every single one was used. Also the teachers that I had from the english department were not very good teachers what so ever. One of them didn't even show up for class on a scheduled date and didnt tell anyone she wasnt going to be there. The other english teacher towards the end of the semester was mixing ideas that I told him in papers, journals, or discussions into what we were doing in class. Although I thought this was cool that I helped my teachers grow as teachers, which is a strong believe of mine, teachers should learn as much from their students as the students learn from the teachers, but they shouldn't use it that same semester with that student. The only reason why I would consider going here over somewhere else is becuase of the theatre education and theatre double four year double major and also because of the large number of theatre companies in the Milwaukee area. Overall, I think UW-Milwaukee and the faculty here is perfect for the ability level of the students that attend the college under normal circumstances for me however it wasn't challenging after I got treated.

I enjoyed the campus and the professors. I received tremendous help and guidance from so many different people during my college experience.

Good campus and good programs

Too many unecessary courses required to graduate that has absolutely nothing to do with your degree. A waste of time and money, in my opinion.

Makes no difference to me. The children's center is excellent.

While the program was not all it could have been for my field, the city location did offer opportunity i would not otherwise have had.

I enjoyed the Peck School of the Arts, all except the D.I.V.A.S. Program. There seemed to be a lack of leadership to that program. I entered that program when it first came to U.W.M. 2004-05? (The underlining concept to the program is great, mixing the modern and fine arts skills together along with film and music production.) but it seemed like they just had a bunch of classes to pick from with no real reason as to why I or anyone should take them, but I guess that is what's expected from a developmental program. Nonetheless, after that experience I went back to what I truly enjoyed at the Peck School of the Arts, Painting. The staff in the Art's department are truly great professors. I would just like to say Thank You to: U.W.M. and the Peck School of the Arts for making my fours years here at U.W.M. a memorable experience in life and in artistic skills that I will take with me where I go?

I feel that the professors are top-notch, and I have received excellent training.

I would choose to attend at UWM because it has my major and it's closer to home.

I came here originally to join the PTPP and get my BFA in Theatre. When I got here, I was basically told I really shouldn't bother and was sent on my way. I found out about the BA degree instead. No, the PTPP is defunct, and the BFA program was established, but of course, only in my last year here. Had I known about not having the PTPP, I probably would have gone somewhere else. But, if the university had the BFA program up and running when I started, I still would have attended UWM.

because I went in knowing next to nothing aside from being able to read music and now I have a better grasp on piano technique, have learned about music history, theory, conducting and have seen a lot of performances and have been exposed to a lot of new ideas I otherwise would not have. and more but that's just what came off the top of my head.

As a transfer student, I experienced more than one university. I found UWM to be the most helpful with programs that were easy to follow and navigate.

Best school I could afford to go to.

I am from the southeaster WI area, so it is close to home. Nice size campus. I like the city of Milwaukee.

I wouldn't because of all the unnecessary obstacles I had to navigate to complete my program. I would because it prepared me for all the unnecessary crap the world presents you with.

It was by far the best undergrad composition program that I had encountered. Many other places wouldn't even let you declare a composition major as an undergrad for two years or so.

over all a good experience

I feel that I certainly learned aspects of production that I may not have been able to learn else where, but I don't feel that I was properly equiped to enter any sort of industry. Whether it be independent or Hollywood. I came out with theory and general ideas, but nothing dealing with "the standards."

Good Art progams.

I would have preferred Madison.

I found the graphic design and metals courses to be challenging and they prepared me for the professional world.

I really wanted to go to UW- Madison and then to Mt. Mary

UWM has a great campus.

Close to where I live, good teachers, good art program, friends, affordable

UWM provided a well rounded education, offering a large number of different types of classes, with competent professors. It also boasts a very deverse student population which I think is good for people to be exposed to.

I did enjoy the film program at UWM very much, but for the last 2 years, my focus and interests have shifted from the experimental film angle that the film department is known for to an interest in digital animation. I think the animation program here is not that comprehensive. I don't have any regrets, though. The DIVAS program looks promising, but it arrived just a little too late for me to change my major.

I think I would probably choose to go to school in New York because there is more energy there and more opportunity for artists

I might have chosen a school for performing arts in New York or LA- since that is where I'll be most likely moving- and where I need to be.

It was not my first choice, but I did enjoy it immensely. I probably would have gone for a different degree.

UWM offers a marvelously diversified educational experience with the added plus of a dynamic urban environment.

At UWM I have met so many great people and faculty that have molded me into who I am today.

I think it would have been better for me to move farther from home.

I would have preferred an a more personalized education where the university actually worked with me to make sure that I received the education I paid for. It was very frustrating trying to figure everything from the scheduling of classes to finances completely on my own. I feel that with a 3.8 gpa it should have been possible to get some kind of scholarship, but in a school with so many students I found that to be impossible whereas in a smaller school I think someone would have worked with me to find something I would have qualified for.

film degree is not geared towards being a successful film maker - that and tuition was no deal

Too expensive. Not only is the school expensive, but the cost of living is also.

The film program teaches the technical aspect, then accepts you based on experimental aspects, with an unclear set of expectations and criteria. I switched to film studies to I could get a degree and you guys could stop taking all of my money.

location and I like the city

With the PTPP, very specific and advanced work. Personalized instruction and challenging studies.

Milwaukee is a wonderful town for theater, but the quality of the theater program and the dedication of the teachers was somewhat lacking. I found the Theater Ed department to be excellent, but regular theater classes seemed fairly remedial, and most of the teachers (particulary those working in the area) clearly treated teaching as a second (as less important) career.

Everything depends on the teacher and how successful their teaching style was.

would feel to insulated if stayed in milwaukee where i grew up. I feel that i would need other influences to help shape my educational needs for determing my future

Even though it is very convenient to attend a college in your city of residence, I feel that of the colleges in the area, UWM has the best GD program. Proud to have been taught by the staff here.

Music Building as a facility is outdated. There is a lack of communication between professors and students as well as a lack of information/mis-information to students about what courses are required of them.

because of the graphic design faculty, curriculum and program.

Well, I started in the Film program but it was very hard to find my way in that program due to the subjectivity of my teachers. Each wanted something different so I was unable to get my own style untill I switched out to the film studies program and took film courses as electives. Also the emphasis on the portfolio caused me undue stress and that is why I never finished in the film program. Also I rarely found people here that were helpful and my five years have basically been with out any help from any of my teachers on my projects. Because of all these things I continued to complete my work at the last minute and still received passing marks, usually As or Bs, just like high school. I never found a chalengeing class that was more than just staying awake through it, untill my senior year 590 Film studies class which I was not prepared for. I also had a hard time working and doing homework. Also this caused me to not be able to interact with the other students as much as I would have liked and never got to participate in and kind of school activity. I have no fond memories of my five years here.

The dance department is stellat however the academics are weak.