
WESTERN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

From the WISR Catalog — Last Revised August 6, 2026

Student Identity Verification

WISR verifies the identity of every enrolled student to ensure that the individual who registers for a course is the same individual who participates in and completes the coursework. WISR applies this verification at enrollment and maintains it throughout each student's program.

Verification at enrollment. The Administrative Dean (AdD) or the AdD's designee conducts a live, synchronous onboarding session with each admitted student by video conference. During this session, the AdD or designee views the student's government-issued photo identification (for example, a passport, driver's license, or military identification card), confirms that the photograph matches the student, and retains no copy of the document. The AdD or designee reviews and executes the enrollment agreement with the student through DocuSign. WISR then issues the student an individually credentialed wisr.edu account, through which all subsequent course registration and platform access occur.

Verification throughout the program. WISR delivers instruction through one-to-one faculty mentoring and synchronous oral review. Faculty verify each student's identity on a continuing basis through live video sessions and through each end-of-course oral review, the mid-program review, and the Graduation Review Board. For a student who re-enrolls after a leave of absence or withdrawal, WISR reconfirms identity through the student's established wisr.edu correspondence and the mentored relationships the student has formed. WISR does not repeat photo-identification checks after enrollment.

Cost and methods. WISR charges no fee for identity verification, and verification imposes no charge on the student beyond the tuition and fees published in this Catalog. WISR uses no third-party proctoring services, biometric authentication, or automated identity-verification technologies.

Privacy. WISR records completion of identity verification in the student's permanent admissions record and maintains that record in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and WISR's privacy policy.

Violations. WISR addresses suspected misrepresentation of identity — including credential sharing or participation in coursework by any person other than the registered student — under WISR's Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy and the Student Due Process and Appeals Framework.