**What does the plugin do?**

In short, this plugin allows the web editors of departmental or School/College Wordpress sites to dynamically retrieve and display academic program information from within the Guide domain ([https://guide.wisc.edu](https://guide.wisc.edu/)) directly on their own website. Since the UW-Madison Guide publication is updated three times per year, enabling this plugin will ensure that the academic program information displayed on the various campus websites will always be in sync with the governance-approved Guide content.

**How does it work?**

CourseLeaf, the vendor for the product UW-Madison calls [**Guide**](https://guide.wisc.edu/)**,** makes publicly available a .xml version of every page and tab within the Guide. When the appropriate shortcode is added to a Wordpress page, the plugin fetches the requested information from the .xml version of the specified Guide page. Then, it parses the .xml and displays (at the location where the shortcode is placed) the raw html elements that you see in Guide. There is no css/styling applied to this content; therefore, it will inherit the styling set up in your selected Wordpress theme.

Below is the list of the current capabilities of the Guide Plugin for Wordpress:

* Retrieve and display **all content** from a chosen Guide page/tab
* Retrieve and display **specific content** below a single H2 header on the Requirements tab
* Retrieve and display a **range of content** (e.g. all content before/after a chosen H2 header)
* Adjust all instances of one HTML element with another (e.g. change all H2 headers to H3 headers, or change an ordered list to a numbered list)

**Usage**

As is the case with many Wordpress plugins, the Guide content is called through the use of a shortcode : [guide\_content]. This shortcode has one required attribute and several optional attributes.

**Required attribute:**

* **url**: This attribute determines the Guide page from which the user wants to retrieve content. Acceptable values can be found by navigating to the Guide page, clicking on the tab with the relevant content, and copy/pasting the url from the browser.
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/history/history-certificate/"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_url.png)
  + *Note:*If the url entered is not valid, or if it is not contained within double-quotes, the shortcode will not return any content to the Wordpress page

**Optional attributes:**

* **exact:**This attribute can only be set for the Requirements tab. This should be used when you wish to return content from a chosen H2 header on the Requirements tab.
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/human-ecology/consumer-science/personal-finance-bs/index.html#requirementstext" exact="School of Human Ecology Requirements"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_exact.png)
* **before:**This should be used when you wish to return all of the page content that appears before a chosen H2 header on the Requirements tab.
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#enrollmentandrecordstext" before="Grading System"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_before.png)
* **after:**This attribute can only be set for the Requirements tab. This should be used when you wish to return all of the page content after (and including) a chosen H2 header on the Requirements tab.  
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/business/school-wide/business-certificate/index.html#requirementstext" after="Exclusions"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_after.png)
* **adjust:**When placing the shortcode within certain Wordpress Elements, such as an Accordion Panel Body, the UW-Theme will automatically reduce the size of H2 elements so that the end up being smaller than H3 elements. By using adjust, you can replace every instance of a tag with another (e.g. turn all H2 headers into H3 headers).
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/english-ba/#requirementstext" adjust="h2-h3"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_adjust.png)
  + *Notes:*
    - The adjust attribute only works on tags, this is not a "find-and-replace" feature
    - You can enter as many adjusts as you want by separating them with a semicolon (e.g. adjust="h2-h3;h4-h5;ul-ol")
    - When entering multiple adjusts, be sure to order them so that you don't accidentally adjust any tags that were already adjusted (e.g. adjust="h2-h3;h3-h4" would ultimately change all of the H2 and H3 tags to become H4 tags)
* **grad:**This attribute can only be set for a Requirements Tab on a Graduate plan/subplan page. The three standard H2 headers on a Graduate Requirements tab are "Mode of Instruction", "Curricular Requirements", and "Required Courses". This attribute allows the user to return the content from one of those three areas: "mode", "curr", and "courses", respectively.   
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/english/english-phd/#requirementstext" grad="courses"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_grad.png)
  + *Note:*The only acceptable values for the grad attribute are "mode", "curr", and "courses"
* **udr**: This attribute can only be set for the Requirements tab on Undergraduate plan/subplan page. All undergraduate plan pages contain the "University Degree Requirements" table Setting **udr**to a value of "y" tells the plugin to add the "University Degree Requirements" information from the content to be displayed on the WordPress page.
  + *Example usage:*
    - [[guide\_content url="https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/engineering/chemical-biological-engineering/chemical-engineering-bs/index.html#requirementstext" udr="y"]](https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group317/107923/example_udr.png)
  + *Note:*The only acceptable value for the udr attribute is "y"

**Additional Usage Tips:**

* For all attributes, capitalization does not matter, but spacing matters. It is recommended that you copy/paste the H2 header from Guide directly into the shortcode when using **exact, before,**and **after**to avoid typographical errors.
* Occasionally, the individual responsible for updating a Guide page will rename an H2 header, or reorganize the information on a page in such a way as to change what content would be displayed by the shortcode. For that reason, it is recommended that the Wordpress page editor notify the appropriate Guide Editor(s) that this Plugin is in use.
* A single Wordpress page may contain any number of shortcodes pulling from any number of Guide pages--there is no limit.
* Information from different Guide pages can be displayed on the same Wordpress page (e.g. Art History Cert Requirements and History Cert Requirements shown side-by-side)
* In some cases, an H2 header may have had a space inadvertently appended to the end of the string. Due to the way in which this plugin performs string-matching, if you attempt to use **exact**on that H2 header, it will behave the same was as the **after** attribute. A workaround for this is to instead use the **after** attribute on the H2 header containing the extra space, and add the **before** attribute with a value equal to the subsequent H2 header appearing on that Guide page.
* The **before** and **after** attributes can be used together in a single shortcode to specify a range of content that, but **exact** cannot be combined with **before** or **after**in the same shortcode. However, **exact**can be used in one shortcode, and immediately followed by another shortcode containing **before**and/or **after**to flexibly combine content from a Guide page to your Wordpress site.

**Wordpress Installation**

This plugin is only available at this time for UW-Madison WordPress sites with admin access to install their own plugins (i.e. those sites not managed by the WiscWeb team). Until the plugin can be installed directly via the WordPress.org [Plugin Directory](https://wordpress.org/plugins/); interested users can follow these simple steps for installation:

1. Download the plugin directory (link on the KB page https://kb.wisc.edu/lumen/107923)
2. Place the guide\_content folder in your the Wordpress Plugins folder on your web server
3. From the Wordpress Dashboard, navigate to the Plugins tab
4. Find the Guide Content plugin on the list and click Activate:

At this point, the plugin is now installed and activated for use on any page in that Wordpress site. Only once a shortcode is added to a page will any content be displayed.  
  
**Questions, suggestions, and requests for consultation can be sent to Eric MacKay in the Office of the Registrar at emackay2@wisc.edu.**