

Unizin – unin.org

What is it: a consortium of 11 large public R-1 institutions and 2 statewide system focused on T&L technology – often described as like-minded institutions with similar goals, similar missions

Current membership: Indiana University, University of Michigan, Colorado State University, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Ohio State University, University of Florida, and the University of Florida System.

Current student enrollment: ~700,000

Governance: Board of Directors with each founding institution having a single vote (board members are Steve Cramer, voting member, and Linda Jorn). Membership is a provost level decision. Current CEO is Amin Qazi. Unizin has about 20 staff and has a headquarters in Austin, TX. Consortium members provide campus professionals to work on projects, product development and pilots. A large T&L group, consisting of 2-4 team members from each Unizin member, reports to the Board of Directors and meets twice a year.

Benefits of Consortium/Unizin membership:

- Collective wisdom and creativity of the consortium to help us design and own our University of Wisconsin- Madison Student Digital Ecosystem.
- Leveraging efforts from other consortium members rather than always doing it in-house.
- Products that conform to the philosophy and the direction of the consortium.
- Favorably pricing and contract terms that meet the philosophy of the consortium.

Philosophy of the Unizin Consortium:

- Institutional and consortium control of teaching and learning data
- Standards, interoperability, security, openness of technology, combining tools together to enable and personalize teaching and learning. Avoiding proprietary monoliths.
- Use of teaching and learning data to realize the effectiveness of teaching techniques and learning responses.
- Cross-institutional collaborations allow us to leverage the collective wisdom of higher education to build University of Wisconsin – Madison scalable digital learning environments that will improve access, affordability, and learner success.

Differences between a consortium and a vendor:

	Consortium	Vendors
Motivation	Academic solutions to address common opportunities	Profit and market share
Data	Retain control of institutional data and use it to refine direction and strategy	Collect to refine proprietary products, provide new services and potentially sell data back to client
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iterative design and build process which will lead to new campus tool adoption processes. • Well leveraged and negotiated contracts and pricing • Ability to participate in entire product lifecycle development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polished products to drive sales
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership fee but lower price on products. • Assignment of campus professionals to participate in consortium product development, pilots, and partnership activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No membership fee but higher product prices • Due diligence to ensure products meet campus requirements
Collaboration	The belief that the best ideas come from diverse teams and the collective wisdom of the higher education community	Promote competition and proprietary tools that slow down the adoption and implementation of technology