An injury or illness is considered recordable by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) if it results in death, medical treatment beyond first aid, loss of consciousness, significant injury or illness as diagnosed by health care provider, restricted work or job transfer, or days away from work.

The incident rate is the number of new recordable injury/illness cases for UW employees each year. It is calculated as follows: (Number of Recordable Injuries or Illnesses X 200,000) / Number of Employee Hours Worked. The 200,000 in the formula represents the equivalent of 100 employees working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year, and provides the standard base for the incident rates.