ARE YOU READY FOR FINALS?

- **Do you know when and where each of your final exams will be held?** The exam week schedule is completely different from your class schedule. Exams are not always held in the same room as your class and can sometimes be held in a different building. Check the syllabus for this information. If you don’t see it, or understand it, ask your Instructor.

- **Are your exams “comprehensive?”** A comprehensive exam covers material from the entire semester. Other exams are limited to material covered since the last test. If you are not sure which test you will take, be sure to check with your Instructor.

- **Is there a review session or a study guide?** If your Instructor offers a review session, make it a priority to attend. If s/he hands out a study guide, be sure to use it to prepare for the exam. If no study guide or review session is available, create your own study guide from the class notes and textbook, and take it to your Instructor during his or her office hours. Ask your instructor to look it over and make suggestions about how to best prepare for your final exam.

- **If you have personal or medical problems affecting your academic performance,** call the University Counseling Center (298-2453) or Beu Health Center (298-1888), or contact your Academic Advisor.
Take Time During Winter Break to Learn about Careers

- **Job Shadow** people in careers that interest you. If you are not sure how to set up a job shadow experience, start by making a list of people you know in jobs that seem interesting. Next, call or email them to make arrangements. You might contact previous teachers, relatives, or parents of your friends. If there is a particular company or organization that interests you, call their main office and ask who you should speak to about job shadowing possibilities.

- **Check out these websites** for career and major information:
  
  http://www.student.services.wiu.edu/careers
  http://online.onetcenter.org
  http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors

Check out our new website!

We are happy to announce that our new website is up and running. We have a lot of great resources available for students, including information on major and career exploration, tutoring and learning, and advising on campus for all majors.

See what the University Advising and Academic Support Center has to offer at http://www.wiu.edu/uaasc/

Grades for Fall 2008

- Grades will be posted to STARS on Tuesday, December 23, 2008.

- If you think there is an error in a grade, send an email inquiry to the Instructor of that course and send a copy of the message to your Academic Advisor. Please make sure that the email is professional and courteous.

- If you find yourself on academic warning or probation, contact your Academic Advisor as soon as possible to review your schedule for Spring semester and to discuss strategies to help you get back into good academic standing.
What's a Prerequisite? A co-requisite?

A prerequisite is a "pre-required" course. If a course has a prerequisite, it means that a student is not allowed to take that course until s/he has completed the "pre-required" course.

Prerequisites are listed in several places, including the course description in the WIU catalog, individual course descriptions in the General Education Handbook, and the information in STARS that is accessed by clicking on the "plus" sign on the left hand side of the screen. Some courses may also have a co-requisite. A co-requisite is a course which must be completed successfully before, or studied concurrently with, the course for which it is required.

What's an "Enforced Prerequisite"?

STARS has a new feature called an "enforced prerequisite" which applies to selected courses. If the course information in STARS includes the term "enforced prerequisite" the student will be automatically dropped from the course if his or her transcript does not show that s/he has successfully completed the prerequisite. Students in this situation will receive a warning (via WIU email) five days before the drop takes effect. If that happens to you, you need to contact your academic advisor immediately to discuss your options. In some circumstances, a waiver may be obtained to allow the student to remain in the course.

Not all departments use the "enforced prerequisite" feature of STARS so it is still important for you to check on the prerequisites yourself. If you don't, you could end up in a class for which you are not academically prepared. If you're not sure about your classes, contact your Academic Advisor who will be glad to help.
Be wise –
Get Advised!

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The Advising Center will be open during Winter Break
You may email Your Advisor or call the office at (309) 298-1846

All Western offices will be closed from 12/24/08—01/04/09.

Dates to Remember

December

15-19 .... Final exam week
20 ........ Graduation ceremonies
20 ........ Residence halls close
23 ........ Semester grades emailed & posted on STARS

January

18 ......... Residence halls reopen at 10:00 a.m.
20 ......... Classes begin
23 ......... Open registration ends
26-2 ..... Restricted schedule changes allowed (by special permission only.)