Are you eligible to win
The Elkin/ Larkin Award?

If your cumulative GPA is 3.5 or above, apply for the Elkin/Larkin award! This honor is available only to a General Orientation student. Leadership and community involvement will be taken into consideration as well as cumulative GPA. In order to be eligible, a student must have completed at least 12 semester hours at Western, and been a General Orientation major during the Fall 2009 Semester.

The Elkin/Larkin award winner will receive a stipend of $200.00. Applications can be picked up at the UAASC or available online at http://www.wiu.edu/uaasc/current. Eligible students will also be notified by email. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2010.
Help! I’m on “Academic Warning!”
What does that mean?

**Academic warning**: If you start a semester in good standing but then earn a semester GPA between 1.0 and 1.99 AND your cumulative GPA drops below 2.0, you are placed on academic warning. Academic Services students begin at WIU on academic warning.

**Academic probation**: If you start a semester in good standing but earn a semester GPA of less than 1.0 AND your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you are placed on academic probation. If you start the semester on academic warning and earn a semester GPA of less than 1.0, then you will be placed on academic suspension. If you are on academic probation and earn a semester GPA of less than 2.1 (or 2.25 if you have 60 or more semester hours), you are placed on academic suspension. If you are suspended, you must sit out the next regular semester at WIU (you can take WIU summer classes) and then apply for re-entry.

**Academic dismissal**: If you have been previously suspended and while on probation fail to meet the required minimum GPA, you will be placed on academic dismissal. If you are dismissed, you may only attend WIU during the summer until your cumulative GPA reaches at least a 2.0.

**Good standing**: A student with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 is considered to be in good standing. If you begin a semester on academic warning or academic probation but earn a high enough semester GPA to raise your cumulative GPA to 2.0 or higher, then you return to good standing.

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**Secrets to Doing Better This Semester**

Maybe your grades weren't great last semester, and you want to make a change this semester. Here are tips from other students who have been able to turn their grade points around.

1. **Go to every class, every day, every week.**
2. **Don’t go out at night if you have classes the next day.**
3. **Increase your study time.** (Is school your full time “job”? Do you spend 40 hours each week going to classes and doing school work?)
4. **Get a study routine.** Study something for each class, each day. Don’t procrastinate.
5. **Read the textbook all semester, not just the night before the test.**
6. **Strive to get all the points possible** on every test and paper, including extra credit.
7. **Use a calendar** to plan ahead for tests and papers.
8. **When you don’t understand something, get help right away**—talk to the instructor, get tutoring.
**How to Choose the Best Major**

- Choosing the best major for you requires active exploration on your part. Without active exploration, you are likely to end up making an uninformed, last minute decision.
- Exploring majors does not have to be a boring activity. It can be interesting and fun.
- Don’t let someone else make your choice: This is your life—it’s important that you do your own thinking and make your own decision.
- Set aside a specific hour each week to do research. Make it part of your weekly routine.
- Don’t know how to start exploring? Contact your advisor for suggestions.
- Start now. Don’t procrastinate. You’ll be glad you made the effort sooner rather than later!

**The General Orientation Program is Changing Its Name!**

GO Students, we need your input! Below you will find a few choices of potential new names for our program. Please look them over and give us feedback on which ones you like (or don’t like) – You may even submit your own ideas of what the new program should be called.

1. Academic Exploration Program
2. Exploratory Majors Program
3. Pre-Majors Program

Please send all votes/ideas to bc-barker@wiu.edu and include your T-Shirt size, because one name will be drawn at random to win some fabulous WIU prizes!

**Spring Career Fair**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

**Student Recreation Center**

When you attend a career fair, you will learn about jobs and the types of employers who hire students from Western. A career fair is a wonderful opportunity to meet with recruiters to learn what they seek in applicants and to find out about jobs that are available. Attending a career fair can also help you in your decision of a major. Career fairs provide opportunities to:

- Get information about a company or organization from a representative. Talk to them about experiences outside the classroom that might help you when searching for a career. Ask them about specific majors that they look for when recruiting for positions.
- Effectively practice professional communication with recruiters and other future colleagues.
- Learn about possible internships, job shadowing or other experiences that will help you in deciding upon a major.

Information adapted from http://studentaffairs.case.edu/careers/student/fairs/

**Is it time to declare?**

If you have earned 46 credit hours (or more) you will need to declare your major before you will be able to register in April. If you are in that situation, you need to contact your Academic Advisor right away and work out a plan to declare your major.
Be wise –
Get Advised!

Complete the application as soon as possible after January 1, 2010.
Use an estimate of your 2009 income and correct it later if necessary.

**Don’t forget to check your email!**

The University will contact you through your Western email account about issues regarding your enrollment here—grades, financial aid, housing, etc. If you need help with your email contact the Student Assistance and Parent Service Center at 298-2092.

**Dates to Remember:**

- Jan 22 ....... Last day to add classes w/out special permission.
- Feb 1 ......... Last day to drop classes w/ no charge
- Feb 12 ....... No Classes, Lincoln B-day observed
- Mar 14 ...... Daylight Savings: set clock ahead one hour
- Mar 15-19 .. Spring Break-no classes
- Mar 16 ...... Early Warning notices emailed
- Mar 22 ...... Second 8-week session starts
- Apr 4 ........ Last day to drop a 16-week course
- Apr 4 ......... Last day to totally withdraw from the University
- Apr 5-23..... Advance registration for Fall 2010

Call 298-1846 or 298-1871 to make an appointment with your Academic Advisor to discuss your current classes, potential majors, and any other questions you may have.

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