



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Reaching Out From Your Advising Center

248 Olson Hall 1 University Circle Macomb IL 61455

www.wiu.edu/UAASC

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Should I take a class at a Community College this summer?

It may be to your advantage to take a course at your Community College. *Here's why:* The hours transfer, but the grade does not affect your Western cumulative GPA. This may be your opportunity to take a required class in a subject and get the credit without transferring the grade. Be sure to contact your Academic Advisor before you register to find out how the class you plan to take will transfer. Course numbers vary from one institution to another, so don't assume that Biology 101 at your community college will transfer as Biology 101 at Western.

Even though the grades don't affect your cumulative GPA at WIU, you should still strive to do the very best you can in the course. Those grades may still affect you in other ways: :

- ♦ If you plan to graduate with honors.
- ♦ If you apply to graduate school or transfer to another institution.
- ♦ If you are required to get a "C" or above in the class at WIU. If your major requires it or if it is a pre-requisite to the next class in a sequence, you may also be required to get a "C" or above if you transfer it in from another institution.

As always, check with your advisor for details.

How to Prepare for Summer School in **3** Easy Steps

STEP 1: Talk to your advisor about which courses would be best for you. You will also need to check with your community college to see what courses are offered over the summer (some may not be taught during the summer session). Unless you have already done so, complete the process to be accepted to the community college.

STEP 2: Find out which courses are equivalent. For a list of equivalent classes offered at a community college in Illinois that will transfer to Western, contact your advisor. You can also check the Illinois Articulation Initiative at

<http://www.student.services.wiu.edu/admissions/info/transfer/CCHS/artind.asp>. If you choose to look at the list yourself, be very careful to check the column on the far right and not choose a course equivalency that is outdated. If you want to take a course at a school not on this list, prepare a list of potential classes you might take and contact Admissions for assistance.

STEP 3: Send the transcript right away! After completing the course, have the transcript sent to Western to receive credit toward your degree. Sending it right away may help you get an earlier registration date in November for the following spring.

YOU MUST NOTIFY WESTERN OF ALL COURSES TAKEN AT OTHER SCHOOLS, EVEN IF YOU FAIL THE COURSE.

Talk to your academic advisor about taking online summer courses at Western. (Please know that online courses require that you be motivated and manage your time well.)

Good Standing vs. Probation: A Guide to Academic Standing

When your semester grades are posted on STARS on May 19, you may find that your **academic standing** has changed. Academic standing is a complicated subject, but below is a quick overview for students who have earned fewer than 60 semester hours. For more information, see your university catalog or contact your advisor.



~**Good standing** is any time your cumulative GPA (grade point average) is 2.0 or above. If you were on academic warning or probation at the end of the fall semester but earn a high enough semester GPA this semester to raise your cumulative GPA to at least a 2.0, you will be back in good standing—congratulations!

~**Academic warning** occurs when your semester GPA is at least a 1.0 but your cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 for the first time. If you are placed on academic warning, you will have to raise your cumulative GPA to a 2.0 or above next semester in order to avoid academic probation.

~**Academic probation** can happen in three ways: if you are on academic warning and do not raise your cumulative GPA this semester to a 2.0 or above; if you are in good standing but your semester GPA is less than a 1.0 and your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.0; or if you are already on probation and earn at least a 2.1 semester GPA but do not

raise your cumulative GPA to 2.0 or above. If you are placed on probation, you will have to earn at least a 2.1 (or a 2.25 if you have earned 60 hours or more) next semester to stay at WIU and will stay on probation until your cumulative GPA is a 2.0 or above.

~**Academic suspension** occurs when you are on probation and earn less than a 2.1 semester GPA or when you are on academic warning and earn less than a 1.0 semester GPA. If you are suspended, you must sit out the fall semester and can return to WIU in spring 2011, though you may take summer classes (see below). Suspension also occurs if you earn less than a 2.25 semester GPA when you have 60 or more semester hours.

~**Academic dismissal** occurs when students who have previously been suspended and were on probation again fail to earn at least a 2.1 semester GPA. Dismissed students can attend WIU only during the summer (and can only take 6 credit hours each summer) until their cumulative GPA rises to a 2.0 or above.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Western summer courses can affect your academic standing, so consult with your advisor before taking summer classes here. Grades earned in summer courses taken at schools other than Western will not affect your academic standing or GPA at Western.

Stay in touch with your advisor this summer.

We work year round. Here's how to reach us:



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Western Cost Guarantee: Important Information...

The rate for tuition, fees, and room and board are fixed for a four-year period and remain in effect as long as you maintain **continuous enrollment**. If your major requires more than four years to complete, the guaranteed rate will be extended to cover the expected time for degree completion. If you have not completed the program within the allotted amount of time, the rate will be advanced by two years and will continue for another two years. If you decide to transfer to community college this fall and then return to Western spring or fall 2011, then you will be assessed tuition, fees and room and board at the new rate (s). It is important to determine how this will affect your future tuition costs. You may save money on room and board initially but you need to look at the long term costs.

Welcome to the Major Exploration Corner!

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

It's the end of the semester, and you are probably looking forward to summer break as a time to relax and get away from the books. But summer break is also a valuable time to explore career options that could help you choose a major.

Wouldn't it be great to come back in the fall with a career path in mind?

- **Look for an entry-level job in a field that interests you.** For instance, if you are thinking of majoring in finance, try to get a job at a bank. If you are interested in fashion merchandising, apply for a job as a sales clerk in a retail clothing store.
- **Remember that most jobs offer contacts and skills that are transferable.** Can't get a job in your chosen field? There are things of value to be learned at any job. Working in a restaurant or grocery store, for example, can offer you opportunities to learn about customer service and business management. Interested in a Real Estate career? Mow lawns or run errands for a Real Estate agency to get to know Realtors.
- **Volunteer your time in an area that may be of interest to you.** If you are attracted to jobs in the health field, volunteer at your local hospital. If you are considering teaching or working with children, volunteer at a day camp for kids.
- **Talk to people in the field.** Don't be shy! Many people are pleased to share information about

their careers. Call, write, or e-mail professionals in the fields which interest you and ask them how they got started and what they like the most and least about their jobs. Do be courteous; if a person you contact is not willing or able to talk to you, thank them and try another source. Always send thank-you notes to those who are willing to give you their time.

- **Shadow a professional in a field that interests you.** Spend a day following that person around to see what the job is really like. Call local schools, hospitals, and business to find out if they have job shadowing programs. Or if you know someone in the field, ask if you can observe for an afternoon. This is a great way to find out if a specific career would really work for you.



Surf the Net for inspiration and information....

<http://www.student.services.wiu.edu/careers/>

Click on "Career Decision Making." Also check out "What can I do with a major in.....?", "SIGI3", "The Vault" & the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

This site allows you to find occupations using keywords (knowledge, skills, abilities, interests and work values), job families or high growth industries. You can find specific information about occupations that interest you and a list of related occupations to explore..

http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/

Choose one of the many major categories or career categories to see a list of possible occupations with information.

<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/>

This is a good source of employment information – salaries, job outlook, best opportunities in a particular state, etc.

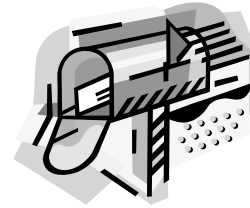
<http://www.collegegrad.com/careers/>

This site has info on careers and occupations searchable by keywords, career categories, career information by industry, and salary and hiring trends. Several free career tests are also available.



***Be wise –
Get Advised!***

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**Check your
Mailbox!**

While you're away from Western on summer break, it is **REALLY** important to check

your mailboxes—your Western email inbox as well as your U.S. mail delivery to your summer home. Be sure to read thoroughly any letters or emails you receive from Western.

If someone sends you a message, it probably means you need to take some action. If you don't understand what the message means, contact your Advisor for help.

Spring & Summer Dates

May

- 10-14 Final Exam Week
- 14 ... Graduate commencement
- 15 ... Undergrad commencement
- 17 ... Pre-session starts
- 19 ... Grades posted to email

June

- 7..... Summer Session starts

July

- 30 ... Summer Session ends

August

- 23 ... Fall Classes start

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