Dear Student,

Welcome to Western! We are looking forward to seeing you at Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR). Enclosed is information you will need to prepare for your SOAR session. Please make sure to thoroughly read each section, and where applicable, follow the necessary directions. **Every student needs to complete and submit a Placement Information Form which may be found online at wiu.edu/placementform.** For your convenience, we have also included a paper copy of the placement form in this mailing. If you prefer, you may complete the paper form and fax it to 309-298-2311 or mail it to UAASC – Placement Information Form, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455. **Please complete and submit the Placement Information Form as soon as possible.** It’s important that we receive the completed form at least 1 week before your scheduled SOAR event.

**Math Placement Information:**
Western requires all students to demonstrate competency in math in order to graduate with a bachelor's degree. There are two ways to meet competency: by placing into a math course higher than Math 100 (Core Competency in Mathematics) or by successfully completing Math 100. Some students are not prepared to take Math 100 when they enter the University. These students are placed in Math 099N - Intermediate Algebra, a one semester non-credit course designed to give them skills to be successful in Math 100. Professors from the math department will determine each student’s math placement based on two factors: the student's ACT math subscore, and the student’s history of high school math classes completed. **The math information on the Placement Information Form is important because it will be used by the math professors to make the placement.**

Students will learn their math placement when they arrive on campus at SOAR. Math placement determines only which classes a student is eligible to take at Western Illinois University; it does not award any class credit. During SOAR, students will meet with an academic advisor who will help them determine which math classes to take based on their placement and their major/program and/or general education requirements. **If you have updated ACT or SAT scores with higher math subscore, or evidence of having completed a transfer or dual credit class at a community college, you should bring the college transcript to SOAR.**

Most students will receive their math placement level at SOAR without testing. However, a very small group of students will be recommended to take the COMPASS placement test to help determine their math placement. Those students will be informed of the need to test when they arrive at SOAR. They will be allowed to bring their own calculator to the test if they wish. The COMPASS test is given online in a computer lab, and the COMPASS program does have a drop down calculator in it, so bringing a calculator is not necessary. Students will not be allowed to use cell phones during the COMPASS test.

Further questions about the math placement process should be referred to Dr. Boris Petracovici of the math department at 309-298-2315.
Writing Placement Information:
You will be initially placed into your freshman composition course based on your ACT or SAT scores. Your academic advisor will discuss your placement with you at SOAR. If you have updated ACT or SAT scores OR evidence of having completed a transfer course or dual credit course equivalent to ENG 180, you should bring the college transcript with you to SOAR.

Foreign Language Placement Information:
Students interested in taking foreign language coursework at WIU should complete that portion of the Placement Information Form. Those who begin college language study at the 300 level will qualify for advanced placement credit (equivalent to 10 semester hours) by completing two 300-level courses with grades of "C" or better. Students who begin at the 200 level will qualify for intermediate placement credit (4 semester hours) upon completing one 200-level course with a grade of "C" or better.

Students who are planning to major or minor in French, German or Spanish, or planning to major in bilingual/bicultural education may be recommended to take the Foreign Language Placement test at the SOAR program to determine the appropriate level to begin their studies. Students interested in taking Chinese or Japanese who have previous experience in the language will have placement determined by the Foreign Languages and Literatures departmental staff.

Class selection and registration at SOAR
At SOAR, students will meet with academic advisors to choose courses and register. If you have questions about classes for your major or general education requirements that you'd like to ask before SOAR, please contact your academic advisor. If you are not sure who your Academic Advisor is, or how to contact that person, you can check your STARS account for MAJOR/ADVISOR INFORMATION (or call the University Advising and Academic Support Center at 309-298-1846.)

The Landing Page (Freshman and Transfer Next Steps)
In addition to reading this letter and completing the Placement Information Form, please be sure to visit the STARS “Landing Page” (It’s labeled “Freshman and Transfer Next Steps”). It can be found by logging into STARS. Completing all the tasks there will help make your SOAR experience and your transition to college run smoothly.

We’re looking forward to seeing you at SOAR!

Michelle Yager, Director