

Leatherneck Family NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



IN THIS ISSUE

EARLY WARNING GRADES

IT'S NOT TOO LATE !

-WIU FACULTY AND STAFF

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS KNOW ABOUT THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM?

- The university cannot share grades directly with parents. The information has to come from the students themselves. Advisors can only speak in general terms when asked by parents.
- Faculty and staff will be doing as much as possible to get the students resources to be successful.
- It is possible for students to turn things around after receiving a warning. They have around 10 weeks left of the semester to recover and pass their course.



WIU provides an early warning notification procedure to alert undergraduate students to poor academic performance in time for them to take corrective measures. **October 3rd was the date set to issue those warnings for the Fall 2023 semester.**

Instructors are encouraged to identify students who are performing at the less than C level. These indicators are reported to the students so they can seek special help from instructors, academic advisors, tutors or the University Counseling Center on campus, to name a few.

The target population currently includes ***all undergraduate students*** -including extension students- enrolled in regularly scheduled and online courses at the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.

Source: wiu.edu/registrar/warning



- DR. MIGUEL HUERTA -
DIRECTOR OF THE
FIRST YEAR ADVISING
CENTER



- GRETA DIETER -
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF RESIDENCE LIFE



- ANDREA RIEBLING -
ACADEMIC SUCCESS
COACH

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WIU student support personnel speak
and give advice on Early Warning grades.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

- **Academic Advisors** - The academic advisors are full-time professionals who support students as they establish and realize their personal, academic, and career goals.
wiu.edu/academicadvising/directory/
- **Academic Success Coaches** - Academic Success Coaching is an opportunity for students to benefit from one-on-one coaching within a solution-focused model. Coaches will assist students with identifying challenges, connecting with resources, creating action plans, and providing referrals to campus services and opportunities resulting in an increase in student persistence and success at WIU.
wiu.edu/slc/academic_success_coaching
- **Tutors** - Western Illinois University offers support and academic skill development in many ways. The website, Rocky's Resources, provides access to tutoring for various subject areas.
wiu.edu/slc/rockysresources
 (309) 298-1871.
- **Syllabus** - Instructors will provide each student with a course syllabus that outlines what is required of them in order to complete a course satisfactorily, including assignments, dates to submit and reading requirements. These are typically found on Western Online, WIU's online course portal.
- **Faculty** - Professors and teaching assistants have set aside office hours, usually indicated in the syllabus, to meet with students outside of the classroom. Students can use that time to get clarification on course material or assignments and get suggestions for supplemental resources.
- **University Counseling Center** - The UCC provides free, confidential, personal counseling services to currently enrolled students. Their mental health services promote the overall wellness and personal growth of students so that they may strive for academic excellence, personal growth, and social responsibility.
wiu.edu/student_success/ucc/
- **University Writing Center** - Writing consultants are resource experts ready to help students with any writing project, academic or professional, at any stage of the process.
wiu.edu/uwc/



HOW DO EARLY WARNING GRADES AFFECT THE STUDENTS?

Assistant Director of Residence Life Greta Dieter said, "This time can be really hard for students! They need to make sure to reach out to each of their instructors and see if there are additional resources they can utilize, like the Writing Center, Tutoring, Faculty Office hours, their RA, or more! It takes a lot of hard work - but is called an early warning grade for a reason - so they can turn it around!"

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR PARENTS WHO WANT TO HELP THEIR STUDENT, ESPECIALLY IF THE GRADES ARE NOT FAVORABLE?

Dieter said to parents, "BE DIRECT, but Empathetic, and ask follow up questions! If you find out, thank them for telling you and ask follow up questions - are they going to this class? Have they gone to the professor's office hours? Is it homework? What about the homework? The more questions you ask the more you will get and can help point them in the right direction! The reason why early warning grades exist is so we can intervene EARLY - if we don't ask questions, or call out what we know - the behavior that is creating the bad grade will persist."

Director of the First Year Academic Center Dr. Miguel Huerta said, "It's a good opportunity to gauge who they're talking to, and not talking to."

Academic Success Coach Andrea Riebling said, "It's a conversation starter, a time for your student to share how things are going and how they can improve. Stay calm and give them an encouraging word. We don't want students to panic, but rather to know grades can be improved if they take action now."

**STAY CALM.
BE ENCOURAGING**

-WIU FACULTY AND
STAFF

THINGS STUDENTS HAVE TO CONSIDER AFTER RECEIVING AN EARLY WARNING GRADE

Students have until October 29th to drop a class, if they think they will not be able to recover. Irregularly scheduled classes have different drop dates.

- Riebling cautioned, “First, they need to check with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing because they may end up dropping a class that’s only offered once a year, or they may drop a class that’s a prerequisite into something that they needed sequentially the following semester. So that’s why it’s so crucial that they talk to their academic advisor before they make any final decisions on the drop date.”

If the student drops a class, they will not get a refund and will also not receive a credit for the class. Only a total university withdrawal may be eligible for a prorated refund/credit.

- Riebling has observed that this sometimes impacts the student’s decision to drop a class or not. If there is a good chance the student can still pass, she encourages them to consider keeping the course.

Students using financial aid may lose funding if they cannot meet ‘Satisfactory Progress’ requirements.

- WIU satisfactory progress standards are required and guided by Federal regulations. Students must earn credit for at least 67% of the total cumulative hours they attempt and must have a cumulative grade point average. They must also graduate before exceeding 150% of the hours required for their degree.

“Every student’s situation has multiple factors that they have to think about before they make those decisions. As academic advisors and coaches, our role is to make sure that students have all the factual information so they can make an informed decision. We’re empowering them to make decisions for themselves.”

-ACADEMIC SUCCESS COACH ANDREA RIEBLING



EMPOWER THEM TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THEMSELVES

-WIU FACULTY AND STAFF