Western’s FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE) Program

Goals for FYE
The following goals will be attained through your participation in WIU’s FYE program:

Goal 1: Demonstrate the acquisition of skills for academic achievement.
Goal 2: Be aware of resources and policies, including how to access them and what they are, in order to succeed and use them when appropriate for success.
Goal 3: Continue building supportive academic, emotional, and social networks.
Goal 4: Engage in and demonstrate respectful and appropriate interactions within your communities.
Goal 5: Explore your values, experiences, and beliefs to begin developing a sense of self.
Goal 6: Demonstrate a desire and interest in continuing your education.

FYE and You
The FYE program is designed to help you transition successfully from high school to university life. The program will emphasize how to live “well” so that you can succeed physically and intellectually. Furthermore, the program will help you build meaningful connections with a variety of people from both the University and Macomb communities.

Advising/Mentoring
You will meet many people who will help guide you through your first year of college. Two of these people are your academic advisor and your Building Connections mentor. Your academic advisor is your primary contact for all academic and class schedule questions. You will meet with this person at least once each semester to ensure you are on a successful path. Your advisor will help you consider career and educational goals, direct you to the appropriate resources on campus, and assist with any questions you have regarding University policy. Your Building Connections mentor is a faculty or staff member devoted to helping you achieve success. You will meet with your mentor early in the fall to discuss your College Student Inventory (CSI) results and learn more about the University community. Your mentor will make campus resource referrals as well as follow up with you on a regular basis to share information and support your academic success.

Student Services/Residence Life
Most of you will be living in first-year student residence halls. These halls are staffed with professional staff, graduate assistants, and resident assistants (RAs) who are very knowledgeable about the transition issues of first-year students. The first-year halls sponsor a series of programs in the fall semester that explore the transition issues that students are experiencing. Topics will include technology, time management, building relationships, health and safety, and financial aid. For those of you commuting to campus, additional programming regarding these topics as well as social events will be provided in the University Union.
University 100
This General Education course is 1 credit hour, meets once a week, and focuses on how you can successfully transition to Western Illinois University. In this class, you will learn about what it means to be a WIU student, what it takes to read/write in college, how to live “well” in all areas of your life (intellectual wellness, social wellness, physical wellness, and psycho-emotional wellness), how to participate in civic engagement and manage your time, as well as much more. In addition to the instructor of this course, you will also have a peer mentor (upper-level college student) who will help you and the other 20 or so first-year students in your class succeed. Keep in mind that all first-year students are taking this class, so you will have a common bond in learning how to be “well” together.

FYE General Education/Pre-Professional Course
You will also be taking an FYE Y class your first semester. This course is 2 to 4 credit hours, meets two or more times a week, and focuses on specific course content from one of our departments on campus. Some of you might be taking biology, psychology, or even communication. Even though you may be taking different FYE Y classes, you will all be given the opportunity to apply your UNIV 100 course content to the FYE Y course you are taking.

Residence Hall Topics
- technology resources
- time management
- involvement
- alcohol awareness
- relationships
- career exploration
- finances