Academic Advising
Freshmen Orientation 2018

Dave Reinhold
Associate Provost

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Academic Advisors are Critical to Your Student’s Success
Your Student is Not in High School Anymore

High School: 30 hours a week in class  
One class for the entire year  
Structured Environment

College: 15 hours a week in class  
One class for half the year  
Less Structured Environment

College covers twice as much material in half the time.
Western Michigan University is developing a holistic approach to student success and advisors are in the center of it all.

1. Academic
2. Career
3. Engagement
4. Financial
Advisors Have Many Tools to Help Your Student

1. Mid-term Grades
2. Degree Works
3. Program Plans
4. Communication Plans
Academic Advisors Must Comply with Federal Law

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act - FERPA
Western Michigan University Uses a Decentralized Model for Advising

When in doubt, start with the advising office within the college of the student’s major.
Retention by Student Credit Hours

Retention

Credit Hours Attempted in Fall Semester

Western Michigan University
What Should Your Student Do?

1. Don’t rely on friends for advice on academic issues.
2. Always pay attention to communications from academic advisors and respond promptly.
3. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
4. Talk with their instructors.
What Should Parents Do?

1. Keep lines of communication open with your student.
2. Don’t be afraid to ask WMU advisors or staff questions.
Academic Success Programs

Randy Ott, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Academic Success Programs
What is academic success at WMU?

- It is everyone’s responsibility
- We adapt to abilities and learning styles
- Our methods are researched and modeled after national standards of best practices
- Students who get help feel better about their education and CONNECT to WMU
- Students who attend “success” sessions earn on average one letter grade higher
What assistance is available?

Gateways To Completion
Physics Help Room
Math Tutor Lab
Spanish Table
Technology Help Desk
First Year Seminar
Broncos First
Multicultural Affairs STEM
Statistics Lab
College Success Seminars
Writing Center
CEHD Mentoring Program
CHHS Student Engagement Succ.
CAS Student Success Services
HCOB SPuRS Program
CEAS STEP Program
TRiO SSP and FESP
What do our students say........

“Thank you so much for the help. I will be back.”

“I never had to work this hard in high school.”

“How did you learn this stuff?”

“This is due in 1 hour can you edit it for me now?”
What do our students say........

“Thank you so much for the help. I will be back.”

“I never had to work this hard in high school.”

“How did you learn this stuff?”

“This is due in 1 hour can you edit it for me now?”

“Ooohhhhhhh...I get it now 😊”

“I should have been working with you since.......”

“How do I get a job like this?”
How can you help?

• Ask questions now……summer preparation
• Don’t assume they learn and are being taught how you did
• You can encourage them to get help
• Ask questions/engage during the year
What questions do you have?
Study Abroad Road Map

- Why Study Abroad?
- FAQ’s of Study Abroad
- Who else is abroad?
Why Study Abroad?

• Cognitively: Flexibility, creativity, AND complex thinking
• Academically: Higher GPA’s AND Higher Graduation Rates
• Professionally: More job offers AND higher starting salaries
• Note: Bilingualism
FAQ’s of Study Abroad

1. Where can I go?
Destinations

• WMU offers more than 90 programs in over 40 countries
  • Examples of countries are:
    - Argentina
    - Australia
    - Belgium
    - Canada
    - China
    - Costa Rica
    - Czech Republic
    - France
    - Germany
    - Ireland
    - Italy
    - Japan
    - Malaysia
    - Netherlands
    - New Zealand
    - Norway
    - Russia
    - South Africa
    - South Korea
    - Spain
    - Sweden
    - Turkey
    - Thailand
    - United Kingdom
    - Uruguay

Nathan Alford-Tate. Spain, 2015
FAQ’s of Study Abroad

2. For how long and what can I study?

Jennifer Rohn. Italy, 2015

Meriah Putnam. Dominican Republic, 2017

Western Michigan University
Program Duration and Types

Students can study abroad for a length of time that fits their schedule – a few weeks to a whole year.

• 1 to 10 weeks
  • University breaks
  • Faculty-Led

• Semester
• Academic Year

Students can study almost anything!
• Courses can count toward majors, minors, and general education requirements
• Curricular integration
  • Classes abroad in many majors
  • Keeps you on track to graduate!

Western Michigan University
FAQ’s of Study Abroad

3. Can I afford it?

Help me, I’m poor.
YES, you can afford it!

- Financial aid
- Scholarships
  - Study abroad, departmental, national, and private
  - Exchange programs
- Cost of program
  (a.k.a cost of living)
FAQ’s of Study Abroad

4. Do I have to know/study a foreign language?

Emma Mrofchak. South Africa, 2015

Angel Page. Ireland, 2015
Language in WMU Study Abroad Programs

- 70% of programs have an optional language component or no language component at all
- 30% have language component
Where to begin...

- Info session with peer advisors
- Online – Browse programs on Broncos Abroad
- Appointment with a Study Abroad Specialist
- Attend the Study Abroad Fair September 26th, 2018 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Follow Us on Social Media!!

@WMUStudyAbroad
#WMUBroncosAbroad
#globallyengagedbroncos
Who else is abroad?

Roughly 600 Broncos study abroad each year!!!
Q & A

Come see us at 2425 Ellsworth Hall!

WMU Study Abroad office is now a passport acceptance facility!

https://wmich.edu/global/passportfacility

WMU Study Abroad (2nd floor, Ellsworth Hall)
1903 W Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5245 USA | (269) 387-5890 | study-abroad@wmich.edu
General Education
Freshmen Orientation 2018

Dave Reinhold
Associate Provost
General Education is a Critical Part of Every Students Education

1. It is what many people believe is necessary for the development of an educated person.

2. Employers tell us over and over again that what general education teaches is what they are looking for in future employees.
Association of American Colleges and Universities

Hart Research Associates

Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success 2015
Employers overwhelmingly endorse broad learning as the best preparation for long-term career success.

1. 15% of employers stated that having knowledge and skills that apply to a specific field was most important for success.

2. 25% of employers stated that it was more important to have a range of skills and knowledge across a variety of fields.

3. 60% of employers think it is important to have both.
What Skills Do Employers Desire the Most?

1. Effective Oral Communication (85%)
2. Ability to Work With Others in Teams (83%)
3. Effective Written Communication (82%)
4. Ethical Judgment and Decision-making (81%)
5. Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning (81%)
6. Ability to Apply Knowledge and Skills to Real-world Problems (80%)
What Skills do Employers Desire the Most? (cont.)

7. Ability to Analyze and Solve Complex Problems (70%)
8. Ability to Locate, Organize, and Evaluate Information from Multiple Sources (68%)
9. Ability to Innovate and Be Creative (65%)
10. Staying Current on Changing Technologies and Their Applications to the Workplace (60%)
11. Ability to Work With Numbers and Understand Statistics (56%)
12. Ability to Work with People from different Backgrounds and Cultures (56%)
Western Michigan University’s General Education Program

Proficiencies:
1. College-level Writing
2. Baccalaureate Level Writing
3. College-level Mathematics or Quantitative Reasoning
4. Enhance or Develop a Proficiency
Western Michigan University’s General Education Program

Distribution Areas:

Area I – Fine Arts
Area II – Humanities
Area III – The United States: Cultures and Issues
Area IV – Other Cultures and Civilizations
Area V – Social and Behavioral Studies
Area VI – Natural Science with Lab
Area VII – Natural Science and Technology: Applications and Implications
Area VIII – Health and Well-being
General Education is not something to get out of the way. It is a valuable part of the educational experience that should be coordinated with the student’s major to help them develop into an educated person that has a very high potential for success in whatever field they end up pursuing.