


1993

UA12/5 WKU MASTER Plan

WKU Housing & Residence Life

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Western Kentucky University

M A S T E R

P L A N

It's Hard to Find
the Answers, When
You Don't Know
What to Ask....



WESTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

Bowling Green, KY 42101
502-745-2037

Residence Life

Dear New Student:

As you look forward to attending Western Kentucky University, you may be concerned with making the transition to college life. Many students have an abundance of questions when beginning college. Students usually receive the answers to these questions throughout their first year, but often wish they had access to this information much earlier.

In order to make your transition to Western a little smoother, we decided to tap our most abundant resource of information about attending Western Kentucky University: Western students and faculty. We surveyed students by asking them what information they now have about attending Western that they wish they had been made aware of earlier. We also surveyed the faculty to know what advice they would give incoming freshmen. The response from both groups was extensive and insightful.

In this booklet, we have compiled their responses. It is our hope that you will find this information helpful. We wish you the best of luck and much success as you begin your college years at Western Kentucky University.

Sincerely,

Department of Residence Life
Western Kentucky University

The Spirit Makes the Master

From the Faculty....





BITS OF WISDOM

Teachers organize, summarize, and emphasize - this is "teaching." Students chew, ponder, and digest - this is "learning."

-anonymous

College life is a vast, delicious banquet. The challenge is to choose the right things in the right amounts.

-J. C., Chemistry.

The university is a big sponge. Take the "sponge" and squeeze everything you can out of it! It is an incredible resource for your future. Avail yourself to everything offered.

-W. K., PE & Recreation

**College is where we learn HOW to think,
rather than WHAT to think.**

-C. P., Philosophy & Religion

**Learning to think in new ways is more
important than straight "A"s.**

-M. H., Philosophy & Religion

**Be a person, not just a blob in a sea of chairs
- the rewards are legion.**

-M. J., Consumer & Family Studies

**Pass through Western, and let Western pass
through you.**

-J. N., Mod. Lang. & Intercultural Studies

**Attend WKU because it is what YOU want
to do, not because it is what someone else
wants you to do.**

-M. H., Financial Aid

**Keep your priorities straight. It is very easy
to slide into bad habits and dig a hole from
which you cannot escape. By the time you
realize how far behind you are, it is too late.
Your education should come first. You will
be using it the rest of your life.**

-J. G., English

**[In college you will be considered an adult
and] you may be required to produce a
higher quality of work.**

-anonymous

**Many lessons are learned outside the
classroom.**

-anonymous

**Beware of credit card offers. Freshmen may
be easy prey for companies offering too
much money at very high interest rates. The
offers will arrive uninvited at your campus
address. I know one student who had to
work two years to pay back the debts he**

accumulated in one year at Western on two credit cards.

-J. H., Communication

Learn your instructor's name and title and refer to them by their proper title. Do not assume that male instructors are "Dr." and female instructors are "Ms."

-anonymous

Understand the WKU honor code [refer to the Western Kentucky University Creed].

-C. G., Management



OFFICE HOURS

Please feel free to ask (questions or for help)! We are glad to help you, if we can, and all of us have felt lost at times.

-C. M., Ky. Library

Faculty are real people, just like you. Be sure to visit your instructors to seek assistance. We are here to help you.

-anonymous

Never, never, never tell an instructor you have been looking all over for them and could not find them. Get their class schedule from their departmental office and be at their class either immediately before or after and set up an appointment.

-anonymous, Ogden College of Science

Go see your professor at least once a week.
-N. I., Mathematics

Cultivate a friendship with someone among the faculty, administration, or staff, who has a listening ear, exhibits a caring attitude, and displays a willingness to help you work through problems and challenges.

-anonymous

See your professors BEFORE you have to see them.

-E. H., Geography & Geology

Step in and visit your professors during their office hours at least once a semester. It shows that you are a concerned student. Also, you might get to know and like your professors better.

-D. L. B., Marketing

Feel free to call or meet with your instructor during office hours. Leave a message with the department secretary if the instructor is not available. They will return your call.

-S. R., Psychology



ATTENDANCE

Attend class even if you think you do not need to attend.

-J. S., Mathematics

Resolve to attend every class. If you do have to miss, let the teacher know ahead of time and offer a report of what you did instead of attending class. Absences may lead teachers to believe you do not care enough about the class to be there regularly.

-J. H. A., Journalism

Students sometimes continue to skip class because they have missed several class meetings and are afraid of their professor's reaction. If you miss several classes, meet with your professor and let them know what happened. They usually try to understand.

-anonymous

Go to class on Fridays. Poor attendance is one of the main factors in poor performance and consequently, low grades.

-anonymous

In General Education classes (as well as other classes), there is usually a correlation between class attendance and grades received.

-anonymous



IN THE CLASSROOM

Look alert and interested. Participate by asking informed questions, providing brief examples, or bringing related information (such as newspaper articles) to class. Instructors like attentive, interested students.

-S.R., Psychology

If your first few grades do not meet your expectations - work hard, persevere and the grades will eventually come around. Stay encouraged and stick with it!

-E. Y., Government

Ask your professors questions - that is why we are here!



-R. W., History

There is no such thing as extra credit.

-anonymous

The only stupid question is the unasked question . . .so speak up!

-S. S., PE & Recreation

Be ready on the very first day of class. Set your goals high and try to master the subject. Do not be satisfied with just getting through the class.

-G. W. M., Engineering Technology

Read the class syllabus. Record exam dates and project due dates in your calendar.

-L. L., Psychology

Get an ABACUS (school calendar) or other date book to keep track of assignments and meetings.

-anonymous

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Be more than just a number. Get involved. Meeting new people is an important part of your college experience.

-C. Y. J., Home Ec. & Family Living

Become involved in the university community, there are many opportunities awaiting you. Take advantage and enjoy!

-anonymous

Push yourself to make new friends. Speak to others first. They are probably just as scared as you are. Attend outside activities (i. e., clubs, church groups, etc.).

-K. C., Nursing

Choose your friends wisely.

-J. R., Home Ec. & Family Living

Take advantage of the free extras available to you as a student at WKU: lectures, poetry readings, the Kentucky Museum, and help available to you in various academic-support labs around campus (such as the Writing Center in Cherry Hall).

-J. R., English



STUDYING

Remember that full-time students should be prepared to commit about 45 hours per week to being a student (15 hours in class and at least two hours of preparation/study time outside of class for every hour in class). In other words, being a student is a full-time job.

-anonymous

Wise use of your time is your biggest asset to succeeding in university academics. Read assigned material before class, take notes in class, and review your notes afterward. All-night studying is usually counter-productive, because it leaves you too sleepy and exhausted to do well on tests.

-H. B., Public Health

Begin studying prior to the night before a test. After each class meeting learn that day's notes. After the next class meeting, review the first day's notes and then learn that day's notes. Continue in this fashion.

-R. H., Teacher Education

If getting good grades without much effort in high school describes you, know that the competition and the expectations have increased and your study habits may have to change accordingly.

-L. F., Home Ec. & Family Living



CHOOSING A MAJOR

Choose a major before you have completed your General Education requirements (during your first year, if possible). Yet, try not to make a hasty decision. Talk with faculty and students in the field in which you might be interested to get a better understanding of what that field involves.

-anonymous

If you are not sure what you want [to do], set about getting the best grades that you can. When you eventually decide what you want, you will be in the best position to achieve it.

-T. Y., Biology

If you are uncertain about what career to pursue, ask lots of questions.

-R. W., Personal Health

From the Students....



CHOOSING A MAJOR

Choose a major that interests you and that you can see yourself doing for the next four years. (Including your General Education requirements for your first year, if possible). Yet, try not to make a hasty decision. Talk with faculty and students who are interested in your field.



If you are uncertain about what career to pursue, ask lots of questions.

-R. W., Personal Health

ACADEMIC ADVICE

Go to Career Services and take their interest tests to see where your interests lie. This can help you choose a major and save you time in the long run.

-M. M., Franklin, KY

I wish I would have gone to Career Services during my freshman year. The counselors there help students find the major most suitable for them.

-J. S., Gallatin, TN

Have your advisor explain the General Education requirements so you will not waste time taking classes you do not need.

-anonymous

Get to know your professors - after all, they are the ones who will write your letters of recommendation later!

P.W., Scottsville, KY

The professors are not going to eat you alive if you go to their office for help or advice. Most of them value a visit as a sign of effort and determination.

-S. W., Pleasant View, TN

Find a good advisor. Ask them to help you work out your degree program and what classes you are to take each semester for the next four years. This way you will know in advance which classes to take each semester.

-C. A.



ACTIVITIES

Get involved and meet as many people as possible.

-K. H., Valrico, FL

Remember that once you enter college, you have to seek out activities, clubs, and groups that you think are right for you. Try to get involved as soon as you can, but don't let your grades become less important than having fun and making friends. Grades will be what is important when you are ready to leave college.

-anonymous

As a new student, I wish I would have known the importance of becoming involved in campus activities. Involvement is the key to enjoying your stay at Western.

-J. T., Morgantown, KY

Get out and meet people - there is more to college than books!

-M. W., Albany, KY

Get to know people in your classes and in your residence hall. Introduce yourself.

-anonymous

Get to know other people within your major. [This can help you with studying, getting notes from missed classes, etc.]

-anonymous

Get involved in hall government or intramural sports. Join a club associated with your major. I didn't do this until three months after school started. Once I joined some outside organizations, I met many great people.

-B. C., Salem, IN

Get out and meet people. Try not to sit in your room when there are other things to do.

-B. W., Williamsville, NJ

Explore the options campus life provides, but use some common sense. I have learned more outside the classroom that will have a direct impact on my life, than inside the classroom.

-anonymous

When I came to Western, I did not know a single person. As I became involved in some school activities, I met lots of people. Be open to new ideas and new faces.

-S. J., Columbus, OH

Get involved! Go Greek! Play intramural sports! Join organizations! The more things you get involved in, the more diverse people you will meet. Then when you walk around

on campus, the more friendly faces you will see [and you will feel more at home].

-A. M., Nashville, TN

I wish I had known about the academically-oriented clubs and the information available regarding my major. Go to the advisors, department heads, etc. to find out about subjects that interest you . . .they are only too willing to help.

-K. L., Elizabethtown, KY

Get involved! Any campus can be boring if you are not active. Above all, keep an open mind.

-B. M., Edmonton, KY

Intramural sports can help you work off stress from class work.

-anonymous

Balance your academic and social life. It is just as important to have good friends as it is to have good grades.

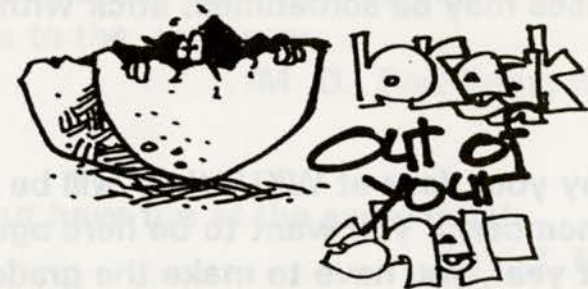
-anonymous

Be ready to make new friends. There is a lot to do at Western if you look for it.

-A., Nashville, TN

I wish I would have known that college would be so much fun!

-anonymous



CLASSES

Get your General Education requirements out of the way early!

-anonymous

Never skip class. Half of your final grade seems to come from attending class, taking notes, and knowing what is going on.

-C. F., Springfield, TN

One piece of advice I would like to give all incoming freshmen is no matter how hard classes may be sometimes, stick with it!

-M. C.

Enjoy your days at WKU, they will be great. Remember, if you want to be here again next year, you have to make the grades this year.

-A. M., Shelbyville, KY

I wish I would have had better study habits coming into college. I believe managing my time better would have helped me dramatically.

-anonymous

Beware of procrastinating. It only leads to stress and a pile of work to do at the end of the semester. Take classes that interest you. You tend to do better in classes that you like.

-L. A., Waddy, KY

My advice to new students is to attend classes daily, even if you may not feel like going. Attendance can make all the difference to the professor.

-M. D., Fort Knox, KY

Study - but have fun at the same time!

-J. M.

Keep up with your studies, because once you fall behind it is hard to catch up.

-T. M., Elizabethtown, KY

Learn to manage your time well. Avoid waiting until the last minute to study or write papers.

-K. D., Brentwood, TN

It is okay to party occasionally, but college is more than one long party. It's okay to pass up a party to study or do homework.

-C. H., Hendersonville, TN

I wish I had been a little more serious my first semester, instead of playing around and taking so much time away from studying.

-J. D., Virginia

INSPIRATION

After the first semester, college gets easier. College seems scary at first, but it can be a lot of fun.

-anonymous

Be positive, be yourself, and be determined.

-C. A.

I wish I would have worked harder in the beginning. It is very hard to overcome a bad start. College is a time to experience many things; but remember, the primary reason you are here is to learn.

-J. S., Gallatin, TN

Make new friends, have good times, excel academically, and have no regrets!

-M. S., Evansville, IN

Stay encouraged. Everyone was once a freshman.

-H. D.

Come to college for the right reasons. Do not go to school for your family or friends. Go to college to [educate yourself as well as] prepare for a career and stick to that goal.

-K. C., Smiths Grove, KY

Hang in there! After a couple of weeks, Western really does begin to feel like home.

- anonymous

Always remember that college is a campus, not a camp. There is a time to play and a time for fun, but remember why you are here - your future.

-L. B., Versailles, KY

MISCELLANEOUS

When you come to college, you are considered an adult. Take responsibility from the first day. Come prepared.

-anonymous

If possible, buy a lot of socks (etc.) to lessen your laundry expenses [so you won't have to do laundry as often].

-A. W., Madisonville, KY

Bring lots of things from home to decorate your room. There is nothing more depressing than a bare room.

-anonymous

Make a friend in Wetherby [Administration Building].

-anonymous



Try to buy books **AFTER** the first day of classes. Also, go in the evening to avoid the long lines.

-anonymous

I wish I would have known about the short-cut through Grise Hall. You can ride the elevator to the fourth floor and not have to walk up the hill.

-K. M., Elkton, KY

Keep your red OAR folder, because it has a lot of valuable information in it. However, if you carry it around campus, everyone will immediately know you are a freshman.

-anonymous

Be sure to check with other students and faculty when scheduling classes, so that you can be sure to sign up for the best classes for you.

-La Grange, KY

I wish I would have kept better sleeping habits. Now, I sleep during the day and stay up all night.

-M. G., Springfield, MA

The new people and new ideas at college can overwhelm you. Keeping something from home helps. Something simple, like your teddy bear or a blanket that smells like home can do wonders for your sanity as well as help with homesickness.

-anonymous

Do not get a credit card.

-C. H., Hendersonville, TN

I wish I would have known more about cooking, doing laundry, and budgeting money before I was a new student.

-B. J., Louisville, KY

Park on the third floor of the parking structure so you can avoid walking around the structure or walking up the 'do not enter' ramp when you come back to get your car.

-K. B., Springfield, TN

Try to schedule your classes with a campus map in hand. Use the map to make sure your classes are somewhat close to one another. You can walk from the top of the hill to the bottom of the hill in 15 minutes, but trying to walk up the hill in 15 minutes can be difficult.

-V. W., Madison, TN

Live in a residence hall because you get to know a lot more people. You will make friendships that will last a lifetime.

-K. B., Portland, TN

Eat right and get plenty of rest.

-anonymous

Bring a big umbrella. It often rains in Bowling Green and staying dry while walking to class can be tricky.

-anonymous



WEEKENDS ON CAMPUS

Try to find something to get involved in, so you will have a reason to stay on campus on the weekends.

-anonymous

Stay on campus on the weekends. It can be fun.

-anonymous

Stay on campus the first few weekends. This is when you can meet many different people.

-anonymous

The weekends are when you get time to study. I usually cannot study when I go home for the weekend.

-K. R., Louisville, KY

I do laundry on weekends. It is a lot easier to find an empty washer or dryer on the weekend.

-J. D., Louisville, KY

Weekends are more relaxed. It is the best time to be on campus.

-anonymous

When you stay on campus on the weekends, you are more likely to feel like you live at school and visit your parents at home, instead of feeling like you live at home and visit school.

-K.P., Louisville, KY



Thanks!



We would like to thank everyone, faculty, staff, and students, who contributed their wisdom and ideas to this publication. Due to space constraints, some responses could not be included; however, we appreciate all who took the time to respond.

Office of Residence Life

If you have any additional ideas or suggestions,
please send them to us :

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