It’s time to celebrate your success! Your first year of college is almost wrapped up and you can look back at many “firsts” – from move-in day to finding your fall classes, from meeting a roommate to finding a parking space in the commuter parking lots, or from studying for exams to receiving your first semester grades. Although the first year is full of ups and downs, we hope it’s been an overall great experience for you.

Take time to reflect on your experiences so far. What have you accomplished? What have you encountered that means something to you? Have you discovered anything that you want to further explore? Your second year is the perfect time to find new and meaningful opportunities! You are no longer new to NIU which means you know more about how to navigate campus and be a college student. Take advantage of this and make the most out of your second-year by utilizing all of NIU’s resources. Sophomore year is crucial for academic and career development. Explore organizations, utilize NIU Career Services, visit the writing center and find a way to become a leader on campus. This can help you develop skills, build relationships and find something you love. Enjoy your summer and congratulations on the completion of your first year at NIU!
Semester Checklist

Use this list to make sure you finish the semester strong.

Complete quality work for remaining assignments to achieve your desired class grade.

- Your GPA is important. You may need a certain GPA to be accepted into your academic program, so take the time to bring your grade up. You should check your syllabi to see what assignments you have left for the remainder of the semester and determine what grade you need to earn on each assignment to achieve your desired class grade. Tutoring, writing help and faculty office hours are available to help you succeed, but you should make sure to act now!

- Professors can seem scary...but they are human too. Most professors are more than willing to help you if you’re struggling and all professors have office hours that you should use to your benefit.

Prepare for your college final exam week occurring May 5-10.

- Your final exams are approaching quickly. Remember to check and keep track of your final exam schedule because it may be different than your class schedule! Be sure to check out the Exam Schedule Details! We encourage you to find the help you need or to create study groups with classmates to help prepare. If you realize that you are struggling in class it is important to get help early! Start reviewing notes as soon as you can, even if it is only for fifteen minutes at a time!

- Practice healthy habits. The night before each exam, pack your bag with everything you need, whether it be a calculator, ID, pencils or erasers. Get some good rest, knowing that you will be ready first thing in the morning. Make sure to include good food and exercise throughout your day. Mental health is just as important!

Make an appointment with your advisor to plan classes for next semester.

- It is crucial for you to visit your advisor before fall semester registration to ensure that you are on the right track. Make sure you sign up for an appointment as early as possible because spots fill up fast!

Visit myniu.niu.edu to find out when your class registration date is.

- You can log in to MyNIU and view the panel on the right side to find your registration date for summer or fall classes. You can even choose your classes and add them to your shopping cart so you are ready to register on your first day!

Visit myniu.niu.edu to make sure you have no holds on your account.

- You can log in to MyNIU and view the panel on the right side to find out if you have any holds on your account. You must take care of any holds before you are able to register for fall semester classes. Make arrangements for your summer break move out date if you live in the residence halls.

- Make sure you know your move out date! It is important for you to bring home all personal items and plan your transportation.
On-Campus Events

Though the semester is coming to a close, it is important to continue your involvements. Sometimes getting involved is the perfect stress reliever from studying for final exams. Try some of these events to help you out:

- **Free Weekly Bike Rides**
  Outdoor Adventures will be hosting free weekly bike rides again this spring. Come hang out with their staff, ride around town and meet some new people! If you don’t have a bike, the Adventure Center will loan you a bike (first come, first served). Every Wednesday through May 2, 5 p.m. Meet at the Adventure Center!

- **Free Fitness Fridays**
  - Power Vinyasa Flow Yoga
    Student Recreation Center
    April 20, 4-5 p.m.
  - POP Pilates
    Student Recreation Center
    April 27, 4-5 p.m.

Cheer on Your Huskies at Home

Looking for something to do on campus? Cheer on your Huskies at home! Click [here](#) for more information on Huskie Athletics.

**Men’s Baseball**
- vs. Miami University
  April 21 and 22
- vs. Indiana State University
  April 24
- vs. Robert Morris University
  April 25
- vs. Valparaiso University
  May 1
- vs. University of Toledo
  May 4 and 6

**Men’s Tennis**
- vs. Toledo
  April 13
- vs. Buffalo
  April 20

**Women’s Softball**
- vs. University of Illinois-Chicago
  April 17
- vs. Western Michigan University
  April 27 and 28
- vs. Central Michigan
  May 4 and 5

**Women’s Tennis**
- vs. Eastern Michigan University
  April 20

Residence Hall Announcements

Residence Halls close Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m.

Residents are required to check out 24 hours after their last final unless graduating. Residents need to make an appointment with their Community Advisor to checkout. No student may stay past 5 p.m. without a summer contract.

Are you planning to stay in DeKalb for the summer? We have easy summer 2018 housing options for you, with no long-term lease! You can stay in the fully air conditioned New Hall East residence hall for the summer 2018 session classes or you can stay in the residence halls for the entire summer if you will have a room for fall 2018. We have meal options for you, too. Explore your summer housing options by going to the Housing Website. You can complete a summer contract online, then come into the Residential Administration Office in East Neptune 101 anytime 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning in mid-April to choose your cool, summer room!
What is NIU PLUS?

NIU PLUS is a collection of programs created to highlight the hard work you are already doing to make your future as bright as possible. Through our PLUS programs, your academic endeavors can become as unique as you are and set you apart from competitors in the workforce. Start thinking about your future now! Learn more about our PLUS programs.

EngagePLUS provides you with the opportunity to earn notations on your official transcripts for hands-on learning experiences you’ve completed while enrolled at NIU. EngagePLUS is used to set you apart from competition in the workforce. EngagePLUS allows you to take the concepts from the classroom and apply them into the real world.

There are six EngagePLUS categories:

- Artistry
- Career Related Work Experiences
- Experiential Learning
- Leadership
- Service Learning
- Undergraduate Research

Often times EngagePLUS is a supplement to the already amazing work you are doing, why miss out on this opportunity when the process is only two small phases?

**Phase One**
- Write a proposal.
- Get proposal approval by your supervisor or mentor.

**Phase Two**
- Submit a reflection within four weeks of the end of the semester.
- Your mentor or supervisor will approve or deny the reflection.

Look no further for a great opportunity to get acknowledged for the great work you do and achieve the Human Diversity Requirement. Learn more and start planning for your future now!
Word of Mouth Helps Huskies Learn About Careers and Career Services

One of the most-stated reasons students and their families have for enrolling in college centers around what they will do after graduation -- e.g., career, graduate and professional school. Nationally, only 26% of college seniors reported attending a career fair on their campuses. Although NIU is proud that we exceed that national average for our student attendance (31% of NIU seniors come out for the fairs), we would like to see you take advantage of what Career Services can do to help you throughout your time at NIU -- not just during your senior year!

One of the most effective ways you can learn about careers and Career Services is from fellow Huskies; this includes students, faculty members, advisers and organization members.

Students who have made Career Services a regular part of their time at NIU will tell you how valuable our services are in helping you choose an academic program, prepare for internships, develop your resumes and interviewing skills, as well as actually meeting employers right on campus.

You can help each other learn about Career Services by using our online resource of flyers, events, video links and poster locations.

Here are a couple of other ideas to help you get the most out of Career Services at NIU:

- Check out career-related events on the NIU Calendar.
- Check out your e-mail for messages from Career Services, as well as the NIU Twitter and Facebook accounts, including videos shared on the NIU YouTube channel.
Do you want to learn more about what is going on in our office and around the NIU community? Connect with us!

For office updates, “Takeover Tuesdays,” live event recordings and more: Follow us on Snapchat.

Like and follow us on Facebook.

First- and Second-Year Experience
Email: fsye@niu.edu
Call: 815-753-0028
Visit: Altgeld Hall, Room 100

Spring at NIU!