Hey Huskies, you’re almost done with your first semester as students at Northern Illinois University. Can you believe it? By now you have learned so much about how to be fantastic students, and keep going strong! Finals week will soon be upon us. Keep your stride going and finish the semester out strong. Tie up any loose ends in your classes, register for classes for next semester and start studying for those final exams.

Finals week can be a bit overwhelming. Don’t worry, there are plenty of things you can do to stay balanced, keep involved and remain prepared. Study like a Huskie, and it’ll be over soon!

Before we part for a little over a month, First- and Second-Year Experience would like to wish you the best of luck with final exams, and we hope you have a wonderful winter break!
Important Dates

Thanksgiving break
Nov. 27-Dec. 1

Classes Resume
Dec. 2

Final Examinations
Dec. 9-14

Week to Register for Classes
Check your registration time here.

Winter Break
Dec. 15

The Start of Spring Semester
Jan. 13

Things Happening on Campus!

Here are some cool things you can attend that are led by students on campus!

Theatre and Dance
The School of Theatre and Dance starts its shows and performances near the end of the semester. Come see what your fellow peers have been working on all semester and enjoy some entertainment! For a list of showings click here.

Ellington’s Student Restaurant
Come out and support your hospitality peers as they learn the ins and outs of the restaurant business! When dining here each student gets a three-course meal for only $10! For more information click here.

Cold and Flu Season
Winter is coming, and so are the germs. Here are some helpful tips on how to prevent from getting sick!

- Wash your hands.
- Dress warmly (wear layers).
- Don’t share food or drinks.
- Listen to your body. Take a day to relax if you need it.
- If you’re feeling sick, stay home!
- Have disinfectant wipes for your room in case you or your roommate get sick.
- Utilize the health center. You need to call at least a day before to make an appointment.
Ending the Semester

Crisp fall days are here, and that means it’s time to plan ahead for next semester. Be sure to pick your classes and have them in your shopping cart as registration opens soon. Here’s the step-by-step process for registration:

1. Learn your registration date and time.
2. Talk to each of your advisors for major(s) and minor(s). They will help you determine which classes to take to stay on track and/or declare a program. Make appointments as soon as possible so you can register on time! Find your advisor here.
3. Go to MyNIU and put classes into your enrollment shopping cart.
4. Register for classes on your registration date and you will be set for the semester.

Reminder: Make sure you click enroll so you can see your classes on a schedule. If you do not click enroll, you may miss your spot in class.

Going Home for the Holidays

Here are some things you might encounter when you are back home for winter break.

1. You might not have as much freedom at home as you do at school.
2. Spending time with family and catching up with friends.
3. You may sleep in more while at home.
4. Going to your favorite places in your town.
5. You may have chores.
6. You might have a curfew.

Ideas to Lower Stress

With finals right around the corner, try out some new de-stressing ideas!

- Go for a 10-minute walk.
- Try Googling some easy breathing exercises.
- Eat a snack.
- Try easy yoga.
- Turn your phone on do not disturb.
- Listen to music.
- Treat yourself to a small dessert.
- Watch an episode of your favorite show.
- Chew some gum.
- See your friends.
- Craft.
Returning to Campus

- Adjust back to living with roommates.
- Remember you have a new class schedule.
- Bring your winter clothes! The cold weather will be here to stay for awhile.

How to Get Involved During Your Second Semester

Getting involved on campus can be a daunting task, and finding the perfect organization is tricky when there are over 300 possibilities. Here’s a few steps you can take to help find your next group!

Talk to classmates. While you’re in class, ask other students what clubs they are in. Your peers may be involved in organizations related to their majors or other interest specific groups. They most likely will be happy to explain what their organization does, and many groups are always looking for new members. Getting information from other classmates is always a great option because they will be able to give you a lot more information than a flyer.

Look at bulletin boards. Each academic building will have bulletin boards full of information. There are boards dedicated to specific majors and minors as well as public boards where anyone can hang flyers. Take a look at these boards because a lot of groups on campus will hang up information about how to join their organization. Attend informational nights and contact organizations you are interested in to see if they are accepting members.

Read emails. Check your NIU email to see if any organizations have reached out to you. Over the break, groups promote their organizations, and NIU sends lots of information about different events happening on campus as well as other ways to get involved.

Attend Involvement Fairs. Every semester there is an involvement fair on campus where all the organizations head over to Holmes Student Center to look for new members. This is a great opportunity to find groups you may be interested in, and you’ll be able to talk to current members. Keep a lookout for NIU emails with information on the next involvement fair. These events usually occur within the first week or two of the semester.

Utilize Huskie Link. Go to Huskie Link and look at the different organizations on campus. You can filter what types of groups you’d like to see, such as groups that are centered around service or music. When you find an organization you’re interested in, locate the contact information and reach out to the group.