You’ve made it through your first year of college and graduation is that much closer! Now is the time to start making the most out of your college experience and thinking about what you can do to make the next three years count. Staying ahead of the game and prioritizing academics can help you later on down the road when it comes time to apply for scholarships or achieve that GPA goal at graduation. Think about getting involved and finding ways that you can make an impact on campus. Now is the time to join the organization you’ve been thinking about, or explore ways to step out of your comfort zone. College goes by fast, so it’s important to take advantage of all of the opportunities you have as a student at NIU to help you be as successful as possible!
Calendar Dates

Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 21-25

Classes Resume
Nov. 26

Classes End
Dec. 8

Final Examinations
Dec. 10-15

Cheer on your fellow Huskies at these home athletic events!

Men’s Football
- Ohio University
  Oct. 13
- University of Toledo
  Nov. 7
- Miami University
  Nov. 14
- West Virginia
  Nov. 3

Men’s Soccer
- Bowling Green
  Oct. 13
- Drake
  Oct. 16
- Akron
  Oct. 20

Women’s Soccer
- Ball State
  Oct. 4
- Eastern Michigan
  Oct. 12
- Central Michigan
  Oct. 16

Men’s Wrestling
- Oct. 25
- Nov. 17

Women’s Volleyball
- Akron
  Oct. 12
- Buffalo
  Oct. 13
- Bowling Green
  Nov. 3
- Central Michigan
  Nov. 9
- Eastern Michigan
  Nov. 10
Second-Year Tips/To-Dos

Now that it’s your second year, it’s time to get your college career in check and prepare for the rest of your time at NIU. Here are some things you can do this year to help you prepare for the rest of your career at NIU and beyond.

**Confirm your major/minors**
Now that you’ve completed a full year of classes, it’s time to decide what field of study you wish to continue for your degree. Declaring a major can be scary, but it can also be relieving. Talk to your advisor today to map out a plan to love what you’re studying and succeed in academics! [Find your advisor](#).

**Conduct a mock professional job search**
When applying for jobs after graduation, many students are unsure how to conduct a successful job search. By conducting a mock professional job search, you’ll have the opportunity to figure out what you need to do now in college to give you the best chance to get the job when you’re actually searching for a job.

**Get an on-campus job**
Participating in an on-campus position allows you to gain work experience while continuing your studies. Finding a job can be as easy as talking to faculty and staff through your involvements or going online to find job postings. Find some NIU [Student Job Opportunities](#).

**Create a professional/involvement résumé**
For any job, you’ll need to create a résumé to show your experience as an employee or student. While many employers look for job experience, they also look at your involvements. Create a résumé that highlights your experience, your involvements and community service. Always remember the activities that make you a great leader and potential employee. Whether you’re creating a professional or involvement résumé, stop by [Career Services](#) to ensure you have the best documents for your applications.
A message from Division of Student Affairs:

We are here for you! As you enter your second year as a Huskie, your challenge is to continue to use campus resources and build relationships with your peers, faculty and staff. At one time or another, everyone feels stressed, depressed or anxious. Emotional support comes in all shapes and sizes here at NIU. We care about you and value you as an important part of the Huskie family.

Where can you find support?

• Faculty members: Take advantage of their office hours. They’re here to help you be successful in the classroom, even when life may get in the way of your progress.

• NIU staff: There are lots of staff members in offices across campus who care about you. Don’t hesitate to ask for help. The Division of Student Affairs is made up of staff who are dedicated to supporting you through your journey.

• Counseling and Consultation Services: They’re here for you! They provide mental health support to all students. They’re a team of trained professionals committed to helping you achieve your academic and personal goals.

Your mental and emotional health are important to us and we are here to support you!

New Campus Safety Features

The Huskie Safe Line that offers rides to you around campus and into the surrounding community will now run from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., with an expanded route that has been revamped based upon your requests.

Additionally, the NIU Police Safe Selling Initiative is a newly-created program that allows you to complete transactions arranged via Craigslist, etc. so that goods and money can be exchanged safely and securely.
Q&A

Fact about yourself:

“When I’m not studying toward a marketing degree, I’m either watching YouTube or playing the guitar.”

Favorite thing about NIU:

“My favorite thing about NIU would definitely be the students who go here. I’ve met a bunch of goofy, fun people and have made a lot of good friends.”

One thing you wish you did your first year at NIU:

“That I continued to challenge myself by getting good grades in difficult classes and by holding positions in the business fraternity in which I take part. What I’ve learned is that the more challenges you make yourself face, the less intimidating and more achievable the next challenge will seem. It’s an efficient cycle that’s sure to help anyone prepare for the future.”

Advice for second-year students:

“Second-year students: as hard as it is to avoid, you have to try your hardest not to get lazy when it comes to classes. There were definitely a few times when I slacked and paid the price for it. Compared to your first year in college, the second year can ramp up in difficulty quite a bit. What really worked for me was the use of efficient and quick (one hour) study sessions to prepare myself for class. This way I would still have time to do the things I love and I wasn’t overworked and avoided a lot of slacking.”
So You Want to Be Involved?

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
MLK Commons

Join us for fun and games while learning how to get connected at NIU!

Cupcakes and Conversation

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 5-6 p.m.
Altgeld Room 100

Meet NIU faculty and staff and enjoy sweet treats. Students will have the opportunity to engage in informal conversations about academic success, career paths, internships and networking opportunities.

Study Abroad Speed Dating

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Neptune Hall, Neptune Central

Learn about studying abroad from students who have traveled all over the world and are ready to share their experiences and answer questions!

NIU’s Common Reading Experience
Make Your Home Among Strangers

Essay Contest Submission Guidelines:

1. Writer must be currently enrolled in First-Year Composition—English 102P, 103P, 103, 103ESL, 203, 203ESL, 204, 451, 452, 453; or in UNIV 101 (University Experience)—or placed into one of these courses for the spring semester.

2. Essay should address the themes of adjusting to college life, educational access, first generation students’ unique challenges, immigration, relationships (roommates, family, romantic), identity (ethnicity, gender, class), and others raised by Crucet’s text.

3. All information about the writer should be on a cover page attached to the essay; no identification should be included on any page of the essay itself.

4. The information to be placed on the cover sheet attached to the essay should include the following:
   
   Name:
   
   ZID#:
   
   Campus address, email address, and telephone number:
   
   English or UNIV course, instructor, and section number:
   
5. The essay should be submitted to Maribel Montelongo, First-Year Composition Office Support Specialist, Reavis 215, no later than 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29.

An awards ceremony to honor essay contest winners will be held 3:30-5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14 in Adams Hall’s Chandelier Room.
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