Congratulations! You’re almost done with your first year at NIU.

It’s time to celebrate your success! The 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 lots, and 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 upcoming second year is the perfect time to discover 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 time by utilizing all of NIU’s resources.

Your second 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 completing your first year at NIU!
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.

Professors can seem scary, but they’re human too. Most professors are more than willing to help students who are struggling and have office hours that students can use to their benefit.

Prepares for Exam Week (May 6-12)

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! Click here 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’re struggling in class it’s important to get help early! Start reviewing notes as soon as you can, even if it’s 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, pencils or erasers. Get some good rest knowing that you’ll 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

It’s crucial for you to visit your advisor early and often to ensure that you’re on the right track. Make sure you sign up for an appointment as early as possible because spots fill up fast! Find your advisor online.

Review Your Fall Schedule: Register for Classes

If you already haven’t, you can log in to MyNIU and register for summer or fall classes. If you’ve registered, you can still make changes to your class schedule whenever you’d like. Your advisor can help make sure your classes are right for your academic goals.

Check Your Account for Holds

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’re able to register for fall semester classes.

Arrange for Your Summer Break Move Out Date

Make sure you know your move out date if you live in the residence halls! It is important for you to bring home all personal items and plan your transportation.

Complete Your FAFSA (Financial Aid) Application for the Following School Year

The FAFSA application for your second year is now open and available. The sooner you fill out the better!

*Check out the next few pages for resources to help you complete this checklist!*
A+ PROGRAM

Do you:
• Struggle with long reading assignments or comprehension?
• Study but don’t feel your grades reflect your efforts?
• Have test anxiety or feel unprepared for tests?
• Feel disorganized or overwhelmed with academic expectations?

The A+ Program is a free NIU service which provides one-on-one or small group instruction in effective reading or studying strategies (on an appointment basis). Our goal is to support student success with help in the following areas:
• Effective study strategies.
• Testing strategies.
• Test Anxiety.
• Efficient text reading.
• Note taking skills.
• Time management.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, visit the ACCESS A+ page or call Karol Clark 815-753-1126.

NEED ADVICE?

College is difficult and it’s normal to struggle. Here are some resources that you can utilize to make your college career a whole lot easier!

HOW TO ACE YOUR FINALS

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING FOR BETTER GRADES

Work one-on-one with writing advisors who will help you brainstorm, draft, revise and perfect your work. Locations are:
• Stevenson South
• Founders Memorial Library
• Barsema Business School
• Nursing School
• Music Library
• Still Gym

FREE TUTORING CAN HELP YOU EARN THE GRADE

Prepare for finals early by visiting one of NIU’s free tutoring centers:
• Grant Towers South (lower level)
• New Hall (West Hall B004)
• Founders Memorial Library (Room 302)

For more info on tutoring and writing resources, visit the new NIU academic and tutoring page

CHECK OUT THIS EVENT FOR HELP

Tying Up Loose Ends: Wrapping Up Your Semester
May 2, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Campus Life Building, Room 100
PLUS PROGRAMS

ACADEMICS PLUS

Every college student chooses a major, and many choose minors. At NIU, you can customize your general education courses too, and earn a transcript notation for it (that means that employers and graduate schools will see even more of your hard work). This gives you the opportunity to choose an academic pathway to enhance your transcripts.

ENGAGE PLUS

Earn transcript notation for the leadership work you do on campus. You’ll create an experience unique to your goals and interests while working with a faculty/staff mentor or supervisor. Through this structured experience that blends your classroom concepts with “real-world” scenarios and opportunities, you’ll make better connections, gain a deeper understanding and perspective on your interests and test the knowledge you gain in class. Engage PLUS also lets you get into the work of your interests to help you determine if it’s the right career path for you.

JOBS PLUS

Earn and Learn! A lot of NIU students hold down jobs to make ends meet. No matter if you work in your chosen field, there’s something you can learn that will serve you well when you graduate and start your career. That’s where Jobs PLUS comes in. Through our partnerships with local employers you can enhance those on-the-job experiences with professional development programs. To learn more about Jobs PLUS, contact Chad Glover.

HOW TO: ENGAGE WITH PLUS PROGRAMS

If you’re interested in engaging with the NIU PLUS programs to build a strong college experience, visit the PLUS program website.

This website will provide you with more information on how to get a transcript notation for your leadership, schoolwork and the jobs you hold. You can also learn about the variety of professional development workshops available through JobsPLUS.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT OVER THE SUMMER...
NEW: YOU CAN NOW DEPOSIT HUSKIE BUCKS ONLINE

You can now make real-time deposits to your Huskie Bucks account using a MasterCard, Discover or American Express card. Deposits can be made using the Blackboard Transact Mobile eAccounts smartphone app, which also allows you to check balances, transaction history and add funds in real-time. Parents and guardians can also add funds from anywhere via a guest deposit option.

Huskie Bucks can be used for food purchases from local restaurant and food vendors, meal plans in the dining halls, laundry, printing and more. The eAccounts portal can be accessed online via MyNIU, then Blackboard. Once in the Blackboard Portal, tab to “MyOneCard.” For more information visit onecard.niu.edu.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WITH ACADEMIC WORKS!

Applying for scholarships just got easier! Our new online scholarship application system, AcademicWorks is now open for you!

Within AcademicWorks, you can apply for multiple competitive scholarships. Visit the site to view and apply to those for which you meet the criteria. While the majority of scholarships can be found on the site, check with your academic department to see if they have any other opportunities not available on the system. New scholarships are added often, so make sure you check for new opportunities regularly.

VISIT THE HUSKIE FOOD PANTRY

The Huskie Food Pantry provides free food to NIU students who have found themselves in a circumstance where access to healthy food, or food in general is inconsistent. To be eligible to use the Huskie Food Pantry, you must be an NIU student without an NIU meal plan. All students must bring their NIU OneCard. Visit go.niu.edu/foodpantry for more information.

LOOKING TO FIND A JOB NEXT SEMESTER?

Check out the NIU student employment website!
TAKING YOUR NEXT STEPS

OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE

BROADen your horizons by exploring study abroad trips! Life is short, and experiences are valuable, so why not look into some new and diverse opportunities? NIU’s study abroad programs accommodate every major and every schedule, with lengths ranging from 10 days to full academic years. You have 75 countries to choose from when searching for a program to fit your personal and professional interests. Studying abroad through NIU can be made affordable through financial aid and scholarships. Drop by the Study Abroad Office in Williston Hall Room 417 or visit their website for more information.

WHERE ARE YOU LIVING NEXT SEMESTER?

There are many great living options in DeKalb:

**On-campus housing**
Check out NIU's available options to live on-campus. **Hint: The Second-Year Experience Living Learning Community is a great option for students moving into their second-year.**

**Off-campus housing**
DeKalb offers a large variety of housing options that can suit your needs. Check out NIU's Office of Military and Post-Traditional Student Services for resources for you to use when hunting for apartments including help finding apartments and roommates.

SECOND-YEAR EXPERIENCE LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Are you looking for a way to stay connected during your second year? Sign up to live in this living learning community exclusively for second-year students!

In this LLC, you can participate in:
- Faculty connection events
- Meaningful service projects
- Specialized Career Services workshops and events
- Social events, such as a second-year leadership retreat

For more information or to sign-up for a spot visit the second-year experience LLC website.
NIU RESOURCES

WANT TO BUILD CONNECTIONS?

Huskies Get Connected
• Meet with a student peer who will help you discover opportunities on campus that are catered to your personal hobbies and interests!
• Visit go.niu.edu/HGC to make an appointment.
• Set up your plan for fall 2017!

HuskieLink
• Link yourself to our 200+ events and organizations and find ones that suit your needs!
• Sign in at niu.collegiatelink.net

Talk to Professors
• Talk to your professor during office hours for advice related to your class or major.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL HELP?

Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
• Get guidance with your financial aid, learn about available scholarship opportunities and discover new payment plans. Visit Swen Parson Hall, Room 245 or their website.

Bursar’s Office
• For questions regarding your NIU bill and paying off your education, visit this office.
• Located in Swen Parson Hall, Room 235 or visit their website.

TALK WITH THE OMBUDSPERSON

The university ombudsperson assists people attempting to resolve a university related issue. The ombudsperson is independent of the university’s formal administrative structure and serves as an alternative source for information and advice about issues related to the university.

The ombudsperson is neutral and provides confidential assistance in an impartial manner. The ombudsperson cannot impose solutions but will identify options to help you resolve your concern.

Visit the Ombuds online for info.
GET ACTIVE: NIU SPORTS CLUBS

WHY JOIN A SPORTS CLUB?

If competitive sports are your thing, NIU has a club for you! Sport Clubs are a great way to stay healthy and active, make new friends and play. Whether you were active in sports in high school or have never participated before, NIU has plenty of clubs to participate in and learn more about sports. All NIU Sport Clubs are student-run and open to all fee-paying students, faculty and staff. With more than 500 students actively participating, our clubs are a fantastic way to network with students and faculty from many schools while traveling, learn a new sport and gain leadership experience. Visit the NIU Sports Clubs website for more info.

INTERESTED IN SPORTS?

NIU currently has clubs for the following sporting activities:

- Archery
- Badminton
- Baseball
- Bass Fishing
- Bowling Club
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Cricket
- Dodgeball
- Equestrian
- eSports
- Fencing
- Figure Skating
- Goalball
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Powerlifting
- Quidditch
- Racquetball
- Roller Hockey
- Rugby (Men’s)
- Rugby (Women’s)
- Soccer
- Softball
END OF YEAR EVENTS

Check out these end of the year events to help you destress before finals. Visit the NIU calendar and Huskielink for more events.

WEEKLY BIKE RIDES

Wednesdays at 5 p.m.
Starting March 22 - May 3
Outdoor Adventures will be hosting free weekly bike rides. Hang out with our staff, ride around town and meet new people! Don’t have a bike? The Adventure Center will loan you one of their Trek mountain bikes.

BATTLES OF THE SEXES
Fraternities VS Sororities

April 27, 7 - 8 p.m.
Wirtz Hall
Fraternities and Sororities, test their knowledge and team working skills to win competitive game rounds.

REP YO ORG

April 28, 7 - 11 p.m.
Carl Sandburg Auditorium, Holmes Student Center
Come enjoy stellar performances by your very own Black organizations here on our NIU campus!

CANOE AND BIKE TRIP

April 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Elgin, IL
Try out water sports on a local river. Spend the day canoeing down the Fox River from South Elgin to St. Charles for a 7.5 mile paddle! Bring your bike along or reserve one of the Adventure Center’s Trek mountain bikes to hop on the Fox River Bicycle Trail after the paddle. Included in the registration fee is equipment (boat, paddle, PFD), rental bike, transportation and lunch. For more info visit the Outdoor Adventures website.

INDOOR CLIMBING TRIP

May 1, 5 - 10:30 p.m.
Glendale Heights, IL
Join us for rock climbing, whether you're a first-timer or an experienced climber. We'll be going monthly to the largest rock climbing gym in the United States called Vertical Endeavors (VE) in nearby Glendale Heights. The registration fee includes equipment (harness and climbing shoes), transportation to and from NIU and gym entry fee. For more information, visit the Outdoor Adventures website.

FREE MOVIE: ROGUE ONE

May 2, 7:30 p.m.
Carl Sandburg Auditorium, Holmes Student Center
Come join us for Rogue One: A Star Wars Story in Sandburg Auditorium. Popcorn and soda for only a dollar each!
DON’T STRESS THE TEST

May 3, 5 - 7 p.m.
Campus Life Building, Room 100
This annual Honors House event is open to all Honors students to help students relax as they prepare for final exams.

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATINOS 2nd ANNUAL FINALS CAR SMASH

May 4, noon - 4 p.m.
MLK Commons
Supporting Opportunities for Latinos is hosting a Car Smash that can help prevent stress prior to finals. All are invited to come out to the MLK Commons to smash a car and relieve stress. You must sign a waiver to participate.

CANOE ADVENTURE: BOUNDARY WATERS

May 15 - May 21, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Ely, MN
Celebrate the end of the semester on the water canoeing on picturesque lakes and camping in the woods with good company. This is a great way to unwind after the spring semester and do it right. An adventurous summer awaits you. Included in the registration costs are transportation, all meals, camping and canoeing equipment, and park permits. For more info visit the Outdoor Adventures website.

ARTIGRAS: SPRING ART WALK

May 6, DeKalb Area

Presented by NIU and the City of DeKalb, ARTigras is a Celebration of the Arts—both in the DeKalb community as well as on the NIU campus. This year’s ARTigras, Spring Art Walk features student art exhibitions, student/local art in downtown venues, a costume contest and new this year is the Variety Show at the Egyptian Theater featuring dance, theatrical and music performances.

This is ARTigras, so there will be a costume contest, of course. Where there is an ARTigras costume contest, there are prizes from the Village Commons Bookstore. No need to apply, just show up to the Variety Show dressed to impress and may the best costume win.

DeKalb Area residents, NIU students and employees, and all arts enthusiasts are encouraged to participate! Admission to all art venues and the Egyptian Theatre is free to ALL!

For more information visit the NIU Artigras website.
We hope that this semester has been a blast and that you’ve been enjoying your time at NIU. We’re as excited as you are for a break from school with warm summer days filled with fun! Look out for our second-year brochure that will be sent to you over the summer. It will provide helpful information for you as you begin your second year at NIU. Also we hope you look forward to our second-year newsletters throughout next year! Please feel free to continue to connect with us at any time during your NIU experience. You always have a home at First- and Second-Year Experience. Go Huskies!

FACEBOOK.COM/NIU.FYSYE

Follow us on Facebook for updates on upcoming events and other important information.

SNAPCHAT: NIUFSYE

Follow us on SnapChat for office updates, “Take Over Tuesdays,” live event recordings.