Congratulations!
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 is important to take advantage of all of the opportunities you have as a student at NIU to help you be as successful as possible!
How Do I Make NIU My Home?

Get involved!

Joining an organization on campus can help you build connections with other students and faculty across NIU and the surrounding communities. Here are a few resources that can help you manage everything going on around campus.

**Huskies Get Connected**
Meet with another student who will help you discover opportunities on campus that will be meaningful to you.

**HuskieLink**
Sign in at HuskieLink with your Z-ID and LINK yourself to a variety of events and organizations that interest you! View all of our 300+ student organizations!

**University Calendar**
Visit the [NIU Calendar](#) to see what events are happening each day on campus.

**Talk to Professors**
Your professors are a great resource to help you get connected. Visit their office hours to discuss important opportunities within your career field.

**University Writing Center**
Getting help with your writing is more accessible than you think. Appointments may be made on the [University Writing Center](#) website.
- Stevenson South: By appointment.
- McMurry 106: Walk-in sessions and workshops.

**Study Groups**
Sometimes the best way to get through a difficult class is by connecting with your peers and forming study groups. Chances are you're not the only one in that class who's looking for support. Try to ask a few people if they'd like to study together.

**Tutoring Centers**
Tutoring on campus is free. It's a great way to get the grade you want in that difficult class! Check out ACCESS Tutoring.

**Students Employment Office**
The Students Employment Office works with you to help find employment opportunities on campus. Drop by for a visit in Williston 406.

**HR Website**
The HR website is a great tool for searching for on-campus employment opportunities. Utilize this resource at any time!

Succeed in classes!

**Financial Aid and Scholarship Office**
(Swen Parson Hall, Room 245)
Visit the [Financial Aid and Scholarships Office](#) if you have any questions regarding how to afford college. Get guidance with financial aid, learn about available scholarship opportunities and payment plans. The sooner you visit, the better!

**Bursar's Office**
(Swen Parson Hall, Room 235)
For questions regarding your NIU bill and paying for your education, contact the Bursar.

Pay for college!
Homecoming is here!

October 1-5, 2017

Join us as we celebrate this year’s theme, “Destination Huskie Nation: 111 Years Strong.” Don’t miss events like the powder puff tournament, Yell Like Hell, the Homecoming Parade and of course, Huskie Football! See the complete list and details below.

- **Paint the Town**
  Sunday, October 1
- **Powder Puff**
  Sunday, October 1
- **NIU Women's Soccer vs. Bowling Green**
  Sunday, October 1
- **Homecoming Kickoff Rally**
  Monday, October 2
- **“Dec” Out the Campus**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **Recycled Boat Race**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **NIU Men's Soccer vs. Valparaiso**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **Homecoming Court Elections**
  Wednesday, October 4
- **Yell Like Hell**
  Wednesday, October 4
- **Homecoming Blood Drive**
  Thursday, October 5
- **NIU Women’s Soccer vs. Miami**
  Thursday, October 5
- **2017 Northern Lights Homecoming Parade**
  Thursday, October 5
- **Lip Sync Competition**
  Thursday, October 5
- **Coronation Cookout**
  Friday, October 6
- **CAB & NPHC Concert**
  Friday, October 6
- **Alumni Village**
  Saturday, October 7
- **NIU Football vs Kent State**
  Saturday, October 7
- **8th Annual Rep Yo’ Step**
  Saturday, October 7
- **NPHC Dance**
  Saturday, October 7
This year’s Common Reading Experience is *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet. The story centers around a first-generation Cuban-American and daughter of Cuban immigrants, through her challenging journey as she navigates the all-encompassing process of becoming a first-generation college student. Though the book is a work of fiction, it is riddled with themes from the author’s own personal life as a first-generation Cuban-American student. If you are interested in discussing the content and themes of this year’s Common Reading Experience book, checkout this year’s [CRE events](#) happening at NIU.

Jennine Capó Crucet is coming to campus!

Do you have questions or topics to discuss about this year’s Common Reading Experience book that only the author can answer? Now is your chance! Jennine Capó Crucet, author of *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, is coming to NIU to discuss the book and answer YOUR questions!

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017  
**Where:** Holmes Student Center, Carl Sandburg Auditorium

There will be a presentation by author Jennine Capó Crucet at 6:30 p.m., with a question and answer session and book signing to follow.

Common Reading Experience Books in Library

University Libraries has placed paperback copies of the book and one CD audio book version of this year's Common Reading Experience selection, *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, on reserve in Founders Memorial Library. The paperback copies can be checked out for two hours at a time. The CD version is available for 24 hours at a time. To borrow any of these materials, please proceed to the Reserves Desk on the first floor of Founders and bring your OneCard. Stop by the FSYE office to get a copy of the book for free! We have 12 copies available on a first-come, first-served basis.
Office Events

Y2@NIU Events

Learn more about the great things you can do as a sophomore student on the NIU campus by going to these awesome events! Check our website for a complete list of events.

The next upcoming events will be:
- **Travel Challenge Escape Room**
  - Tuesday, Sept. 26
- **Cupcakes and Conversations**
  - Wednesday, Oct. 25

CRE and FSYSS Events

At NIU, you can strengthen relationships with fellow students and other community members by attending these events associated with our Common Reading Experience Book, *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet. They cover themes of navigating family life, first-generation students and immigration.

Visit our CRE webpage for a complete list of events.

The First- and Second-Year Success Series includes a variety of workshops to assist with your transition to college and connect you with other students and members of NIU’s community. The program also connects you with the information you need to find key resource areas and people. The purpose of this program is to assist you with questions that you may have about NIU, whether they’re about residential hall life, finding a job on campus or ways to get involved.

Visit our FSYSS webpage for a complete list of events.
Campus Events

Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Lecture Series

Lunch with us! Feed body and mind at the weekly CSEAS brownbag lecture series

- Each Friday at noon in Campus Life Building, Room 100.
- All lectures are free and open to the public (no registration required).

**September 22:**
3:30-5:30 p.m., Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center. Special address by governors of North Kalimantan and South Sumatra, Indonesia; light appetizers provided.

**September 29:**
“Heritage Conservation: Collaborating with Myanmar Universities”—Catherine Raymond, Director, NIU Center for Burma Studies, with graduate students Carmin Berchiolly and Markie Striegel.

**October 6:**
“The Impact of Sewage on Water Quality in Cambodia”—Melissa Lenczewski, Director, Environmental Studies, Northern Illinois University.

**October 13:**

**October 20:**
“Preah Vihear UNESCO World Heritage Site”—Kim Sedara, National Preah Vihear Authority, Cambodia.

**October 27:**
“Archaeology and the Underpinnings of Ancient Vietnam”—Nam C. Kim, Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

NIU PLUS

At Northern Illinois University, you have a unique opportunity to customize your college experience and stand out with future employers or graduate programs through [NIU PLUS](#). You can participate in three ways!

Academics PLUS will allow you to customize your general education courses into a pathway focus. You can choose to discover or strengthen your major through themed pathways exploring topics such as sustainability or creativity.

Engage PLUS encourages you to apply knowledge and skills gained in the classroom through hands-on learning and to have these experiences documented on your academic transcript.

Jobs PLUS allows you to earn and learn by attending essential career skills workshops and maybe even on your paid work time.

We hope you will gain the NIU advantage through [NIU PLUS](#)!
A Message from Student Conduct

Welcome and welcome back to NIU, we’re glad that you are here. The Student Conduct office, located in the Campus Life Building, is responsible for educating the campus community on institutional policies and regulations. Check out the NIU Student Code of Conduct, to view the expectations of the campus community.

Are you looking to get involved at NIU? Join the NIU Student Conduct Board. All students are welcome to join, as long as you have a 2.0 GPA. New freshmen are allowed to join, even if you do not have a GPA value yet. Find the online application on our website.

If you have any questions about institutional rules or expectations, please contact our office at 815-753-1571 or by email at judicial@niu.edu.

A Message from the Division of Student Affairs

We are here for you! As you enter your second year as a Huskie, your challenge is to continue to utilize 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 a variety of shapes and sizes here at NIU. We care about you and value you as an essential member of the Huskie family. Where can you find support?

- Faculty members: Utilize their office hours. They are here to help you be successful in the classroom even when life seems to 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 are here for you! Counseling and Consultation Services provide mental health support to all students. They are a team of trained professionals committed to helping you achieve your academic and personal goals.
- Student Association’s #NoShameCampaign, started in 2015, is aimed at destigmatizing mental health issues and to bring mental health awareness to light. Look for events in the semester ahead.

Your mental health is important to us and we are here to support you!
NIU now has five Zipcars available for students and staff to get where the need to go! You can complete your brief application by visiting the Parking Services webpage. Once you become a Zipcar member, you can find two cars parked in Lot D, north of Neptune West along Lucinda Avenue, two located on the northeast side of the Student Recreation Center parking lot, facing Lucinda and one in Lot X, north of the New Residence Hall, facing Annie Glidden Road.

The Borrow-a-Bike program provides currently enrolled students, faculty and staff with a FREE and environmentally friendly alternative mode of transportation for getting around campus. All you need to do is complete the Borrow-a-Bike safety course application form, take the safety course quiz and bring your NIU OneCard to Campus Parking Service to get a bike during scheduled check out times. Bikes are loaned on a first-come, first-served basis. There is also an electric vehicle (EV) charging station on campus located on the west side of the parking garage drive-up ramp off Carol Avenue. The first four hours are billed at $1 per hour, and $5 per hour after four hours.

Local residents, including NIU students, can now receive free, non-emergency help and referral for a wide range of services via the county’s new 211 program. You can dial 211 from any phone (including cell phones) and be connected with a trained operator who will connect you with any of a number of different social services. Rent or utility assistance, mental health services, day care, disability resources and drug/alcohol rehabilitation are just a few of the resources available. The 211 service is available 24/7 and even be accessed via the 211 website.

There is no fee for the service, and all inquiries remain strictly confidential.

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. Their motto is “take what you need.”

To be eligible to use the Huskie Food Pantry, you must be an NIU student without an NIU meal plan.
Resources

Resources from ACCESS

ACCESS/PAL maintains three tutoring centers located in Founders Memorial Library 302, Grant South lower level and New Hall West basement. Hours and course availability vary and are on the ACCESS website. All Centers are walk-in, so no appointment is required.

Appointment tutoring can provide you with a tutor that can meet your schedule for up to three hours per week per course. You can even request a one-on-one tutor.

The A+ Program provides professional reading specialists to work with you if you have issues with textbook reading, test anxiety, time management and other academic issues. Through a method of “academic coaching” the reading specialists work on a regular basis with you to keep you on track. For more information call 815-753-1141.

Reading specialists also provide group and individual support for you if you have had issues with passing the TAP test for admission into Education measures. They also have groups if you are a Pre-Nursing student who needs to complete the ACCUPLACER Reading test as a requirement for admission to the Nursing Program. For further information on these services, call Karol Clark at 815-753-3870.

Huskie Hack

Northern Illinois University recognizes that future health and well-being of our region depends upon the focus and skill sets developed by our students of today and those of tomorrow. Integrated and collaborative interdisciplinary events such as Huskie Hack provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning while addressing real problems from a 360-degree perspective.

For 24 hours, student hackers and medical experts will explore solution finding to current and future challenges in health and wellness. At the end of the event, they will have the opportunity to present their solutions to regional judges and experts in healthcare innovation.

In order to participate in the Huskie Hack event you will need to register. If you have any questions, contact tlrogers@niu.edu.

Students utilizing tutoring center
Contact Us

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