Y2@NIU

Make the most of your second year of college!

First- and Second-Year Experience

Northern Illinois University
Dear Second-Year Student,

Welcome back to NIU! We hope you’ve had a great summer and are ready to return to campus to begin your Second-Year Experience.

This is a time when many students strengthen their academic and career goals, deepen their friendships, become more involved in student organizations, and engage in campus and community service. Opportunities for internships, study abroad, campus leadership positions, undergraduate research, and networking with faculty are abundant, and they can enrich your college experience.

You may find your second year at NIU to be different from your first. Sophomores tend to be concerned about academic advising, financial aid and student employment, selecting or confirming a major, and enhancing their career options.

NIU is committed to helping you make the most of your second year, and has developed an office especially to meet your needs and interests - First- and Second-Year Experience. This office is located in Altgeld Room 100 (www.niu.edu/fsye). This brochure highlights several activities taking place during the fall semester. The staff of the FSYE Office and I hope you’ll join us for any or all of these events. They may lead you into programs and involvement at NIU that literally can change your life!

Watch for our regular SYE newsletters to be sent to your university e-mail account. We invite you to stop by the office, check out the website at www.niu.edu/fyse, “like” us on Facebook, “follow” us on Twitter (@NIU_FSYE), or send us an e-mail. First- and Second-Year Experience is here any time you have a question or concern and we’ll do our best to help you get the answer or information you need.

Anne Birberick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Y2@NIU Kick-Off Event</strong></td>
<td>Monday, August 24, 7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Campus Recreation Center</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunities &amp; Ollie’s</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, September 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Altgeld Hall, Room 100</td>
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<td><strong>First Home Football Game</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, September 5, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Huskie Stadium</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Career Expo</strong></td>
<td>Monday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Holmes Student Center, Duke Ellington Ballroom</td>
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<td><strong>Second-Year Leadership Retreat</strong></td>
<td>Date &amp; Time TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study Abroad “Speed Dating”</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, September 22, 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Altgeld Hall, Room 100</td>
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<td><strong>Second-Year Student-Faculty Dinners</strong></td>
<td>Thursdays, September 24, October 22, &amp; November 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Cupcakes &amp; Conversation</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, October 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Altgeld Hall, Room 100</td>
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<td><strong>Internship Fair</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Convocation Center</td>
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<td><strong>Second-Year Service Activity</strong></td>
<td>November 2015, Date &amp; Time TBA</td>
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<td><strong>Sophomore Days of Service</strong></td>
<td>February 2016, Dates &amp; Times TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Half-Way to Graduation Celebration</strong></td>
<td>April 2016, Date &amp; Time TBA</td>
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Start off the year with music, food, friends, give-aways, and information to make the most of your second year of college.

Stop by the FSYE space to learn about second-year honors, scholarship, research, and artistry opportunities, and enjoy free Ollie’s frozen custard!

Cheer on the Huskies in their home opener against the University of Nevada-Las Vegas!

Interested in finding out more about majors, minors, and other academic opportunities at NIU? Come to the Academic Career Expo to meet with any of NIU’s academic units!

Attend a free, one-day second-year retreat aimed at developing leadership knowledge and skills. Watch for details to come!

Want to learn more about study abroad? Come out and speak with upper-division students who have traveled all over the world and are ready to share their experiences and answer questions.

Meet a faculty member over dinner in a small-group setting. Locations and faculty members will be announced at www.niu.edu/fsye. Advance sign-up is required.

Stop by the First- and Second-Year Experience office to meet faculty and staff members informally and enjoy sweet treats!

Browse the internship fair to network with employers about future jobs and internship opportunities. Make sure you dress to impress!

Join with other second-year students at a food pack event for impoverished children around the globe through Feed My Starving Children at the Suter Company in nearby Sycamore.

Participate in one or more of the many Sophomore Days of Service events throughout the month of February to get involved in the NIU and DeKalb communities.

End your second year at NIU by attending the Half-Way to Graduation Celebration. Congratulations on reaching the half-way point of your NIU career!
Career Planning

Your sophomore year is the perfect time to focus on developing job search skills and building your professional network.

Below are some tips to get started:

• Gain experience in your field! Get involved with volunteer work, secure an internship or part-time job, or take a leadership position in a student organization.
• Set up a job shadow or informational interview with an employer to learn more about their career field and begin making professional contacts.
• Visit the Career Resource Center in Campus Life Building 235 to browse the Career Services guide book collection or have a walk-in résumé review.
• Find an internship! Internships are a great opportunity to gain real-world work experience in your field while taking classes and making progress towards your degree. Consider attending the Internship Fair on October 20 at 10 a.m. to meet with employers and find internship positions. To prepare yourself for the internship search, participate in the Career Services Internship Workshop Series specifically developed for first- and second-year students. Find out more at niu.edu/careerservices.
• Sign up for an appointment during Practice Interview Week the week of September 21 to receive feedback from professional employers on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.
• Register for CAHC 211, Section 00P1 – a Career Planning course specifically for second-year students. This three-hour, elective course will use Clifton StrengthsFinder to help identify your strongest qualities and use them to define your major and career. You’ll also refine skills in résumé writing, interviewing, and professional etiquette.

Getting Involved

Getting involved at NIU is a great way to feel connected to campus and make your NIU experience personally meaningful to you.

There are many resources available to help you find your place on campus:

• Visit the Huskie Link website at huskielink.niu.edu to explore the variety of student organizations around campus – and if you can’t find one you like, you can always create your own!
• Attend the Involvement Fair on August 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Holmes Student Center to speak with representatives from different student organizations and learn about available opportunities.
• Make a Huskies Get Connected appointment with FSYE! Huskies Get Connected is a program where you can meet one-on-one with a peer to discover ways to get involved at NIU that fit your personal interests. Visit niu.edu/fsye for more information.
• Take advantage of the leadership development opportunities at NIU to learn skills that will prepare you for future career success. Consider attending a leadership program through Student Involvement & Leadership Development, such as the Leadership Academy workshop series or the NIU LEAD Summit.
Living Options

If you are still looking for housing for the 2015-2016 school year, consider the Second-Year Experience Community in Stevenson Hall. In the SYE Community, you will have the opportunity to live with other second-year students and participate in a number of educational, social, and career planning events. Find out more at niu.edu/fsye.

As a second-year student, you may be preparing to live off campus for the first time. Living off campus can come with many changes compared to residence hall life, such as commuting, paying bills, and staying connected to campus.

Below are some tips and resources from Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services (OCNTSS) to help you with this transition:

• Know your rights! Visit the OCNTSS website at niu.edu/comnontrad to get information about landlord agreements and tenant law from Students’ Legal Assistance.
• Most local properties are near bus stops, so you shouldn’t have to worry about buying a parking pass.
• Make sure to start thinking ahead to securing housing for next year. Attend the Off-Campus Housing Fair in late October to speak with property management companies about available living options, rent prices, and amenities.
• The most cost effective ways to live in the area are with roommates. OCNTSS has a Facebook page and weekly email listserv that can assist you in finding a roommate. If you are looking for a one bedroom or studio apartment, start your search early – they always go the quickest.

Academic Advising

Academic advising is central to your academic success at NIU. Meet with your advisor every semester to make sure you are on track for graduation.

Your advisor can help you:
• Explore academic interests and determine an appropriate major
• Design a program of study meeting your individual interests and needs
• Plan out your schedule and prepare for course registration
• Monitor your academic progress
• Clarify your educational and life goals
• Find activities and opportunities to enhance your academic experience

Many second-year students find themselves changing their majors or questioning their future career path. There are many opportunities around NIU to explore majors and careers to find the right choice for you:
• Attend the Academic Career Expo on Monday, September 21 to find out more about the majors, minors, and other academic opportunities available to you at NIU! You will have the opportunity to speak with faculty and staff from each of NIU’s academic departments in a centralized location.
• Complete assessment inventories that can evaluate your career interests, values, abilities, and personality. One comprehensive (and free!) assessment is FOCUS 2, which can be accessed online through Career Services at http://niu.edu/careerservices/resources/focus2.shtml.
Engaged Learning

Students learn best when they are engaged in the process of discovery through hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom. Your second year at NIU is a great time to get connected with experience-based learning opportunities.

**Study Abroad**

Becoming a global citizen can transform the way you see the world. Study abroad programs are an exciting and engaging way to develop your appreciation for cultural diversity. NIU has study abroad programs with over 75 countries to choose from to fit your personal and professional interests.

**Find out more by:**
- Participating in **Study Abroad “Speed Dating”** on September 22 at 4:30 p.m. in Altgeld 100 to speak with upper-division students who have traveled all over the world and are ready to share their experiences.
- Visit the **Study Abroad Fair** on October 1 at 10 a.m. in the Holmes Student Center to browse from over 300 programs sponsored by NIU.
- Attend a **Study Abroad 101** session, where the Study Abroad office will be available to answer any questions you have. The sessions take place every Wednesday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in Williston 417.

**Community Service**

Engaging in community service allows you to give back and help others, while learning more about yourself and the community around you.

There are many opportunities to get involved in service at NIU and in the DeKalb community:
- Attend the **Volunteer Fair** on August 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Holmes Student Center Art Gallery Lounge to learn about volunteer opportunities available through organizations in the DeKalb community.
- Sign up for a **Huskie Alternative Break** trip to learn about social issues (such as poverty or education reform) and engage in service to help create social change. Informational sessions will be held in September, and applications are due at the end of October.
- Participate in **Sophomore Days of Service** throughout the month of February for a chance to make an impact on campus and in the community through a brief, one-time volunteer experience.

**Undergraduate Research**

Undergraduate research experiences allow you to work under the guidance of a faculty mentor to conduct research in a particular field. Undergraduate research opportunities are available in any discipline – including the sciences, social sciences, or the humanities.

**Undergraduate research can help you:**
- Discover your personal interests
- Establish mentoring relationships with NIU faculty
- Prepare for graduate school programs or your future career
- Develop your critical thinking skills, creativity, self-confidence, and problem-solving abilities
- Learn about issues, methods, and leaders in your chosen field

Find out more about NIU’s undergraduate research opportunities at niu.edu/engagedlearning.
Sophomores succeed when they find a sense of purpose for their lives and connect it to their educational goals. The Second-Year Experience at NIU is designed to help you discover and progress toward your academic and career goals, make meaningful connections on- and off-campus, and reflect on opportunities for service learning. Take advantage of the programs and services described in this booklet to stay on track to graduate, and to add value to your academic experience and career marketability. Learn more at www.niu.edu/fsye.

Meet the Student Success Team!
The core of First- and Second-Year Experience is the Student Success Team, a group of approximately 15 NIU undergraduate students who serve as peer leaders and organizers for FSYE programs. Their main mission is to support the transition and development of first- and second-year students at NIU. Learn more about the Student Success Team at www.niu.edu/fsye.

Make our space your place on campus.

First- and Second-Year Experience (FSYE) is a place where you can:
- Study alone or with a small group;
- Relax between classes;
- Find free wi-fi;
- Access an Anywhere Printer; and
- Meet friendly students and staff who can help you get involved on campus, access resources for second-year success, and plan your next steps at NIU.

connect with us
niu.edu/fsye
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niu.edu/fsye

Make the most of your second year of college!

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