



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

Welcome Parents!



CONGRATULATIONS on your son's or daughter's acceptance!

The University Freshman Center (UFC), in collaboration with the Deans' Offices, is committed to making your son's or daughter's transition to St. John's smooth and successful.

University Freshman Center



Incoming students are assigned an advisor from the *University Freshman Center* during their first year on campus.

At the completion of their first year, the students are transitioned to a point of contact in their academic unit (i.e. main dean's office or department).



THE ROLE OF THE FIRST-YEAR ADVISOR

Act as a guide to assist new students in their overall transition and acclimation to college by:

Discussing choice of major and future career interest

Explaining specific degree requirements

Reviewing class selection and on-line registration process

Explaining University policies and procedures

Identifying and encouraging participation in academic support programs (including time management, study habits, decision making skills)

Providing information about campus support services

Helping students identify according to their interest the many co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities that St. John's offers



THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Be Prepared for the Differences!

Class Schedule

- Times will vary
- Longer class meeting times
- Gaps between classes

Time Management

- More self-management
- 14 weeks in a semester

Creating Balance

- Co-curricular activities
- Employment
- Family responsibilities
- Social activities

Syllabi

- Outlines course work and professor's expectations
- Provides professor's contact information

Exams

- Not as frequent as high school
- Usually cumulative, covering large amounts of material

Reading

- More to read in a shorter period
- Complete required readings before class discussions
- Key to your success in college



HOW ARE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY THE UFC?

September (February)

First formal meeting of the semester:

- Discussing advisor & student roles
- Reviewing University support services
- Developing student academic plan
- Assist new students with major and/or schedule changes (time & course)

October (March)

Second meeting includes:

- Conducting midterm grade assessment; referral to support services
- Providing academic advisement for upcoming semester
- Promoting Study Abroad Programs
- Discussing Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society eligibility

November (April)

Third appointment:

- Semester wrap-up
- Confirming course selections for Study Abroad applicants

December (May)

Outreach to student who:

- Did not register for the upcoming semester
- Are registered, but not paid for the upcoming semester



WE HAVE A “CORE CURRICULUM”

➤ **Common Core**

1. Discover New York (DNY) 1000C
 - All students are required to complete this course **within their first year** at SJU (either in the fall or spring semester). This course incorporates the Vincentian Mission by addressing issues of poverty, injustice and exploration of the New York City culture.
2. English (ENG) 1000C & 1100C
3. History (HIS) 1000C
4. Philosophy (PHI) 1000C & 3000C
5. Science (SCI) 1000C
6. Speech (SPE) 1000C
7. Theology (THE) 1000C

➤ **Distributive Core**

1. Two courses in a foreign language or one course in Fine Arts and one course in Language & Culture
2. Minimum of one Math (MTH) course
3. One Philosophy course within the 2000 series
4. Two additional Theology courses
5. One course in Social Science

WE HAVE AN EARLY ALERT SYSTEM

A faculty member observes a student experiencing academic difficulties or other problems

The faculty member notifies the University Freshman Center

The University Freshman Center reaches out to the student

The student and the University Freshman Center create an “action plan” that is communicated back to the faculty member.



WE HAVE SUPPORT, SUPPORT AND MORE SUPPORT!

We encourage all students to become academically and socially involved in our campus community.

We have many resources which support both. For example:

- **University Learning Commons**
- **Institute for Writing Studies**
- **Center for Counseling & Consultation**
- **Student Financial Services**
- **Community Service**
- **Club Sports**
- **Student Life**
- **Residence Life**
- **College Offices, Academic Depts. and CAP Report (Course Advisement Program)**
- **Career Center**



REMINDERS WE ARE SHARING WITH YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER

- Know your X-Number and keep it handy. It is required information in all offices.
- Submit all AP and high school extension credit transcripts (directly from the College Board or the particular college/university, *not the high school*) to the Office of Admission before the beginning of classes.
- All health records were due to the Health Office on May 15
- Depending on availability, changes to fall schedules may be requested at the UFC until Tuesday, September 9, 2014
- Consult the Office of Student Financial Services for financial aid and tuition payment inquiries
- Only your official St. John's University e-mail account is acceptable for communication to faculty and administrators



NEED HELP, HAVE QUESTIONS?

The University Freshman Center (UFC) is located in St. Augustine Hall (The Library), Room 104

Phone: (718) 990 – 5858 or 5809 or 2772

E-mail: freshmancenter@stjohns.edu

As a courtesy, this presentation will be posted under “University Freshman Center” on the St. John’s website