NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

Philosophy Statement for the First-Year Experience

Missouri Southern State University is committed to making the first year of college a success for each student. This ideal is translated into action by fostering five integrated components:

- a smooth transition into university life;
- a sense of shared responsibility;
- a challenging and stimulating learner centered academic environment;
- a sense of inclusive community;
- a comprehensive support program of personnel and resources.

The University facilitates the transition to higher education from diverse life experiences and develops lifelong learners for intellectual, cultural and social exchanges. The responsibility for student learning is shared by all members of the campus community. The University’s liberal arts foundation prepares students to become knowledgeable, critical thinkers who can meet the challenges and responsibilities facing global citizens. Missouri Southern fosters a sense of community, campus spirit and support for its first year students by promoting connections with faculty, administrators, support staff and peers. Continuous quality assessment of each of the components is conducted so that necessary changes are implemented to maximize the first year experience.

Missouri Southern’s philosophy for the first-year experience is put into action in numerous ways. The faculty and staff members bring the philosophy to life by their friendly and helpful approach to students. First-year students have opportunities to participate in activities and events designed to introduce them to others and campus life.

First-Year Experience Program

Dr. Susan Craig, Director
Hearnes Hall, 417.625.9731

The First-Year Experience Program has been established to help achieve the goal of beginning student success through several avenues, including offering the UE 100: The University Experience course for all beginning students, the Common Reading Program and the UE 400: Leadership Training I and UE 401: Leadership Training II courses for course assistants.

UE 100: The University Experience is a fundamentals course designed to assist first-year students in successfully defining themselves both as active participants in the MSSU community and as citizens of a twenty-first century global community. The course offers information on university personnel, facilities, services, policies, study skills and MSSU’s international mission and international study opportunities. Student participation in co-curricular activities is required. The course is taught by an instructor with the assistance of a course assistant. The course assistant serves as an example and a resource for the first-year students.

MSSU Common Reading Program

Each year, a book is chosen as a Common Reading for use in all sections of the UE 100: The University Experience course. Students read, discuss and study the book, as well as its author. The book is chosen by committee prior to the start of the academic year. A speaker related to the reading (i.e. author, translator, character) comes to campus to lecture and meet with the first-year students and the campus as a whole.

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Course Assistant Program

Course assistants (CAs) are upper level students who share their insights and experiences with entering students in the University Experience class. Their recent experiences and success in the academic environment make them effective models. Upper level students apply for the assistant role and receive training through UE 400/401: Leadership Training I & II.

HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Michael Howarth, Director
Webster Hall 118, 417.625.3005

Mission

The Honors Program serves Missouri Southern State University by recruiting academically talented, motivated students and engaging them in enhanced educational opportunities and challenges designed to promote their continued development as scholars and citizens.

Vision

The Honors Program will be recognized as a leader in academic excellence by both the University and the community and will serve as a model by which students are enabled to exemplify the fulfillment of the University’s mission and values.

Values

Intellectual Curiosity

The Honors Program promotes interest leading to inquiry, the pursuit of diverse knowledge and a respect for varied ways of knowing.

Community

The Honors Program fosters personal, supportive contact between and among its students and faculty while encouraging students to participate in all aspects of campus life.

Student-Centered Learning

The Honors Program provides challenging, active learning opportunities in all areas of the curriculum.

Critical Thinking

The Honors Program provides students with experience in objectively analyzing and interpreting information, opinions and beliefs.

Scholarship

The Honors Program promotes academic excellence in all areas, with an emphasis on scholarly research.

Service Learning

The Honors Program facilitates the maturation of students as citizen leaders through service to the community and individual reflection.

International Experience

The Honors Program prepares its students to be global citizens by emphasizing cross-cultural experiences.

Student Support

The Honors Program provides special support to its students to assist them in reaching their personal and professional goals.