Welcome New Panthers!

Welcome to FIU! We are very excited to have you here. This is going to be one of the best life experiences should you take action to make it so. College is an opportunity to rebrand and learn more about yourself in addition to meeting lifelong friends and mentors who will challenge you and help you achieve your goals. It is important to realize you are not alone. You have access to many resources that will help you succeed.

Are you unsure of your major or looking to change it? Visit with your academic advisor and/or take Discover Your Major (SLS 1402). Do you need help studying for class or learning a new concept? Take advantage of the Center for Academic Success. Would you like to expand your horizons? Study Abroad or participate in the National Student Exchange. Are you feeling homesick or overwhelmed? Take the time to see someone in Counseling & Psychological Services. Your experience is what you make of it!

Hazel Hooker
Program Director, First Year Programs

Planning & Preparation Events

The Office of First Year Programs offers workshops and exploratory panels on a variety of topics related to college success. They are open to all students and do not require advanced registration. The workshops and panels are all free!

- 9/26: No Sweat for Academic Success Workshop | 12:30p-1:30p | GC 316
- 10/5: Networking & Involvement | 11:30a-12:30p | GC 316
- 10/11: Student Leader Panel | 11:30a-12:30p | GC 316
- 10/17: Stressed but Successful | 10:30a-11:30a | GC 316
- 10/19: Biological & Environmental Sciences and Health Sciences Exploratory Panel | 3:30p-4:45p | GC 150
- 10/25: Breaking Down Class Registration | 12:00p-1:00p | GC 316
- 11/9: Making a Major Decision | 11:00a-12:00p | GC 316
- 11/16: Administration & Management and Physical Sciences & Engineering | GC 316
- **Global & Social Sciences and Humanities & Arts Exploratory Panel | TBA**
Signature Fall Events

Love Your Major Fair:
The Love Your Major (LYM) Fair is an opportunity for you to speak with representatives from different departments on campus and ask any questions about a major. Sometimes, choosing a major is difficult because you have many options. The LYM Fair can help you look into majors you may want to pursue, eliminate majors you know you aren’t interested in, and narrow down the list of possibilities to bring you closer to finding your best fit. The LYM Fair is taking place on Friday, September 29th 11:00am-2:00pm in GC 355. Whether you are looking to choose a major, switch your major, or just want more information—this is for you!

First Year Engagement Fair:
The First Year Engagement Fair is perfect for new students who are looking to piece together different components to experience the “big picture” when it comes to college. Academics, career development, networking, institutional pride, and campus involvement are all important components to being successful and we want to make sure you have access to all the tools you need. The First Year Engagement Fair will include representation from many offices that are looking to connect with you! We will also include information and resources to help answer questions you may have about the university setting. The Fair will take place on Tuesday, October 31st in the GC Ballrooms. Join us in helping you put all the pieces together to create the big picture of your college experience!

Life After Irma

With Floridians and FIU students working to return to normalcy, we want to reiterate that FIU is here to help. Below, you’ll find some important information, changes to keep in mind, and resources that are available to the FIU community that may be particularly helpful in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

1. The Academic Calendar has changed. The final week of the semester has been condensed. We recommend speaking to your professors, asking for updated class syllabi and visiting office hours so you’re not caught off guard.

2. The Student Food Pantry is a great resource for free, non-perishable food available for students to access once a week taking up to 10 pounds of food each visit.

3. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is another resource that is available to students, free of charge. If you’d like to talk to someone about feeling stressed, whether it’s because of the recent storm, classes, transitioning into university lifestyle or anything else, CAPS is available for you.

4. What you can do to help:
There are many ways that you can help to move peers and the FIU community forward during this time.

For more information, please visit their website below.


Here are a few ways that you can contribute:

-Donate non-perishable food to the Student Food Pantry, which is run entirely off of donations. Drop offs can be made at BBC: WUC 307 & at MMC: GC 242.

-Donate blood or platelets with OneBlood

- Volunteer with the American Red Cross

Websites for these opportunities can be found in the email from “vpdsa@fiu.edu” entitled “Post-Hurricane Support.” There, you can find links to sign up to donate and/or volunteer.
Department Spotlight:
Center for Academic Success

By: Vicenta Shepard, Director of Center for Academic Success

As you progress through your studies at FIU, you will experience that some classes may be more challenging than others. Or, you may realize that your second semester is proving to be more difficult than your first semester. The Center for Academic Success (CfAS) understands these circumstances and has a variety of resources and services that can help you succeed throughout the tough classes as well as the not-so-tough classes.

All the services at CfAS are free of charge. Your tuition pays for these services, which is why you can save your pennies for copies, notebooks, or USBs. If you like to study in groups, we can facilitate study halls. If you like to study on your own, you can schedule individual appointments with a tutor. Or, if you are part of a school organization, the CfAS can visit during your club meetings and give a presentation specific to the members of your organization.

Most of the tutors at CfAS are either undergraduate or graduate students and have been just where you are now. They have similar majors as yourselves and will have likely taken classes with the same professors. Tutoring sessions make for great conversation about how to study for a specific class as well as getting to know the teaching styles across departments. Flipped class? Hybrid class? Online class? The tutors have been in your shoes and are more than happy to share their experiences to make sure you feel more confident.

CfAS offers tutoring in the following subject areas:

- Math (College Algebra through Calculus 3)
- Statistics
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics)
- Reading and Learning (Study Skills, Time Management, Grammar, etc.)

The Center for Academic Success also collaborates extensively with faculty to help create a supportive learning environment for you. Learning strategies workshops are available as an extension of certain classes to help with the volume of information that needs to be digested. This is because so many of us struggle with the actual process of studying. At CfAS, we try to combat that feeling by providing you with the skills that can help you avoid feeling lost!

The Center for Academic Success offers the following workshops:

- TLC for General Biology
- Read, Write, and Cite for General Biology Lab
- TLC for General Chemistry I
- TLC for Organic Chemistry I
- Study halls for chemistry, statistics, and popular math courses