Welcome 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) in the fall. 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

Freshman VIP: Very Important Panthers

You’re new to a college campus and already have your own ceremony! Every year at FIU, we host Freshman Convocation to welcome incoming students, like you, to the FIU family. This ceremony is held exclusively for new FIU students and their parents and family members. Convocation and commencement (graduation) is held in the same place so attending convocation means you’re participating in an FIU tradition by starting your FIU journey in the same place where you’ll end.

Here’s what you need to know about Freshman Convocation:
-FIU tradition
-Taking place Sunday, August 20th at 2:00pm in the FIU MMC Arena (doors open at 1:30pm).
-Casual FIU Blue & Gold attire is requested
-No RSVP is needed
-Reception to follow with food and giveaways provided by ShopFIU.

See you there,
#FIU21!
Save the Dates: Summer & Fall

Academic Planning and Preparation Workshops:
First Year Programs offers workshops on a variety of topics related to academic success. Any student can attend and registration is not needed. The workshops are all free and held in GC 316! Our Summer 2017 workshops are as follows:

- **Succeeding in the College Classroom:** Wednesday, June 28th 10:00am-11:00am
- **Involvement 101:** Tuesday, July 11th 1:00pm-2:00pm
- **Success Despite the Stress:** Wednesday, July 12th 12:00pm-1:00pm
- **Major Decision-Making:** Thursday, July 20th 11:00am-12:00pm

Love Your Major Fair:
The Love Your Major (LYM) Fair is an opportunity for you, as a student, to speak to representatives from different departments on campus and ask any questions you may have in regards to a particular major. Sometimes, choosing a major is so difficult because of all the available choices. The LYM Fair can help you look into majors you may want to go into, eliminate majors you know you aren’t interested in and narrow down the list of possibilities to bring you closer to finding the best fit for you. The LYM Fair is taking place on **September 29th from 11:00am to 2:00pm** in the GC Ballrooms. Whether you’re 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, 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 particularly helpful to new students on our campus. We will also include information and resources to help answer questions you may have about the university setting. This will be taking place on **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!

Upcoming Opportunity: Panther Camp

At FIU, we build traditions and reputations quickly. One of the programs closest to the hearts of many of our students is Panther Camp. Students can only attend Panther Camp during the Summer before starting at FIU so make sure you don’t miss out on this great opportunity!

Students who have attended Panther Camp in the past have said:

“**Panther Camp is a place where students get to make long-lasting memories, see the diversity that’s within the university and experience the acceptance that so many Panther Camp Facilitators and the campers have for who they are. We empower students to believe that they can be anyone they want to be at FIU.**”

-Boanerges “Bo” Grande, 2015-2016 Panther Camp Facilitator

For more information on Panther Camp and scholarship opportunities, please visit the office, located in GC 189 or visit their website:
http://go.fiu.edu/pcamp
- Your first week of the Fall semester will be the first week of everyone’s Fall semester. Give everyone some time to adjust to their new semester’s routine. As the weeks pass, you’ll find your own routine and everyone else will find theirs too so transitioning will get easier.

- If you’re driving yourself to campus, make sure that your vehicle is registered with parking.fiu.edu.

- Arrive 1-2 hours before your class begins during the first few weeks of the semester so you’re not rushing.

- If you find that you’re having difficulty in a class, visit your professor’s office hours for extra help.

- We offer a variety of free tutoring services all over campus. Whether you’re struggling in a class or just want to push your B to an A, the Center for Academic Success is a great resource.

- If you’re nervous about finding your way around a new, larger campus take some time to plan out your routes from class to class. Go to each building and find your classroom beforehand so that you’ll know exactly where you’re going on your first day.

- Go to Panther Camp! It’s a great way to learn more about FIU and make life-long friends that are starting out in college, just like you.

- Use your Peer Advisor, Panther Camp Facilitators and Peer Mentors—they’ve overcome their own “first day” challenges and can help you with yours!

VIP URLs FYI: Get Connected!


Coming to an SLS Class Near You

You may have noticed an extra person in your SLS class. No, not the instructor, your Peer Mentor!

Peer Mentors, or PM’s, are FIU students committed to giving back to the university and helping you succeed during your time at FIU. They are experienced student leaders on campus and are here to answer your questions and point you in the right direction.

Previous students have said, “my peer mentor helped me feel like I knew what I was doing at FIU,” “they gave me great advice,” and “they helped me look forward to starting college when I was nervous.”

Don’t know where to do laundry? Ask a PM. Don’t know where to get a free massage on campus? Ask a PM. Need help with a class? Ask a PM. The list is never-ending!

Don’t have a PM in your class? Follow our @FIUPeerMentors Instagram for Peer Mentor advice! Before you know it, you too can apply to be a Peer Mentor. Email peermentor@fiu.edu to find out how!