

Office/Department: Office of Residence Life, First Year Involvement Center

Director: Kevin Meaney

Mission Statement: The Office of Residence Life is committed to designing and maintaining a caring environment that encourages academic success, individual respect, personal growth and responsibility to one's community.

First Year Involvement (FYI) is committed to furthering the mission of ORL by providing support and resources for programming to students and ORL staff, while encouraging a positive college experience.

FYI hosts connection and developmental programming opportunities for new and residential students. We strive to funnel first year students into their areas of passion on campus. With outreach and support being the focus of our practicum we are committed to programming that enhances the first year experience JMU.

Functional areas included in this office/department:

1. Students who participate in this experience will gain understanding of student affairs as a profession and the influence student affairs has on contemporary higher education through the following tasks and activities:

- ❖ Participate in the innovation and development of first year experience programming
- ❖ Coordinate and collaborate with campus partners to schedule resources, programs, and support for programming
- ❖ Learn and teach ORL's two programming models and the necessary steps to creating a program
- ❖ Develop resources, programs, support materials for first year students
- ❖ Create or improve programs related to students in academic distress
- ❖ Create or improve programs related to strategies for creating educational and administrative links between curricular and co-curricular programs
- ❖ Learn techniques and strategies for creating effective learning opportunities
- ❖ Participate and co-facilitate leadership development for SHAPE (Students Helping Advise, Plan and Energize) by preparing for and leading meetings
- ❖ Serve as a FOCUS instructor, Academic Support Instruction facilitator and Academic Mentor
- ❖ Participate in staff selection
- ❖ Facilitate, plan, and assess sessions for first year inclusive leadership program (B.U.I.L.D.: Building a Unified and Inclusive Leadership Directive)
- ❖ Be involved in all FYI sponsored projects which include a campus wide (Brick Wall or Clothesline Project) and departmental event each semester (Recognition Celebration)
- ❖ Attendance at departmental and divisional meetings

2. Students who participate in this experience will be exposed to the purposeful application of the following student development, career development, counseling and/or organizational theories:

- ❖ Self- Authorship Theory (Baxter Magolda)
- ❖ Transition Theory (Nancy Schlossberg)
- ❖ Typology: (Jung, Myers-Briggs, Rohm)
- ❖ Identity Development Theories: (Racial, White, Minority, Sexual, Gender, Ability, Religious, Social Class, Multiple)
- ❖ Psychosocial Developmental Theories: (Chickering, Erikson)
- ❖ Cognitive Developmental Theories: (Perry, Kohlberg, Belenky, Gilligan)
- ❖ Counseling Theories: (Reality Therapy, Person-Centered Therapy)
- ❖ Career Development Theories: (Super, Holland)
- ❖ “Involvement Theory” (Astin)

3. Students assigned to this site will be able to participate in the following assessment and/or evaluation projects:

- ❖ Assessment for F.O.C.U.S.S. (First Years Obtaining Creative and Useful Study Skills) – Fall semester
- ❖ Assessment for Academic Mentor Program – Spring Semester
- ❖ Assessment for B.U.I.L.D. (Building a Unified and Inclusive Leadership Directive)
- ❖ Program evaluation principles
- ❖ Techniques and strategies of student outcomes assessment
- ❖ Goal development

4. Students who participate in this experience will be evaluated and provided on-going feedback in the following ways:

- ❖ Weekly supervisory meetings
- ❖ Midterm evaluation and Final evaluation

5. Specific expectations of students assigned to this site include:

- ❖ Willingness to learn
- ❖ Flexibility
- ❖ Basic understanding of academic success strategies
- ❖ Desire to try new ideas, be creative and have fun.
- ❖ Patience, customer service skills, and organization skills—this is a very active environment!
- ❖ Support mission and activities of FYI and the Office of Residence Life
- ❖ Perform designated tasks in a timely, organized and professional manner
- ❖ Work with other departments and offices in the development of programs
- ❖ Weekly meeting with supervisor. Communicate consistently and honestly.
- ❖ Maintain a positive attitude about job responsibilities.

Contact Person

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