

Leatherneck Family NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2024 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4



IN THIS ISSUE **OPEN** REGISTRATION AND FINALS SEASON

TYPES OF REGISTRATION HOLDS

- **Billing & Receivables hold:** This means that the past due balance on your student's account is \$1,000 or more. Contact the office to know more.
- **Advisor hold:** Your student MUST make an appointment to meet with their academic advisor to discuss their class selections, they will remove the hold.
- **Immunization hold:** Contact Beu Health Center's Immunization Office and provide proof of immunization to have this hold removed.
- **Sanctions Hold:** This hold frequently means that there are uncompleted sanctions that were assigned through the student conduct/judicial process. Contact Student Rights and Responsibilities for more information.
- **Other holds:** Students should visit the Registration Add/Drop page on STARS to find out more. All hold messages include information on who to contact to resolve the issue.

All current Western Illinois students can register for summer courses at the same time as fall courses via the Student/Alumni Records System (STARS). Advanced registration usually takes place a month before open registration. Different dates are set for different classes of students e.g. sophomores and juniors. However, currently, this is the Open Registration for 2024 summer and fall courses, which began on April 1. This means that all new and returning students can register for classes.

Advisor holds have been placed on all undergraduate student records, however. That means that they will not be able to register until they have met with their advisor. Any type of hold will prevent your student from being able to register for classes. Students should make certain to clear any holds before being assured that registration has been completed.

Source: wiu.edu/registrar//registration.php



- DR. MIGUEL HUERTA -
DIRECTOR OF THE
FIRST YEAR ADVISING
CENTER



NEXT PAGE...

Director of First Year Advising Center gives advice on lifting advisor holds.





STUDY TIPS FOR FINALS

Spring semester final exams are around the corner. Here are some study tips from the Student Learning Center to share with your students to ensure their success:

- **Distributed Practice:** Put time in between sessions, and study new material in small sections every day to better remember test material.
- **Practice Tests/Questions:** Using these resources is a good way to determine what they know and what they need to study.
- **Notes Written As Questions:** Your student can create a study guide for themselves by writing their lecture and reading notes as questions. This helps to identify the main ideas of complex material.
- **Elaboration:** Connect new information to things that they already know. They must ask themselves: **When, where, & how could this be useful in the future? What makes this topic significant to the lesson?** Establishing context is important to making sense of new material.
- **Designate Places For Studying:** Tell your student to find somewhere other than their bed or bedroom to study. Without realizing, our brain will associate location with action. Finding a good “study spot” is important.

HOW TO HELP YOUR STUDENT THROUGH FINALS

- **Send them words of encouragement** - Side effects such as exhaustion, headaches, stomach issues, mood swings, loss of focus and feelings of powerlessness can result from this increase in stress during finals week. Connect through calls or texts.
- **Make sure they are eating well** - Send your student some snacks in the form of a care kit or top up their Rocky Dollars account, so that they they can purchase meals from the residence halls or from the vending machines.
- **Remind them to meet with their advisor** - This is necessary to remove advisor holds affecting registration for the following semester.

MEET WITH THE ADVISOR SOONER RATHER THAN LATER



“All undergraduate students will have an academic advisor hold placed [on their account] every semester and this just ensures that students are connecting with their academic advisor to select courses for the upcoming term,” Huerta said.

In fall, the hold will be placed and once the student meets with their advisor, the hold will be removed to enable registration for the spring semester. In spring, the hold will apply to register for the summer and fall semesters.

Huerta said, “The sooner they meet with their advisor, the better. They don’t have to wait until their enrollment date opens up. They can do this weeks in advance. The closer you get to the registration time period, the more the advisor will be limited with availability as everybody is trying to meet at the same time.”

An appointment is not enough, though, the meeting needs to take place in order for the hold to be removed, he emphasized. Huerta also stated that sometimes students may be dealing with multiple holds on their account. The advisor hold might be the easiest to remove in that instance, although there is no order in which holds have to be dealt with.

Huerta advises parents to remind their students to look at the schedule of classes before their appointment in order for the meeting to go smoothly.

Also, parents should ask their students to honestly reflect on how they are doing in their current courses so that they can get academic support, if needed. If they are currently doing a prerequisite course to qualify to do another course, they would need to pass at a C or above. If they are not successful, that will affect their schedule the following semester.

Other things to consider are that some courses have seating limits, so if they fill quickly, alternative courses have to be found. Also, repeating a course means competing for spaces with other students at the previous level. ■