Fall 2015 Course Offerings

**Required Senior Course**

Social Interactions and Networking

This course is designed to provide a knowledge base of specific skills related to community participation ranging from locating community resources to understanding civil rights and responsibilities. Students will participate in classroom discussions, independent reflective assignments, and real experiences in order to be best prepared participating currently in the university’s community and in preparation for living independently.

**Required Freshmen Courses**

Freshmen Advisory

SUCCEED students and student volunteers collaborate to complete course assignments, practice self-regulation strategies, engage in goal-setting, and plan for weekly events. Advisory provides opportunities to support success in other key classes by reviewing essential course components (e.g., MyGateway, discussion boards, pulling essential information from a syllabus). Course activities are loosely structured to allow for individualization throughout the semester.

First Year Experience

FYE is a one-credit hour course for all first year students designed to emphasize the skills and knowledge that you will need to succeed in your transition to collegiate life. Current student peer mentors assist with the course and lead you in small group discussions, projects, and events through your first semester at UMSL.

Relationships and Sexuality

The goal of this course is to acquire knowledge and build skills toward developing healthy relationships. We will address different forms of relationships and how each relationship requires its own understanding of what is healthy and unhealthy in terms of communication and boundaries. We will also be discussing how to begin, keep, and end relationships.

Study Skills

This 1 hour class is designed to help students improve their learning effectiveness, attitudes, and motivation. The following are part of the curriculum: time management, concentration, note taking skills, textbook study methods, test taking strategies, and critical thinking skills. Students will also have time each class period to organize their weekly assignments and to work on homework.

**Electives – Seniors choose 2, Freshmen choose 1**

Creative Writing

Students in this course will experiment with poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction as a means of developing different imaginative approaches to experience. Students will not only create their own pieces, but will also look critically at other’s pieces.

A Study of 20th Century Change through Pop Culture

Students will explore the 1920s through present and look at social and political change and how pop culture played a part in generating that change. Highlights will include the roaring 20s, Rock
‘n’ Roll era, Civil Rights Movement, 1960s Counterculture, etc. Students will take methods of protest and change and link it to their own self help and self-advocacy skills and understanding of social justice.

**Personal Finance**
Students will learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, investing, buying/leasing a vehicle, and living independently. Development of financial literacy skills and an understanding of economic principles will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. Instruction in economics and personal finance prepares students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and active citizens.

**Exploring the Arts**
Students will explore elements of arts to expand their cultural literacy. Components will include art, music, theater, and literature.

**Computer and Phone Applications**
This course will focus on computer skillsets needed to be successful academically, socially, and professionally. Skills will include organization, time management, Microsoft Office, communication, customer service, keyboarding, and basic public speaking. Also, phone apps will be explored to help students organize their calendar and build on their self-sufficiency.

**Mandatory Freshman Workshops**
**Vocational Experience Workshop**
This mandatory workshop will take place during study hall over the course of 2-3 weeks to allow prep for the Vocational Expo.

**Seminar – PCP Planning**
This mandatory workshop will take place during study hours over the course of 2-3 weeks to help freshmen create their Person Centered Plans

**Mandatory Senior Workshop**
**Vocational Expo Workshop**
This mandatory workshop will take place during study hall over the course of 2-3 weeks to allow prep for the Vocational Expo in the Fall as they select their Spring placements.