

August 16, 2021

Thank you for your continued hard work in supporting our students in the classroom and helping them connect to meaningful resources that support their success. Please find below this week's message that we ask you to share with your students.

Thanks,

Shirley Lefever, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

Please note the message below is written so you can simply copy and paste it into a Blackboard announcement or an email to your students.

Making strong connections is key for your success.

I encourage you to make connections in my class. The more you are connected to our classroom community, the more successful you will most likely be. I encourage you to arrive or login early and stay after class when possible to get to know other students. We know it is sometimes intimidating to approach your professors, so for tips on what to say, you can [check out this page](#) on the Student Success website. I'd also suggest you attend some events through [Student Involvement](#) to meet your peers and get connected to campus resources.

I look forward to getting to know you this semester.

August 23, 2021

Tips to help you succeed in my class.

There are a number of things you can choose to do to increase your success in my course. Be sure you are prepared for all class sessions and are ready to learn. Active participation in my course will help you not only learn the material better but also make connections in class.

If you have any questions make sure you communicate with me. I won't know you have a question unless you ask. My office hours, listed in the syllabus, are times I set aside to specifically work with students, so think of them as **student hours** and please utilize them. If you have questions about a campus policy or process, contact the [OneStop](#) (316-978-3909) and they can connect you with the appropriate resource.

I look forward to visiting with you soon.

August 30, 2021

How sharp are your time management skills?

Managing time, priorities and life roles along with work and all of your academic deadlines for this and other courses can get overwhelming. For some online tips on how to manage time and stay organized, visit www.wichita.edu/studyskills. In the Time Management section, you can find tips and information that can help you determine how you spend your time each week. If you would like assistance in developing an effective study and time schedule, or completing a one-page semester planning sheet, contact your [Success Coach](#).

September 7, 2021

Using campus resources can help you succeed academically.

Even under normal circumstances, students struggle with stress, mental health and finances. Make sure you are utilizing resources available outside of class to succeed in class. Resources like [Counseling and Prevention Services](#), the [Shocker Support Locker](#) and [Success Coaches](#) are all available to help you manage life. If you are ever concerned about the behavior of any member of our Shocker community, including yourself, [submit a concern with the Care Team](#).

I care about your success, so please reach out if you need assistance.

September 13, 2021

How do your class notes look?

As you are reviewing your notes for this class, ask yourself if they make sense. Are they organized? Do you need help with developing a note taking system, study strategies or preparing for upcoming exams? Student Success offers a range of study skills resources and assistance. Visit www.wichita.edu/studyskills to get some quick tips online or contact the [Shocker Learning Center](#) for assistance from a Peer Coach or help in getting connected to a [Success Coach](#).

September 20, 2021

Attending office (student) hours can help you succeed in my class.

If you are struggling with class content, want to talk about a topic from class or have question about my professional field, visit me during office hours. These hours are times I have reserved for you, so think of them as **student** hours. Refer to your syllabus for my scheduled office hours, or contact me for an appointment. Don't forget to utilize me – and your other professors – as a resource for your academic success.

September 27, 2021

Looking for productive ways to manage your health and stress?

We have a number of people ready to help you if you are not feeling well or simply need someone to talk to. It is important for you to make sure you are maintaining balance and are healthy so you can continue to attend classes regularly and perform your best academically.

- [Student Health Services](#) in the Student Wellness Center helps you stay healthy so you can stay in class.
- [Counseling and Prevention Services](#) in the Student Wellness Center offers help in managing relationships, stress, anxiety, etc. and is a place you can go if you need to talk with someone about what is on your mind.
- [Campus Recreation](#) in the Heskett Center offers a number of resources to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

If you are concerned about yourself or another member of our community, [submit a concern with our Care Team](#).

October 4, 2021

Mid-semester academic check-in.

This is a great time to review your academic performance in all of your courses. Check your grades in Blackboard and ask yourself if there is anything you could do to improve your performance. There are free academic success resources available to help you succeed. You can request a tutor from your myWSU student portal, or you can visit the [Shocker Learning Center](#) to find out about the free tutoring resources available across campus.

As always, if you have any questions regarding my course, please reach out and I would be happy to help.

October 26, 2021

Exchange and travel programs are great opportunities to enhance your education.

There are a number of programs we have to enhance your education with travel, such as [Study Abroad](#) and [National Student Exchange](#). Additionally many academic departments host travel opportunities tied to specific courses. Talk to your academic advisor early about these opportunities. If you plan to exchange for a semester or a year, note that the application and qualification deadlines can be very early! If you are nearing graduation, check what options you have with your academic advisor for short-term travel with individual courses.

November 1, 2021

Focus on the positive, take care of yourself and keep going!

It can be easy to get caught up in the negative things that are happening around us, which can lead to an increase in stress. Take a few minutes to think about five things that you love about yourself and five positive things that have happened so far this semester. Taking a little bit of time to remember that there are things to be thankful for can sometimes provide you with the motivation to get through a rough day or week.

If you are ever concerned about the behavior of any member of our Shocker community, including yourself, [submit a concern with the Care Team](#).

I care about your success, so please take care of yourself and reach out if you need assistance.

November 8, 2021

Are you ready to begin working in your field?

Certainly earning your degree will go far in helping you get a job after you graduate, but do you (or will you) have the skills employers are looking for? Check out the [career competencies](#) list on the [Shocker Career Accelerator](#) website to find out what areas you need to work on to become the best job candidate you can.

Have you considered what [applied learning experiences](#) are right for you? These placements help you gain professional work experience as you work toward your degree. If you are looking for a job, create a profile and search our online career database, called [Handshake](#). Getting work experience in areas related to your major and intended career are critical in preparing for employment after graduation.

November 15, 2021

Finals preparation is important for your academic success.

Finals are approaching and it is a busy time of year. If you have been preparing all semester, final exams and projects shouldn't be stressful. For those of you worrying about your performance on your finals, you can find helpful resources on the [Student Success](#) website.

Quick tips for success include knowing when and where all of your finals are scheduled, knowing how online testing works, what types of exams will be given and getting the necessary supplies you will need in advance to reduce the amount of stress you may have that week. Look at the [finals schedule linked here](#) and determine if you need to take time off from work (if possible) or rearrange existing commitments in order to give yourself enough time to study and prepare.

As always, if you have questions regarding the final for this class, please contact me or visit me during student hours.

November 29, 2021

What lies ahead in the next few semesters?

If you are not graduating this semester, you should have already spent time planning what the next few semesters look like. Enrollment for spring semester is underway. You should know how many classes you need next semester, how they apply toward your degree plan and how you will pay for them. If you have questions on anything related to enrollment, [contact your advisor](#).

If you need help developing a plan on how you will manage expenses for next semester, contact the [Office of Student Money Management](#) to schedule an appointment. If your financial situation has changed significantly since the beginning of the semester, visit with [Financial Aid](#) to explore additional aid opportunities.

Make sure you are managing your time wisely and giving your priorities (your classes) the time they deserve. It's important to take care of your health as well. Visit [Student Health Services](#) if you are not feeling well so you can perform your best on your finals.
