



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Alpha Program

Center for Academic Success Programs

Overview

1-year conditional admission program

Approximately 200 first-year students

Admissions selection process

- Average ACT: 17 (WMU Average: 22)
- Average HS GPA: 2.71 (WMU Average: 3.33)

Program Elements

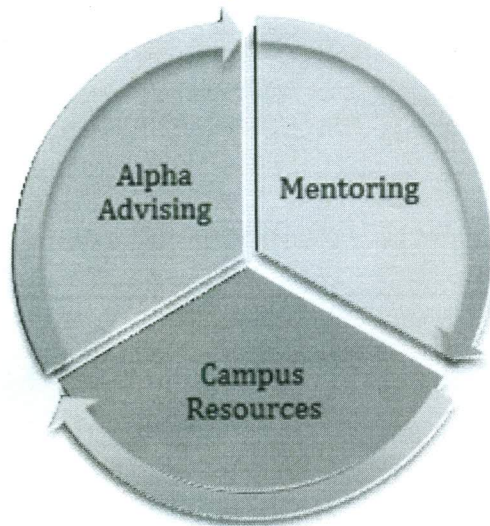
5-day summer bridge program

Required coursework (3-credits)

Intrusive advising

Learning strategies assessment

Peer mentoring



Informational Packet

Table of Contents

- Program goals and learning outcomes
- Admissions letter
- Alpha contract
- Faculty feedback form
- Advising worksheets (Fall and Spring)
- LASSI sample results
- Spring UNIV course guidelines and descriptions

University Quick Facts

Public Research University

Main Campus: Kalamazoo, MI

Founded: 1903

25,000 students

- 21% Graduate enrollment
- 52% Women/48% Men
- 19% Students of Color
- 87% Michigan residents

Presenters

Dr. Randy Ott, Director, Center for Academic Success Programs

Walter Malone, Director, Alpha Program

Elizabeth Bartles, Advisor, Alpha Program

**Alpha Program Desired Outcomes
Western Michigan University**

1. Students will develop a connection to WMU.

- Students will feel welcome at WMU and develop a sense of belonging within the Alpha Program community.
- Students will become aware of opportunities to participate in the WMU community and the importance of doing so.
- Students will interact with and appreciate the diversity of the WMU community.

2. Students will develop an increased sense of personal responsibility.

- Students will understand how to be accountable for their actions and choices.
- Students will begin to set realistic academic, life, and career goals and develop plans to achieve those goals.
- Students will recognize the importance of meeting their mental, physical, social, and emotional needs and develop strategies to manage the stress of college.
- Students will learn how to effectively manage time and utilize self-monitoring strategies to assist in academic work.

3. Students will develop increased resiliency and self-efficacy.

- Students will improve sense of self-agency and self-advocacy skills.
- Students will develop problem-solving skills appropriate for the college environment.
- Students will begin to develop a personal sense of purpose.

4. Students will transition successfully to meeting the academic challenges of WMU.

- Students will recognize their academic strengths and develop strategies to take advantage of those strengths.
- Students will recognize their academic weaknesses and will learn new skills to improve those areas.
- Students will become aware of WMU academic policies, regulations, practices, and expectations.
- Students will develop social competence in interacting with faculty and administrators.
- Students will become aware of the academic and personal resources available at WMU.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Center for Academic Success Programs

Alpha Program
Academic Resource Center
Intellectual Skills Development Program
TRIO Student Success Program
University Curriculum
Writing Center

John Doe
1111 Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI
49006-1382

May 8, 2012

Alpha Program
Center for Academic Success Programs
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5303

Dear John,

Congratulations on your recent admission to Western Michigan University and the Alpha Program!

As the Alpha Program Director, I want to welcome you to the Alpha Program and to let you know what you can expect if you decide to accept our invitation to become a Bronco. The Alpha Program has a long history of helping students succeed, and we are confident that you can become one of those students.

The Alpha Program is designed to provide you with the additional structure and support to start your college career on the right track. Upon enrolling at Western, you will become part of a community of first-year Alpha students, upperclass former Alpha students, and supportive faculty and staff.

Here are some of the benefits of being in the Alpha Program:

- An emphasis on academic success strategies in your first year
- Two individual advising meetings each semester with Alpha Program staff
- A 2-credit college success course in your first semester with Alpha Program instructors
- Guidance and mentoring from an upperclass Alpha student mentor
- Opportunities to participate in Alpha Program activities including study workshops, leadership development class, informational sessions and more

If you have any questions about the Alpha Program, please feel free to contact me at walter.malone@wmich.edu or 269-387-4410. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to send in your Alpha Contract as soon as possible! Congratulations once again on your admission to Western Michigan University, and I look forward to having you as part of the Alpha community!

Sincerely,

Walter Malone
Director, Alpha Program

Alpha Program Contract
Fall 2014

Student Copy

As a condition of admission to the University, each Alpha student must agree to and meet the following program expectations, which apply to the first year only.

- Attend WMU Orientation to schedule classes with the Alpha Program Coordinator.
- Attend the Alpha Program Kickoff Meeting on August 26, 2014.
- Enroll in the 2-credit Alpha FYE 2100 class fall semester.
- Meet with your assigned Alpha Program Advisor twice per semester (Fall/Spring).
- Meet with your Alpha Program Peer Mentor throughout the first year.
- Participate in 1 Alpha advising session each semester to schedule classes.
- Enroll in a 1-credit Alpha Engagement class spring semester.
- Live in one of the Valley residence halls unless living with a parent or guardian within 35 miles of the university or permission is granted by the Alpha Coordinator.
- Students may not join a sorority or fraternity during the first semester and are expected to limit employment to 15 hours or less per week.

I, «FNAME» «LNAME», have read and understand all parts of this contract and accept admission through the Alpha Program. In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, I permit my parent/guardian(s) to review with Alpha Program staff my academic record and any other information related to my academic progress at Western Michigan University during my freshman year.

Student Signature Date

Student E-mail Address

As the parent or guardian, I have read and understand all parts of this contract and support my student's admission to Western Michigan University through the Alpha Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) E-mail Address

Western Michigan University
Office of Admissions
1903 W Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo MI 49008-5211

(269) 387-2000 Office
(269) 387-2096 FAX

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Center for Academic Success Programs

Alpha Program
Academic Resources Center
Intellectual Skills Development Program
TRIO Student Success Program
Exploratory Advising
Writing Center

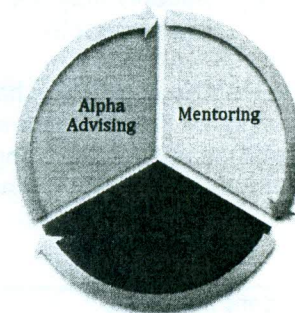
The Alpha Program

The Alpha Program is designed to guide first-year students in developing skills, behaviors, and attitudes that lead to college success. The Office of Admissions admits students to the Alpha Program who are able to thrive with the opportunity and support that the program provides. Upon enrolling at Western, first-year Alpha students become part of a community of fellow Alpha students, upper class Alpha student mentors, and supportive faculty and staff.

Benefits of the Alpha Program

The Alpha Program benefits students by supporting and encouraging their academic and personal success in the first year of college. Here are some of the benefits that students can take advantage of:

- Personal academic advising from the Alpha Program advisors
- Mentoring from upper class Alpha students
- Academic skills assessment
- Individual success plan focused on student interests and needs
- Connection with WMU resources
- Supportive community of fellow students and Alpha Program staff



Program Requirements

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- Meet with your Alpha Program Peer Mentor throughout the first year.
- Participate in 1 Alpha advising session each semester to schedule classes.
- Enroll in a 1-credit Alpha Engagement class spring semester.
- Live in a Valley I, II, or III residence hall unless living with a parent or guardian within 35 miles of the university or permission is granted by the Alpha Coordinator.
- Students may not join a sorority or fraternity during the first semester and are expected to limit employment to 15 hours or less per week.

Questions?

Walter Malone, Alpha Program Coordinator, is available to answer your questions via e-mail to walter.malone@wmich.edu or by phone at (269) 387-4410.

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Center for Academic Support Programs

Alpha Program
Academic Skills Center
Intellectual Skills Development Program
TRIO Student Success Program
University Curriculum
Writing Center

DATE: October, 2013
TO: WMU Faculty teaching Alpha students
FROM: Walter Malone
Alpha Program Coordinator

Dear Faculty Member,

Would you take a few minutes to let me know how one of your students is doing in your class?

The student named on the label above is in the Alpha Program, a special admission program that provides additional support services for some freshmen during this important year of adjustment from high school to college life. Alpha Program staff direct these students to resources which may help them improve their grades and their likelihood of success their freshman year.

Because the last day to withdraw from a class is November 4, it would be most helpful if you could return this form by October 29. You may respond by circling answers to the questions below and returning the form to me in one of these three ways:

Intercampus Mail: Walter Malone
Alpha Program Coordinator
Exploratory Advising
1276 Ellsworth Hall, Mail Stop #5303

Email your responses to: walter.malone@wmich.edu

Leave a voicemail: 269-387-4426

Thank you so much for helping us help our Alpha students succeed!

Sincerely,

Walter Malone
Alpha Program Coordinator

(Please complete assessment on reverse side.)

Student Information:

STUDENT PROGRESS INFORMATION

Estimated current course grade:

A BA B CB C DC D E X

Class attendance:

Absences not a concern so far Absences are a concern (estimated # absences) _____

Student completes assignments:

All of the time Most of the time Seldom or never

Amount of course grade left to complete:

25% 35% 50% 75% 85%

Likelihood of student passing the course with a C or better:

Good chance Possible Unlikely Not possible

What is the most important thing this student could do to improve his/her grade in your class?

Any other comments regarding this student's performance in your class:

Your Signature

Date

WIN _____

Student's name: _____ Date: _____ Advisor: _____

Fall semester goals (academic, personal, career/major):

Based on student's experience, what potential obstacles might get in the way achieving these goals?

How does student plan to avoid these obstacles?

Topics of discussion:

- Study skills

- Time management

- Personal issues

Fall midterm grades:

Notes/additional contacts:

Guidelines for Alpha Engagement Classes, Spring 2014

All Alpha students (exceptions noted below) are required to take one of the 1 - credit Alpha Engagement courses listed below in the Spring 2014 semester. Which class a student is required to take will be determined by the following guidelines:

If Fall 2012 GPA is:

Below 2.0 = student must take Academic Recovery

Between 2.0 - 2.5 = student can choose between Academic Recovery and Personal Development

Between 2.5 - 3.5 = student can choose between Personal Development and Leadership Development

Above 3.5 = student may choose to take Leadership Development or Personal Development or be exempted from requirement

Course Descriptions:

Academic Recovery (1 cr.) - This course is designed to help students get on the right track academically, especially after experiencing a difficult first semester. Topics to be covered include academic skills, motivation, time management, and self-regulation. The course will meet one time per week for 50 minutes.

Personal Development (1 cr.) - This course is designed to help students explore personal and life skills related to financial literacy, career development, and goal setting. Students will complete assignments individually throughout the semester based on the text *Generation WTF*. This course will not meet regularly; students will meet individually with their advisors and submit assignments through E Learning.

Leadership Development (1 cr.) - This course is designed for students who are interested in developing the necessary skills to fill leadership positions on campus (peer mentors, RAs, student organization board members). Specific attention will be paid to student development, group dynamics, interpersonal communication, and self-awareness. The course will meet once per week for 50 minutes.