

First-Year Success

Welcome, Messiah Falcons!

As you transition to life at Messiah University, we want to encourage you to use the following checklist to maximize your academic and social success!

ACADEMICS

- **Make academics a top priority.** Unlike high school, college classes are far more demanding, which will require you to spend more time studying outside of class.
- **Approach your academics like a full-time job,** devoting approximately eight hours per week to prepare for each of your classes.
- **Stay organized** by marking your calendar with due dates and turning on your Canvas notifications.
- **Go to class!**
- **Find a place to study that works for you.**
- **Don't procrastinate** or let classwork pile up until you're overwhelmed.
- **Ask for help before it's too late.** If you're struggling in a class, ask your professor for help or visit the [Office of Student Success](#) for assistance in connecting to campus resources and support.
- **Strive for good grades.** Keep up with reading, submit class assignments on time, and avoid pulling all-nighters when studying for exams.
- **Consider your career interests and related majors.** As a first year student, you might not know what career path you want to follow, and that's fine! Use this year to think about your interests, passions, and strengths. You can visit the [Career and Professional Development Center](#).
- **Schedule a meeting with your academic advisor** to talk about course requirements and what classes you should register for next semester. Talk to your academic advisor about majors and take courses in academic areas that meet your interests. They are here to help!

PERSONAL GROWTH

- **Know why you're here.** Think about your reasons for attending Messiah and set goals for yourself.
- **Be responsible!** The increased personal freedom accompanying college life also brings increased responsibility for the personal decisions and choices that you make.
- **Recognize that you are accountable for your academic and personal success.** You set yourself for success by going to class, working diligently, and behaving as a responsible member of the campus community.
- **Manage your time effectively.** College-level work is plentiful and challenging, and getting involved on campus is important. Good time-management skills are a must for balancing all of the demands on your time and attention. Sign up to learn these skills in the [Academic Success Center](#).
- **Speak with a counselor** at the [Engle Center](#) or through [TimelyCare](#).
- **Take care of yourself.** To succeed, you have to work hard, but you should also make time to have fun and do things you enjoy!
- **Stay healthy** by eating right and taking advantage of the [Falcon Fitness Center's](#) group exercise classes available weekly!
- **Stay on top of your finances and financial aid.** Don't miss deadlines for completing your FAFSA or other financial aid paperwork. You can speak to someone in [Student Financial Services](#) for assistance.

COMMUNITY & INVOLVEMENT

- **Get involved on campus.** Don't miss the Involvement Fair to learn about clubs and organizations that might interest you.
- **Join a club that matches your interests** and will help you develop skills and make friends.
- **Join an intramural team or club sport,** participate in campus recreation programs, and attend campus events to socialize, meet new people, and learn new things.
- **Try to stay on campus during the weekend.** It allows opportunities to connect with other students, getting comfortable at Messiah, and making it your new home.
- **Find a job on campus.** Check out [current listings here](#).
- **Check out Messiah's core values.**