Welcome back TRIO SSS students. I hope you had a good spring break.

Have you ever wondered what the “TRIO” part of TRIO Student Support Services stands for? It turns out TRIO” is not an acronym so the letters T-R-I-O actually do not stand for anything in particular. The TRIO label came into use as a result of Title IV of the Higher Education Act in 1965. At that time TRIO referred to three programs: Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services. Today, TRIO encompasses eight, not three, federally-funded programs throughout the nation under one heading. Both the TRIO label and the purpose of TRIO have remained consistent all these years. The objective of all TRIO programs is to provide additional academic support to our participants, helping them stay in school, persist and complete post-secondary education.

This bit of history provides a technical explanation of the purpose of TRIO, but it doesn’t get to the heart of what TRIO stands for. In actuality, TRIO stands for promoting educational access for students from low-income and first generation backgrounds, for students who have disabilities, and for students from disadvantaged backgrounds so students have the opportunity to succeed. To put it simply, TRIO stands for students.

Statistically, the less education a head of household has completed, the lower the family income. The lower a student’s family income, the less likely they are to graduate from high school, enroll in college, persist in college, and graduate from college. By helping students to stay in and graduate from high school, to enroll in college, and graduate from college, TRIO helps students beat the statistics.

Because the TRIO faculty and staff at BSU stand for you, we are always here to help you reach your goals.

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**TAs for TRIO College Orientation**

Are you interested in helping new students get orientated to BSU? Would you like to obtain instructional classroom experience while serving as a peer mentor to these students? Have you considered being a Teaching Assistant?

Sarah Young and Crystal Cleven are looking for Teaching Assistants for 10 sections of TRIO College Orientation for the Fall 2015 semester.

A few of the duties include sharing personal experiences, leading a tour of campus, and describing information about DARs.

As a TA you earn a college credit and gain valuable experience that will help your resume stand out to employers.

Contact Sarah at: syoung@bemidjistate.edu or Crystal at: ccleven@bemidjistate.edu for an application and to find out more about the Teaching Assistant opportunity!

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**Spring Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of Grad Plans for inclusion in 2015 Commencement Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall semester class schedule available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Begin registration for Fall Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Financial Aid Priority Deadline—get your FAFSA submitted by this date!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>Student Achievement Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No day classes (Evening classes beginning at 4 pm or later will be held)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>To withdraw from classes or withdraw completely from BSU with a &quot;W&quot; grade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dates vary and are up to 80% of course meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specific course dates available through e-services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>No Day classes (Evening classes beginning at 4:00 pm or later will be held)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>No classes, Reading day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1 &amp; 4-7</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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Bemidji State University is strongly committed to the concept of the ‘Advising Partnership.’ The relationship between advisor and advisee is one of shared responsibility. Though students are ultimately responsible for their own choices during college, in order to make informed decisions faculty advisors and others at BSU provide mentoring, advice, and information.

Your faculty advisor is your primary resource regarding academic issues, opportunities, and programs.

The Fall class schedule is available online, and registration for fall begins on March 23rd. Now is the time to get ready to meet with your advisor about which classes you should take in the fall. This means you need to figure out:

- How you are doing in each of your classes this semester
- Which classes you have taken fulfill your major and what classes you need to take toward completing your major
- Which classes fulfill liberal education requirements and what you want to take to finish fulfilling liberal education requirements

Don’t expect your advisor to determine these things for you. It’s your responsibility to take charge of your education. Follow the steps below to help you prepare to meet with your advisor so you can have a productive advising session.

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**Step 1: Calculate Your Grades for This Semester**

Do you know – really know – how you are doing in your classes? Calculating your actual grade for your classes allows you to keep track of your progress and lets you know if you need to work harder or get additional help to achieve the grades you want.

To Calculate your grade in a class:

**Determine the total number of points available.** Look at your syllabus and add the number of points listed for everything that will be graded in the class. Each class is different, but this may include:

- Assignments, Papers, Presentations
- Quizzes and Tests

Determine the total number of points you have completed so far.

Now, take the total number of points you earned and divide that number by the number of total available points.

**Determine your percentage.** If you are just trying to find out what your grade is at the moment, add together only the points available for assignments you have completed so far.

If you want to improve your grade in a class, calculate your grade by using the following formula:

\[
\text{Percentage} = \left( \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{\text{Points Possible}} \right) \times 100
\]

Determine your percentage.

Next, add up all of the points that you actually earned on your assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.

**Determine the total number of points you earned.** Next, add up all of the points that you actually earned on your assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.

**Determine your percentage.** Now, take the total number of points that you earned and divide that number by the number of total available points.

Check your syllabus to see what letter grade is assigned to your percentage. If your syllabus does not specify the percentage range for the various letter grades, ask your professor.


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**Step 2: Pick Courses for Fall Semester**

Next you need to know which classes you have taken and which classes you still need to take. Your Degree Audit Report (DARs) has all of this information in one place for you.

Log into your e-services account and click ‘Grades and Transcripts’ on the left.

Click ‘Interactive Degree Audit Report’ and then click on your major or on ‘Degree Audit – General’. This opens your DARs which shows:

- The classes you’ve taken for your major and what classes you still need for your major.

The classes you have taken that apply to the various liberal education categories.

If you still need credits in any liberal education categories, the category name will be in red and have a red X to the left of it. Your DARs report also lists which classes you can take to apply to each liberal education category.

Click on the printer-friendly button, then right click the mouse and click on ‘Print’ to print your DARs report.

Go to [http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/schedule/](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/schedule/) to see what classes are available for fall semester.

Find 2-3 classes you need for your major and 2-3 classes you want to take to work toward filling any unfulfilled liberal education categories and put them on a Tentative Fall Schedule.

**Tip:** on the right at the top of the online class schedule you can select a liberal education goal area to see just the courses being offered in that goal area.

Make changes if there are time conflicts. Have back-up courses in mind in case any of the courses you want are full.
Step 3: Meet with Your Advisor

It is important to schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor 1-3 days before your registration window opens to discuss courses for next semester and to get your access code so you can register. You can do this either in person, via email or with a telephone call.

To get the most out of your advising session, bring the following items with you to your advising appointment:

- A list of your current classes and the grade you calculated (in step 1 above) you are getting in each of them
- Your DARs report printout (from step 2)
- The tentative class schedule you created for fall semester (from step 2)
- Any other concerns or questions you want to discuss with your advisor

Be on time for your scheduled appointment. Your advisor wants to give you sound advice, so be open and honest with your advisor about how you are doing in your current classes, want courses you want to take in the fall, and any concerns you have.

Graduate School Really Is Possible

Are you interested in going to graduate school? The McNair Scholars program prepares qualified BSU students for graduate school by providing the following benefits:

- Courses to prepare scholars for research and presentations
- Experience conducting research with a faculty mentor
- Fee waivers for graduate applications
- Academic and career counseling
- Stipend for conducting summer research
- Funding for travel to graduate schools
- Seminars in GRE preparation and GRE fee reduction
- Opportunity to present at a national conference

In order to be eligible for the program, students must be from an underrepresented background (Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic; American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders) OR a first generation (neither parent has a bachelor’s degree or higher) student that can meet low income guidelines.

The BSU TRIO McNair Scholars Program is now accepting applications for next fall. For more information or to get an application, please contact Kristina Cirks at keirks@bemidjistate.edu or visit our webpage at: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/triosss/mcnair/.
**Tips for Taking Multiple Choice Tests**

- Come up with the answer in your head before reading answer choices.
- Read all choices before selecting answer (even if the first choice sounds good).
- Use process of elimination on all questions. Cross off answers you know are incorrect on questions you’re uncertain about.
- A positive choice is more likely to be true than a negative one.
- The correct answer is often the choice with the most information.

**Tips for Taking True/False Tests**

- Read through each statement carefully. One missed word can make all of the difference.
- Qualifiers like “never”, “always”, and “every” mean that the statement must be true all of the time. These qualifiers are more likely to lead to false answers.
- Qualifiers like “usually”, “sometimes”, and “generally” involve differing circumstances. These qualifiers are more likely to lead to true answers.
- Every aspect of the true sentence must be true.

**Tips for Taking Open Book Tests**

- Open book tests are not as easy as you’d think. Spend as much time (or more) preparing for an open book test as you would for a regular test.
- Be able to navigate through your textbook quickly and efficiently.
- Focus on learning the main ideas and be able to answer questions about them without having to search in your textbook.

**Test Taking Tips**

- Use labeled sticky notes on page edges to help you find key areas quickly.
- Use quotations from the book to support your view, but also give your own insight and commentary.

**Tips for Taking Essay Tests**

- Read the directions carefully. Know whether you are supposed to answer all essay essays or only a specified number. “Answer 2 out of the 3 questions,” e.g.
- Make a quick outline before writing your essay.
- Cover all question points in your essay focusing more time on the answers you know.
- Budget your time wisely (not too much time on one essay). Leave time to proofread.
- Write as neatly as possible to make it easier for your instructor to read your essays.