

# FIRST-YEAR BEARS

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## WHAT IS A LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY?

A living-learning community (LLC) is a group of students who share a common academic or theme interest and live together in a residence hall. Residence Life partners with faculty and staff across campus to implement special programming related to the LLC focus. Students living in the LLC also have the opportunity to get to know these partners outside of the classroom.

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AS PART OF THE LLC?

Your RA will have information about a variety of activities and resources related to the topic of your LLC and academic support. Plan on being involved in various events and share your ideas for future programming! The more involved you are with the community, the more benefits you'll gain.

# Anderson Wilke

**Major: Mechanical  
Engineering**

Hello, my name is Anderson Wilke and I am excited to announce that I will be your RA for the First-Year Bears LLC! I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Some things that I enjoy doing are playing basketball, playing video games, reading, and doing math. I am originally from Southern Illinois and myself am still learning about Springfield but would love to give all the information I can to you. I am so excited to be your RA, and I know that we will build a special community on our floor in Hutchens! I can't wait to meet you all! Welcome to Missouri State and I hope you can build a life-lasting connection in your first year here!

# Elise Ferris



**Major: Marketing Management**

Hey! My name is Elise Ferris and I'll be your RA in Hutchens with the First-Year Bears LLC! This is my second year as an RA, and I'm so excited to be back with FYB. I absolutely love LLCs because everyone gets so close—it really feels like a little family, and I'm all about that close-knit community feel. I had a tough time adjusting to my freshman year, so I know how hard that transition can be. I'm here to help make sure your first year goes as smoothly as possible and that you feel supported every step of the way. A little about me: I'm a senior majoring in Marketing Management. I am originally from Missouri, but my family now lives in Iowa. My go-to fun facts are that I'm a former Miss Missouri and I qualified for the Junior Olympics when I was 17! I'm super passionate about traveling—my favorite trip so far has been to the Bahamas, but I'm counting down the days until I go on an Alaskan cruise next summer. I also love cats and have a four-year-old little brother who keeps me on my toes! I can't wait to meet all of you and make this year amazing together.



## MEET YOUR RAS



# MEET YOUR PARTNERS!

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## Gates Breedlove-Koeppke

**Academic Advisor, Academic Advising and Transfer Center**

My name is Gates and I have been a full-time staff Academic Advisor at Missouri State for three years. Before advising, I was a graduate student in the Department of Biology. My time working with students as a teaching assistant inspired me to pursue a career supporting students! I'm originally from Oklahoma and love getting to call Springfield home. I live with my husband Aron and my dog Opie and love to go on long walks with them throughout the city's trails.

## Kim Stagner

**Coordinator, Student Success Initiatives, Academic Advising and Transfer Center**

Hello! Welcome to Missouri State University and First-Year Bears LLC! This is the start of your college career. Not only do you have other first-year college students sharing your own experiences, you also have University resources to assist you as you begin your successful academic experience. My name is Kim Stagner, and I am one of those resources. As an academic advisor, I'm able to direct you to your assigned advisor, assist with registration questions, and direct you to the many resources we offer on campus. I look forward to working with you to help ensure your academic success. Go Bears!





Want to learn more about Hutchens House? Check out this video!

Your LLC Social will be on:

**Tuesday, August 19, at  
6:00 pm in the Foster Rec  
Center**

You won't want to miss this  
chance to meet your floor and  
your LLC partners!



Come meet other First-Year Bears and play games with the chance to win prizes!



Our campus **Bear Line** service can help you get around once you get to campus! Check out the routes offered by our shuttles so you can figure out the best ways to get to class and around town. There is even an app you can download to track each Bear Line and see current wait times! To learn more, click

**HERE.**



Want to check out where your classes are and where to park on campus? Visit the campus map **HERE.**



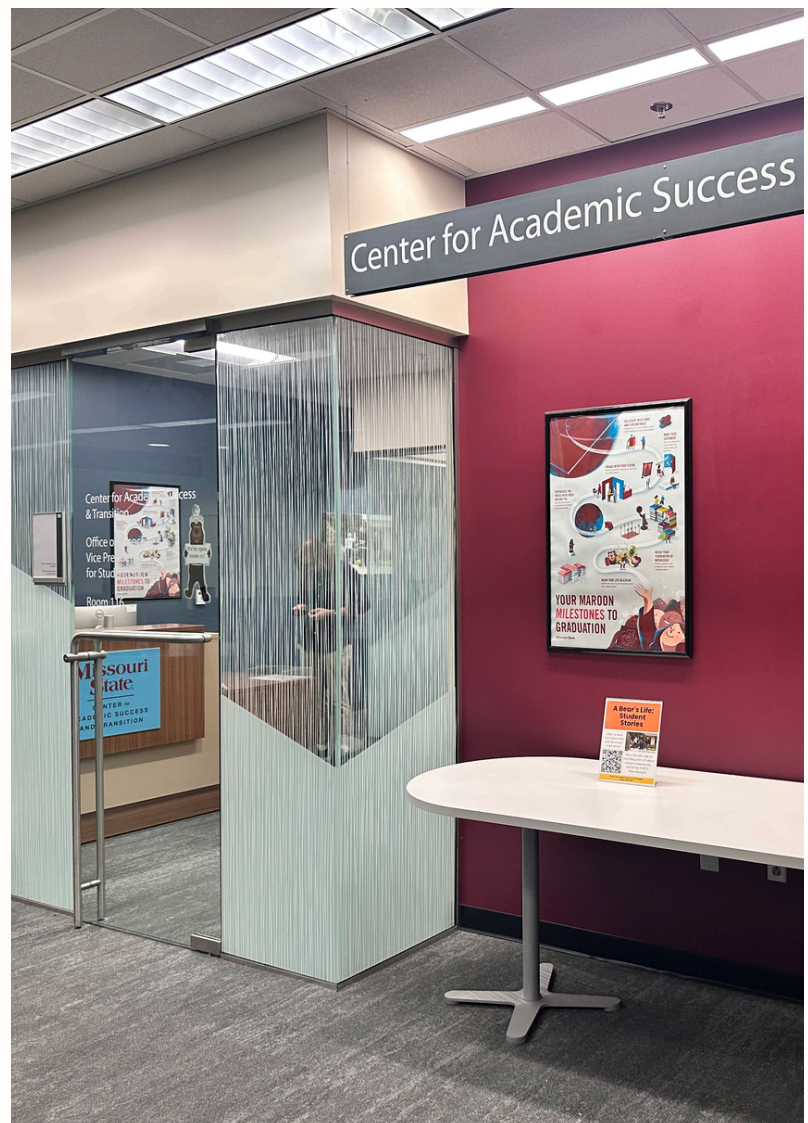
# Go Bears!

## GEP 101 and feeling at home on campus

When you start classes on August 18, you may find yourself feeling a bit overwhelmed with all the new information that will be thrown at you! Luckily, you'll have a class in your schedule designed to help you navigate the transition to college life and academics. GEP 101 is a 12-week class that will help you develop the skills you need to succeed academically, understand and engage with MSU's Public Affairs Mission, and make connections with others so you can create a support system here at Missouri State!

Your instructor will be a valuable resource to help you navigate your transition to college. The office the course is housed in, the Center for Academic Success and Transition (CAST), is a great resource for you, too! Learn more about the CAST office and their services [HERE](#).

[Take this survey](#)  
to tell Elise & Anderson  
what events you want!  
\*you could win a \$50 gift  
card!



# Go Bears!

## Check out these resources around campus!

Make sure to check out the Academic Connection Fair this semester! MSU will be hosting our annual Academic Connection Fair on **September 17, 9am-3pm, in the PSU Ballroom**. This is a great event for all students interested in exploring their academic options. Stop by to learn about all of the different majors, minors, and certificates Missouri State University offers.



Need to ask questions about scholarships, students loans, or other financial aid resources? When you come to campus you can find the Office of Student Financial Aid on the first floor of Carrington Hall, room 101. This office works with students regarding scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. You can also find information online [HERE](#).

Need to ask questions about your bill or make a payment? The Bursar's Office, located on the first floor of Carrington Hall, is open from 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. The Bursar's Office serves as the cashing function for MSU, processing payments from students, faculty, staff, and others. Have questions about your student account? Check out the list of frequently asked questions [HERE](#).







## ***Thursday, August 14***

### **Button Making 3-5pm**

Magers Health and Wellness Center  
Room 100

### **Movie on the Mall 8:30pm**

North Mall (Rain location: PSU Theater)  
Follow @mostatesac for the movie announcement!



## ***Friday, August 15***

### **Snow Glad to See You**

11am-2pm (rain or shine)  
Plaster Student Union Patio

### **Playfair/Maroon Madness 6-9pm**

Plaster Sport Complex (Rain location:  
Hammons Student Center)



## ***Saturday, August 16***

### **Yoga 2-3pm**

Magers Health and Wellness Center  
Room 100

### **Bear Bash 7-10pm**

North Mall and Plaster Student Union



## ***Sunday, August 17***

### **New Student Convocation 2-3pm**

Great Southern Bank Arena

### **Student Organization Festival 3-5pm**

Great Southern Bank Arena Concourse

### **Belong-B-Que 5-7pm**

North Mall (Rain location: Foster Rec)

For the full list of events, click [\*\*HERE!\*\*](#)

**DOWNLOAD THE BEARLINK APP!**



**check in at events find organizations  
and save events to your calendar**

**ANDROID**



**iOS**

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OFFICE of  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT