

FIRST-YEAR BEARS



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 Resident Assistant (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.

Cade Smith

Major: Secondary

Mathematics Education

Hey guys! My name is Cade Smith and I'll be your RA for the First-Year Bears LLC at Wells on floor 2, West Main. This is my second year as an RA and I am super pumped to meet all of you. I loved my freshman year, so I am super excited to see you guys experience it. I am a junior at Missouri State majoring in Secondary Math Education. There is so much to do here in Springfield, some of my favorite things to do are to go downtown with friends, go to Bass Pro, go to the mall, and go line dancing. I participate in the recreation sports on campus a lot and I plan on making teams in sand volleyball, indoor volleyball, and soccer, but I will talk more about that when the time to sign up comes. I am from St. Louis area, more specifically St. Peters, and I have played soccer my whole life. I like to run, have movie marathons, and make ceramic pieces, surf, play sports, board games, video games, and of course hanging out with friends. I'm super excited to meet all of you this upcoming year and build an amazing community!!

MEET YOUR RAS



Alex Kittinger

Major: Entertainment Management

Hello! I'm Alex and I'll be the Resident Assistant for Wells 2 East Main First-Year Bears! I am a second-year student majoring in Entertainment Management and this will be my second year as an RA! I'm so excited to meet all of my new residents and help them progress throughout the year. In addition to Residence Life, I am involved in DECA, Entertainment Management Association, and Centennial Leaders! Around campus, I like to hang out with friends, attend various events hosted by clubs, and relax around my residence hall! Welcome, First-Year Bears!

MEET YOUR RAS

Mila French

Major: Elementary Education

Hi everyone! My name is Mila French and I am going to be your RA for Wells First-Year Bears for 3 East Main! This is my first year in a RA role, and I am looking forward to helping everyone during their first year here! I am currently a sophomore studying elementary education. During my free time I enjoy reading, working out, hanging out with friends, being outside, and drawing. I am truly excited for each of you to be a part of the community and find fulfillment in being a MSU bear! :)



Lydia Hines

Majors: Art Education/Fine Arts

Hey all! My name is Lydia and I'm the RA for 3 West Main First Year Bears LLC! I'm a junior majoring in Art Education and Drawing with a minor in Museum Studies Art History. Some of my favorite things are reading, being outside, rock climbing, yoga, and line dancing with my friends. I'm so excited to get to be your RA and meet each and every one of you while you navigate college life. So ready to see all you bears this fall.

MEET YOUR PARTNERS!



Gates Breedlove-Koepke

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.

Dr. Taleyna Morris

Senior Instructor, Communication, Media, Journalism & Film

Welcome to Missouri State! I'm Dr. Taleyna Morris and I teach in the Communication, Media, Journalism and Film department. In addition to teaching at Missouri State, I also attended here in the late 1990's. My spouse and daughter are also alumni of Missouri State. My academic interests are organizational communication and interpersonal communication. When I'm not teaching, I'm likely to be figure skating, reading or traveling.





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

Your LLC Social will be on:

**Tuesday, August 18, at
5:00 pm in the Plaster
Student Union**

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.**

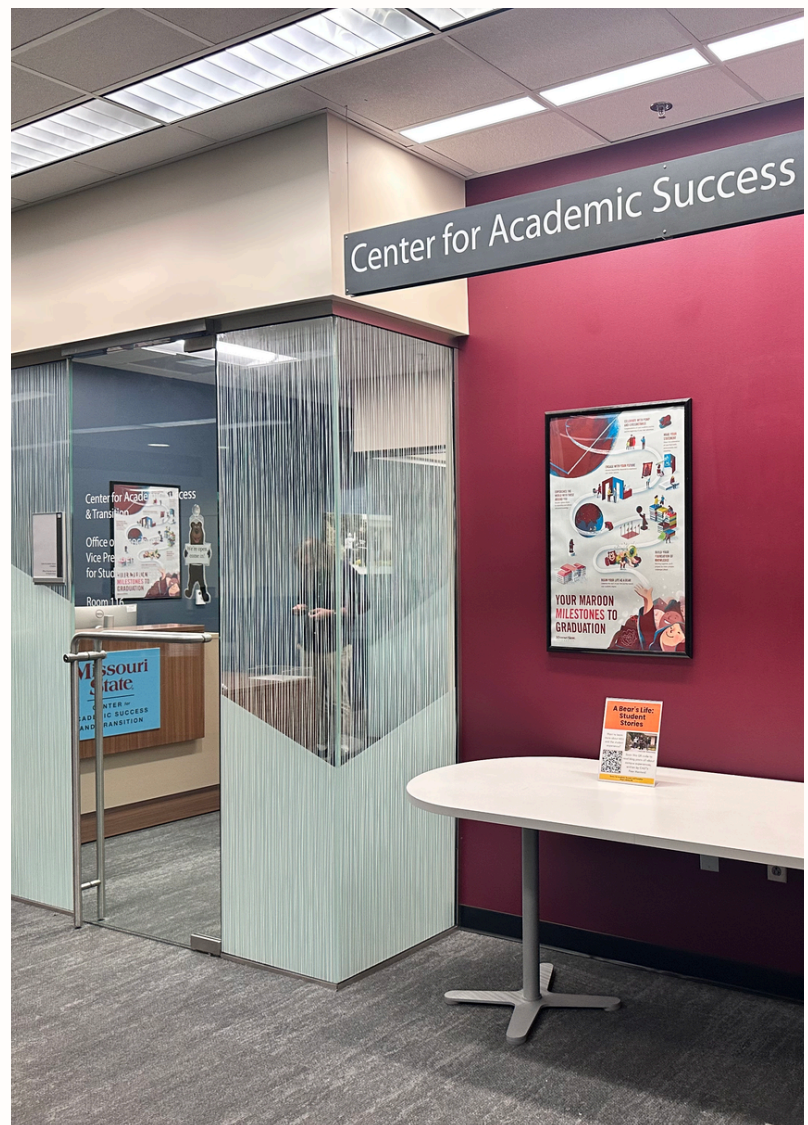
Go Bears!

GEP 101 and feeling at home on campus

When you start classes on August 17, 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 your RAs what
events you want!
*you could win a \$50 gift
card!



Go Bears!

Check out these resources around campus!

MSU will be hosting our annual Majors Fair on **September 16, 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](#).



WEEK OF WELCOME 2026!

It's time to celebrate a new year! Move in, meet new friends and enjoy a week full of events. Events include:



Thursday, August 13

Room Decor Bingo 7-9pm
PSU Theater

Sponsored by:



Friday, August 14

Snow Glad to See You
11-2pm (rain or shine)
Plaster Student Union Patio

417 Street Fest 6-8pm
Elm Street



Saturday, August 15

BearZEN 9-10am
Magers Health & Wellness Center 100

Grab a Scoop with FSL 12-2pm
Plaster Student Union Patio

Bear Bash 7-10pm
North Mall and PSU



Sunday, August 16

New Student Convocation 2pm
Great Southern Bank Arena

Campus Fest CMA 6:30-9pm
North Mall

And more! For the full list of events,
click [HERE!](#)