



SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY



Mission Statement

The Mission of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Academic Retention Program is to create an academically rooted learning community for regularly admitted students. This program targets students of color, students who are the first in their family to attend college, and students who have an economic need. All students with a commitment to diversity are encouraged to participate. It is the goal of this community to improve the quality of participants' academic experience. The academic viability of its members will be of prime importance to all, and all members will work collaboratively to ensure personal and collective academic success.

In addition, the community values the importance of its members' social interactions. The community will encourage positive social interactions within its membership and with the entire campus community. The community will support and refer students to other offices and programs that provide positive social involvement.

Extended Orientation Program

The MLK Academic Retention Program offers many programs and activities throughout the year. It all begins with the Extended Orientation Program.

The Extended Orientation Program is the most important part of the program. Before other students arrive for Fall Welcome Week, new MLK Program students come to Shippensburg for an extended orientation, which provides many opportunities that allow MLK students to get a step ahead of everyone else. First, since MLK students are among the first students to move in, they get to choose which bed they want in their room in the residence hall!

Besides the room perks, the information given to MLK students during the Extended Orientation Program is invaluable. We provide workshops such as "What Does It Take to Make It at Ship?" "Cross-Cultural Communication," and "Classroom Etiquette." These workshops provide insights into what it takes to be successful and what professors are expecting from first-year students. At the end of the Early Orientation Program, we sit down, watch a movie, and have a discussion over some good home-cooked food.

There is **absolutely no cost** for the Extended Orientation Program.



**"If you can't fly, then run.
If you can't run, then walk.
If you can't walk then crawl.
But whatever you do,
you have to keep
moving forward."**

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

MARTIN LUTHER KING Academic Retention Program

WE are MLK

"Just understand life and college won't be easy at times. Only with help from friends and mentors can you soar. How about giving yourself a leg up in college and life? Now or never. Can you think of reason why not? Everyone in this program wants to see you succeed. Never feel like you are alone at college. All of us are here to make you feel like you belong."

~ Seth Baker (mentor)

"The MLK program will change your college experience. It will help substantially with your transition into and all throughout college. Through the MLK program you are exposed to vital resources that aid you throughout college. You will feel a sense of community and acceptance within your new MLK family."

~ Cheyenne Delp (mentor)



For more information contact:

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Martin Luther King
Academic Retention Program

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Shippensburg University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Direct requests for disability accommodations and other inquiries to the Office of Disability Services, Horton Hall Suite 324, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299, 717- 477-1329. 11/15U-800

www..ship.edu/MLK

Why should you join?

“The MLK Retention Program helps incoming freshmen take that first step into college. We are a big family. We come from different backgrounds but that’s the unique thing about this program. We get to learn something new from every single person. The people you meet in this program will help you with anything that you are facing physically, mentally, academically, etc. Again, we’re a family! .”

~ Shakir Alexander - Noah (mentor)



Mentors

As a member of the MLK program, you will have a dedicated peer mentor, a FRIEND (Furthering Relationships In Every New Direction). Your FRIEND will be an upper-class student who will work with you throughout your entire first year here at Shippensburg. You will meet your FRIEND at the Extended Orientation Program, and they will “show you the ropes” from a student’s point of view. You can contact your FRIEND for any reason. If you need help on a test, or if you are having a problem with the girl or guy you met last week, or if you just need someone to talk to, your FRIEND will be there to listen and provide assistance.

*Mentors hold weekly office hours that are scheduled around mentees’ availability.

MLK 101: Non-Credit Seminar

MLK 101 is a non-credit course offered once a week for students with a sincere desire to explore who they are and their academic options as well as to develop the skills necessary to be successful college students. Seminar content includes study skills, time management, personal values, and interests’ exploration. The seminar is designed to assist students in choosing a major, setting goals, and using general education coursework as a guide for exploring potential majors and careers. Activities include mini-lectures, class discussion, guest speakers, assessment activities, and individual research.

Academic Monitoring

One of the most important elements of the MLK Academic Retention Program is the academic monitoring. The coordinator monitors your academic progress and attendance, and if you are doing well--or not-so-well--you will get a call. The coordinator can access your midterm grades. In the middle of each semester of your first year, your professors may submit an early warning grade if you are earning a D or F. The grade doesn’t count, but it lets the coordinator know that you are experiencing difficulty so that she can help.

MLK Winter Retreat

The MLK Program Winter Retreat is a great opportunity to reconnect with other MLK students after winter break. The retreat provides the mentors and MLK students the chance to forge stronger bonds. Everyone--the MLK students, the FRIEND mentors, and the coordinator--agrees that this overnight retreat is a remarkable experience, creating lifetime memories!



What the program means to me...

“The MLK program has helped me a lot with the transition from high school to college. It was also so nice to make friends before classes.”

~ Abbey Turnbaugh (mentee)

“MLK means family. People I know I can rely on.”

~ David Delp (mentee)



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