Martin Luther King Academic Retention Program

http://webspace.ship.edu/mlk

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

WE are MLK

Who are WE?

WE came here different.

WE will never be the same again.

WE discovered some weaknesses.

WE now put misunderstandings aside.

WE have learned together.

WE have even laughed and cried.

WE have gained respect for those who are not like us.

WE found that we all share many things in common.

WE now respect the difference in our lifestyles.

WE have made some life long friends.

WE have become diverse.

WE accept each other as individuals, a group, and family.

You ask us who WE are-

This loud, weird, diverse, crazy, smart group of people.

WE are now one.

WE are MLK, now and forever.

~ Lasheeka Pressley
MLK '06

MLK Program Mission

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 may be first in their family to attend college, and those who may have an economic need. All students with a commitment to diversity are encouraged to participate. It is the goal of this community to enhance the graduation of its members, and to improve the quality of their academic careers. 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. Further, the community will support and refer students to other offices and programs that provide positive social involvement.

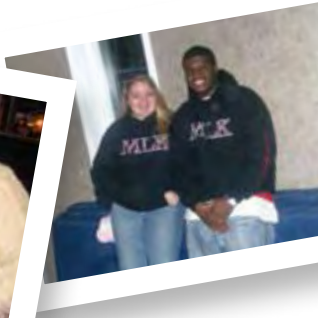
Why should you join the MLK Program?

The MLK Program is designed to give you a family of friends and faculty while you are away from home. We're here to work, laugh, cry and play together. This is a family that you will have for the rest of your life.

The MLK Family values diversity and is committed academic success. We want you to make the most of your college years, and we want you to take full advantage of all that Shippensburg has to offer. We make sure that you will have available all of the resources you need to be successful here at Shippensburg. MLK members grow both academically and socially, and become well-rounded individuals.

To do this, we address the key academic needs each student brings to the university. We provide academic monitoring and coordinate referrals to various academic resources on campus. Our number one goal is to help you graduate.

However, we do not neglect the social aspect of college, as well. If your goal is to graduate and have support along the way, the MLK program will help you get there



What is in the MLK Program?

The MLK Program offers many programs & 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 the regular student orientation in August, all of the 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 the first students to move in at the University, they get to choose what 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. The Dean of Academic Programs and Services, along with the Academic Coordinator of the MLK Program, reviews the schedule of every MLK student to make sure all of the classes each student has been assigned are appropriate to her/his major. We can make changes to schedules, if needed.

At the orientation, we also provide workshops for the MLK students. Some examples of past workshops include, “What Does it Take to Make it at Ship”, “Cross Cultural Communication”, and “Classroom Etiquette”. These workshops give you insight into what it takes to be successful here at SU and what professors are expecting from first year students. At the end of the Orientation, 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 so there is no reason for you not to be here.

A.E.I.O.U.

It's a simple fact. The more you participate in the life of your campus, the more you are going to enjoy your time here. The Academic Excellence Initiative Opportunity Undertaking (A.E.I.O.U.) helps you do just that.

A.E.I.O.U. is only opened to First Year Students (freshmen or transfer). Each semester a generous book credit is awarded to the person who earns the most points for attending campus activities. Points are awarded for writing a ½ page essay reacting to the event you attended and submitting it to your FRIEND mentor no later than a week after the event.

The book credit can be used for your books for the next semester and can be a great help when you are pinching pennies.

Learning Community

Not only will you live with some MLK students, but you will also go to class together. As a member of the MLK family, you will be scheduled to have some classes with other MLK students.

Imagine! The friends you made in the summer will also be your classmates in the fall. You will be able to study together, work on projects together, and get A's together.

MLK 101

As a member of the Martin Luther King Program, you will be enrolled in MLK 101, a non-credit first year experience course. This is no ordinary class! We meet once a week for your first semester to discuss important issues that affect you as a student. We also give you some tips on how to make math, English, and history classes a little easier.

Here is an overview of the topics:

- Differences between High School and College?
- Note Taking
- Tips to succeed in Math
- Tips to succeed in English/Writing
- Tips to succeed in History
- Study Skills/Test Taking Strategies
- Diversity
- Ethics and Moral decision making
- Health Issues – Sex, drugs, alcohol
- Life without college
- Life on campus as a student of color – Obstacle or Opportunity

Mentors

As a member of the MLK program, you will have the opportunity to receive two mentors.

Your first mentor will be a FRIEND (Furthering Relationships In Every New Direction). Your FRIEND will be an upper-class MLK student who will work with you your entire first year here at Shippensburg. You will meet him/her 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 the guy you met last week, or if you just need someone to talk to, your FRIEND be there to listen and to help out.

You may also choose to receive a faculty/staff mentor through the Thurgood Marshall Mentoring Program (TMMP). This adult mentor will provide you with support in your personal, social, and intellectual development.

Both your FRIEND and TMMP mentors are here to make your experience at Shippensburg the best that it can possibly be.

Academic Monitoring

The most important part of the MLK Program is the Academic Monitoring that takes place. The academic coordinator monitors your academic progress and attendance, and whenever you are doing well (or not-so-well) you will get a call.

The academic coordinator also receives your midterm grade reports. In the middle of each semester of your first year, your professors submit an early alert grade. The grade doesn't count, but it lets us know if you are experiencing difficulty so we can help.

If your GPA falls below a 2.0, you will automatically be placed in the Supplemental Intensive Monitoring System (SIMS). SIMS is not a punishment. Many successful students face academic challenges while in college. Students in the SIMS program are monitored a little more closely and have regular meetings with their professors to make sure everything is ok.

Living Community

Ask anyone and they will tell you that one of the most important factors in determining whether or not you enjoy your collegiate year, is with whom you live.

As a member of the MLK Program, you are invited to live in one of the two designated "MLK Halls". By the time the semester begins, you will already have established a connection with your hallmates through the Extended Orientation and will be able to strengthen them as the semester continues.

Although the Living Community is highly recommended, if you have a living preference that we are unable to accommodate (i.e., preference for the 24 quiet hour residence hall, or healthy living wing), you are not required to live in an "MLK Hall".

Community Resources

Restaurants (Delivery)

Brother's Pizza 717-530-1732
Pizza Man 717-530-1607
Pizza Hut 717-532-9554
Great Wall Chinese 717-530-0889
Chinatown Kitchen 717-530-8448
China Inn 717-477-8888

Restaurants (Sit Down)

Before and After Café 717-477-8088
334 East King Street
Mei Lin's House 717-532-9411
825 West King Street
Black Horse Tavern 717-530-1148
32 East King Street (Shippen Place Hotel)
Knute's Pub and Grill 717-532-3876
15 West King Street
Market Cross Pub & Inn 717-532-3967
105 West King Street
Select Family Restaurant 717-530-1235
2 West King Street

Restaurants (Fast Food)

McDonalds 717-532-7945
333 East King Street
Burger King 717-530-0102
38-40 Walnut Bottom Road
Subway
100 West King Street 717-530-5151
100 South Conestoga Drive 717-532-4740
Wendy's 717-532-8477
71 South Conestoga Drive

Banks

M & T Bank 1-800-724-2440
35 East King Street
Citizens Bank 717-532-2151
153 West Orange Street
Orrstown Bank 1-888-ORRSTOWN
77 East King Street

Additional Resources

Shippensburg Public Library 717-532-4508
73 West King Street
Postal Office 1-800-275-8777
46 West King Street
Wal-Mart 717-532-4240
100 South Conestoga Drive

Martin Luther King Staff

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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 120, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299, 717- 477-1329, ods@ship.edu.