Commitment to Diversity
About Shippensburg University

Located in the Cumberland Valley of southcentral Pennsylvania, Shippensburg University offers you the best of what college is meant to be. With more than 425 faculty and 6,800 undergraduate students, we’re small enough to really get to know you, yet large enough to offer you challenging courses, the flexibility you need, and a wide spectrum of organizations and activities.

We have three colleges offering more than 100 majors and concentrations drawing from courses in 30 academic departments.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Shippensburg University can offer you a quality education at an affordable cost.
Our Commitment to Diversity

Shippensburg University is home to a student body of 7,800. We strive to bring a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and even guest speakers to our campus. You will find in your residence halls, in your classrooms, and in our auditoriums, people from across the nation and even the world—people of different races, ethnicities, and religions. We want to ensure that students receive an education that prepares them for the challenges of a global society with its diverse beliefs, attitudes, and ways of thinking.

Culture
You are invited to become a member of the “Ship” community.

From the moment you step on campus, you immediately feel you’re “among family.” Like a family, Shippensburg expects your very best—in your course work, in your friendships with other students, in your relationships with Ship professors.

In return, we offer personal attention, strong support, and a challenging education. Shippensburg is big enough where it counts—with top-notch faculty and facilities—and small enough so you’ll be known for yourself and your strengths.

Community
We foster an organizational culture that celebrates multiculturalism and diversity.

We work to create an environment that allows everyone the opportunity to better understand diversity and civic responsibilities. We value human understanding, especially the appreciation and awareness of cultural, racial, and gender differences. To help our students develop this appreciation, we require all undergraduates to take one diversity course (3 credits) from a selection of approved courses.
Martin Luther King Academic Retention Program (MLK)

Horton Hall 335, 717-477-1023 ext. 3411; www.ship.edu/mlk

The MLK Program is an open, accepting, academically rooted learning community for traditional, 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 trouble paying for school. All students with a commitment to diversity are encouraged to participate. Leaving home and entering a new environment can be challenging, especially for first-year students. The staff of the MLK program helps students with the transition and works hard to provide students with a safe and secure place to learn and to grow.

MLK students are invited to participate in a variety of programs and services designed to help them succeed including an extended orientation program, and MLK 101, a non-credit, first-year experience course. An academic coordinator monitors students academic progress, and all MLK students gain a FRIEND, an upper-class peer mentor who serves as a positive role model.

The MLK Program is students who work together, bond together, have fun together, laugh together, and succeed together at Shippensburg University.

Thurgood Marshall Mentoring Program (TMMP)

Horton Hall 117, 717-477-1364 www.ship.edu/tmmp

TMMP provides support for the personal, social, and intellectual development of our students. The program assists first-year and transfer students in building partnerships with faculty, staff, administrators, and graduate students who are familiar with the university.

A mentor is someone who takes a special interest in and responsibility for the growth and development of another person. A mentor can help to instill confidence, clarify goals, assist in problem solving, and provide feedback. A mentor can also help a student turn a difficult situation into a learning experience.

“None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots.”


Your TMMP mentor will help you become oriented to Shippensburg University and to the surrounding area. By demonstrating genuine concern, your mentor can help you develop a sense of belonging and empowerment through moral support.

When matching you to your mentor, we consider your major, career aspirations, background, and interests. At Shippensburg University, TMMP mentors have served in many roles, including career counselors, personal
counselors, tutors, and friends. They have invited students to dinner in their homes or local restaurants, accompanied students to cultural events, provided transportation, and taken students on shopping trips and tours of the local and surrounding communities.

In short, the mentoring relationship has significantly helped many of our students make a successful adjustment to college life. You may apply to the program online at www.ship.edu/TMMP.

As part of the School of Academic Programs and Services, ASP’s goals are to promote academic success and to build self-confidence with guided supportive services throughout our students’ college experience. The ASP has two major components: the Summer Bridge Program, and the Academic Year Support Programs.

Summer Bridge Program
The Summer Bridge program is a mandatory five-week program, the focus of which is to provide a realistic orientation to the roles and expectations of Shippensburg University students. Upon successful completion of this required experience, students are considered for admission to Shippensburg for the fall semester.

Academic Year Support Program
The Academic Year Support Program is designed to further develop the overall preparedness of the ASP students who have successfully completed the Summer Bridge program. ASP counselors closely monitor assigned students to ensure they are on track and focused on academic and personal success. Counselors emphasize helping students build on the base of knowledge established during the summer program.

Components of the Academic Year Support Program include:

- Academic Advising
- Career Counseling
- Financial Aid Advising
- Personal and Social Adjustment Counseling
- Intro to Higher Education: Identity and Connection, a course designed to provide students with an orientation to academic and social expectations of higher education

Academic Success Program (ASP)
Wright Hall 302, 717-477-1134
www.ship.edu/asp

The Academic Success Program (ASP) provides access and academic support to students who do not meet the regular admission criteria to Shippensburg University but who have demonstrated the potential, desire, and motivation to succeed in college. The Act 101 component of ASP is Pennsylvania legislation that provides educational funding support to qualified students seeking admission to the institutions of higher learning in Pennsylvania.
Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Honor Society

Students have an opportunity to join a distinguished academic honor society while attending Shippensburg University. Chi Alpha Epsilon was formed to recognize the academic achievements of students admitted to colleges and universities through nontraditional criteria. Its purpose is to promote continued high academic standards, foster increased communication among its members, and honor academic excellence for those students admitted to college via developmental programs.

Admission to ASP

Students who have not met regular admission criteria may be considered for admission to the Academic Success Program through the Summer Bridge Program. Upon request from the Office of Admissions, prospective students may be asked to submit two recommendation forms. Other financial information may be required. All information is reviewed by the Director of the Academic Success Program and the Dean of Enrollment Services to determine eligibility for the program. Students are then notified by mail of the admission decision.

Financial Assistance for ASP

Students from Pennsylvania who demonstrate economic and educational need may qualify for financial assistance under the Act 101 legislation. Students who wish to be considered for the Academic Success Program should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1. Shippensburg University’s Financial Aid Office is available to assist students with filing the necessary forms. The Summer Bridge Program is offered free of charge to students who qualify under the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s (Act 101) guidelines.

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

Gilbert Hall 100, 717-477-1616
www.ship.edu/msa

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) is in the business of building bridges of understanding between people. MSA strives to expose students to individuals and experiences that will help them grow, develop self-confidence, and gain assertiveness. It challenges all students to discover who they are and how culture impacts this.

MSA is for all students regardless of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual identity. It is a student-centered office that assists groups such as the African-American Organization, Asian American Organization, Latino Student Organization, Students Advocating Life Not Lifestyle Equality, and others in developing and implementing programs. These programs are designed to help all students improve their quality of life as human beings. MSA is an advocacy office where students can express concerns, receive referrals, and gain support.

MSA serves as a focal point and a resource for faculty, students, and others, and serves as...
a liaison with areas such as academic departments, financial aid, residence life, and career development.

MSA is also concerned with developing leadership skills in students that will help them succeed in and out of the classroom and for the rest of their lives. In fact, all programs run by MSA in some way develop or encourage the use of leadership skills. Students are responsible for running programs and working cooperatively with other groups on campus such as the Residence Hall Association.

MSA offers many services and programs, including academic support programs, cultural awareness programs, and social programs. It is also a resource center with an expanding library on multicultural topics. MSA is a place for you to celebrate diversity. All people are welcome.

**MSA Program Highlights**

**Building Bridges** focuses on small group discussion and interaction as a means to openly and frankly discuss issues.

**Promoting Excellence through Establishing Relationships for Success (PEERS)** Volunteers make a commitment to both themselves and to others in the program to strive for excellence in every aspect of college life.

**Seeking Excellence Together (SET)** is designed to improve academic achievement by providing incentives and reinforcements.

**Leadership Development Institute** prepares incoming students for future leadership roles.

**Cultural Enrichment Programs** for example Kwanzaa, Latino Explosion, Asian Extravaganza, Gospel Explosion, PrideFest, and the Black History Soulful Saturday Celebration.

**Out of the Ordinary Productions** uses drama, songs, and dance to enhance human understanding and create a climate that fosters diversity.

**Study Place:** MSA is open select times for study sessions.

**Support Groups:** Women of Color (DIVAS) and the Men of Culture (BROTHERS) programs provide support, information, and insight into issues confronting group members.

**Community Linkage Programs** involve students in volunteer experiences including local high school groups, churches, and civic organizations.

**Uncensored Series** provides a forum where students are encouraged to discuss historical, cultural, and political perspectives about other cultures, ethnic groups, etc.
Career Development Center
Ceddia Union Building 180
717-477-1484
www.ship.edu/career
career@ship.edu

The Career Development Center (CDC) assists students in the development, evaluation, and implementation of their career plans and searches. The following services are offered to assist students and alumni:

- Workshops on résumés/cover letters, job search and interviewing
- On-campus recruitment interviews, information tables, and information sessions
- Individual counseling (by appointment) and walk-in hours (no appointments)
- Recorded mock interviews (web-based and in-person) to refine interviewing skills
- Graduate school information
- Career/Internship fairs and employment consortia
- FOCUS2 – online computerized assessment program that evaluates interests, abilities, experiences, and values and helps individuals discern his or her major or career path
- InterviewStream - web-based mock interview software to view examples of interview questions, practice and review responses and evaluate interview strengths and areas for improvement
- Online job board to promote full-time, internship, part-time and summer employment opportunities
- Extensive online career-related information and resources available at www.ship.edu/career

Academic Advising
All students are assigned an academic advisor by their academic departments or, for undeclared students, the Office of Undeclared Students. Your academic advisor will help you determine goals and directions throughout your college career. You and your advisor are urged to meet at least three times during each semester to discuss scheduling, course loads, academic policies, career fields, or other concerns.

Academic Monitoring
During the seventh week of classes each semester of the first year, all students receive mid-semester grade reports. Students who receive “D” or “F” mid-term grades will have their grade reports sent to their permanent address, mentor, academic advisor, and parent or guardian for follow-up.

Personal Counseling
To be successful, it’s important you adjust well to the college environment and its academic, social, and personal demands. Personal counseling involves the total individual—mental, emotional, and intellectual. Counseling sessions for students are typically provided by the University Counseling Center staff, the MLK academic coordinator, or a mentor.
As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Shippensburg University can offer a quality education at a surprisingly affordable cost. However, many students still need financial aid in order to attend college. The university awards extensive financial aid to students who desire a college education but cannot pay the full tuition.

The University Counseling Center offers a range of free professional services to students seeking help with personal concerns. The center works with psychological problems, relationship and family issues, academic, career and personal concerns, and crisis situations. Students typically begin with an interview with a counselor. Continuing services may be offered in the form of individual, couples, group and/or psychiatric services, depending on the student’s need.

The university’s health services are available without charge (paid for by the Comprehensive Health Fee) to all undergraduate and graduate students. Health services are available from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. while the university is in session. Full-time and part-time registered nurses are on duty to see walk-in patients, and the health center physician and physician assistant hold daily appointment hours Monday through Friday.

We want to ensure that our students receive an education that prepares them for the challenges of a global society with its diverse beliefs, attitudes, and ways of thinking.
Learning Center
Lehman Library
717-477-1420
www.ship.edu/learning

As the university’s primary academic resource center, the Learning Center provides an array of quality academic services to all students at Shippensburg University. At the Learning Center, students identify and achieve their individual learning goals in order to fulfill their academic potential. Available services include:

- peer tutoring in the sciences, math, humanities, and business courses
- writing tutoring for all stages of the writing process
- drop-in tutoring nights
- 30-minute writing workshops
- individualized assistance from professional learning specialists
- online resources

The Learning Center empowers students to become independent, active learners by meeting the needs of a diverse student population, providing free and accessible services in a safe and supportive atmosphere, and working collaboratively with students, faculty, staff, and administration across campus. Professional learning specialists work with students to help them develop better study strategies and learning skills. Learning specialists also provide specialized support to students with disabilities, individuals on academic probation, and students who may need help in transitioning to the university environment.

Conveniently located on the first floor of the library, students can drop by the Learning Center to schedule an appointment or check for availability for a walk-in appointment. Students can also call 477-1420 to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit the website at www.ship.edu/learning/.

Office of Disability Services
Horton Hall 120
717-477-1329
www.ship.edu/ods

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is committed to helping students with documented disabilities maintain their academic potential within a university environment. By providing direction, offering resources, and determining appropriate accommodations based on need, ODS encourages and supports self-advocacy among the students served.

Student-centered in nature, the Office of Disability Services strives to convey its vision for academic success to those who are eligible for services with the ultimate goal of building confident and independent life-long learners.
United Campus Ministry

Cora I. Grove Spiritual Center
717-477-1672
www.ship.edu/ucm

United Campus Ministry (UCM) is an ecumenical ministry at Shippensburg University that provides an opportunity for all students to grow in their faith. UCM brings students of different backgrounds together into common fellowship, providing ministry through fellowship events, weekly dinners, study groups, worship, counseling, and social action projects.

Women’s Center

Horton Hall, First Floor
717-477-1790
www.ship.edu/womens_center

The Women’s Center at Shippensburg University seeks to promote equity by addressing issues of stereotyping, self-defense, women’s health, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

The Women’s Center serves the campus community by hosting programs, conferences, workshops and other events that bring attention to women’s issues. We work as advocates for students, faculty and staff that have been affected by sexual harassment, intimate partner violence/abuse or sexual assault. The Women’s Center’s conference room, lounge, and library are valuable resources to members of campus.

All women and men are welcome to use the Women’s Center’s services and resources. The center operates under the Dean of Students Office and is a part of the Department of Student Affairs.

The staff and volunteers at the Women’s Center are always working on an exciting program or new leadership opportunity. Two student organizations call the Women’s Center home and we partner with the Volunteer Services Office, Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Women’s and Gender Studies Minor and many other campus groups in our work to improve the status of women on campus and in our local and global community.