Socialization and Campus Involvement [brochure and video]

Allison Smith  
Western Kentucky University, allison.smith749@topper.wku.edu

Heather Thomas  
Western Kentucky University, heather.thomas704@topper.wku.edu
What is Socialization?
According to “Becoming a College Student: A Study in Socialization,” socialization is defined as: “a process of learning what it means to be a member of a group and navigating one’s sense of self as a part of that process.” (Sternheimer, 2011)

Why is Socialization important in college?
- Improves emotional health (Sax, Bryant & Gilmartin, 2002)
- Boosts academic performance and retention (Pritchard & Wilson, 2003)
- Builds valuable skills for the future (ex: Can make a student more marketable to future employers)
- Learn more about one’s own capabilities
- Can lead to finding new passions or interests

References
Socialization Opportunities on Your Campus

- Student Activities Office
- Housing and Residence Life
- Greek Life
- Academic Departments
- Religious Organizations
- Student Clubs
- Sports and Intramurals

Advisement for Incoming Students

Professional Perspective:
Use the resources available on campus to become more aware of involvement opportunities outside of the classroom. Socialization helps to make more well-rounded individuals which is beneficial for the future.

“When we asked students to think of a critical incident or moment that profoundly changed them during college, 4 out of 5 chose an out-of-classroom experience.”
~Richard Light

“Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds”

Student Perspective:
Make getting involved on campus a priority. Taking the first step of getting involved can lead to more ways to feel a part of the campus community. Step outside of your comfort zone to find passions and interests that will make your transition to college easier.