Office/Department: Office of Residence Life: Student Learning Initiatives

Director: Dr. Kevin Meaney

Mission Statement: The Office of Residence Life (ORL) is committed to designing and maintaining a caring environment that encourages academic success, individual respect, personal growth and responsibility to one's community.

Student Learning Initiatives (SLI) is committed to furthering the mission of ORL by providing support and resources for programming to students and ORL staff, while encouraging a positive college experience.

SLI provides connection and developmental programming opportunities for students. With outreach and support being the focus of our practicum we are committed to programming that enhances the residential programming experience at JMU.

Functional areas included in this office/department:

1. Students who participate in this experience will gain understanding of student affairs as a profession and the influence student affairs has on contemporary higher education through the following tasks and activities:

   - Participate in the innovation and development of first year experience programming
   - Coordinate and collaborate with campus partners to schedule resources, programs, and support for programming
   - Learn and teach ORL’s community engagement and the necessary steps to creating a program
   - Develop resources, programs, support materials for residential students
   - Create or improve programs related to students in academic distress
   - Create or improve programs related to strategies for creating educational and administrative links between curricular and co-curricular programs
   - Learn techniques and strategies for creating effective learning opportunities
   - Participate and co-facilitate leadership development for SHAPE (Students Helping Advise, Plan and Energize) by preparing for and leading meetings
   - Assist with SLI’s academic support programming (FOCUS², Academic Support Instruction, Academic Mentoring Program)
   - Participate in staff selection
   - Be involved in all SLI sponsored projects which include a campus wide (Brick Wall or Clothesline Project) and departmental event each semester (Recognition Celebration)
   - Attendance at departmental and divisional meetings
2. Students who participate in this experience will be exposed to the purposeful application of the following student development, career development, counseling and/or organizational theories:
   - Self- Authorship Theory (Baxter Magolda)
   - Transition Theory (Schlossberg)
   - Identity Development Theories: (Racial, White, Minority, Sexual, Gender, Ability, Religious, Social Class, Multiple)
   - Psychosocial Developmental Theories: (Chickering, Erikson)
   - Cognitive Developmental Theories: (Perry, Kohlberg, Belenky, Gilligan)
   - Student Involvement Theory (Astin)

3. Students assigned to this site will be able to participate in the following assessment and/or evaluation projects:
   - Program evaluation principles
   - Techniques and strategies of student outcomes assessment
   - Goal development
   - Assessment for FOCUS\(^2\) and Academic Mentor Program (Spring semester only)

4. Students who participate in this experience will be evaluated and provided ongoing feedback in the following ways:
   - Regular supervisory meetings with SLI staff supervisor
   - Midpoint and final evaluation opportunities

5. Specific expectations of students assigned to this site include:
   - Willingness to learn
   - Strong capacity to be flexible and adaptable.
   - Demonstrated ability to create and maintain an inclusive environment
   - Basic understanding of academic success strategies
   - Desire to try new ideas, be creative and have fun
   - Patience, customer service skills, and organization skills—this is a very active environment!
   - Support mission and activities of SLI and the Office of Residence Life
   - Perform designated tasks in a timely, organized and professional manner
   - Work with other departments and offices in the development of programs
   - Regular meetings with supervisor. Communicate consistently and honestly
   - Maintain a positive attitude about job responsibilities

ORL Staff Contact
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