

Student Enrichment Program

The Student Enrichment Program (SEP) is designed to assist students in achieving academic and personal success throughout their college experience.

SEP is a federally-funded TRIO program, and has been continuously supported by the university since 1988. It provides 500 eligible students with academic support services to successfully complete a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University. SEP offers individual and group advising, as well as credit-bearing courses at no cost to SEP students:

- First Year Seminar (4 credits)
- Transfer First Year Experience (2 credits)
- Student Success (2 credits)
- Summer Bridge [week-long residential orientation program] (2 credits)

What are the program goals?

The program goals are to increase retention and graduation rates of students who are first-generation, low-income, or have documented disabilities. SEP helps students:

- Learn to successfully navigate the university environment.
- Define an academic success plan necessary to achieve their goals.
- Develop academic and leadership skills necessary to excel in college.
- Gain access to campus and community resources to advocate for their own success.
- Discover ways to achieve autonomy and maintain a growing sense of confidence.
- Develop a commitment to WOU and more fully integrate into the university community.

Who is likely to benefit?

Many students enter college underprepared. Inadequate preparation in writing and math, underdeveloped study skills, lack of confidence, challenges in transitioning from community college into the university, and long absences from school are frequently-cited concerns that students have. SEP staff focus on working with each student's individual needs. Students may qualify for SEP if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- First-generation college student (Neither parent has completed a four-year college degree.)
- Low-income (as determined by federal guidelines and FAFSA/ORSAA information)
- Disability (Students must submit documentation and be approved for services through the Office of Disability Services.)

How do I apply?

Complete an online application form (at wou.edu/sep or call 503-838-8550). All SEP students must complete a First Year Seminar course, meet with their SEP advisor at least twice per term, take advantage of the resources available to participants, and consider the recommendations of SEP staff members in the development of their plan for success at Western Oregon University.

Eligibility to participate in the Student Enrichment Program is determined by federal guidelines. Students must also have an academic need that can be addressed through the SEP services.

Student Enrichment Program

Advising Center
Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
503-838-8550 | sep@wou.edu | wou.edu/sep

Admissions

503-838-8000
wolfgram@wou.edu
wou.edu/admissions

The Student Enrichment Program is funded at \$380,061 annually by the U.S. Department of Education.

What services are available?

SEP offers the following free services to its participants:

- Academic advising for students in the selection of general education courses, choosing a major, and filing a degree plan
- Tuition-free, college credit courses which apply to a student's full-time enrollment for financial aid purposes
- Summer Bridge orientation program to help new, first-time college students make a successful transition to WOU
- Assistance working with various departments on campus to understand university policies and procedures
- Support advising for personal concerns, career goal-setting, financial aid planning, and post-baccalaureate education
- Access to a lending resource library of textbooks, voice recorders, calculators, and printed resource materials
- Seminars and workshops on topics of interest to students such as: study skills, stress management, campus and community resources, time management, financial aid, scholarship research, graduation requirements, study abroad opportunities, technology, social networking, etc.
- Opportunities for students to apply for supplemental grant aid
- Panel programs on graduate school opportunities
- Admission to cultural and educational enrichment activities
- Social programs to promote interaction among SEP participants

