



# UNIVERSITY *of* MOBILE FIRST YEAR

**From Freshman Year to Dream Career  
Know & Be Known Success Pathway**

**BECOMING SELF-AWARE:** The path to finding and focusing on your calling or one vocational thing starts with being self-aware and intentionally exploring your options. Till invites you to embrace challenging situations and be transformed by them, much like a plow turns over hard soil before planting. This phase challenges you to consider how your rigorous academic work and other experiences at the University will form you.

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#### **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

- Get to know faculty, advisors, administrators, and staff and begin building a support network with them for guidance and advice.
- Get acquainted with Student Success in Weaver Hall which provides academic, career, and personal support.
- Get acquainted with tutoring or assistance with coursework.
- Meet with your faculty advisor to sign the advisor/student contract and to develop your tentative degree plan outlining the major courses and electives you should take each semester.
- Attend classes, maintain good study habits, and establish a strong GPA of 3.2 or better.
- At midterm, seek assistance from the SSC for academic success coaching for grades lower than desired.
- Complete 30-32 credit hours by the end of the first year.

#### **CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Attend the Connections Fair to identify student boards and clubs that mesh with your interests.
- Join and become an active member in an organization related to your major or career interests and begin to develop leadership skills and a network of colleagues in your field.
- Participate in volunteer and service learning projects.
- Stay current on Instagram, so you can get the latest news.
- Get to know your Resident Assistant and Student Life Coordinator in your dorm.

#### **PERSONAL GROWTH**

- Assess your changing relationship with your parents and family.

- Allow time for friends and leisure activities.
- Get involved in team-related activities.
- Avoid the credit trap; use cash or a debit card.

#### **CAREER AND LIFE DEVELOPMENT**

- Begin with a self-assessment that identifies your interests, abilities, and values.
- If you are “undecided” about a major or “uncertain” what you can do with your major, complete the Free Career Quiz I Holland Code Job Aptitude Test, and review O\*NET found on the Career Services page.
- Complete the Clifton’s Strengths Assessment and Myers-Briggs Personality Test in UM 101.
- Be intentional about your college years by writing short-term and long-range career goals.
- Find a part-time and/or summer job to gain work experience and earn money for tuition and college expenses.
- Begin developing your UM Portfolio with the first draft of your resume, cover letter, and reference page reviewed in the Office of Career Services by a Career Coach.

#### **FIRST SUMMER**

This is a “free” summer; do one or more of the following:

- Pursue a service opportunity or some kind of big adventure.
- Travel abroad or take a summer course if credit hours are needed.
- Take any kind of wage job.
- Work an internship or summer job in an industry or field that you would potentially like to pursue after graduation.



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