SPRING START UP.. BACK ON TRACK. . .

Whether you are working towards the final semester before graduation, in your second semester of your freshman year, or somewhere in between, the beginning of a new semester can be a confusing and difficult time. These tips can help you be less intimidated about new classes, new friends, new professors, and everything that comes with a college semester.

1. DON'T SKIP CLASS, READ THE SYLLABUS
You enrolled at SIU to get an education and attend class. It may seem easy to skip class during the first few days of the semester because you think there will be no new material to learn. It is important that you make it to these classes. The first few days of class are when you learn about what to expect for the semester and get to know the teacher. Professors take note of who makes it to the first class, and it can be a bad first impression if you skip.

Your syllabus reveals not only the important dates, but also what you will be learning and what your professor is expecting. Reading the syllabus is one of the first things you should do for any class, and most of your questions about a class can likely be answered. Put important dates from the syllabus into a calendar with reminders and alerts of upcoming assignments and tests.

2. GET INVOLVED: JOIN A STUDENT ORGANIZATION
Try something new this semester: join a student or Greek organization. You can get your friends involved, too. SIU has multiple student organizations that provide an opportunity to enhance your leadership capabilities. SIU also has fraternities and sororities that offer students the opportunity to become strong leaders, serve your community, and become part of the large Greek alumni to assist you in future endeavors.

3. RELAX
Don't overwhelm yourself in the first few weeks of the semester. Make sure to ease into the semester and take small steps into the workload. Relax and enjoy being back at school, but don't get too comfortable. Find time to work out or exercise, drink coffee with friends, go bowling at the Student Center, or check out the latest movies. Making time for YOU will help you get back on track and accomplish the goals you have set for the upcoming semester.
CRIME OR INCIDENT REPORTING

There are several reporting options available for victims of crime. Criminal incidents including, but not limited to theft, burglary, and drug or alcohol use should be reported to law enforcement. For incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, individuals have additional reporting options.

Some individuals may wish to pursue justice though the legal system immediately, while others are interested in only seeking counseling and assistance in dealing with the trauma of the incident. The options for reporting sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking are available at any time, although reporting is encouraged as soon as possible following an incident. You are not required to select just one option – you may choose multiple options because each option may offer a different type of resolution. The links below will help to identify the options that best meet your needs.

1. **Report to Law Enforcement**
2. **Report to the University**
3. **Seek Confidential Support**

If it’s an emergency, dial 911 for immediate assistance.

Safety, Awareness, Facts and Education

The **S.A.F.E** website was created as a resource for students, faculty, staff and visitors that contains information about campus resources, crime reporting, crime prevention, and safety. The SIU Campus Crime Report, Clery and Violence Against Women Act reporting is also available on this website. Additional information is available on the university reporting structure for incidents related to sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, stalking and sexual harassment.
2023 DPS EMPLOYEE AWARDS

The Administration at the Department of Public Safety would like to congratulate all of the DPS employees who were recognized during the annual awards ceremony.

**Director's Award:** Todd Bryson  
**Life Saving Award:** Lee Nguyen  
**Community Service Award:** Jace Poskevich, Allie Cooper  
**Excellent Service Award:** Nela Conner, Bernadette Barnes, Kevin Cox, Eric Smith, Allie Cooper, Justin Emery, Brandon Gibbs, Dustin Borum, Daniel Presley, Robert Applehans, Jason Russell, Jace Poskevich, Shawn Tuthill, Kendall Adermann.
DPS New Officer Hires

OFFICER NATHAN BRESSNER
Nathan Bressner was sworn in as an SIU police officer in August 2023. He completed his police training at Southwestern Illinois Police Academy in December 2023, where he was awarded as top cadet by the Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association.

Officer Bressner comes to us from the Jackson County Ambulance Services where he was employed for seven years. Officer Bressner will be assigned to the patrol division and begins his 16 week Field Training this month.

OFFICER AARON HISEY
Aaron Hisey was sworn in as an SIU Police Officer in August 2023. He recently completed his police training at Southwestern Illinois Police Academy in Belleville, Illinois.

Officer Hisey comes to us from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Officer Hisey will be assigned to the patrol division and begins his 16 week Field Training period this month.

OFFICER MICHAEL KERN
Michael Kern was sworn in as an SIU Police Officer in August 2023. In December 2023, he completed his police training at Southwestern Illinois Police Academy.

Officer Kern joins us from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Officer Kern will be assigned to the patrol division and begins his 16 week Field Training period this month.