



Original Content

University Campus Engagement and Student Services Guide (*approximately 1,100 words*)

WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY Student Life and Campus Engagement Guide Academic Year 2025-2026

Welcome to WSU!

Western State University offers an vibrant campus community with countless opportunities for engagement, leadership development, and personal growth. This guide introduces you to the many ways you can make the most of your university experience beyond the classroom.

Getting Connected: Campus Organizations

With over 300 student organizations, WSU provides something for every interest. From academic honor societies to recreational clubs, cultural organizations to professional networks, getting involved enriches your university experience and builds lasting friendships.

Finding Your Fit: Attend Fall Activities Fair (September 7, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Main Quad) where every registered student organization hosts a booth. Walk around the quad, chat with current members, and sign up for organizations that interest you. Most organizations meet weekly, with some requiring regular attendance for maintaining membership.

The fair is an all-day walking event, so wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to spend several hours exploring your options. Bring a bag for collecting information—you'll accumulate quite a bit of material as you visit different booths.

Leadership Opportunities: Students who demonstrate consistent engagement can pursue leadership positions within organizations. Executive board positions typically require:

- Attendance at 90% of meetings and events in the previous semester
- Active participation in organization initiatives
- Ability to commit 10-15 hours weekly to organizational responsibilities
- Attendance at leadership training workshops (full-day Saturday sessions offered monthly)

Student Government Association: SGA provides the premier leadership experience on campus, giving students voice in university decision-making. Elections are held each spring through an energetic campaign period.

Running for SGA requires:

- Attending mandatory candidate orientation (3-hour evening session)



- Campaigning actively across campus (posting flyers, tabling, attending events)
- Participating in public debate forum (90 minutes, all candidates must attend)
- Maintaining academic good standing (minimum 3.0 GPA)

Elected representatives commit to:

- Weekly senate meetings (Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:00 PM)
- Committee assignments (additional 3-5 hours weekly)
- Office hours in student center (minimum 5 hours weekly)
- Attendance at university events as student representatives

Campus Events and Programming

WSU hosts hundreds of events throughout the academic year, from lectures and performances to cultural celebrations and social activities.

Signature Events:

- Fall Fest (September): Day-long outdoor festival with live music, food vendors, and activities
- Homecoming Week (October): Spirit events culminating in football game and outdoor concert
- Winter Carnival (February): Weekend of winter sports, competitions, and evening activities
- Spring Fling (April): Outdoor concert festival and end-of-year celebration

Most major events are outdoor gatherings that showcase our beautiful campus. Weather is generally cooperative, though we recommend checking forecasts and dressing appropriately for variable conditions.

Guest Speaker Series: The university brings distinguished speakers to campus monthly during the academic year. These events typically follow this format:

- 45-minute keynote presentation
- 30-minute moderated Q&A (audience members approach microphone stations)
- 45-minute reception (standing, with refreshments)

Arrive early for popular speakers—seating is first-come, first-served, and venues often fill to capacity. Late arrivals may need to stand in the back or overflow to video simulcast locations.

Campus Recreation and Wellness

The Student Recreation Center offers state-of-the-art facilities for maintaining physical health and wellness.

Facility Features:



- Cardio and weight training areas (200+ machines and free weight stations)
- Indoor track (1/10 mile loop on mezzanine level, accessed via stairs)
- Group fitness studios (offering 60+ classes weekly)
- Climbing wall (3-story structure, belay certification required)
- Competition pool and diving well

Group Fitness: Free group fitness classes range from high-intensity interval training to yoga and dance. Popular classes fill quickly—arrive 10-15 minutes early to secure a spot. Classes maintain an energetic pace to maximize workout efficiency in the allotted time.

Intramural Sports: Compete in recreational leagues including basketball, soccer, volleyball, flag football, and ultimate frisbee. Most sports require regular attendance at:

- Weekly games (evening time slots, typically 1-hour matches)
- Team practices (optional but encouraged)
- Playoff games (additional commitment for successful teams) Teams are self-formed, so gather friends or join through our team-matching service. Games are played competitively but maintain a recreational spirit.

Career Services and Professional Development

Career Services supports students in securing internships and post-graduation employment through comprehensive programming.

Career Fairs: Attend our Fall (September) and Spring (February) career fairs to network with employers. These day-long events feature:

- 100+ employer booths spread across the campus arena
- On-site interview spaces for qualifying students
- Professional headshot photography stations
- Resume review stations with career counselors

To maximize your career fair experience:

- Prepare multiple copies of your resume to distribute
- Dress in professional business attire (full suits recommended)
- Research companies in advance and prepare targeted questions
- Plan to spend 3-4 hours walking between booths and standing in conversation

Workshops and Coaching: Career Services offers weekly workshops on topics including resume writing, interview skills, salary negotiation, and job search strategies. Workshops are interactive, requiring active participation in role-plays and exercises.



Individual career coaching appointments (45 minutes) are available by reservation. Students should come prepared with specific questions and goals to make efficient use of counselor time.

Mock Interviews: Practice interviews with career counselors or alumni volunteers provide valuable preparation. These 30-minute sessions are recorded on video for self-review. Students should watch their recordings and identify improvement areas before scheduling follow-up sessions.

Student Support Services

WSU provides various support services to help students succeed academically and personally.

Academic Support: The Learning Commons offers tutoring in high-enrollment courses. Students can access support through:

- Drop-in tutoring hours (no appointment needed, served on first-come basis)
- Small group study sessions (weekly, 90 minutes)
- Online resources and video tutorials

During exam periods, the Learning Commons extends hours and offers overnight study space. These are highly social environments where students collaborate and support one another through intensive study sessions.

Counseling Services: The University Counseling Center provides short-term individual counseling (typically 6-8 sessions) for students experiencing stress, anxiety, relationship concerns, or other mental health challenges.

Students access services by:

- Calling to schedule initial intake appointment (phone only, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM weekdays)
- Attending intake session (45 minutes) to assess needs and discuss treatment options
- Scheduling follow-up appointments based on availability

For ongoing needs beyond the short-term model, counselors provide referrals to community providers.

Making the Most of Your WSU Experience

The students who thrive at WSU are those who dive into campus life, trying new activities and pushing beyond their comfort zones. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you—seek them out actively.

Challenge yourself to attend at least one new event monthly. Join at least two organizations in areas that genuinely interest you. Take on a leadership role by your junior year. Build relationships with faculty, staff, and peers who will support your growth.

Your university experience is what you make of it. WSU provides the opportunities—your active engagement brings them to life.



Visit the Student Life Office (Student Center, 2nd floor, Room 204) Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM for questions about getting involved. Our staff are passionate about connecting students with opportunities that match their interests and goals.

Here's to an incredible year at Western State University!

Analysis

Flag 1: "The fair is an all-day walking event, so wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to spend several hours exploring your options."

- **Risk:** High
- **Category:** Normative baselines / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** This framing treats walking as the default and only way to experience the event, failing to acknowledge students with mobility disabilities or chronic fatigue who may require seating, accessible routes, or alternative ways to engage.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "The fair is an all-day event with various ways to navigate the booths..."
 2. "The fair is an all-day event; we encourage you to wear comfortable shoes and plan for several hours of exploration. Accessible routes and seating areas are available throughout the quad to ensure everyone can navigate the fair comfortably."

Flag 2: "Executive board positions typically require: Attendance at 90% of meetings... Ability to commit 10-15 hours weekly... full-day Saturday sessions."

- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Assumed incompetence / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** Rigid attendance and high-hour requirements create barriers for students with chronic illnesses or episodic disabilities, implying that leadership is only for those with consistent, high-energy availability.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Executive board positions involve a commitment of approximately 10-15 hours weekly, with flexible attendance options available for those with conflicting health or accessibility needs."
 2. "We value diverse leadership; while these roles typically require consistent engagement, we encourage students to discuss flexible participation models or remote attendance options that support their success."

Flag 3: "Campaigning actively across campus (posting flyers, tabling, attending events)"



- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Assumptions / Framing
- **Why it may be problematic:** This framing defines "active" campaigning through specific physical tasks that may be difficult for students with mobility or energy-related disabilities, potentially discouraging them from running for office.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Engaging with the campus community through various outreach methods..."
 2. "Candidates are encouraged to engage with the campus community through a variety of outreach methods, such as digital campaigning, tabling in accessible locations, and attending student events."

Flag 4: "Elections are held each spring through an energetic campaign period." / "Classes maintain an energetic pace to maximize workout efficiency in the allotted time."

- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Tone / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** Repeated use of "energetic" as a standard for participation can act as coded language that favors neurotypical or able-bodied students, potentially discouraging those with chronic fatigue or different cognitive processing styles.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "dynamic campaign period" / "active pace"
 2. "Elections are held each spring during a vibrant campaign period. Group fitness classes are designed to be engaging and effective, with instructors providing modifications for different intensity levels and pacing."

Flag 5: "30-minute moderated Q&A (audience members approach microphone stations)"

- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Assumptions / Ableism
- **Why it may be problematic:** Requiring audience members to "approach" a microphone assumes a level of mobility and auditory/speech capability that may not be universal, potentially excluding some students from participating.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "30-minute moderated Q&A (with multiple ways to submit questions)..."
 2. "The presentation will be followed by a 30-minute moderated Q&A. Audience members can ask questions by approaching a microphone station or by submitting them via our digital platform."



Flag 6: "45-minute reception (standing, with refreshments)" / "Late arrivals may need to stand in the back or overflow to video simulcast locations."

- **Risk:** High
- **Category:** Ableism / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** Explicitly labeling a reception as "standing" and suggesting standing as the only overflow option creates a direct physical barrier for individuals who cannot stand for long periods due to physical disabilities or chronic pain.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "45-minute reception (with seating and refreshments available)..."
 2. "The event concludes with a 45-minute reception. Refreshments will be served, and both standing and seated areas will be provided. Late arrivals may be directed to overflow locations with video simulcasts and accessible seating options."

Flag 7: "Indoor track (1/10 mile loop on mezzanine level, accessed via stairs)"

- **Risk:** High
- **Category:** Erasure / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** Mentioning stairs as the only access point for a facility feature erases the needs of wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments, suggesting the space is not for them.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Indoor track (accessible via stairs and elevator)..."
 2. "The indoor track is a 1/10 mile loop located on the mezzanine level. It is accessible via the main stairs or the elevator located near the cardio area."

Flag 8: "Plan to spend 3-4 hours walking between booths and standing in conversation"

- **Risk:** High
- **Category:** Ableism / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** This sets a rigid physical expectation of walking and standing for hours as a requirement for a successful experience, which is exclusionary for many disabled students.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Plan for several hours of engagement..."
 2. "To make the most of the career fair, we recommend setting aside 3-4 hours for exploration and conversation. Seating and rest areas are available throughout the arena for your comfort."



Flag 9: "These are highly social environments where students collaborate and support one another through intensive study sessions."

- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Neurodiversity / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** It frames "highly social" and "intensive" as the standard for academic support, which may be overwhelming or inaccessible for neurodivergent students or those with sensory sensitivities.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "These are collaborative environments with various study options..."
 2. "The Learning Commons provides a range of study environments. Students can choose to collaborate in our social areas or utilize our quiet zones for focused, independent study."

Flag 10: "Calling to schedule initial intake appointment (phone only, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM weekdays)"

- **Risk:** High
- **Category:** Assumptions / Ableism
- **Why it may be problematic:** A "phone only" requirement creates a significant barrier for students who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have speech disabilities or severe anxiety.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Schedule your initial intake appointment by calling or using our online booking portal."
 2. "To begin services, please contact us via phone, email, or our accessible online scheduling system to arrange an intake session."

Flag 11: "The students who thrive at WSU are those who dive into campus life, trying new activities and pushing beyond their comfort zones."

- **Risk:** Medium
- **Category:** Deficit framing / Assumptions
- **Why it may be problematic:** This framing suggests that "thriving" is tied to a specific type of extroverted, high-energy engagement, which can marginalize those who engage differently due to disability, neurodivergence, or personal preference.
- **Alternatives:**
 1. "Students find success at WSU by engaging in ways that are meaningful to them..."



2. "WSU offers a wide range of opportunities for students to find their community and grow. We encourage you to explore activities that align with your interests and goals, engaging at a pace that works best for you."

Debiased Content

University Campus Engagement and Student Services Guide (*approximately 1,100 words*)

WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY Student Life and Campus Engagement Guide Academic Year 2025-2026

Welcome to WSU!

Western State University offers a vibrant campus community with countless opportunities for engagement, leadership development, and personal growth. This guide introduces you to the many ways you can make the most of your university experience beyond the classroom.

Getting Connected: Campus Organizations

With over 300 student organizations, WSU provides something for every interest. From academic honor societies to recreational clubs, cultural organizations to professional networks, getting involved enriches your university experience and builds lasting friendships.

Finding Your Fit: Attend the Fall Activities Fair (September 7, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Main Quad) where every registered student organization hosts a booth. Explore the quad, connect with current members, and sign up for organizations that interest you. Most organizations meet weekly, with some requiring regular attendance for maintaining membership.

The fair is an all-day event; we encourage you to wear comfortable shoes and plan for several hours of exploration. Accessible routes and seating areas are available throughout the quad to ensure everyone can navigate the fair comfortably. Bring a bag for collecting information—you'll accumulate quite a bit of material as you visit different booths.

Leadership Opportunities: Students who demonstrate consistent engagement can pursue leadership positions within organizations. Executive board positions involve a commitment of approximately 10-15 hours weekly, with flexible attendance options available for those with conflicting health or accessibility needs. Requirements typically include:

- Attendance at 90% of meetings and events in the previous semester
- Active participation in organization initiatives
- Attendance at leadership training workshops (full-day Saturday sessions offered monthly; remote participation options are available)

Student Government Association: SGA provides the premier leadership experience on campus, giving students a voice in university decision-making. Elections are held each spring through a dynamic campaign period.



Running for SGA requires:

- Attending a candidate orientation (3-hour evening session; recorded version available)
- Engaging with the campus community through various outreach methods (such as digital campaigning, tabling in accessible locations, and attending events)
- Participating in a public debate forum (90 minutes, all candidates participate)
- Maintaining academic good standing (minimum 3.0 GPA)

Elected representatives commit to:

- Weekly senate meetings (Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:00 PM)
- Committee assignments (additional 3-5 hours weekly)
- Office hours in the student center (minimum 5 hours weekly)
- Attendance at university events as student representatives

Campus Events and Programming

WSU hosts hundreds of events throughout the academic year, from lectures and performances to cultural celebrations and social activities.

Signature Events:

- Fall Fest (September): Day-long outdoor festival with live music, food vendors, and activities
- Homecoming Week (October): Spirit events culminating in a football game and outdoor concert
- Winter Carnival (February): Weekend of winter sports, competitions, and evening activities
- Spring Fling (April): Outdoor concert festival and end-of-year celebration

Most major events are outdoor gatherings that showcase our beautiful campus. Weather is generally cooperative, though we recommend checking forecasts and dressing appropriately for variable conditions. Accessible seating and viewing areas are provided at all major events.

Guest Speaker Series: The university brings distinguished speakers to campus monthly during the academic year. These events typically follow this format:

- 45-minute keynote presentation
- 30-minute moderated Q&A (audience members can ask questions via microphone stations or digital submission)
- 45-minute reception (refreshments served; both standing and seated areas provided)



Arrive early for popular speakers—seating is first-come, first-served, and venues often fill to capacity. Late arrivals may be directed to overflow locations with video simulcasts and accessible seating options.

Campus Recreation and Wellness

The Student Recreation Center offers state-of-the-art facilities for maintaining physical health and wellness.

Facility Features:

- Cardio and weight training areas (200+ machines and free weight stations)
- Indoor track (1/10 mile loop on the mezzanine level, accessible via stairs and elevator)
- Group fitness studios (offering 60+ classes weekly)
- Climbing wall (3-story structure, belay certification required; adaptive climbing equipment available)
- Competition pool and diving well (equipped with accessible lifts)

Group Fitness: Free group fitness classes range from high-intensity interval training to yoga and dance. Popular classes fill quickly—arrive 10-15 minutes early to secure a spot. Instructors provide modifications for different intensity levels and pacing to ensure an engaging workout for all participants.

Intramural Sports: Compete in recreational leagues including basketball, soccer, volleyball, flag football, and ultimate frisbee. Most sports require regular attendance at:

- Weekly games (evening time slots, typically 1-hour matches)
- Team practices (optional but encouraged)
- Playoff games (additional commitment for successful teams) Teams are self-formed, so gather friends or join through our team-matching service. Games are played competitively but maintain a recreational spirit. Adaptive sports options are also available.

Career Services and Professional Development

Career Services supports students in securing internships and post-graduation employment through comprehensive programming.

Career Fairs: Attend our Fall (September) and Spring (February) career fairs to network with employers. These day-long events feature:

- 100+ employer booths spread across the campus arena
- On-site interview spaces for qualifying students
- Professional headshot photography stations
- Resume review stations with career counselors



To maximize your career fair experience:

- Prepare multiple copies of your resume to distribute
- Dress in professional business attire (full suits recommended)
- Research companies in advance and prepare targeted questions
- Plan for several hours of engagement; seating and rest areas are available throughout the arena for your comfort.

Workshops and Coaching: Career Services offers weekly workshops on topics including resume writing, interview skills, salary negotiation, and job search strategies. Workshops are interactive, offering various ways for students to participate in exercises and role-plays.

Individual career coaching appointments (45 minutes) are available by reservation. Students should come prepared with specific questions and goals to make efficient use of counselor time.

Mock Interviews: Practice interviews with career counselors or alumni volunteers provide valuable preparation. These 30-minute sessions are recorded on video for self-review. Students are encouraged to watch their recordings and identify improvement areas before scheduling follow-up sessions.

Student Support Services

WSU provides various support services to help students succeed academically and personally.

Academic Support: The Learning Commons offers tutoring in high-enrollment courses. Students can access support through:

- Drop-in tutoring hours (no appointment needed, served on a first-come basis)
- Small group study sessions (weekly, 90 minutes)
- Online resources and video tutorials

During exam periods, the Learning Commons extends hours and offers overnight study space. We provide a range of study environments, from collaborative social areas to quiet zones for focused, independent study.

Counseling Services: The University Counseling Center provides short-term individual counseling (typically 6-8 sessions) for students experiencing stress, anxiety, relationship concerns, or other mental health challenges.

Students access services by:

- Calling to schedule an initial intake appointment (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM weekdays; online scheduling also available)
- Attending an intake session (45 minutes) to assess needs and discuss treatment options
- Scheduling follow-up appointments based on availability



For ongoing needs beyond the short-term model, counselors provide referrals to community providers.

Making the Most of Your WSU Experience

WSU offers a wide range of opportunities for students to find their community and grow. We encourage you to explore activities that align with your interests and goals, engaging at a pace that works best for you. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you—seek them out actively.

Challenge yourself to attend at least one new event monthly. Join at least two organizations in areas that genuinely interest you. Take on a leadership role by your junior year. Build relationships with faculty, staff, and peers who will support your growth.

Your university experience is what you make of it. WSU provides the opportunities—your active engagement brings them to life.

Visit the Student Life Office (Student Center, 2nd floor, Room 204) Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM for questions about getting involved. Our staff are passionate about connecting students with opportunities that match their interests and goals.

Here's to an incredible year at Western State University!

Justification

I have reviewed the feedback from the General Framing Analyst, the NCDJ Style Guide Advisor, the Canadian Disability Communication Guide Advisor, and the APA Inclusive Language Guide Advisor.

The overall approach was to remove ableist assumptions, erasure, and deficit framing while maintaining the welcoming and informative tone of the original university guide.

Key changes by category:

- **Ableism / Assumptions:** Removed explicit requirements to stand ("standing room only", "stand for extended periods") and walk ("all-day walking event", "walking between booths"), replacing them with inclusive alternatives that highlight accessible seating, rest areas, and navigation. Added information about elevator access instead of just mentioning stairs for the indoor track.
- **Assumed incompetence / Assumptions:** Adjusted rigid attendance and high-hour requirements for leadership positions to include flexible participation models and remote attendance options, acknowledging students with chronic illnesses or episodic disabilities.
- **Tone / Assumptions:** Replaced coded language like "energetic pace" and "energetic campaign period" with "dynamic" and "engaging" to avoid implying a preference for able-bodied or neurotypical individuals.



- **Neurodiversity / Assumptions:** Softened language around "highly social" and "intensive study sessions" to highlight a range of study environments, including quiet zones for focused, independent study, to be more welcoming to neurodivergent students.
- **Deficit framing / Assumptions:** Rephrased the "thrive" narrative that placed the burden entirely on the individual's willingness to "push beyond their comfort zones," instead encouraging students to engage in ways that are meaningful to them and at a pace that works best for them.

Notes:

Where agents disagreed on risk tiers (e.g., "energetic pace" was rated Low by the NCDJ Advisor but Medium by the Canadian and APA Advisors), I defaulted to the higher risk tier (Medium) to ensure maximum inclusivity and noted the rationale in the analysis. The document's use of person-first language was maintained as the default, with a note acknowledging competing norms regarding identity-first language.

