

What are the benefits of joining or creating a student organization?

- *Allows you to follow your passions while also building upon your personal strengths*
- *Gain leadership skills*
- *Meet others on campus that hold the same interests (new friendships develop, relationship-building)*
- *Educate others about the organization (and its purpose/mission)*
- *Connect with the campus and community*
- *Add to your resume*
- *Have FUN☺*

If you are potentially starting up a new student organization on campus, here are some questions to think about:

- *What is the purpose (and goals) of the organization? (ensure that there isn't another student organization that is already established and is serving the same purpose.)*
- *How will you recruit members?*
- *Who will make decisions within the organization, and how will they be made?*
- *How will the group attract members and what will their responsibilities be?*
- *Which office positions will be needed, and which responsibilities will be associated with each one?*
- *How and when will officers be elected?*
- *How much will it cost to operate the organization, and where will the funds come from?*
- *Is there a current staff member who is willing to serve as the advisor?*
- *How will the group communicate with members?*
- *What types of events/programs will the organization be planning or be involved in?*

Other Items to note: Think about what your campus requires to be a "recognized student organization" and the steps it will take them to become recognized through your Institutions process. Also, what is required of to *maintain recognition* on campus on an annual basis. Are there constitution guidelines you need to be aware of and follow – At UWEC these are a mix of required guidelines set forth by UW-System and the UWEC Student Senate. They cover the organizations' purpose, control mechanisms, funding guidelines, membership/advisor requirements, leadership requirements, election procedures, inclusivity, recall/vacancy/constitution amendment processes, etc.