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.

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