What you’ll find inside this Catalog

• For new and continuing students, it’s a guide to academic life at WSU.

• For high school and community college advisors, it’s an information source that will help students make the best possible transition from their current educational setting to WSU.

• For WSU personnel, it’s the standard reference for answers to many University policies and procedure questions.

This preface is a guide for students; it highlights some of the subjects covered in the Catalog. For specific topics, see the Catalog’s Table of Contents and Index.

About Our University

The opening pages introduce you to the people who lead our University and our special mission as part of the Kansas Regents’ system of public universities. Next is a profile that will give you a brief overview of our University today. We’ve also provided a short history of WSU. To help you find your way around the University, we’ve included a campus map.

About Becoming a Student

The first step in becoming a student is getting admitted to the University. There are several types of admission to Wichita State’s degree and nondegree programs. Learn about these and find a complete guide to becoming an official WSU student in this Catalog.

The next step is to look carefully at your educational options. Check out the range of WSU’s advising services in this Catalog or online.

If you’re not sure what you want to study, the place for you is the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center. It helps WSU students explore academic and career plans.

If you know what your major will be or if you’ve already chosen a degree plan, you’ll be assigned an advisor within one of the colleges at WSU. Your advisor will help you develop your personal course of study at WSU and assist as you put together your individual semester class schedules. Take a look inside the back cover for a chart of the degrees and academic majors offered at WSU.

To ensure the best possible start for each student, WSU provides special academic success programs. If you’re interested, the Catalog has information to help you connect with the one that’s right for you.

About Getting Started at WSU

After you’ve worked out a plan with your advisor, you’ll be ready to sign up for classes through online, telephone, or in-person registration. Specific policies regarding registration are found in this Catalog, and we’ve included an Academic Calendar that lists important dates in the WSU year.

Each semester, our orientation program introduces new students to academic and campus life. You’ll learn not only what a Shocker is, but how to be one.

By this time, you may be thinking you need some space to call your own. If you’re interested in on-campus living, check out the information on campus housing.

Need financial assistance and scholarships to help cover the cost of your education? You’ll find information about that here, too. Plus, you’ll find a comprehensive fee schedule to help take the guesswork out of figuring your costs.

About WSU’s Academic Advantage

WSU students receive quality instruction from faculty who value students and classroom achievement. All students working toward a bachelor’s degree complete general education courses to gain the background needed for a university education. WSU’s general education requirements are included, along with a worksheet for your use.

Because we emphasize student-centered instruction, WSU maintains a strong support system of academic resources. To help students outside the classroom, we offer math, language, and writing labs. We have computer labs for students and a library study room that’s open 24-hours-a-day. Every WSU student is eligible for an e-mail account and Internet access. The resources of our libraries, the Computing Center, and the Media Resources Center provide major educational and technical support for the entire University community.

As a WSU student, you have many academic options. You may decide to attend a special workshop, or climb a mountain on a field study, study abroad, or “exchange” credits by taking classes at another university in the United States. The Catalog has information on these general academic programs and others including WSU’s Honors Program.

Our University has a long-standing reputation for excellence in basic classroom instruction. Our faculty’s merit is reflected in the ranking of their scholarly contributions and the results of their nationally

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recognized research. You’ll find each of our faculty listed in this Catalog along with their title, academic field, and educational background.

About WSU’s Metropolitan Advantage
Because WSU is the only Kansas Regents’ university located in an urban setting, our students have distinct advantages for experiential learning. One benefit of our urban setting is a strong cooperative education program for students who wish to combine classroom studies with academically related, paid employment.

Convenient classroom locations are another hallmark of our urban university. In addition to our main campus at 21st and Hillside, WSU offers classes in locations in Wichita’s west side, south side, and downtown.

Safety is a priority at every University location, and our well-lighted main campus is rated as one of the safest in the nation.

Child care is available at the main campus child development center. WSU also provides counseling and testing for students. We have special programs for students interested in multicultural affairs and offices for international programs, veterans services, and disability services. Student Support Services, a federally funded program, assists limited income and first generation college students in meeting their academic goals.

The Catalog describes the myriad of student academic services available at WSU. Together these services provide a safety-net for many different students—from those away from home and entering an urban environment for the first time to the adults who are returning to campus to further their education.

About Campus Life
At WSU students can enjoy both our urban setting and traditional campus life. Our time-honored traditions begin each academic year with Welcomefest, followed by Shocktoberfest, a week-long, all-campus, event held each October. Throughout the year, NCAA Division One competition offers the excitement of men’s and women’s basketball, championship baseball, and other varsity sports. Hippodrome is a spring event filled with activities for students. Then faculty, students, and their families relax and enjoy our outdoor movie series before May finals wind down the academic year.

There’s always plenty to do at WSU, whether it’s joining organizations, taking part in the Student Government Association, or experiencing sorority and fraternity life. The Catalog can put you in touch with these and other campus activities including intramural sports and recreation.

If working out is a high priority, the Heskett Center is the place for you. There you’ll find an indoor swimming pool, exercise equipment, walking track, and gym.

The Catalog also can lead you to the heart of the campus, the Rhatigan Student Center, home of the campus bookstore, restaurants, meeting rooms, and a bowling and recreation center.

WSU students get special rates for some events, the Wichita Symphony, and golf at Braeburn, the 18-hole campus course.

Grace Memorial Chapel and other campus facilities such as the Ulrich Museum of Art are open to students. Each day our students enjoy WSU’s diverse outdoor sculpture collection, one of the largest found on any university campus in the United States.

About Your Studies
This Catalog describes our six colleges: W. Frank Barton School of Business, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, College of Health Professions, and Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The general policies and programs available in each college are included. Each course is listed by number and title together with a brief description of what you can expect to study in that course. As you plan your program, the Catalog can provide information on graduation requirements.

The Catalog also gives specific information about academic policies and procedures University-wide. From access and auditing to exemptions and examinations—from honors recognition to academic probation, it’s the place to go to when you need the rules and regulations.

About Your Life After WSU
As you near the end of your career at WSU, this Catalog will help your transition to the world outside the University. It can guide you to our career services office where you’ll get help in creating resumes and making contacts for employment interviews. It will lead you through Commencement ceremonies and beyond. Our Alumni Association and the WSU Foundation offer opportunities to continue your relationship with Wichita State.

This Catalog was created to assist students. Whether you’ve just enrolled in your first class or you’re about to receive your degree, we hope this Catalog will be a path through our academic world, make your life as a student easier, and help you build strong ties to Wichita State University.