

Getting students involved!

Research tells us that getting students involved early in their college experience can help with retention. Astin's Involvement Theory (1985) stressed that college students learn and progress when they are active and involved during their college experience. Upcraft (1995) stated that 'The greater the quantity and quality of involvement, the more likely the student will succeed in college' (p. 18). If students can make a connection to Missouri Western, they will have a sense of pride and ownership in the university community, and strive to be successful to remain eligible to continue in the role(s) they play with certain clubs and organizations.

As advisors, we can encourage our students to get involved with different campus organizations, campus events, and special activities related to their major. To view the 70+ clubs and organizations available, go to [Student Organizations](#). Here the student can sort by academic departments, faith-based, Greek life, honor societies, leadership, multicultural, performing arts, social interest, or student governance. This provides a general description of the club/organization, contact information for the group, meeting day/time/location, and website information, if available.

If students want to join an organization, but do not know which organization to join, encourage them to review this information and contact the Center for Student Involvement with any questions. Their website is: <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/csi/>. With this website, it is very simple to find an organization that best suits them.

Encourage students to take a look at the many clubs/organizations to promote student engagement and involvement at Missouri Western!

Astin, A. W. (1985). *Achieving educational excellence: A critical assessment of priorities and practice in higher education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass

Upcraft, M. Lee. (1995). Insights from theory: Understanding first-year student development. *First-Year Academic Advising: Patterns in the Present, Pathways to the Future*, 18, 15-24. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

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