It’s almost your Sophomore Year. We like to call it the BEST YEAR EVER!

Hi Wildcats! My name is Eric and I will be a resource to you as you begin the second year of your experience at CWU. I will be here to help you make the most of the sophomore year (also known as the “BEST YEAR EVER”).

You have almost completed your first year of college. Congratulations! This is a huge accomplishment and you should be proud of yourself. Take a few minutes to think of all the great experiences you have had during your first year as a Wildcat.

You are probably beginning to think about next year. Sophomore year comes with new challenges, experiences, and expectations. You have resources to guide you through your second year at CWU. Here are some things to look forward to:

- **Wildcat to Work – Externship Program:** Join CWU Alumni for an externship that is made for sophomore students. Learn more about jobs offered in your field, take part in the day to day activities of professionals in your area, and build your professional network.

- **SYE Summer Newsletter:** Check out all the information for next year and keep in touch over the summer.

- **Welcome Back Week:** You may have attended this when you first started at Central, but did you know there are events that are just for sophomore students? Join in as a Mover and Shaker, experience the challenge course, Welcome BBQ, and other sophomore activities!

A couple of things to ensure you have taken care of before you depart for the summer:

- **Register for Fall 2015 classes**
  - Registration is open May 11-June 19. View your enrollment appointment in MyCWU. If you need assistance be sure to schedule an appointment with your advisor in advance.

- **Fall 2015 Housing**
  - If you have not arranged for housing for next year be sure to do so before you leave. It is not too late for students returning as sophomores to take advantage of the $1000 on campus housing waiver.

- **Financial Aid:**
  - Although the priority deadline for submitting the FAFSA has passed you can still receive financial aid. Be sure to get your 2015 FAFSA submitted ASAP. Refer to [http://www.cwu.edu/financial-aid/fafsa-application](http://www.cwu.edu/financial-aid/fafsa-application) for additional support resources.
You probably have questions about what to expect as a sophomore. We have answers.

**Q: When do I need to declare my major?**

**A:** Your sophomore year is the year to declare! Schedule time with your academic advisor and create a plan to ensure you can get the classes you need and graduate within four years. You can apply at any time, but need to declare by 90 credits. Need help figuring out the best major for you? Visit your academic advisor and take advantage of Career Services! [www.cwu.edu/career/](http://www.cwu.edu/career/)

**Q: How do I build my resume and prepare for a future career?**

**A:** Sophomore year is about future thinking and how you can better yourself, your education, and prepare for a career. You need a strong resume with real life, applicable experiences that you can translate to job skills.

- Explore study abroad opportunities by attending information sessions and planning where you will go.
- Visit the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement for on-campus and community volunteer opportunities. Consider an alternate spring/summer break and spend that time doing Service Learning. This means you volunteer your time and gain meaningful experiences and memories.
- Start looking for internships. Career Services can help you find an internship in your area and can also help you start looking at career options.

**Q: How do I demonstrate all of these experiences to future employers? Who can help with that?**

**A:** This is why you have a resume. A good resume presents you at your best. Career Services offers workshops and individual assistance in creating and expanding your resume and interview skills to help you successfully prepare for your future.

**Q: Where should I live next year?**

**A:** Now that you are almost a sophomore, you have a few options. You are probably choosing between on- or off-campus. Here is additional information so that you can make the best decision.

**⇒ On-Campus**

CWU offers many upper-class halls and on-campus apartments that provide academic and social events that are created with the upper-class student in mind. When you choose to live on campus, you choose to have 24-hour security, a minimal deposit, on-site laundry, lock-out assistance, and the convenience and peace of mind of not having to worry about individual housing bills (like electricity, gas, garbage, etc.). One benefit many people don’t consider is that students who live on campus for their sophomore year typically have higher GPAs than those who do not. There is a May reapplication deadline, so fill out your application and choose your room soon.

- **SYE Communities:** Beginning fall 2015, CWU will have two designated SYE Communities- Stephens Whitney and Wendell Hill Hall. What this means for you is that, as a sophomore, you will have programing directed at your needs! These SYE focused communities will provide additional support for students as they continue their transition as a sophomore, looking to declare a major, and anything else a sophomore student needs!

**⇒ Off-Campus**

A lot of people choose to live off-campus. It is a great option for some students, but it comes at an additional price, literally. Here are some things to consider before making the move:

- A typical security deposit is around $500, and is often expected at move-in with your first and last month’s rent.
- Some off-campus options include water, sewage, and gas bills, but do not include garbage, recycling, or electricity. This price ranges depending on the size of the unit and the season of the year. Keep in mind that it is an additional $100 per month on average.
- Internet? That is typically an additional $30-45 per month. With cable, the price goes up to about $100 per month.
- Remember you will need cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, and dish soap so you can get your deposit back!

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