

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Centers Student Life 008

Program Manager: Kurt Kirstein

Fiscal Year: FY2025

1. In what way(s) does your program support CWU students? Please be specific and concise.

Center Student Life directly supports CWU students attending the any of the seven University Centers and JBLM (approximately 500 students) as well as those enrolled entirely in online programs (approximately 1,400 students). The Student Life team strives to create a safe, supportive, and intellectually stimulating environment that aligns with the University's vision of providing co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences, expanding access to higher education, and advancing the social and economic health of the region. Partnerships with host colleges enhance opportunities for internationalism, sustainability, inclusiveness, and lifelong learning, supporting neo-traditional students as they transfer to and progress at CWU. Additionally, we are working to more effectively deliver services—including DEI training, tutoring, leadership development, career support, wellness resources, and student conduct guidance—while offering robust co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to all CWU Center and online students.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

The goals of the Centers Student Life program are to foster a sense of connection and community among students at regional campuses and to provide opportunities for engagement beyond their academic programs. The program aims to enhance students' overall university experience by offering events, lectures, and activities that promote social, cultural, and intellectual growth. To assess the effectiveness of these efforts, the program tracks key metrics, including student participation rates, feedback collected through surveys, and the per-student cost of conducting events. These data points are used to evaluate the success of individual initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and ensure the program continues to meet the needs of regional campus students effectively.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs that have similar purposes or services?

Our work is currently focused on connecting our students to university services and collaborating with campus partners and programs to offer programming that aligns more closely with the distinct needs of center and online neo-traditional students. Our purpose is to extend and adapt the offerings available on the Ellensburg campus to better meet the unique needs and priorities of this student demographic. We aim to provide center students with a comprehensive college experience that goes beyond their academic programs, fostering opportunities for social and intellectual connections. By engaging in events and activities, students can build meaningful relationships with their peers, connect with faculty, and interact

with center staff, creating a supportive and enriching community that enhances their overall university journey.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

This program is focused on building a strong sense of community among degree-completing student groups through extracurricular activities and enhancing their educational experience with curricular programming tailored to upper-division majors. Our plan for the coming year emphasizes leadership development, career-oriented curricular activities, and fostering general student wellness. Additionally, we aim to create opportunities to celebrate the achievements and resilience of first-generation students and to promote learning and engagement through events such as Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month, and Black History Month. These events not only honor diverse histories and contributions but also provide platforms for meaningful cultural interaction among the diverse student population. By encouraging participation in these activities, we strive to create an inclusive environment that values and celebrates the unique backgrounds and perspectives of all students, enriching their academic and personal growth.

5. Please provide specifics on how your program supports and aligns with CWU's strategic plan (<https://www.cwu.edu/about/mission-vision/documents/cwu-vision-mission-values-strat-plan-bot-approved.pdf>)?

This program, designed to better prepare students in an extended state area for their lives post-graduation, aligns closely with the four values in the Central Washington University Strategic Plan: student success, engagement, belonging, and stewardship. By conducting a comprehensive needs assessment across locations and modalities, we have enhanced students' academic experiences and personal and professional development, fostering their success in both their studies and future careers. The program actively promotes student engagement by creating dynamic and creative co-curricular opportunities that connect students to their peers, faculty, and community. Through initiatives that prioritize inclusiveness and support diverse student populations, we nurture a sense of belonging that extends across CWU's regional campuses and online programs.

Additionally, we practice stewardship by leveraging partnerships with host colleges to expand access to higher education and provide opportunities for internationalism, sustainability, and lifelong learning. These efforts contribute to advancing the social and economic health of the region by emphasizing community connections and workforce development, ensuring that students are equipped not only with academic credentials but also with the skills and experiences needed to thrive in their professional and personal lives.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

Our programing is utilized by students and coordinated by staff and faculty to target 500 center students and over 1,400 online students through workshops, events, and programs. Many of these students are transfer students from partner colleges or another access point. The demographics include students at CWU Des Moines, Lynnwood, Pierce, JBLM, Yakima, Wenatchee, Moses Lake and online. Overarching demographics include 65% female 35% male; Junior/Seniors status with some graduate students; 55% first generation, 38.5% BIPOC (varies by location); high Pell eligibility; with an average age of 29 (range 18-77), and a good number of CWU's international student population (located primarily on the Westside campuses).

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- a. How do you gather these metrics?
 - b. If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

The westside Center Student Life currently enrolls 376 students; eastside centers currently have 113 students enrolled in their programs and greater online programs enroll approximately 1,400 additional students. This information was gathered from Fall 2024 enrollment reports. While not all students utilize our programing, access will be provided to all students

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

Not currently.

9. Given the budget reductions taking place, and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and included in your initial base funding request.

Reductions in budgets will result in further reduction of student employment hours (Campus Activity Coordinators) and potential reduction in funds for co/extracurricular programming across all locations and online. Student life is the largest employer at the centers and losing budget will directly impact those low-income students who are often international students who can't work anywhere else. Reduction in budget will decrease the number of workshops and site visit which will impact many of our online students.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

Being fully staffed has been a significant factor in enhancing student life at Central Washington University's Eastside and Westside centers. With a dedicated team in place, we have been able to organize and execute a wide range of successful events, creating meaningful opportunities for students to engage with their peers, faculty, and the broader CWU community.

Recognizing the size of our online student population, particularly on the Eastside, we have placed a strong emphasis on tailoring events to meet their needs. These events have included virtual workshops, networking sessions, and interactive experiences that foster a sense of belonging and connection. The increased focus on this population has led to successful programming, ensuring that online students feel supported and included in the CWU community.

By addressing the unique needs of students at our centers and online, we continue to enrich the overall student experience, supporting academic success and personal growth.

11. What other funding does your program receive? What percentage of your program's total funding is coming from S&A Fees?

Our program 100% supported by the S&A fee.

12. What growth or expense increases do you anticipate seeing in the future?

The minimum wage for our student workers will increase to \$16.66 starting in January 2025. Some of our students are graduating and we will need to search for replacements. These students are an important part of the events at the center.

As for the growth we anticipate seeing in the program;

- Continued Leadership trainings and development for center and online students
- Increased access and coordination of general CWU student services to online and center students
- Increased career readiness and exploration programming
- Increased student employment and leadership development opportunities for students
- Increased online student service coordination, delivery, and assessment.
- Increase co/extracurricular programming meeting the needs of neo-traditional students