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A guide for all new UW Oshkosh students for the 2025-26 school year



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About the Newspaper

The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. Any UW Oshkosh student is welcome to work for the Advance-Titan. Email *linkj13@uwosh.edu* or *atitan@uwosh.edu* for more information.

Correction Policy

The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages about errors can be emailed to *atitan@uwosh.edu*.

Welcome to UWO

Titan tips for your first semester

By Jacob Link linkj13@uwosh.edu

ear freshman or transfer student, welcome to UW Oshkosh! I have been proud to call UWO my home for the past four years (yes, I'm a super senior), and I want campus to feel like home to you as well. You will make so many awesome memories at this university, and I sincerely wish you the best in pursuing your degree.

Starting your first semester at a new school has many challenges and can feel a bit over-whelming. But, your college experience is what you make of it, so here are some tips on how to be successful as you begin your first semester at UWO.

Meet as many people as you can

When you first step foot on campus, it might be a little scary to see so many new people. But, the best advice I can give on your first day is to meet as many people as you can. This is especially important if you are living in a residence hall. As you move through college, you'll start to realize that UWO isn't as large as it seems, and the connections you make in your first semester will help you down the road. When you arrive on your first day, introduce yourself to as many people as possible, find a group to hangout with and explore campus because this will ease your nervousness of moving somewhere new.

Get involved ASAP

Once you meet some new people on campus and begin to figure things out in your first week, I recommend getting involved at UWO as soon as possible.

Whether it's joining a club, sport or Greek life, this is another important step in getting acquainted with the campus community. If you know what your major is, join a club that relates to it! If you don't know your major, look for any club that seems interesting to you and join! It can be a lot of fun to hang out with people who have the same interests as you, and it can honestly help in the classroom if your professors either know you're in a club in their department or are your faculty adviser. It also is a great way to get real-world experience in what you study.

Don't skip class

This is one of the most important tips on this list. If you're a Wisconsin resident, you're paying about \$355 per credit, and it's almost double that if you're not from the state. Why would you skip a class if you're paying almost \$76 a week for a three-credit class? If you are missing class periods regularly, you're just wasting either your or your parents' money, and you are missing out on a high quality education.

Also, most people that I met my first semester who missed classes ended up dropping out. Even if you're in a super boring class, you still need to go in order to have any chance at passing. While it may seem like a good idea to party it up at 2 a.m. in South Scott Hall during the week, you're going to end up skipping 8 a.m. classes if that becomes a habit, and nobody is going to feel sorry for you when you drop out for having bad grades. So if you do party, either save it for the weekend or still drag yourself to class the next morning.

Make sure to eat and exercise

While it's awesome to be involved a lot on campus, you need to make sure you eat and exercise regularly. You need to make sure you are fueling your body because classes, labs and projects take a lot of brain power. If you're not properly fed, you won't do well in school. As for exercise, that's a good way for you to take your mind off of classes and destress. And you pay for the campus Rec and Wellness Center through your tuition anyway, so make sure to use it!

College is going to be some of the best years of your life, but again, it's all about what you make of it. Have fun, don't party too hard, make friends, go to class and you'll have an awesome experience at UWO. Hail Titans!



Jacob Link is the Editor -in-Chief of the Advance-Titan. He is double majoring in Multimedia Journalism and Radio Tv Film. Jacob will graduate in May 2026.



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Courtesy of Patrick Flood / UWO

Singh answers questions about his past, personal life and history in his roles at various universities during an interview last semester.

Manohar Singh brings new vision to UWO

By Anya Kelley kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Sunlight streams through the floor-to-ceiling windows as Manohar Singh sits comfortably on a cushy chair at the Culver Family Welcome Center. His demeanor is calm and he listens intently before answering each question. He's wearing a well-fitted heather grey suit and a slim yellow tie – a simple showcase of commitment to his new university.

Singh was unanimously selected by the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents to become the next chancellor of UW Oshkosh, and now it's his first official visit to campus post interviews on April 15.

"I've fallen in love with the place," Singh said. "Oshkosh is actually a special place because of the people and the river and the lake. The confluence of the natural beauty and the warmth of the people is something that really attracts me."

Even as a boy Singh knew he wanted to be a professor. At the time, he didn't exactly know what the profession entailed. He said he thought it looked cool, and that was as good of a reason as any to pursue an education.

"Slowly, as I went through my graduate degree in India, my honors in economics, the rigor, the curiosity about the next question, the love for discovery, the joy of asking the right question and then finding an answer was my driver to enter academia," Singh said.

Academia was Singh's key to living a privileged life. His parents, Pakistani refugees, fled to India where they raised their children in poverty.

"I [have] seen the hardship, I [have] seen the hopelessness [from] poverty," Singh said. "But, I [have] also seen my brothers rising through education, and I knew that I became privileged because of education, and I can help them have that privilege by helping them get their education."

Singh is a first-generation college graduate – much like a majority of the campus community at UWO.

His journey began when he received a Master of Arts degree in economics with honors from Panjab University. Shortly after, he received a second Master of Arts in

economics from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

"What brought me from India was I just wanted to drive a Mercedes," Singh said with a laugh. "Seriously. And I was willing to give whatever – young man, material dreams are inspirations."

Singh's American dream started in the Midwest when he attended the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, where he received his Ph.D. in Finance. He spent a few years going from university to university working as an assistant professor of finance and gaining accolades for his work. Through that entire journey, becoming a member of the administration was never his intention.

"I was invited by one of my chancellors [at Pennsylvania State University, Great Valley] to lead their division of humanities and liberal arts," Singh said. "As a [member] of faculty, I was given an opportunity to become first the vice chair and then chair of the senate."

He thought he would be returning to research in a year or two. That was 12 years ago.

In 2016, Singh participated in a man-

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agement development program for higher education administration at Harvard University, and a year later he applied for a business dean position at UWO.

During his visit eight years ago, Singh had met a few people from the area that impressed him with their warmth and dedication to the university.

"As an administrator, there's no better place to go than a place that is roaring to go, and where the people are about themselves," Singh said. "They're selfless, they're focused on the mission and they see their students as human beings."

Singh said UWO was emotionally enriching for him to see, and the connections he built here at a human level were his inspiration for applying to the chancellorship position.

UWO isn't all that different from where he's coming from. When Singh took over as the interim president at Western Connecticut University, the latter stepped down after a vote of no confidence when the university announced it was in \$12.5 million of debt. He marked the third president in a year and a half.

As he contemplated the difficult situation he stepped into, Singh paused to gaze out of the large windows at the sun shimmering on the Fox River.

"I really reflect on it quite often," he said quietly. "It was a very challenging time."

Singh was riding the high of raising the enrollment 39% in three years as the dean of the graduate school at Southern Connecticut State University when he was asked to take over WestConn.

"Many of my mentors told me this is a very fraught situation," Singh said. "Fraught with danger because this could be your last job if you cannot turn it around."

He knew the odds of success were low. He was given a two-year timeframe to get the university out of the red and raise the rapidly declining enrollment.

"I'm not unfamiliar with the odds being against me," Singh said. "[And] there [was] a spirit of survival, and then a spirit of resurgence."

WestConn's faculty, students, staff and alumni had the tenacity and the grit needed to pull through, and that gave him the confidence to lead. That tenacity is something he saw in UWO, too.

His plan is to help bring back a shared sense of purpose and passion to do what's best for the next generation – bettering humanity as he called it. It's an incredibly tumultuous time to become a chancellor, but Singh loves it.

"I believe by having this opportunity, I

can contribute to keeping the good in this world alive," Singh said with a small smile. He laughed and said, "this may sound too dramatic, a Hollywood movie scene, but seriously, if it takes me down this is perfectly fine. Because we all stand tall and alive today based upon someone making sacrifices."

Singh never returned to teaching, but working in administration has allowed him to give back to humanity what he was given – a chance to change his life through access to higher education. It gave him the ability to make a direct contribution to improving each student's life.

"I realized doing one simple [thing] can help 10 students find scholarship money and they can really be graduates rather than be burdened with debt," Singh said. "That's my fuel."

He has fully dedicated his life to sustaining what he called "the discovery of truth" and "the essence of human beings."

"I'm of a firm belief that only education can do that," Singh said. "It opens your minds, hearts, brains and arms, and the world becomes so much more."

Anya Kelley was the Editor-in-Chief of the Advance-Titan for the 2024-25 school year. She graduated in May 2025 with a multimedia journalism major and a women and gender studies minor.





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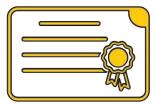
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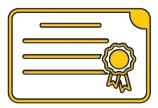
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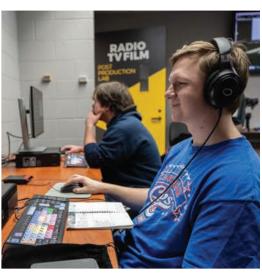


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CHALLENGES OF A TRANSFER STUDENT

A transfer student's declassified school survivor guide

By Jessica Duch duchje18@uwosh.edu

With summer over and the new semester beginning, I'd like to share some advice for my fellow transfer students and prepare those considering transferring to another college.

When I officially transferred from UW-Milwaukee to UW Oshkosh for the fall 2023 semester, I was surprised at how quickly I got into the classes I needed.

Over the subsequent two semesters, I learned that things were actually far more complicated for transfer students. Here are some difficulties you may face as a transfer student and some advice for making the most of your new student status at UWO.

Don't assume general education requirements are universal

One of the hallmarks of being a transfer student is taking classes that were meant for first-year and second-year students.

Despite being under the same educational umbrella as the University of Wisconsin, UWM and UWO general education requirements are very different.

For example, the general education requirements for UWM were much more relaxed than those of UWO. So when I came from UWM with 77 credits, I assumed that I was done taking general education classes.

Unfortunately, I was wrong. Not only does UWO have their University Studies Program, but I learned from my transfer adviser that I would need to take two more laboratory science classes, a first-year communication course, a first-year writing course, literature, history and philosophy. Yes, you read all of that right.

So here I am: a third year taking Communications 111 and Writing 287, even though I haven't failed a single class. A bit embarrassing, if you ask me.

Explore student organizations and attend campus events

One of the many struggles of a transfer student, and any college student, is making friends on campus. I've found the best way to do this is by joining student organizations and attending campus events. As a



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan

Transfer student Jessica Duch found friends at UW Oshkosh by joining student organizations like PRSSA. She is pictured on the far left.

transfer student, you might expect it to be difficult meshing with clubs, since the majority of organizations will have already grown a base of people.

This is partly true; there is usually a foundational group of students within clubs. I've also found, however, that once you go to a few meetings, you get to know some students and they're always friendly and interested to hear your experience as a transfer student.

So instead of staying in and watching the latest episode of "Bridgerton" or binge-watching "Supernatural," check out a student club. To learn what student organizations are available at all of the UWO campuses, go to *uwosh.presence.io/*.

Utilize student resources to their full potential

When I first arrived at UWO, I didn't have a clue as to all of the resources available to students.

However, once I became aware of how much UWO has to offer in terms of academic help, for some reason I never really used it.

I think that a part of me didn't think I had the right to use those resources because I was a transfer student.

I can only describe the feeling as being similar to starting a new job. You don't know anyone, you're not sure what to do and you're afraid to ask questions because you'll look like a fool.

I'm here to tell you that you shouldn't be afraid to look dumb. Whether it's getting help from a tutor or cramming yourself into a corner at Polk Library to study until closing time, use everything UWO has to offer in order to succeed.

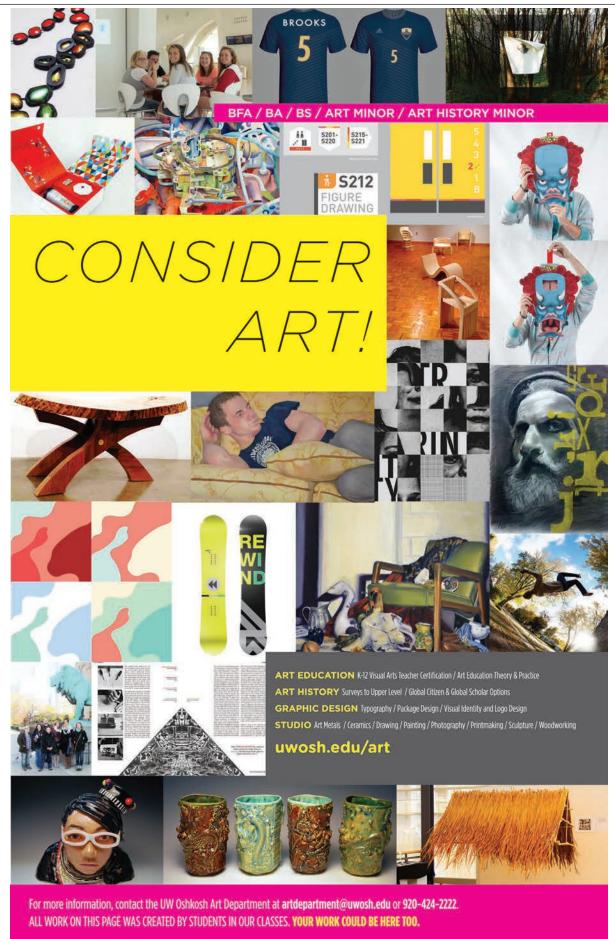
Moreover, here's the point of all this reflection. In my first two semesters at UWO, I was stuck in this preposterous idea that transfer students stick out like a sore thumb — and in a way, they do.

From my experience, transfer students stick out because it's their own fault. They're too afraid to explore, expand and better themselves because there's some faux feeling of separation, like a domestic dog trying to join a pack of wolves.

That's not true though. I've found that the overwhelming majority of UWO students and staff are welcoming, especially when I tell them I'm a transfer student. Transfer students shouldn't be intimidated by UWO. They should embrace everything this university has to offer because transfer students are just students; there is no division.

You're the one who's paying to be here, after all.

Jessica Duch is majoring in advertising, public relations and graphic design. She is the photo editor of the Advance-Titan.



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BEST PLACES TO STUDY ON CAMPUS

By Cassidy Johnson johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Studying in your dorm can get old, so fight that mental exhaustion by studying in a new environment. Ditch your dorm and check out these awesome study spots on the UWO campus.

Sage Hall

One of my personal favorite study spots is the booths near Einstein Bros. Bagels in Sage Hall. The prime time to go here is at 9 a.m.: Einstein's Bagels is open and it's not too crowded, so it's easy to find a spot. If coffee and bagels aren't your thing, going after Einstein's closes is perfect for when you need that quiet study time. The booths are also incredibly comfortable, and most spots also have a power outlet.

Another favorite place of mine to study in Sage is in the third floor lounge. There's tons of comfy and dynamic seating, as well as nice, big windows to provide natural light. This is a great option if the booths near Einstein's are too loud for you, as most students are there solely to study.

If you're somebody who needs not just silence but solitude to concentrate, I've found a small lounge area on the fourth floor perfect for you. Found next to faculty offices, the space has two chairs and a couch and is adorned with an awesome view of the Fox River. I've tried to keep it a secret, but it's too good a study spot not to share.

The courtyard inside Sage is also a great place if you prefer studying alone and are craving some Vitamin D, although it often gets more popular as temperatures rise.

Reeve Memorial Union

Next up is Reeve Memorial Union. Although it can be pretty busy during lunch and dinner times, most of the time there's a nice buzz of students going in and out. If you're somebody who needs complete silence to study, this may not be the best place for you unless you're willing to wait until 7 p.m. when most of Reeve's dining closes.

Waiting may be worth it, however, as this paired with the fireplace and the comfy seating in the wintertime provides a super cozy vibe. If you wait until night, however, you may not get to experience the full beauty of the floor-to-ceiling windows, providing beautiful scenery and awesome natural light.



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Sage Hall's fourth floor lounge provides a comfortable and secluded study spot.

Having food only a few feet away is also a big plus for when you need some brain food.

If you prefer something a little more quiet, you can take the stairs or the elevator to the third floor where you can study on the roof of Reeve. The open air and awesome view make this a great study spot, but also a chilly one unless you're using it during the warmer months. When the Wisconsin weather gets the best of you, there's a spot right inside with a big table and comfy seats where you can still enjoy the view.

Clow courtyard and lounge

The Clow courtyard, found right outside of the Clow Social Science Center, has a special place in my heart. It can be a little loud during passing times, but the flora and fauna provide a sense of privacy. The trees are also great for providing shade, with the sun peaking through to provide natural light as well.

It's warm but not hot, bright but not blinding, secluded but not lonely. The only downside is there's (obviously) no outlets, but this shouldn't be an issue if you prepare accordingly. It also shouldn't be an issue if you forget to charge your AirPods as the nature around provides its own melody of white noise perfect for studying.

Clow's second floor lounge, near the

entrance of the Nursing Education section, offers a cozy space in a relatively small area. Sit near the glass-pane-faux-railing, which will provide you a nice background and also a weirdly comforting feeling that you are higher up than the people walking below. The ceiling reminded me of a log cabin with the cozy wood and the diagonal ceiling. The bricks on the wall nicely accompany this, creating a warm environment.

There's a comfy set of chairs in a circle perfect for a study group, a long table with chairs just right for someone who needs to spread out, comfy chairs lining the edge that are great for reading, and places like where I sat if you really need to hone in on some homework.

Polk Library

The second floor of Polk offers good vibes and is quiet, but not too quiet, Plus, it's open late, for those nights you need to cram.

While these may be my favorite spots, your preferences may be different. So go looking for a spot you find comfortable, inviting and as quiet as you need it. At the end of the semester, your grades will be proof that the search was worth it.

Cassidy Johnson is the Arts & Culture Editor of the Advance-Titan.



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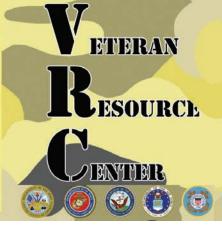




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OSG is the student government that represents all students. We advocate for the best interests of the students at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. All students, regardless of their standing within the OSG, have the opportunity to serve as student representative on all of the many University Committees that exist, as well!

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