

YSU 1500S - Youngstown State University Success Seminar

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 05, CRN 42793,

Credit hours: 2

Instructor

Maura McGiffin

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Maura McGiffin, M.S.Ed.

Instructor Professional Qualifications: M.S.Ed., Counseling & Student Affairs, Youngstown State University, 2012; B.A., Early Childhood Education, University of Mount Union, 2009

Instructor Office Location: Resch Academic Success Center. Jones Hall, Room 1034

Instructor Office Phone: 330.941.3538

Course Description

1500S. Youngstown State University Success Seminar. This course helps students establish a solid foundation for success at YSU. Students learn the conventions that govern the academic community including what is expected of them and what they are responsible for, skills needed to successfully manage their academic workload, habits of mind that promote resilience, and how to understand and use degree planning tools. Students are also given opportunities to participate in a range of co-curricular activities to enrich their experience, encourage their curiosity, and promote their active engagement in all YSU has to offer. 2 s.h.

Academic Coaching

Academic coaching is an integral part of the YSU 1500S experience and is designed to support your academic, personal, and professional transition to college. Because this is an agile hybrid course, your learning takes place through both our weekly class meetings and required one-on-one academic coaching sessions. Beginning in Week 2, you will meet individually with your Program Advisor each week at the Resch Academic Success Center located on the first floor of Jones Hall, Room 1034. These coaching sessions are a required component of the course, providing personalized support to help you develop effective learning strategies, overcome challenges, connect with campus resources, and stay on track toward your academic goals.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
No Readings			

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Set Your Self Up for Success	Identifying resources, technology, and connections.	Making College Work for You due Sunday by 11:59 p.m.
		Meet Your Program Advisor & schedule academic coaching	In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
			Schedule your academic coaching appointment through Bookings by Monday, August 30 by 11:59 p.m. See your instructor if you need help with scheduling.

8/31	Knowing What is Expected . Counseling Center Speaker	Understanding syllabi, student expectations, and academic integrity.	Your Role as a Student due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m. . 1:1 weekly academic coaching begins at the Resch Academic Success Center.
9/7	Goal Setting	Setting specific goals and maintaining motivation to reach them.	College Student Inventory d . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
9/14	Growth Mindset	Using growth mindset to overcome challenges.	Deep Learning Experience due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. .
9/21	Finding Your Y	Exploring your sense of purpose, belonging, and community to campus.	In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m. PathwayU due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m. . TILT badge – Steps 1 & 2 due before next week's class session.
9/28	Career Pathways	Completing TILT professional workshop. . Class meets in McKay Auditorium in the Beeghly College of Education. Attendance is required to complete the remainder of the TILT Badge.	. My Career Pathway Badge due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
10/5	Time Management	Prioritizing tasks and creating efficient schedules.	Time Management Strategies due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m. . Complete CSI Followup Meeting by Friday, October 2.
10/12	Test Preparation . Career Speakers	Applying strategies to prepare and reflect on exams.	Reflecting on Your Approach due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m. . Come to class on October 13 prepared with one career-related question written on an index card. Be sure to also bring your PathwayU assessment results with you. . Academic advisement begins for Spring 2027. You will be advised during one of your regularly scheduled coaching meetings.
10/19	Academic Policies and Advising	Understanding degree requirements, academic advising, and registration.	Plan Ahead and Advising due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
10/26	Financial Literacy	Understanding budgeting, saving, and building a financial foundation by completing the Fund Your Life Workshop . Class meets in McKay auditorium.	My Financial Journey due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
11/2	Wellness	Exploring the importance of sleep, managing stress, and staying safe.	Stress Reflection due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.

11/9	Mapping Your Next Move . Last Week of Class	Registration and spring mentoring.	Campus Engagement Reflection and Mid-Year Student Assessment due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. . In-Class Exit Slip due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
11/16	Academic Coaching		Continue meeting with your Program Advisor at the Resch Academic Success Center.
11/23	No Academic Coaching This Week		All extra credit opportunities due Sunday, November 22 by 11:59 p.m.
11/30	Academic Coaching		Last meeting with your Program Advisor at the Resch Academic Success Center.
12/7	Finals Week. There is no final exam in the course. No academic coaching.		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.