WELCOME TO THE ExSEL PROGRAM!

MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
ExSEL: Exceeding the Student Experience of Learning

The ExSEL Program is part of the Waino Wahtera Center for Student Success in Room 130 of the Admin. Building.

The WWCSS is also responsible for the following:

- Orientation Programs
- Parent Programming
- Midterm Grade Outreach
- Academic Probation Initiatives
- Commuter and Transfer Assistance
A student success & leadership development program designed to support students as they define, work toward, and meet their academic and personal goals at Michigan Technological University.
Components of Our Program

• Two-year contract.
• UN 1000: *Frameworks for Success*, a 1-credit class.
• 5+ ExSEL Peer Mentor meetings.
• 2+ required meetings with staff members.
• Referrals & resources.
• Leadership opportunities.
UN 1000 *Frameworks for Success*

One-credit course offered in the fall, taken once.  
(As an ExSEL participant, the student is automatically enrolled in UN 1000.)

**Develop and/or improve success strategies related to:**

- Effective learning skills.
- Applied study skills.
- Evaluating progress & targeting areas for improvement.
- Time management.
- Utilizing campus resources.
Learning Community and ExSEL?

• Some students opt to join both a learning community and the ExSEL program.

• Each program has a 1-credit course affiliated with it:
  o ExSEL = UN 1000 (*Frameworks for Success*)
  o Learning Communities = UN 1010 (*Creating Your Success*).

• If you participate in both programs, you **ONLY** take UN 1000; it is automatically added to your schedule.
What Do Mentors Do?

• Meet with ExSEL students weekly for 5 weeks or more (a REQUIRED and graded portion of UN 1000).

• Give support and advice based on knowledge and experience.

• Provide referrals as needed.
Who Are Our 2019 ExSEL Peer Mentors?

35 mentors... 17 former ExSEL Program participants
Successful undergraduate students... 18 majors represented
Academic Support

The Waino Wahtera Center for Student Success has a close relationship with a wide variety of campus resources which support student success, including:

**ExSEL Website** *(www.exsel.mtu.edu)*
- Links to learning centers.
- ExSEL staff contact info.

**ExSEL Staff Referrals**
- Academic resources.
- Student support services.
Academic Progress Monitoring

• Provides an opportunity to identify concerns related to performance and attendance.

• All ExSEL participants have 2 required meetings with staff during the fall semester.

• Midterm monitoring also occurs for students with 2 or more “UN” ( Unsatisfactory) grades.
Academic Progress Monitoring (cont.)

• Midterm appointments are scheduled by ExSEL staff, and necessary students are contacted.

• Despite monitoring, sometimes warning signs are not brought to our attention even if a student is having difficulties.

• It is important that ExSEL participants get in touch with staff members and/or mentors when they have concerns; the earlier we can provide help, the better!
ExSEL Provides:

• Contact time in UN 1000 class twice a week, fall semester.

• Individual meetings fall semester: 2 required with staff, 5 required with mentor.

• Info. about academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

• Additional meetings as requested by students or staff.
ExSEL Does NOT Provide:

• Daily “wake up calls” like Mom or Dad may have done.

• A record of daily attendance, homework completion, and/or grades in all classes.

• Nightly homework checks.
Important Program Dates

• **UN 1000:** Meets twice a week, fall semester only. (Will be added to student schedules by the registrar.)

• **First Mentor Meeting:**  (Add to your calendar now!)
  **Friday, September 13; 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
  Continue required weekly mentor meetings for 4 more weeks; additional meetings by choice until Finals Week

• **Spring Semester:**
  No ExSEL class or required mentor meetings. Continue meetings with staff as requested.
Connected First-Year Students

• Actively participate in UN 1000.

• Invest in the mentoring; continue with their mentor past the initial 5 weeks.

• Have contact and meetings with staff regarding concerns and midterm grades.

• Request academic resources, use scheduled study sessions, and utilize learning centers.

• Show interest in extra events to further professional or leadership development.
Hesitant First-Year Students

• Slow to respond to staff outreach regarding grade monitoring.

• May not regularly attend mentor meetings.

• May not utilize campus resources for fear of “looking stupid”.

• Parents may have initiated/“required” this student’s participation in ExSEL, so the student may not feel invested.
Second-Year Participants

• No ExSEL class component required.

• Further develop academic and career goals with ExSEL staff. Possible opportunities:
  ~ Develop a mentoring relationship with a faculty member.
  ~ Pursue leadership opportunities within the program.
  ~ Focus on leadership or career development by being encouraged to attend campus events/programs.
Program Leaders

• Were often ExSEL participants as first-year students.

• Chose to actively engage in ExSEL in their second year and/or after, and encouraged other students to participate in ExSEL.

• Applied for staff positions with the Wahtera Center.
Wahtera Center for Student Success

Leadership Positions

• ExSEL Mentors.

• Peer Assistants for the **Success** Courses.

• Academic Success Coaches.

Students may start in a leadership position as early as their second year in the program, and they may serve in any/all of these roles for multiple years.
What can ExSEL do for you?

“ExSEL was the best thing my mom ever mentioned to me! I never thought a program would have such an understanding of what I was going through and would have so many advantages! Having a mentor who WANTS to be there and see you succeed is something special, and my mentor had been in my first-year shoes and knew how to help in the right ways. The class itself, the connections made, and getting acclimated to campus are all priceless. If you are feeling uneasy about college, let ExSEL take you under its wing and show you how to get the ball rolling.”

~ Involved with ExSEL 2015-2019
What can ExSEL do for you?

"The ExSEL program not only allowed me to make connections with faculty and staff, but also gave me helpful tips to make it through college. As a straight A student through high school, I thought I would just breeze through my classes. It turns out I needed a little bit of help, and ExSEL offered me that and much, much more! It was also a tremendous ease of mind to talk each week and ask questions any time of an older student (my ExSEL mentor) who had experience in succeeding at Michigan Tech. I would recommend this program to any and every incoming student!"

~ Involved with ExSEL 2017-2019
What can ExSEL do for you?

“At first I was skeptical about the ExSEL program, but less than a week after the class began I knew I made the right decision to enroll. The skills I gained and the connections I made within the program well exceeded my initial expectations. The mentor experience was quite unique as well. Having an older student to go to with any questions and seeing a familiar face on campus was very comforting. ExSEL is such a great program for incoming college students. It had only a positive influence on my academic and social life while at Michigan Tech.”

~ Involved with ExSEL 2014-2018
“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They may make mistakes, but they do not quit.”

~ Conrad Hilton
Founder of Hilton Hotels
In Conclusion…

ExSEL is designed to support students as they strive to meet their goals, but the program is what you make it!

The ExSEL staff is here to support YOU, so please get in touch with us!

Contact Information:

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