Freshman Connection was such a rewarding experience. I made so many new connections with not only the other incoming freshman, but the older students as well. We got to take fun trips, like swimming at Big Falls which was AWESOME! I would highly recommend this program to future Blugolds!!

- Annika, 2020 Participant, Duluth, MN

Our seminars and group activities focus on personal growth, goal setting and social network development to further prepare you for your experience at UW-Eau Claire.

Apply for a Scholarship!

- New Friendships
- Engaging Activities
- Inclusive Programs
- Leadership Development
- Campus Life Experience
- Eagle’s View Ropes Course
- Campfire Conversations

Move In Early!

I was so worried about making friends and getting used to college, but even after the first night I found a group of people I never thought I would. They have honestly become my best friends. Even after 2 weeks of being here, I am so happy to have them in my life; I’m afraid they wouldn’t be if I hadn’t been a part of this experience.

- Kenneth, 2020 Participant, Melrose, WI

Your Adventures!

60 students will be accepted into the program and will be divided into six groups of 10. There will be three adventures that will build upon the friendships created over the first two days of the program. Each group will be introduced to the beauty of hiking the Ice Age Trail, paddle through a peaceful river while spotting turtles and wildlife, and be introduced to the sport of rock climbing, a popular “challenge by choice” activity to challenge oneself and support others in a team building experience.

The three different activities on land, water, and rock offer a variety that will move you beyond your comfort zone, just as college life will. These day trips will equip you with skills to face challenges and confidence to be successful in and outside of the classroom.

* No rock climbing experience necessary, training provided

Apply Now!

Space is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Check our website at uwec.ly/connected for registration deadline and availability.

Cost

$495. Includes housing, meals, t-shirt, on-campus experiences and adventure trips.

Scholarships

Financial support is available, visit our website to apply for a scholarship. Deadline to apply is June 1. Recipients will be notified the first week of June. Those receiving a scholarship will have a credit of $395 applied to their registration.

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- Kenneth, 2020 Participant, Melrose, WI

What to Bring

Casual, weather appropriate clothing that allows you to be active. Don’t forget tennis shoes, water shoes, sunscreen, sunglasses, swimsuit, and rain gear. Check out our website at uwec.ly/connected for more trip details. All trip equipment and meals are included.

Room and Board

Move in early! Not only will you avoid the crowds, you will get a jump on experiencing what life is like on campus. You will use UW-Eau Claire classrooms, meeting rooms, residence halls, dining halls and recreational facilities. All facilities are accessible to students with special needs.

Individuals with Disabilities

If a disability related accommodation is needed to participate in any of our programs, please contact Recreation and Sport Operations at (715) 836-3377.

We respect and appreciate all people. We value the individual differences that make us unique and the similarities that bring us together.
The Freshman Connection Program was a great way to meet people and form lasting bonds even before the school year officially began. The upperclassmen leaders shared valuable advice and tips, and I was able to learn my way around campus almost a week ahead of my peers not in the program. It was a very fun, yet challenging week that forced me out of my comfort zone for new, exciting experiences.

- Justine, 2020 Participant, Duluth, MN

Staff

Al Wiberg, MS
Al has been at UWEC since 1992 and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Operations for Recreation and Sport Operation. His role keeps him involved in the field of outdoor education and supervising the Environmental Adventure Center.

Sheryl Poirier, MPA
Sheryl has been at UWEC since 2006 and prior to that worked at UW-Stevens Point and UW-Oshkosh. She serves as the Assistant Director of Programs for Recreation and Sport Operations. Her role keeps her involved with the greater campus community making her a great resource. She is intentional about connecting students to the many programs and services available to help ease the transition to college life and be successful Blugolds!

Trip Leaders
Trip leaders are UWEC Environmental Adventure Center student staff who have strong ties to the campus community and can serve as a resource to answer questions and clarify concerns. All trips have a participant-to-leader ratio of approximately 6:1. Leaders are enthusiastic and extensively trained in the areas of wilderness first aid, CPR, risk management protocols, and small group facilitation.

For More Information

UWEC Freshman Connection
715.836.3377
recreation@uwec.edu
uwec.ly/connected
facebook.com/FreshmanConnection
@uwecfreshmanconnection