The Advising Office for New, Exploratory, and Students in Transition (the NEST) is the primary advising resource for students at Kennesaw State who have not yet chosen a major as well as those who are considering a change of major. The NEST is also a secondary advising resource for those students who have a declared major but need assistance with general education requirements or university policies.

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In today's competitive global society, success depends on working as a team and regular communication and interaction with others. Leadership Studies Certificate Program in the Department of Leadership and Integrative Studies offers the custom-designed Integrative Studies degree program for highly motivated students who want to chart their own future. Students can also complete an academic certificate in Leadership Studies through the department or take one or more Leadership Studies courses.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Integrative Studies allows students to complete a major and two minors or to complete an academic certificate in Leadership Studies through the Department of Leadership and Integrative Studies. The Bachelor of Science degree in Integrative Studies gives students the opportunity to develop, strengthen, and use their skills to enhance their leadership skills and strengths. The Center for Student Leadership (CSL) empowers students to affect positive change in their communities through self-discovery, collaborative relationships, and experiential learning. A collaboration between the Division of Student Affairs and University College, CSL offers one-of-a-kind programs that provide education, engagement, and multicultural experiences.

The Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality

This degree is a unique approach to the study of culinary and hospitality management, transcending the traditional culinary arts or hospitality management curricula to incorporate and infuse the study of sustainable best practices employed around the world, emphasizing areas like food science, nutrition, agroecology, and resource conservation as well as essential business skills/abilities. This highly relevant degree program offers graduates a competitive advantage through experiential learning in the internship for teaching, research, and work practicum in sustainable culinary and hospitality management.

In addition to traditional internship opportunities, students may also complete internships in KSU's award-winning, Gold-LEED certified dining facility - The Commons - or go to retail establishments on campus. Awarded the National Restaurant Association’s “2013 Innovator of the Year Award” and the Operator Innovations Award for Sustainability, The Commons features 66.5 acres of farmland for KSU's farm-to-campus-to-farm program and maintains 28 honey bee hives for honey production. The Commons regularly implements new practices and technologies in sustainable food production, including composting, vermiculture, hydroponics, recycling cooking oil for bio-fuel, water reclamation, and more.

This unique program infuses sustainable business practices into all facets of culinary and hospitality management – educating leaders with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to maximize efficiency, productivity, and profitability. The Leven School is committed to providing a quality education that provides students with a skill set for their future careers.

Orientation and Transition Programs

The Center for Student Leadership (CSL) targets specific student populations with many of its programs including the Thrive program for first-year HOPE Scholars and the multi-year leadership development program for student-athletes that is facilitated in collaboration with the Division of Athletics. The Center also offers a workshop series, community service projects, and unique leadership programs for all undergraduates who choose to enhance their leadership skills and strengths.

Through CSL, students can learn to:
- lead in a complex world,
- polish written and oral communication skills,
- build critical thinking and problem-solving abilities,
- increase self-confidence,
- build a supportive network, and
- explore domestic and international travel opportunities.

The SMART Center

In the SMART Center, students find people and resources to help with most first-year and sophomore mathematics, chemistry, and physics classes at KSU. No appointments are necessary to use the SMART Center's services, so students can stop by at their convenience to take advantage of free tutoring.

Academic Support Initiatives

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Supplemental Instruction (SI)

SU students wanting to succeed in difficult courses can get help from Supplemental Instruction (SI) through weekly study sessions. SI's mission is to provide an environment that increases the learning and retention of all students enrolled in courses supported by the SI program.

The program consists of SI leaders (students who serve as academic facilitators) who can help students develop the thinking and reasoning skills necessary to succeed in historically difficult courses. SI leaders are empathetic listeners, resource guides, and, most of all, supportive peers.

Leadership Support

In past, Learning Support Programs were responsible solely for providing academic support to those students whose entrance and placement scores indicated that they required remedial instruction before they enrolled in regular credit courses. Recent administrative changes within the University System of Georgia and at KSU have transformed remediation offerings in English and mathematics.

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The Department of First-Year and Transition Studies promotes student success and academic inquiry through its nationally recognized first-year seminars, its learning communities program, an information literacy course, and the annual Convocation ceremony. The department’s mission is to assist students in making a smooth transition into and through higher education while helping them build the foundational skills to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

**Digital Literacy**
The department’s digital literacy course, IT 2101, helps undergraduates think critically about the role of technology in their lives while becoming competent literate users of both existing and emerging information technologies.

**First-Year Seminars**
The department offers four versions of the first-year seminar, all designed to help students develop the skills they need in higher education. Each takes a different focus: KSU 1101 is the traditional seminar for student success; KSU 1111 has a global theme; KSU 1121 focuses on community engagement; and KSU 1200 cultivates leadership skills.

**Learning Communities**
Learning Communities promote college success by providing a supportive learning climate that enhances the academic, social, and personal development of first-year students. Learning Communities consist of 20-25 students who share a common interest or major and who take a cluster of courses together during their first semester. Through this experience, students build valuable relationships with faculty, staff, and other students. Additionally, they tend to express greater satisfaction with their college experience and earn higher grades due to the intellectual connections they make with their professors and peers.

**Master of Science in First-Year Studies**
The Master of Science in First-Year Studies (MSFYS), the only graduate degree program dedicated to the discipline of first-year studies, is a fully online program that encompasses the theory and study of factors affecting the initial college experience. Students in this program develop the skills and knowledge necessary to create and manage curricular and co-curricular programs, and they engage in research that extends the collective understanding of first-year and transition studies. The MSFYS program is designed for anyone interested in working with or teaching first-year college students, including residence hall directors, academic advisors, teaching staff, faculty, and administrators.

**About Us**
University College is a community of faculty, staff, and students engaged in 21st century teaching, learning, scholarship, service, and community engagement. One of the 12 academic colleges at KSU, University College houses the Department of Leadership and Integrative Studies, the Department of First-Year and Transition Studies, The Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality, and the Center for Student Leadership (a shared structure between University College and the Division of Student Affairs). The college also is home to the NST (Advising Office for New Exploratory, Students in Transition and Orientation and Transition Programs).

Offering innovative interdisciplinary programs and courses, University College’s curricular and co-curricular initiatives challenge and support students from their first day on campus through commencement. University College builds on students’ strengths, promotes students’ leadership development, and enhances students’ global engagement to help them realize their futures.

**University College Dean’s Suite**
First-Year and Transition Studies
Leadership and Integrative Studies
Center for Student Leadership
Advising Office for New Exploratory, and Students in Transition (the NST)
Orientation and Transition Programs
Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality

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