

WNE

Golden **GOLDEN**

2024-25

The Magazine for Admitted Students



GOLDEN: The Magazine for Admitted Students

Golden: The Magazine for Admitted Students is published for Western New England University admitted students and families, and produced by the Division of Marketing & External Affairs.

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IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

At a university with so much to offer, it's hard not to succeed. Get ready for a transformative learning experience that empowers you to realize your potential and achieve your personal and academic goals.

Nationally ranked in higher education and renown for our tight-knit community of supportive Golden Bears, Western New England University is where you'll discover exactly what you're made of.



From the Office of Enrollment Services

Welcome to the Golden Bear family!

You've achieved so much to get here, and we're excited for the next steps in your journey. Now that you can officially call Western New England University home, we've got great news to share — you're about to join a tight-knit community that stands at the forefront of cutting-edge innovation.

This issue of *Golden* showcases the vibrant and dynamic spirit of our Western New England University community, through the inspiring journeys of students who exemplify academic rigor and personal growth. You'll read about a student-athlete balancing the demands of engineering studies with collegiate wrestling, and another navigating the intricate pathways of psychology and occupational therapy. Explore further and discover the journeys of a student mastering the intricacies of marketing after a shift from sports journalism, another leveraging cybersecurity and criminal justice studies to pave a unique career path, and yet another exploring the synergies between finance, academic leadership, and the world of high-stakes trading.

Discover our latest additions on campus, the Student Hub and the renovated Delbridge Career Center, both designed to smoothly connect you with the resources and support you need for academic success and career planning. Also, join us in celebrating the impressive early victories of our fall sports teams, which have set an energetic tone for the season.

We've got even more in store for you beyond these pages. From our new program in Esports on the horizon, along with our recent Center for Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Robotic Welding Technologies project, you'll find that WNE is a pioneer for breakthroughs in the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

Western New England University is committed to providing the best university experience, and you've made a great choice by inviting us to help you become who and what you want to be.

It's an exciting time at WNE, and we look forward to welcoming our newest class to campus and the community. Now is the time to begin your journey as a Golden Bear.

Greg Matthews

Senior Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Life
Western New England University

BEAR FACTS

2,638

Undergraduate students

3,927

Total enrollment

\$121,500
 Median mid-career
 income for WNE alumni
 Payscale.com
 2024 rankings

Among selective
 institutions, WNE ranks
10th in the country
 for the likelihood of
 moving students from
 disadvantaged to affluent



Percent of students
 receive financial aid



13:1 Student-to-
 faculty ratio

WNE is
**#3 in the
 Pioneer Valley**
 for ROI behind Williams
 and Amherst Colleges

WNE is
#1 in Springfield
 for return on investment

Class of 2028 Profile

35% First-generation
 students

4.5% International
 students

26 U.S. states
 represented

38% Pell Grant
 recipients

96%
 Class of 2023
 employed/
 grad school



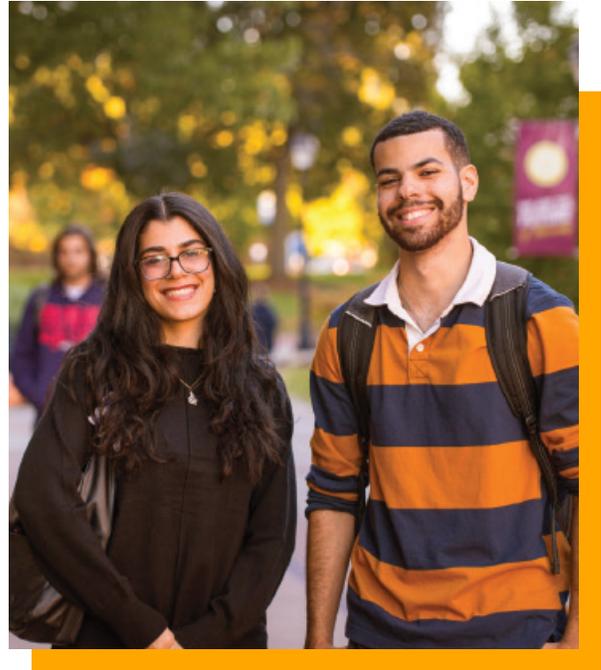
Top 100
 Nationally-ranked
 Engineering program
 U.S. News & World Report
 2025 rankings

Eighteen foreign nations
 are represented in the
 student body:

Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Canada,
 Czech Republic, France, Germany,
 Ghana, Guatemala, India, Ivory Coast,
 Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Saudi Arabia,
 United Kingdom, and Vietnam



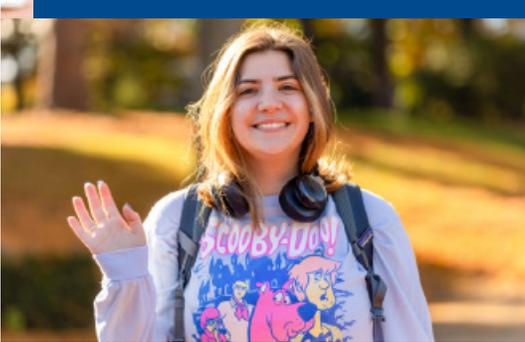
Accepted Students Events



Accepted Students Day – April 5, 2025

Join us at various events this spring to “Feel the WNE Spirit” and learn what it is like to be a Golden Bear! One of these events is our signature Accepted Students Day which will be on Saturday, April 5, 2025. Gather with fellow future Golden Bears to celebrate your acceptance and answer your last-minute questions. Visit connect.wne.edu/register/asd2025.





Deposit Gifts

We're excited to have you as part of the WNE family. Once you've made your deposit, check your mailbox for Golden Bear gear each month leading up to May 1!

Golden Bear for a Day

As an accepted student, you are invited to spend time on campus during an authentic school day. This is the perfect opportunity to attend class, meet your future professors, and have lunch in our University Commons. You'll also have the opportunity to meet with a financial aid counselor. We hope you will leave at the end of the day feeling a part of our Golden Bear family!

Visit wne.edu/admissions/undergraduate/accepted-students.





OUR COMMITMENT TO
AFFORDABILITY



Understanding the total cost of your education is an important part of the admission process. Therefore, we have developed an early financial aid award program to assist you.

At Western New England University (WNE), we want to reassure you that the early financial aid award you received from us is guaranteed, regardless of FAFSA outcomes. Your award may increase based on your FAFSA, but it will not decrease.

WNE stands committed to being among the most affordable four-year private residential universities. Our Competing Award Policy is a testament to this commitment. Should you find a more affordable option among comparable institutions, we're prepared to reassess your financial aid package, even after deposits. We guarantee deposit refunds until May 1st if we cannot maintain our affordability promise.



MAKE YOUR MARK

WNE TRADITIONS

Paint the Rock

It all started as a class prank in 1968 when a group of spirited seniors deposited a boulder at the center of campus at 4:30 a.m. More than 50 years later, The Rock remains a campus icon and community message board announcing events from SOAR to Commencement. Student organizations take turns painting the rock, ensuring that everyone makes their mark on campus.

Golden Bear Weekend: Celebrating the WNE Community

Every fall, Golden Bear Weekend uniquely combines the thrill of Homecoming with Family & Friends Weekend, offering an array of events for students, families, and alumni. This special occasion creates a vibrant celebration of the Golden Bear spirit!



President's Chili Cook-off

Challenge President Johnson for the title of WNE's Top Chili Chef at the annual President's Chili Cook-off. Student, faculty, and staff teams face off for the coveted Chili Champion belt, with the winning dish featured at WNE's Urban Market.



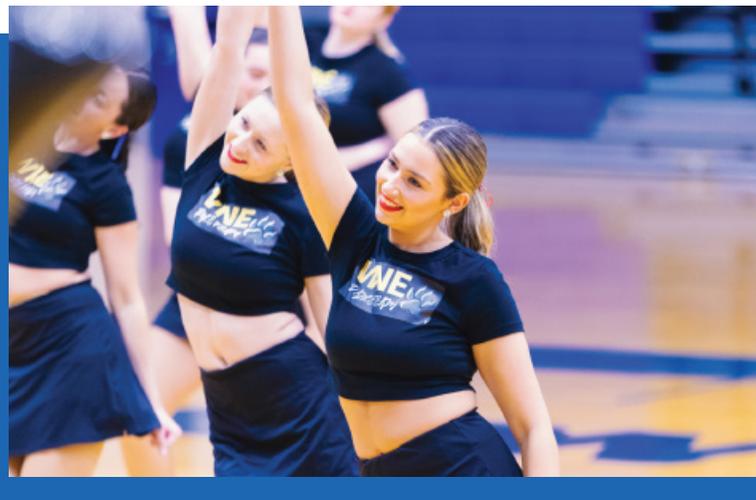


Spring Event

Each year, Student Senate brings up-and-coming musicians and comedians to perform exclusively for WNE students. The 2024 headliners were X Ambassadors and Bryce Vine. Past headliners have included T-Pain, Yung Gravy, and Olivia O'Brien.

Clash of the Classes

There's a lot at stake as each class vies for the top prize at this annual event. Competition heats up with dodgeball, human Hungry Hungry Hippos, trivia, and more, with live entertainment provided by the Golden Steppas and WNE dance and cheer teams.



Explore. Connect. Engage.

Immerse yourself in our vibrant campus community with more than 70 clubs and organizations to choose from.

Here are just a few of our clubs and organizations:

- Campus Activity Board (CAB)
- Criminal Justice Association
- Dance Team
- Entrepreneurship Club
- FIRST® Robotics Club
- Forensic Science Club
- Gender/Sexuality Alliance
- Global Sustainability Club
- Golden Bear Racing Club
- Honor Societies
- International Club
- Political Science Club/Model UN
- Society of Women Engineers
- Sport Management Association
- Student Senate
- TEDxWNE
- Ultimate Frisbee
- United & Mutually Equal (U&ME)
- WARP (Gaming Club)

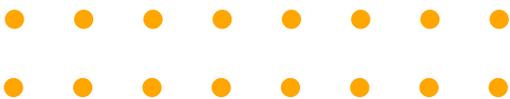




There's Always Something to Do!

With over 70 clubs and organizations to choose from, the challenge is not "will I get involved?" but rather "how do I narrow down the choices?"

Pro Tip: The annual Student Involvement Fair is good for new students and returning students looking to connect with others on campus. The fall event showcases each of the clubs that make our community so special.





Sarahy Gaspar '28

CYBERSECURITY

When I was deciding where to pursue my higher education, Western New England University immediately stood out because of its unique cybersecurity program and the intimate learning environment it offers.

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As a Cybersecurity major with double minors in Criminal Justice and Forensic Science, the low student-to-faculty ratio was crucial for me. Not many universities offer what I was looking for — a dedicated Cybersecurity major in a setting where I can truly thrive.

I'm from Manchester, New Jersey, about four to five hours away, depending on the traffic along the New Jersey Turnpike. Despite the distance, the sense of community at WNE made it feel like home right from the start. Being involved in activities like the Cheer-

AND BEYOND

leading Club, Volleyball Club, and particularly the Psychology Club has allowed me to support our sports teams and immerse myself in campus life, which I absolutely love.

Another significant part of my WNE experience has been the U&ME program (United & Mutually Equal), tailored for first-generation students like myself. The program allowed me to move in early and provided sessions to help adjust to college life more smoothly.

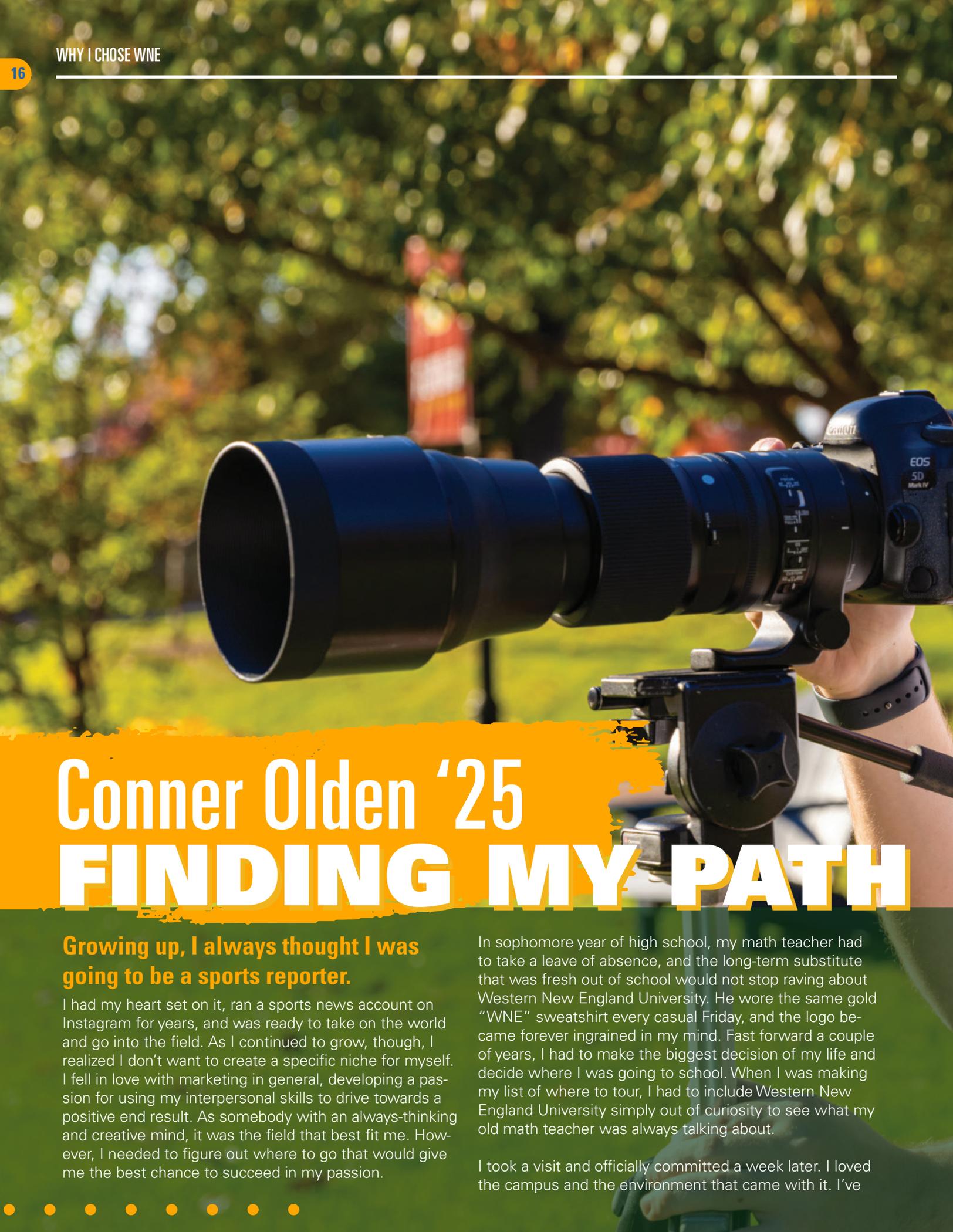
It's comforting to have a mentor, an upperclassman, who understands how the school runs and is always there to answer my questions. This kind of support system has made transitioning into university life as a first-gen student much easier and less intimidating.

Choosing Western New England University has already proven to be one of the best decisions of my life. The opportunities for personal growth,

coupled with the academic rigor here, are preparing me for a successful future in cybersecurity and beyond. I am excited about what lies ahead and confident that WNE is the perfect place for me to achieve my career goals and contribute meaningfully to society.

HOMETOWN: MANCHESTER, NJ

MAJOR: CYBERSECURITY



Conner Olden '25 FINDING MY PATH

Growing up, I always thought I was going to be a sports reporter.

I had my heart set on it, ran a sports news account on Instagram for years, and was ready to take on the world and go into the field. As I continued to grow, though, I realized I don't want to create a specific niche for myself. I fell in love with marketing in general, developing a passion for using my interpersonal skills to drive towards a positive end result. As somebody with an always-thinking and creative mind, it was the field that best fit me. However, I needed to figure out where to go that would give me the best chance to succeed in my passion.

In sophomore year of high school, my math teacher had to take a leave of absence, and the long-term substitute that was fresh out of school would not stop raving about Western New England University. He wore the same gold "WNE" sweatshirt every casual Friday, and the logo became forever ingrained in my mind. Fast forward a couple of years, I had to make the biggest decision of my life and decide where I was going to school. When I was making my list of where to tour, I had to include Western New England University simply out of curiosity to see what my old math teacher was always talking about.

I took a visit and officially committed a week later. I loved the campus and the environment that came with it. I've



spent three (almost four!) years here and am thankful I did. The faculty here have been such a pleasure to be with and have added so much to my education. Any professor at any school can give a good lecture and can have plenty of experience in the field you're studying, but I've gotten to make some of the most important connections of my life with them. Some of them have helped me realize what I really want to do in my future, helped me apply to jobs and make connections in the workforce,

and have given me the chance to grow as a person.

It's not just the faculty and education that made me choose (and stay) here; it's the community in general. It is extremely intimate here; you never know who you're going to bump into at the dining hall or who will be in front of you at one of the D'Amour printers. At the dawn of my senior year, I chose to become an intern in the school's marketing department, which has only reinforced these

positive sentiments. Walking around and talking to other members of our friendly and inviting community is something that really is hard to replicate. Western New England University has become my second home, and I am so glad I've gotten the opportunity to make so many connections and get so many experiences out of here.

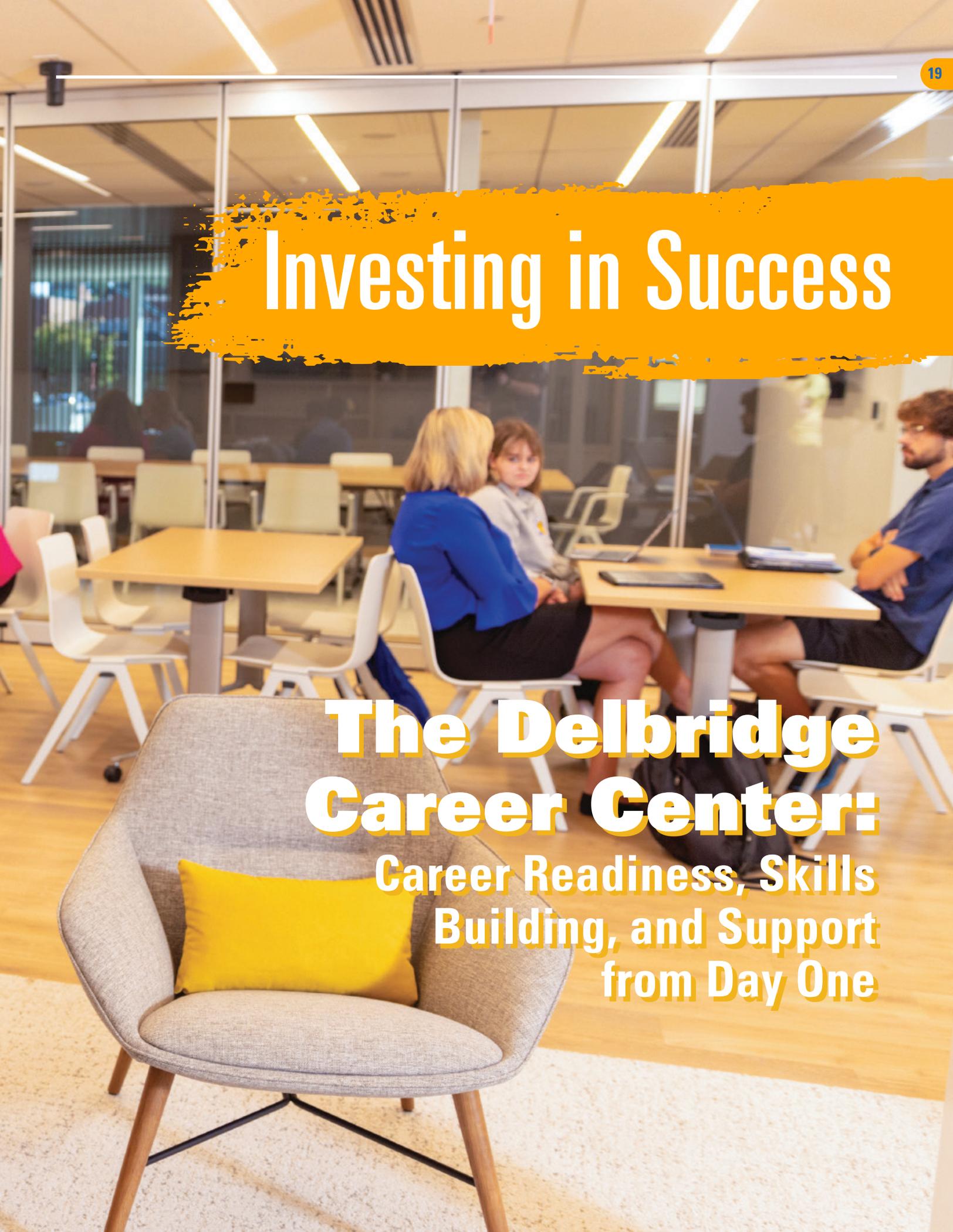
HOMETOWN: SUFFIELD, CT

MAJOR: MARKETING



Investing in Success

**The Delbridge
Career Center:**
Career Readiness, Skills
Building, and Support
from Day One



During a standing-room-only event on September 26, 2024, Western New England University opened the new Delbridge Career Center, with offices and gathering spaces dedicated to preparing students for the evolving job market. Benefactors Kevin S. Delbridge '77/H'19 and Sandra E. Delbridge, have donated more than \$10 million to WNE, marking them as the most generous donors in the University's history. Their contribution establishes the new Career Center, which is designed to address students' career readiness from the moment they arrive on campus through their senior year and beyond.

Empowering Global Citizens

"The Delbridge Career Center is more than just a resource — it's a hub for empowering students to be curious, to adapt, and to be able to contribute as global citizens," President Johnson said. "More importantly, the Center reflects our commitment to equipping students with the skills they need to succeed in a constantly evolving job market."

The Center actively integrates global awareness and cross-cultural communication skills into its career development programs, reflecting the University's commitment to producing graduates who are not only market-ready but also globally competent. These programs are designed to complement students' academic experiences with a practical understanding

of how to navigate and succeed in an interconnected world. By doing so, the Career Center ensures that WNE graduates are not only able to adapt to changes within their local job markets but are also prepared to tackle global challenges and opportunities.

Adapting to Future Challenges

The need for career preparation has never been more pressing in a period where job security is becoming less certain. A 2024 report from Dell Technologies predicts that 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 have not been invented yet.

Against this backdrop, WNE's Delbridge Career Center provides visible and vital opportunities for students to adapt and thrive in this dynamic employment landscape even before they set foot on campus. "By co-locating the Career



Kevin S. Delbridge '77/H '19 and Sandra E. Delbridge pose with students at the Center's ribbon-cutting event.





Center in the Welcome Center, we are letting prospective students and their parents know that career development is important, and that this University is prepared to assist students in achieving their career goals," said Delbridge.

A Foundation for Career Success

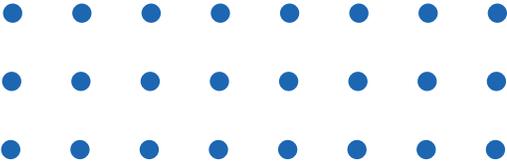
For the five colleges at WNE, the Career Center offers a comprehensive range of services. From personalized career coaching to internship placements, the Center ensures that students are equipped to succeed from day one. The impact is already evident: 96% of the WNE Class of 2023 were either employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduation.

"One advantage of having the entry to the Career Center facing the campus is its visibility," said Delbridge. "It is a frequent reminder to students

why they are here and that there is a wealth of resources that can be tapped, which will increase the odds that graduates will be productively employed in their chosen field," Delbridge remarked during the ceremony.

As job security becomes increasingly uncertain, institutions like WNE are stepping up to ensure their graduates are prepared for the future. The Delbridge Career Center stands as a testament to WNE's dedication to its students' long-term success.

The new facility is poised to become a cornerstone of student life, offering support at every stage of career development, with a forward-looking focus on career preparedness and adaptability.



Jaylen Hawkins '25

Discipline On and Off the Mat

Jaylen Hawkins '25 stands as a paradigm of the modern scholar-athlete. Balancing a demanding major in Civil Engineering with the rigors of collegiate wrestling, Jaylen's journey encapsulates the essence of perseverance and intellectual curiosity.

HOMETOWN: DANBURY, CT
MAJOR: CIVIL ENGINEERING

Reflecting on his dual commitments, Jaylen shares insights from his personal experience, "Studying to graduate with an Engineering degree and participating in a sport like wrestling is not an easy road. Learning to balance schoolwork and practice is a challenge in itself." This balance requires a unique blend of discipline and strategy, traits that Jaylen has cultivated both on the mat and in the classroom.

Jaylen's path was not charted in advance. Originally from Danbury, Connecticut, he grew up valuing hard work — a principle instilled by his parents. This foundational ethos guided him to a field that challenges both his intellect and physical prowess. "Engineering and wrestling share a common denominator: problem-solving under pressure," Jaylen notes, drawing a parallel that highlights his holistic approach to learning and competition.

At WNE, Jaylen has not only excelled academically but also taken significant leadership roles, such as the captancy of the men's wrestling team and presidency of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. His leadership is a testament to his character and dedication, qualities acknowledged by his peers and mentors alike.

Jaylen's commitment extends beyond personal achievement. His community involvement and academic success have made him a role model on campus. He speaks highly of the support he receives from the faculty, "Luckily, and this goes for all majors not just Engineering, Western New England is filled with faculty and staff who understand what it is like being a student-athlete, especially a first-year trying to adjust to college life."

As Jaylen looks to the future, his goals are clear. He aims to leverage his education and experiences to make meaningful contributions to society, particularly in the field of civil engineering. "I want to work on projects that not only challenge me but also contribute positively to the community," he states.

Jaylen's story is more than just that of a student or an athlete; it's a narrative of overcoming, learning, and leading. It underscores the essence of the WNE experience—where every student is given the tools, support, and opportunities to craft their unique path to success. His journey at Western New England University is not just about the accolades or the challenges overcome but about the life lessons learned along the way, preparing him to be a leader, a teammate, and a community builder wherever he goes.





FALL SPORTS KICK-OFF

A Strong Start to the Year

Men's Soccer

The Western New England University men's soccer team clinched the No. 3 seed in the Conference of New England Championships this season, finishing with a solid 9-8-3 regular-season record, including a 5-3-1 mark in conference play. A key highlight was the outstanding performance of first-year player Tyler Lewis, who scored ten goals—the most for a Golden Bear since 2021. Lewis's efforts, combined with strong team play, helped the Golden Bears reach a total of 32 goals for the season, with six of their nine wins achieved on their home field.

Women's Volleyball

The WNE women's volleyball team has had an impressive season, securing their highest win total (18) since the 2016-2017 season, marking a new high point for the program with three matches remaining in their regular season schedule. Senior Alissa Hawes has been instrumental in the team's success, leading the Golden Bears with a remarkable 354 kills, which is first on the team and ranks second overall in the Conference of New England. A native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Hawes has achieved a hitting percentage of .227 and is also a key defensive player, ranking second on the team in digs with 295. Her performance has been critical to WNE's strong season start, and her leadership on the court is setting an example for the team.





Men's Golf

First-year Derek Johnson has been a breakout star for the Western New England men's golf team, showcasing his talent in all five tournaments this fall. Johnson's first collegiate match was at the Duke Nelson Invitational at Middlebury College, where he excelled, shooting even par over the 36-hole tournament and finishing second overall out of 120 golfers. In the season's most crucial event, the Conference of New England Championships, Johnson tied for third place out of 45 golfers, helping the Golden Bears improve their standing with a fifth-place team finish, up from last year's eighth place.

Men's Cross Country

Graduate student Matt Provost of the WNE men's cross-country team made program history this season by setting a new record for the fastest 8K time. Provost achieved this milestone on home ground during the Western New England Cross Country Invitational, finishing in 26:45 and maintaining an impressive pace of five minutes and 23 seconds per mile. His record-breaking run surpassed the previous 8K program record of 26:51 and led the team to a strong fourth-place finish out of 17 competing teams.



TRIUMPHS IN ATHLETICS



WNE Women's Teams Capture CCC Glory

Western New England University Golden Bears have not just competed but have dominated, marking their territory in the annals of the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Championships. In a dazzling display of skill, determination, and teamwork, both our women's ice hockey and basketball teams claimed their CCC titles, sending waves of excitement across Golden Bear Nation.

Ice Hockey: A Historic Victory on Home Ice

The WNE women’s ice hockey team, in a thrilling face-off against Curry College, clinched their first-ever CCC Championship with a victorious 5-3 score. This monumental win, achieved in just the third year since the team’s formation, is a testament to their hard work, unity, and the visionary leadership of Head Coach Katie Zimmerman. Reflecting on this achievement, Coach Zimmerman shared, “Winning the CCC championship on home ice was an unforgettable experience. It’s a testament to the resilience and spirit of our players. This victory is for everyone who believes in us — the first chapter in our history-making journey to the NCAA national tournament.”

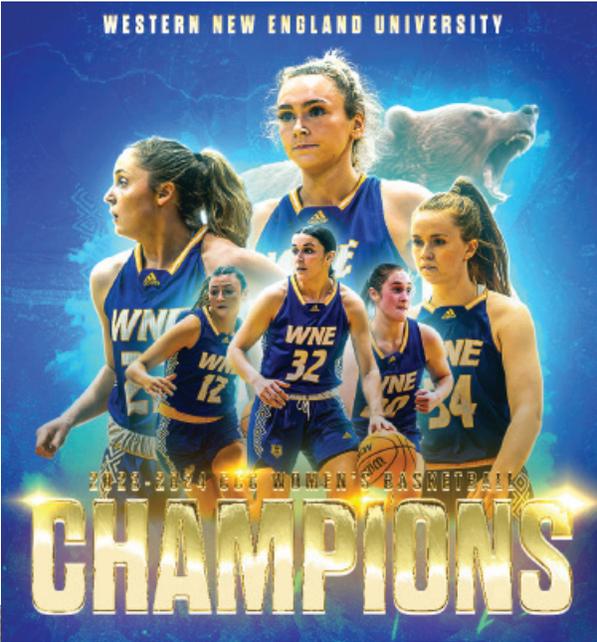
Basketball: A Nail-Biting Clinch to the Championship

Not to be outdone, the WNE women’s basketball team seized the CCC title in a nail-biting match against the

University of New England, with a final score of 50-49. This triumph marks their return to the CCC pinnacle for the first time since the 2018-2019 season and propels them into the NCAA Championships, a feat last achieved in the 2019-2020 season. Coach Nicole Chaszar praised her team’s collective effort, highlighting their resilience in overcoming season-long adversity. “This championship was a total team effort. Our players showed incredible dedication and tenacity, embodying the true spirit of Golden Bears,” stated Chaszar.

Both teams’ victories underscore the exceptional talent, dedication, and spirit of our student-athletes, who excel not only in their sports but also in leadership, academics, and community engagement. As we celebrate these historic wins, we’re reminded of the dynamic and supportive environment at WNE that fosters excellence both on and off the field.

Golden Bear Nation is buzzing with anticipation as our champions prepare for their respective NCAA tournaments. These achievements are a beacon of inspiration for future generations of WNE athletes, proving that with passion, teamwork, and determination, Golden Bears always shine brightest.



Loredana Randazzo '24/OTD'26

Cognitive Curiosities

HOMETOWN: AGAWAM, MA

MAJOR: 3+3 BA in
PSYCHOLOGY/OTD PROGRAM

Loredana Randazzo's academic journey at Western New England University has been nothing short of remarkable. A native of Agawam, MA, and a first-generation scholar, Loredana has seamlessly transitioned from an undergraduate Psychology major into the demanding Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program.

Reflecting on her undergraduate experience, Loredana shares, "I've always been interested in the human mind. Each person has their own train of thoughts, their likes and dislikes, making each one of us unique." This fascination with individual uniqueness fueled her pursuit of psychology and now informs her studies in occupational therapy.

During her time in the undergraduate program, Loredana achieved a notable 3.86 GPA and was a consistent presence on the President's and Dean's lists. She explains the value of her rigorous academic path, "Within psychology, we learn a lot about differences in human interaction, especially in courses like Abnormal Psychology where we go in-depth about all the different disorders that arise in our current society."

As the former president of the Psychology Club, Loredana took significant strides in enhancing student engagement and fostering connections between students and the administration. Her leadership extended beyond

administrative roles, as she actively participated in campus life through the Emerging Leaders Program, Pre-Med Club, and Commuter Council. She also volunteered her time as a note-taker for Student Accessibility Services, reflecting her commitment to inclusivity and support for all students.

Her passion for understanding and helping others didn't pause at the campus edges. Loredana spent her summers as a camp counselor, applying her psychological knowledge in real-world settings, and shadowed professionals in her field to gain firsthand experience. "I personally am doing research with one of my professors, and that definitely expanded my knowledge outside of the field of psychology," she notes, highlighting the practical application of her academic studies.

Now in the OTD program, Loredana is focused on specializing in neonatal care. "I am super excited for what the future holds and I feel that this university has allowed me to understand my potential and really conquer my future goals," she states with confidence about her ongoing journey at WNE.

Loredana's narrative is a testament to the rich, integrative educational environment at Western New England University, which prepares students like her not just for careers but for meaningful contributions to society.



The 3+3 BA in Psychology/OTD program is an accelerated track of the Psychology major that provides a pathway for qualified students to be admitted to the WNE Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



DISCOVER THE WORLD



At Western New England University, we believe in the power of exploration to not only enhance your education but to transform your worldview.

Through our study abroad programs, students are given the unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse tapestry of our global society. From delving into foreign cultures and institutions to honing language skills, these experiences prepare our

Golden Bears for the challenges and opportunities of a globally interconnected workforce. Whether it's a faculty-led seminar in the bustling streets of Paris or a summer course amidst Australia's stunning landscapes, where will your curiosity take you? Read on as our students share their unforgettable journey to Italy from Summer 2024, showcasing the profound impact of stepping out into the world with WNE.

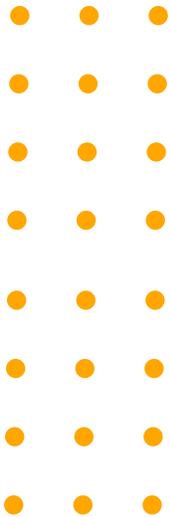


Meghan Sassi '25

"What truly set this experience apart was the opportunity to witness centuries upon centuries of history. As a History major, my exposure was typically limited to sites dating back to the era of the Pilgrims. However, the chance to explore places like Pompeii and the Palace of Caserta, and to step foot in ancient cathedrals, was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Equally unforgettable was the boundless generosity of the Italian people, who opened their businesses and homes to us, imparting invaluable lessons along the way. Overall, this trip truly was the experience of a lifetime, and it taught me so much about communicating with those from another country."

Jacob Jones '26

"While in Italy, I was not only able to expand my understanding of business and cultural communication, but I was able to engage in life-changing experiences that completely changed my worldview and my understanding of different cultures. I feel like one of the luckiest men alive to have been able to open my mind up to another lifestyle and along the way build friendships I hope to keep far well past our departure. Having an experience outside your comfort zone is what broadens your perspective and enhances your knowledge."



Brianne Dube '25

"I was nervous about the study abroad trip at first, but little did I know, it would be one of the best experiences of my life. This trip allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone, embrace a new culture, and make many great connections. Not only did I get to experience living in a new area across the world for three weeks without my family, but I was also able to learn so much from this trip and the site visits we explored. It is one thing to talk about culture in a classroom, but to see it first-hand makes such a difference. It truly is the experience of a lifetime. I would highly recommend that people take a chance to have this experience."



Young Alumni Spotlight

Sean Alvord '24/MSA'25: Finance & Futures

Sean Alvord of Westfield, MA, a recent graduate in Finance and Accounting and current Master of Science in Accounting student at Western New England University, has not only excelled in his academic pursuits but has also made significant strides in extra-curricular arenas, particularly as the Student Senate president in 2023-24.

Sean's journey at Western New England University is marked by his double major in Finance and Accounting, a decision that he describes as transformative. "I initially came in as a Finance major but soon realized the intricate connection between finance and accounting. It's a symbiosis where each discipline complements and enhances the understanding of the other," Sean explains. This interconnection was particularly evident in his coursework, where principles from one field would often illuminate concepts in the other, enriching his overall academic experience.

Beyond the classroom, Sean's leadership skills were honed through his role as the president of the Student Senate, where he managed significant budgetary responsibilities and engaged in extensive financial decision-making. "Being in charge of a budget as large as \$700,000, you learn quickly about the real-world implications of financial management," Sean states. This experience not only prepared him for future professional roles but also allowed him to influence the University's fiscal strategies positively.

Sean's academic prowess and extracurricular dedication culminated in a study abroad experience in Sorrento, Italy, where he deepened his understanding of global business practices and Italian culture. Reflecting on his time abroad, Sean shares, "The experience broadened my worldview and reinforced my belief in the importance of seeing and changing the world."

As he looks toward his future, Sean's aspirations are clear. With a dream role of becoming a chief financial officer, he is well on his path, equipped with a robust educational foundation and a comprehensive understanding of both theoretical and applied finance and accounting.

Sean's story at Western New England University is one of ambition, discipline, and scholarly excellence. It exemplifies how the University not only prepares its students for professional success but also for personal growth and global engagement.







WESTERN
NEW ENGLAND
UNIVERSITY

Parent Connections
TOGETHER
in Partnership



DON'T WORRY, MOM AND DAD *We've Got This!*

Seeing your teenager leave the nest for the first time may be a brand new experience for you. It may even be a challenging one, and that's natural.

But at Western New England University, it's not new for us. It's part of what we do. For over a century, we've welcomed countless students into our campus family and ensured that they are well taken care of from day one. Over time, WNE will become your child's home away from home, and our hope is for you, as a parent, to feel comfortable sending them to us.

WE'RE INTENTIONALLY SMALL AND INTENSELY PERSONAL

On our campus, your student won't just be a number or a face in the crowd. They will be a valued member of our community from the moment they step foot on campus, and they'll have many ways to feel connected to the WNE spirit.

At WNE, your children are our priority. You can rest assured that they are in good hands on our campus, among like-minded peers and professionals trained to provide a safe, healthy, and happy college experience.

Summer Orientation (SOAR)

Summer Orientation (SOAR) is a series of on-campus sessions with a companion parent/guardian program where we officially welcome students to our learning community. This unique WNE tradition provides a preview of life as a first-year Golden Bear and an overview of important resources on campus. Your student will receive tips on how to make a smooth transition to life as a WNE college student and get to know their fellow classmates!

Clubs and Organizations

Once the school year begins, students will be able to choose from more than 70 clubs and organizations on campus, bringing together like-minded peers through dozens of recreational, academic, and cultural interests.

Comprehensive Advising

WNE's distinctive academic advising program ensures that your child has a team of advisors looking out for their academic and personal well-being from day one.

Our Faculty and University Advisors support students in exploring majors and minors, meeting curriculum and major requirements, and navigating career and internship options.

To make the transition to college an even better experience, our Peer Advisors are eager to help. These seasoned Golden Bears coach each first-year student in the formation of a personal success plan that establishes clear direction and purpose.

Our goal is to help all students succeed — not only now, in college, but in whatever their future has in store.

WE SUPPORT STUDENTS' HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Center for Health and Well-Being is one of the most comprehensive facilities of its kind in the region and offers both medical services and educational programs to promote a healthy community. The Center provides efficient, comprehensive, and confidential healthcare for University students.

Open all year both in person and via telemedicine when necessary, the Center for Health and Well-Being also has a healthcare provider on call for urgent health concerns after hours.



If you have questions or concerns at any time, we are here to support you, too.



WE WANT YOU TO BE INVOLVED, TOO!

When you drop your child off on move-in day, that isn't the end of your involvement in their college life. At Western New England University, we believe that families often make a difference in a student's college experience. That's why we've partnered with Campus ESP to provide a tailored communication service that keeps you informed and engaged. Through personalized content, important event notifications, deadlines, and reminders, you'll have all the tools to help your student stay on track.



The Center for Health and Well-Being is structured much like an urgent care center and staffed by board-certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Services include physical exams; immunizations; orthopedics; women's health; STD testing; rapid strep, mono, pregnancy, flu, COVID-19, and urine testing; small surgical procedures; EKG and diagnostic testing; lab work; prescriptions; health education; and specialty referrals.

Mental health is a priority, and Counseling Services makes connecting with a counselor easy for students, with same-day appointments available for urgent needs. WNE counselors are caring, licensed professionals who provide confidential help to students with personal, social, and educational concerns. A WNE counselor is always on call 24/7 for crisis situations.

Safety and Security is Our Business

WNE's Department of Public Safety provides a full range of safety and crime-prevention services.

- 24-hour police patrols, surveillance cameras, and emergency phones throughout campus
- Fire and environmental safety efforts
- Medical first responders
- Security escorts
- Educational programs on topics such as alcohol and drug use, personal safety, and fire safety
- Rave Guardian app
- Bear, our WNE K9 comfort dog
- Community service officers who engage with the campus community and assist with service-related calls
- Access cards to residence halls, offices, and academic buildings

In short, we are a safe campus, and the primary concern of the Department of Public Safety is to keep it that way so that your student can focus on college life.

Roman Lee '27/L'29

Ask a G-Bear

HOMETOWN: HARTFORD, CT

MAJOR: 3+3 BUSINESS AND LAW

By Briana Strobel '17/G'23

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Roman Lee, and I came to Western New England University as a Computer Science major but recently changed to the 3+3 program that will fast-track me to the WNE University School of Law. I come from a family where I'm one of seven siblings, and I'm the first to attend college. I grew up with so many people around me, and I credit them for making me want to be a better person — to help people — which is why I switched my major, so I can help those that might not be able to help themselves.

In addition to my studies and spending time with my family, I have started to make motivational videos that I share on social media to inspire people to continue working hard and achieving results. I am a strong believer that if you want something, you must go and do it in order to achieve it. I started doing this for myself as a self-motivator, but then I thought, if I could show people that their goals are achievable, and if all they needed was a little motivation, I could be that person.

Outside of the classroom, how do you spend your time and how are you involved on campus?

I really enjoy photography. I picked up this hobby by chance in high school, shooting athletic games and friends. I never imagined I would be a member of the University's media team as a work-study student. In this role, I've been fortunate enough to learn from those within the team and be exposed to different elements of photography that I hadn't previously seen.

I also love basketball. I've been playing since I was 5 years old and played all through high school. This was the first year I didn't play due to an injury my senior year, which pushed me out of love with the sport.

However, taking time off and attending games this year as a photographer with the University Marketing team helped me realize that I was on the wrong side of the court. I am currently practicing with the team during their off-season with the goal of trying out next season.

Why did you choose Western New England University?

I gravitated toward WNE after touring multiple institutions that didn't feel right. After having a conversation with a guidance counselor, they recommended checking WNE out at the school's college fair. I toured and submitted my application, and it was during my visit on Accepted Students Day that I knew this was the place for me. Everyone was nice, and there was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm that made me want to be a part of it. Not only was the energy a factor, but WNE was also the only college that offered me financial support. I am the proud recipient of the Presidential Scholarship, a scholarship that I can receive every year.

Since arriving, that energy I experienced at Accepted Students Day has continued, between the support from my peer advisor Allison, who always reaches out with a text or greets me with a smile, to how inclusive the campus is — it's very uplifting to be able to walk around campus and feel like no one is a stranger. That's one of my favorite parts about this community, that no matter how different you are from the next person, you can count on the fact that you will be included and welcomed.



What are your goals after graduation?

I am hoping to help people, whether that's as a personal injury lawyer like my father, or as a real estate agent — I will be taking the real estate license test this summer. I've seen firsthand the impact my dad and stepmom have on the people they help by owning their own law firm in Hartford, and I want to be able to do the same. And, who knows, maybe I can one day use both to accomplish that.

As you round out your first year, what are you excited about for the future, and what do you think you'll change moving forward?

I can confidently say I am excited to no longer have to take 8 a.m. classes. Waking up for those was brutal. With college comes a lot of change, something I'm not adverse to. So, for me, trying to figure out the balance of fun, schoolwork, and downtime has been a struggle, but I'm starting to navigate that better. I found the best solution has been meeting people and surrounding myself with those that are positive and supportive. Next year, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to try out for the men's basketball team, but as I look to the future, I'm excited for this opportunity to continue my education. I know that once I start that new chapter of life after graduation, my degree from WNE will help me achieve my goals.





WNE STUDENT HUB

Our Centralized Gateway to Success

At Western New England University, we understand that the transition to university life can be daunting for students and their families.

That's why we've established the Student Hub, located on the second floor of the St. Germain Campus Center. This central, accessible space is dedicated to eliminating the confusion and barriers often encountered in larger institutions. Here, students will find all the answers they need, or be directed precisely where to go for support — ensuring they never feel lost or overwhelmed. The Student Hub serves as a comprehensive resource center, specifically designed to bolster every aspect of student life, from academic achievement to social-emotional well-being and personal development.

The Student Hub encapsulates our holistic approach to education, uniting the offices of Student Life, the Dean of Students, University Advising, and Career Coaches under one welcoming roof. This centralized system not only simplifies students' access to essential services but also fosters a nurturing environment where all can flourish. Jeanne Powers, the newly appointed executive director of the Student Hub, emphasizes, "Our goal is to provide seamless access to resources that support every aspect of student life, from academic advising to emotional well-being."

Cultivating First-Year Success at the Cub Hub

Complementing the broad offerings of the Student Hub is the Cub Hub, a specialized sector dedicated to supporting first-year students.

This vibrant branch springs from Western New England's commitment to ensuring a smooth transition for newcomers. Over a six-week program, first-year students are immersed in a structured series of events and activities designed to integrate them into the University community seamlessly. From mentorship with Peer Advisors and Life Skills Mentors to engagement with Career Coaches, the Cub Hub lays a robust foundation for the academic and personal journeys of Western New England's newest members.

Dynamic Spaces for Dynamic Learning

The Student Hub is more than just an administrative center — it's a vibrant community space where students can engage with peers, participate in weekly events like Cookies in the Student Hub, and enjoy First-Year Fridays. These initiatives not only encourage academic and social engagement but also build a supportive network that extends beyond the classroom. The Hub's flexible design includes areas for students to relax and study between classes, making it a central part of daily student life.

As Western New England University continues to adapt to the needs of its student body, the Student Hub and Cub Hub stand as pillars of the institution's dedication to fostering well-rounded, successful individuals. Through these innovative spaces, WNE reiterates its pledge to support its students at every step of their educational journey, preparing them not just for professional success but for global citizenship in an ever-evolving world.







EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

As you start your college journey, your interests may be pulled in unexpected directions — and that's normal!

Embarking on your college journey marks the beginning of a new chapter, full of potential, discovery, and decision-making. As you step into this exciting phase of life, it's perfectly natural to feel uncertain about which path to choose. In fact, about a third of college students change their major at least once, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

At Western New England University, we understand the weight of this decision and the importance of finding the right fit for your unique interests and goals. That's why we've designed our academic structure to be as supportive and flexible as possible, ensuring you have the space and time to explore a wide array of disciplines. Whether you're drawn to the arts and sciences, fascinated by engineering, or intrigued by the dynamics of business, WNE offers a rich landscape of opportunities to explore.

Here, you're not required to declare your major until your sophomore year. This deliberate approach gives you ample time to delve into different subjects, engage with diverse ideas, and uncover new passions. And should you decide to change your major, our dedicated faculty and team of advisors are here to help you make an informed decision about your academic and professional future. After all, selecting a major isn't just about choosing a subject to study — it's about aligning your passions with your future career and personal aspirations.



As you consider the next steps on your academic journey, we invite you to peruse our comprehensive list of undergraduate programs. Each has been thoughtfully designed to prepare students for success in an ever-changing global landscape. Discover the possibilities that await you at WNE and imagine where they might take you.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Actuarial Science
 American Studies
 Biology+
 Chemistry+
 Communication+

- Health Communication
- Media and Journalism
- Public Relations

 Computer Science+
 Creative Writing+
 Criminal Justice+

- Criminal Investigation
- Homeland Security and Terrorism
- Victim Studies

 Cybersecurity+
 Data Science and Statistics
 Economics+
 Education+

- Elementary
- Secondary

 English+
 Forensic Biology
 Forensic Chemistry
 Health Sciences+
 Health Studies
 History+
 Information Technology+
 Integrated Studies
 International Studies+
 Law
 Mathematical Sciences+
 Political Science+
 Pre-Optometry
 Pre-Physician Assistant
 Psychology+
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Business Administration*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Organizational Leadership*
 3+3 Health Studies/OTD*
 3+3 Law Program*
 3+3 Psychology/OTD*

+ Offered as both a major and minor
 * Combined degree

MINORS

African American Studies
 Art
 Athletic Coaching
 Biomedical Physics
 Campaigns and Elections
 Computer Forensics
 Digital Publishing
 Environmental Science
 Film Studies
 Forensic Science
 Journalism
 Latin American Studies
 Legal Studies
 Media
 Music
 Philosophy
 Public Administration
 Public Relations
 Quantitative Economics
 Religious Studies
 Social Justice
 Sociology
 Spanish
 Statistics
 Theatre
 Women's and Gender Studies

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Neuroscience+
 Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Management
 Pharmacy (0-6 Program)
 3+1 Neuroscience/MS in Pharmacogenomics*
 3+2 Neuroscience/MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences*
 3+3 Neuroscience/OTD*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Accounting+
 Business Analytics and Information Management
 Finance+
 General Business
 Human Resource Management+
 Management and Leadership
 Marketing+
 Marketing Communication/Advertising
 Sport Management
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Business Administration*

Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Accounting*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Organizational Leadership*
 Four-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Accounting*
 3+3 Law Program*

MINORS

Business
 Entrepreneurship
 Enterprise Resource Planning with SAP
 Entertainment Management
 Digital Marketing
 International Business Management

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Biomedical Engineering
 Civil Engineering

- Environmental
- Railway

 Computer Engineering
 Construction Management
 Electrical Engineering
 Industrial Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering

- Mechatronics
- Aerospace Engineering

 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Civil Engineering*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Construction Management*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Electrical Engineering*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Engineering Management*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Industrial Engineering*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering*
 Five-year Bachelor/MBA*
 Five-year Bachelor/Master of Science in Organizational Leadership*
 Six-year Engineering/Law*

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