

OPTIMIZING THE MARQUETTE EXPERIENCE

The Ready to Inspire Success and Excellence (RISE) program:
So every Marquette student may shine.

Adjusting to college life and earning a degree are hard enough for *any* student. To optimize the Marquette experience for multicultural and first-generation students who sometimes do not feel at home on campus, the Division of Student Affairs created the **Ready to Inspire Success and Excellence** program. **RISE** provides curricular and co-curricular offerings that begin the summer before freshman year and run through graduation, helping students from underrepresented backgrounds make the most of the Marquette experience to reach their full potential.

RISE embodies Marquette's Catholic charism and Jesuit differentiation — meeting individuals where they're at in their personal and professional journey to ensure equality among all God's children, each of us called to serve the greater good.

Outcomes. Needs. Opportunities.

Today's RISE

- Collaborates across campus — from Career Services to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Be it focus groups on pursuing internships, lunches with the provost to explore the potential of graduate school or fun, cohort-bonding socials such as Marquette basketball games, RISE offers engaging opportunities for program participants to make the most of the Marquette experience.
- Continues to grow since its launch in 2018:
 - Initial cohort of 47 freshmen representing the Class of 2022.
 - A community of 179 that currently includes freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.
 - Recent addition of nine peer mentors — RISE “veterans” who choose to pay it forward by helping incoming program participants transition to college and feel part of a vibrant, caring community.
 - Recipient of the 2019 Ignatian Medal for Outstanding Commitment to Diversity and Social Justice, awarded through the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Mission critical

- Approximately 29% and 22% of current freshmen to begin the fall 2020 semester are persons of color and first-generation students, respectively.
- Marquette's values-rooted mission compels us to do more...
 - To expand the RISE program's annual freshman cohort from 50 to 80.
 - Ultimately to serve 300 students across the freshman through senior classes.



RISE community with Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell and Division of Student Affairs Vice President Xavier Cole, summer 2019



“My time at Marquette University has allowed me to flourish and become the best version of myself. My journey began with the RISE orientation, where I met and built strong connections with other students and faculty of color. RISE launched my college adventure: meeting new people and leaning into my majors, Theatre Arts and Psychology — I plan to pursue a career in Drama Therapy. Double-majoring has posed

many challenges; however, the relationships and opportunities stemming from RISE and other school activities have allowed me to make a difference in the Marquette community and in my home community in Denver, Colorado. RISE truly has opened doors I otherwise may never have knocked upon. Thankfully, my first two years at Marquette have strengthened my drive to succeed in Drama Therapy, which I see as a way to give back, help others, and continue to make positive change in the world.”

SHYLA KYSER

*Majors: Theatre and Psychology; Hometown: Denver, CO
Class of 2022*



“It’s hard to believe that I am about to start my junior year at Marquette, and so far, I have enjoyed my time as an underclassman. Even though things will be looking a little bit different this time around due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am still excited for what’s to come. With all

this change, I have even more to learn about managing my time and engaging with my peers and professors in different ways, but I also know that I’m not alone. I have found a lot of friends and resources through RISE and my time living on campus, and I truly enjoy my Marquette experience. I can confidently say that I feel good moving forward and if I need anything, I know I am in good hands.”

MAX DIXON

*Mechanical Engineering; Hometown: Milwaukee, WI
Class of 2022*

Tomorrow’s RISE

Students like Shyla and Max are among the faces that inspire us to do more. We envision expanded program capacity for a comprehensive initiative as described below, to help students grow throughout their undergraduate journey.

Freshmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel welcomed and develop confidence while acclimating to college and campus life.
Sophomores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore identity and leadership development. • Benefit from scholarship and mentoring opportunities.
Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish networks. • Contemplate vocational and personal callings.
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream beyond graduation and how their transformative Marquette experience enables them to “Be The Difference.”

Impact in action: Rising to the occasion

Please consider making a gift to build the RISE endowment. Your generosity will help the program reach its full potential, empowering students from diverse backgrounds who need to feel like they belong as they seek to be their best. You can help them take full advantage of all that Marquette University has to offer academically, socially and spiritually.

For more information on how you may help optimize the Marquette experience, contact:

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