

FIND FURMAN

FOSTERING INCLUSION FOR NEURODIVERSITY



WHAT IS FIND FURMAN?

FIND Furman is a new program to support students who identify as neurodivergent who are transitioning into college life. FIND Furman seeks to support neurodivergent students in the following ways:

- Offering an early orientation experience
- Providing students with a peer mentor
- FIND Furman social events
- One-on-one coaching
- Providing a sensory lounge that is open to all students

It is our hope that FIND Furman will help make the transition to college a smooth one. Supports are guided by each student's needs and preferences. If you have specific concerns or goals, let your coach know, and they will be happy to guide you! FIND Furman is a program of the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR).

EARLY ORIENTATION

During the week move-ins take place, FIND Furman students have the opportunity to move in early and get settled before the excitement and event-filled freshmen orientation takes place. During early orientation, FIND Furman freshmen will be paired with a peer mentor, who will show them around campus and introduce them to college life, as well as answer any questions they may have.

The early orientation activities include:

- A family dinner with the student and their family, their peers and their families, and SOAR staff to help them get acquainted with the Furman Dining Hall
- Residence Hall Life Q&A with a Housing staff member
- Socials with fellow FIND Furman freshmen
- Campus tour with a peer mentor to locate classrooms
- Campus scavenger hunt
- "What to Expect at Orientation" workshop to prepare for Orientation Weekend
- Get connected with other supports, as needed



PEER MENTOR

SOAR will provide FIND Furman students with a peer mentor who will act as an informal guide to college life, as well as support their mentee in an casual, friendly capacity. They will show their mentee around campus during Early Orientation.

FIND Furman students then meet with their peer mentor on a weekly basis, whether formally or informally. They can grab dinner, a coffee, play games together, take a walk around the lake, whatever they like! Whatever their comfort level, their peer mentor is there to guide them and offer insight during the transition into college.

FIND FURMAN SOCIAL EVENTS

FIND Furman students will suggest and/or vote for various social events each week. These socials are meant to be relaxed, low-key, low-obligation events to encourage students to get to know each other and build a network of connections. Social events can include:

- Game nights
- Movie nights
- Group meals
- Campus events, such as concerts and shows
- and more!

ONE-ON-ONE COACHING

FIND Furman students meet on a weekly basis with their coach throughout the year, or as needed. During these meetings, the student determines what they would like to discuss or work on. This can include, but is not limited to:

- Life skills coaching
- Academic coaching
- Social skills coaching - our approach to social skills coaching is one of utilizing the student's strengths to help with navigating social interactions. We recognize the need for students to express themselves in a way that feels natural and comfortable.
- General advice and guidance

STUDENT SENSORY LOUNGE

The Student Office for Accessibility Resources is happy to provide Furman students with a Sensory Lounge in the lower level of Hipp Hall, in room 010. The sensory lounge is equipped with customizable lighting, including dimmable lamps, a bean bag chair, fidgets, weighted blankets and lap pads, a dry erase board for studying, and candy/snacks that are available to all students. The sensory lounge is open from 7am-10pm.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR FURMAN STUDENTS

Furman provides all students with a number of additional support services and resources. SOAR is happy to facilitate getting connected with these services. From Peer Assisted Learning, to Counseling, Furman students are well supported by a comprehensive net of collaborating professionals! These resources include:

- The Center for Academic Success:
 - <https://www.furman.edu/academics/center-academic-success/>
- Peer Assisted Learning (Tutoring):
 - <https://www.furman.edu/academics/center-academic-success/tutoring/>
- Counseling Center:
 - <https://www.furman.edu/counseling-center/>
- Malone Center for Career Engagement:
 - <https://www.furman.edu/career-services/>
- Office of Spiritual Life:
 - <https://www.furman.edu/spiritual-life/>



FIND FOCUS STUDY HALL

Every Monday-Friday from 3pm to 5pm, SOAR hosts FIND Focus: a study hall for students who would like assistance with accountability and structured study time. FIND Focus is entirely optional - students can choose when to attend and how long to attend. Additionally, students are free to request individual FIND Focus time if their schedule does not allow for 3pm-5pm, but they still would like structured study time.

- At the beginning of FIND Focus, students will check in with their coach to inform them what they plan to work on or study that day. This will allow the coach to help hold them accountable, if needed.
- Students can elect to turn in their phones to the coach to reduce distractions.
- The coach will structure FIND Focus such that there will be 30 minutes of work followed by an optional 10 minute break. If a student feels in the zone, they are not required to take the break. If students elect to turn in their phones, the coach will return them for breaks.
- The coach is also available to help with study strategies during this time.

INTERESTED IN FIND FURMAN?

Please contact SOAR at soar@furman.edu or call us at (864) 294-2320.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about accessibility at Furman.

