

# Cougar Connector

## **POSITION TITLE**

Cougar Connector – 60 Positions Available

## **POSITION FUNCTION**

To facilitate and implement transition programs, such as New Student Orientation (NSO)/Transfer Student Orientation (TSO), Welcome Weekend (WW), and First Semester Transition (FST) courses, to involve and engage new students with current SIUE students, faculty, staff, and the Edwardsville community. Cougar Connectors will work with campus departments, businesses, and other organizations to provide an opportunity for new members of the campus community to transition in a safe and positive environment. This is a one-year appointment that students may re-apply for each year.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Be a degree seeking student
- Must be enrolled full time in Fall 2026 courses at SIUE (will check in spring 2026)
- Must be in good standing academically (cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher) and good standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher) the semester before we start training (Fall 2025).

\*Returners will be tentatively rehired pending official grade check in December or early January.

- Must be in good standing judicially at the time of application and throughout time on staff: No open conduct cases and past conduct cases will be subject to review and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Understand and support the goals of the transition programs
- Available to work during all required hours and attend all required trainings for assigned programs (see final page)
- Due to overlapping time commitments, Resident Assistants and Desk Managers cannot serve as Welcome Leaders or FST Leaders but are eligible for NSO/TSO positions.

## **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Strong work ethic: Willingness to get the job done
- Creative thinking skills
- Positive attitude
- Adaptable
- Ability to communicate with individuals from diverse backgrounds and varying personality types: Appreciation of the differences among individuals
- Punctuality
- Ability to work as an effective and productive team member
- Commitment to a high standard of ethical values and behavior
- Ability to be tactful and diplomatic in all situations
- Goal-oriented
- Passion for SIUE
- Dedication to serving the University and its students

## Specific Duties for Cougar Connector Programs

**NOTE:** Transition programs are designed and implemented through a team-driven process. Primary areas of responsibility are outlined below to assign areas of focus efficiently and effectively for each Cougar Connector. All Cougar Connectors help with aspects of the programs and event tasks when the need arises.

*\*Students can apply to work for a **minimum** of one program and a maximum of three programs. For example, one Cougar Connector could work NSO/TSO, WW, and FST. Another Cougar Connector could work NSO/TSO and FST.\**

### New Student Orientation and Transfer Student Orientation

- **Orientation Leader (18-20 positions)**

- Assist in the implementation of NSO and TSO for new students/transfer students and their families
- Serve as a role model for incoming students and guide tours of students and parents/guests
- Facilitate small groups during each orientation session
- Maintain contact with incoming students pre- and post-orientation to assist with questions
- Answer questions of students, parents, and guest and point out campus resources
- Adhere to the Cougar Connector Contract regarding policies, personal and professional conduct, and attitude
- Serve on student panels for family members and new students
- Lead team building activities and serve as a peer resource for fellow team members
- Work with the Assistant Director to create and present sessions, as needed
- Facilitate the logistics of each program, including set-up and teardown
- Other duties as assigned

\*Time commitment:

- Approximately 2 orientation sessions per week (7:00am-5:00pm)
- Mandatory training Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>-Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>

### Welcome Weekend (approximately 30-35 positions available)

- Provide assistance with the implementation of the Welcome Weekend program (fall new student welcome program) and ASK ME stations on the first day of classes
- Guide and support a group of new students through the entirety of the Welcome Weekend
- Work closely and effectively with fellow Welcome Leaders to make a memorable and welcoming environment for new students
- Initiate and develop open communication and interaction with your new students, fellow Welcome Leaders, and professional staff
- Serve as a positive role model, set an example, and passionately promote all that SIUE has to offer new students
- Adhere to the Cougar Connector Contract regarding policies, personal and professional conduct, and attitude
- Other duties as assigned

### **First Semester Transition Leaders (20 positions available)**

- Serve as a role model for first-year students during their FST course
- Create, develop, and design first-year student programming that will aid in transitioning into SIUE
- Connect with FST instructors to promote FST programming
- Connect with students using different methods: SIUE email, Teams, or in-person meetings
- Assist students with their matriculation into the University
- Serve as a mentor with extensive SIUE knowledge
- Provide opportunities for first-year students to engage and connect with the University
- Teach first-year students how to navigate the University through a student lens
- Adhere to the Cougar Connector Contract regarding policies, personal and professional conduct, and attitude
- Other duties as assigned

## **Cougar Connector Employment Information**

### **STIPENDS AND BENEFITS** (for all Cougar Connector Positions)

Cougar Connectors can potentially work for three transition programs/positions (NSO/TSO, WW, and FST) and receive compensation:

- New Student Orientation/Transfer Student Orientation: Stipend added to Cougar Card for Spring 2026 training; \$15/hour during orientation and related shifts
- Welcome Weekend: Stipend added to Cougar Card for Spring 2026 training; \$300 stipend added to Cougar Card after Welcome Weekend shifts
- First Semester Transition Courses: Stipend added to Cougar Card for Spring 2026 training; \$15/hour during the 8-week FST semester

In addition, Cougar Connectors will receive remuneration through various t-shirts, polos, bags, meals, early move-in, and other items, depending on which programs are assigned. Cougar Connectors will also develop leadership, facilitation, communication, and customer service skills by assisting new first-year and transfer students, as well as families, in their transition to SIUE.

## Cougar Connector 2026-2027 Timeline (Tentative)

\*Subject to change

### **Fall 2025**

November 17;	Monday	Application opens for returners
December 12; 12am	Friday	Returning Applications Due

### **Spring 2025**

January 12-30		Returning Applicants Interview
January 12		Application Opens for New Students
February 3	Tuesday	Returning Applicants Offered CC positions
Friday		New Applications Due
February 9-27		Individual and Group Interviews
March 3	Tuesday	New Applicants Receive CC Offer
March 6	Friday	New Applicants Accept/Decline CC Offer
April 13-17	TBD	** Cougar Connector Training
April 27-May 1	TBD	** Cougar Connector Social

### **Summer 2025**

May 27-June 4	Thursday	OL-Team: Logistics Training 1-4:30
June 5	Friday	New Student Orientation
June 8	Monday	New Student Orientation
June 12	Friday	New Student Orientation
June 15	Monday	New Student Orientation
June 16	Tuesday	New Student & Transfer Orientation
June 25	Thursday	New Student Orientation
June 26	Friday	New Student Orientation
June 29	Monday	New Student Orientation
June 30	Tuesday	Transfer Student Orientation
July 23	Thursday	Transfer Student Orientation
July 24	Friday	Transfer Student Orientation
July 27	Monday	New Student Orientation
July 28	Tuesday	New Student Orientation
July 31	Friday	New Student Orientation

### **Fall 2025**

August 18; 1pm-5pm	Tuesday	FST Mentors Logistics Training
August 19-20; 8am-5:00pm	Wednesday-Thursday	WW Logistics Training
August 21-23; 7am-12am	Friday-Sunday	WW: Welcome Weekend
August 24; 1 hr. shift	Monday	WW: Ask Me
August 24; 2-3hrs/week	Monday	FST Mentors: Courses Begin
October 18		FST Mentors: Courses End
December 4	Friday	New Student Orientation
January 10	Sunday	New Student Orientation