

OPTIMIZING THE MARQUETTE EXPERIENCE

The Ready to Inspire Success and Excellence (RISE) program



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

TIME TO RISE

THE MARQUETTE PROMISE TO BE THE DIFFERENCE

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 may otherwise struggle to 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 journeys 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 attract participants since its launch in 2018:
 - A new cohort of 40 freshmen representing the Class of 2027.
 - A community of approximately 265 participants, including freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.
 - Fifteen peer mentors — RISE “veterans” paying it forward by helping incoming program participants transition to college and feel part of a vibrant, caring community.
- Serves as a model, earning the 2019 Ignatian Medal for Outstanding Commitment to Diversity and Social Justice awarded through the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Mission critical

- Approximately 33 percent and 23 percent of freshmen who began in the fall 2023 semester are persons of color and first-generation students, respectively.
- Marquette's values-rooted mission calls us to do more...
 - To expand the RISE program's annual freshman cohort from 40 to 80.
 - Ultimately to serve 320 students across the freshman through senior classes.





"RISE has been a pivotal point in my college career. I'm so thankful to be part of such a great program. It has allowed me to form genuine friendships with like-minded students who are striving for excellence. I have met friends through RISE whom I know I can always count on for advice

and support. The program has provided me with not only resources to navigate college life but also practical life skills. I am confident that after being a part of RISE, I have a stronger support system to lean on when challenges may arise. I am excited to see what is to come during my next two years at Marquette. Moving forward, I know that I am not alone and that there are people who are rooting for me and my success."

AMYAH BROOKS

*Social Justice and Welfare; Hometown: Appleton, WI
Class of 2025*



"RISE was a beautiful kickstart to my college career. I participated during my freshman year, and it captivated me because of all the support and growth it promised. I gained my closest friends from this program and the instant support of faculty that I didn't know I needed. They saw me for who I am and who I could be; they gave me the confidence and the opportunity to step into leadership positions and to step outside my comfort zone. RISE provided me with the comfort I needed when

coming to college. Stepping into the loving open arms of this program and never ceasing to laugh or smile had set the tone for my attitude at Marquette. The program connected me with such wonderful people who put my parents at ease, and me in an advantage I wouldn't have had in other circumstances. This year, I became a RISE mentor and was able to provide incoming freshmen with an experience similar to what I had when coming into this program. My confidence in myself and my leadership skills skyrocketed when working with the mentees and bonding with my peers. RISE is an amazing program that every student of color should be a part of."

JASMINE SCOTT

*Psychology; Hometown: Milwaukee, WI
Urban Scholar/Honors Program, Class of 2026*

Tomorrow's RISE

Students like Amyah and Jasmine 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

Sophomores

Juniors

Seniors

- Feel welcomed and develop confidence while acclimating to college and campus life.

- Explore identity and leadership development.
- Benefit from scholarship and mentoring opportunities.

- Establish networks.
- Contemplate vocational and personal callings.

- 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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