



"Education is life. It involves growth, development, and training."
– Woodbridge N. Ferris



Ferris Youth Initiative Contact

For more information, please contact FYI's Coordinator of Independent Living

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Ferris Youth Initiative Mentoring Program

If you would like more information regarding Ferris State University or the Ferris Youth Initiative, including a scholarship application and mentoring program details, please contact Janette Ward or visit:

Ferris State University
ferris.edu

Diversity and Inclusion Office
ferris.edu/diversity



Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI) Mission

To positively impact the lives of foster care youth and low-income orphans who attend Ferris State University. The Ferris Youth Initiative program is designed to provide support and learning opportunities throughout students' academic careers by incorporating academic success, character development and positive, holistic approaches to their well-being.

Ferris Youth Initiative Goals

- To help FYI students successfully complete college degrees
- To provide dedicated academic guidance and support services
- To help build character and life skills in preparation for the world of work
- To provide specialized mentoring by faculty and staff
- To help students develop effective coping strategies for greater confidence and success

**Current and
new students
may apply**

Ferris Youth Initiative Mentoring Program

The FYI Mentorshape program is designed to provide a strong foundation for participants to develop practical life skills, positive citizenship, supportive networking opportunities, effective problem solving skills and resources to aid them in living independently as students and community members. In the program, a student is paired with a faculty or staff member who will assist with concerns related to the transition to college, proper academic support, personal wellness, campus involvement, time management and other issues that may impact a participant's ability to succeed.

To maximize their experience in the FYI Mentorshape program, participants are required to:

- Attend classes on the Big Rapids campus of Ferris State University
- Reside in on-campus housing for the first 2 years in the FYI program
- Participate in individual and group FYI activities
- Meet regularly with an assigned mentor
- Participate in academic monitoring
- Meet regularly with an academic advisor
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by FAFSA
- Abide by Ferris' Code of Student Community Standards.

Ferris Youth Initiative Scholarship Information

Recipients of the FYI scholarship receive up to \$4,000 per year, to be applied to any direct costs at Ferris State (such as tuition and fees, room and board, and textbooks and supplies). Applicants are advised to apply early, as the FYI program is limited to 20 students.

The scholarship is available to current and new students who

1. Have been admitted to Ferris
2. Are 24 years of age or younger on January 1 of the enrollment year
3. *If orphaned*, provide verifying documentation
4. *If foster youth*, qualify for the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) or Refugee Educational Voucher (REV)
5. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
6. Demonstrate unmet need as determined by the FAFSA
7. Enroll in and attend classes on the Big Rapids campus
8. Reside in on-campus housing for the first 2 years in the FYI program.

The FYI scholarship can be renewed for each year that the student files a FAFSA and meets FYI program requirements.