Become a BMI Fellow
As a BMI Fellow you will have the opportunity to develop leadership and communication skills in a professional setting. Fellows will discover how to frame the UofL Black Male experience from a journalistic lens. Email brandyn.bailey@louisville.edu for details.

Brothers United
Brothers United is a recognized student organization at the University of Louisville focused on brotherhood, scholarship, community service, and increasing the success of men of color. Brothers United is the student extension of the Black Male Initiative. To learn more about joining Brothers United visit the portal Engage UofL. Membership is open to any UofL student.

Engage UofL

BMI on the interwebs
@uoflbmi
soundcloud.com/2centspodcast

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BLACK MALE INITIATIVE
ESTABLISHED 2011
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
About BMI

History
Historically, Black male college completion rates are lowest among both sexes and all racial/ethnic groups in U.S. higher education (Harper, 2008; Stryhnn, 2013). Additionally, Black men’s degree attainment is alarmingly low in comparison to their African American female counterparts (Harmer, 2012).

To address these disparities in student success, the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) Task Force, formally began the AAMI student success program in Fall 2011 with the goal of increasing African American male success from an anti-deficit approach.

Today, the African American Male Initiative at the University of Louisville continues to foster a connection to campus and provide a support system for more than 600 African American male students. The name was changed to BMI to purposely incorporate Black men from all parts of the globe.

Core Areas

Academic Excellence
BMI’s primary focus is to help students identify academic programs that align with their personal values and career goals. All participants are provided with individualized academic coaching by professional staff, that serve as a mentor, resource, and motivation to strive for academic success. The BMI coaching model allows for the development of long-term relationships, which allows for intrusive advising and early intervention to help students overcome barriers to success (academic, financial, personal, professional, etc.). Additionally, students are encouraged to utilize various campus support services based on their specific needs.

Mentor Support
BMI participants are exposed to a multitude of campus mentors. The BMI Advisor serves as the primary mentor for students in the program, in addition to other faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. Lastly, networking opportunities are provided to students to connect them with professionals in various fields.

Social Engagement
Strong connection with peers in the program also provides participants with mentor support. Brothers United provides students with brotherly camaraderie, and a group of driven peers who encourage service, success, and leadership.

Leadership Development
It’s proven that students involved in campus activities are more likely to succeed and even earn higher GPAs (Harmer, 2012). Therefore, participants are highly encouraged to become involved in student organizations. Many participants are involved with Brothers United and one or more other student organizations.

Benefits & Opportunities

BMI Living-Learning Community
The BMI LLC is a collaboration between the Cultural Center and the College of Arts and Sciences. Up to 28 first-year students participate in structured community experiences, take one to four classes together, and participate in BMI programming during their first year.

Early Arrival Program
EAP helps ease the high school to college transition for incoming students participating in Cultural Center student success initiatives. The two-day program allows students to move in early, and prepares students to be engaged, successful scholars through an enriching series of discussions, workshops, and social events to connect with peers and build relationships as part of their support system.

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