

New Student Orientation 2024

Charting New Waters



Navigating Your Journey at
Washington College



Charting New Waters: Navigating Your Journey at Washington College

Welcome to Washington College, where every student embarks on a unique journey shaped by the currents of the Eastern Shore and the vibrant community surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. Our orientation program, "Charting New Waters: Navigating your Journey at Washington College," is designed to help you explore new horizons, embrace diverse perspectives, and forge connections that will anchor your college experience.

Key Concepts

- **Flock and Community:** Just as birds flock together for strength and guidance, you'll discover the power of community at Washington College. Through shared experiences and collaborative learning, you'll find your place among a supportive and inclusive community.
- **Exploring the Eastern Shore:** Maryland's Eastern Shore is not just a location but a backdrop for exploration and adventure. From environmental studies to local history, you'll delve into the rich tapestry of this region and understand its impact on both the College and the Chestertown community.
- **Taking Risks and Trying New Things:** College is a time for growth, and "Charting New Waters" encourages you to step out of your comfort zone. Whether it's joining a new club, trying a new sport, or engaging in a challenging course, you'll be encouraged to embrace risks and learn from every experience.
- **Inclusivity and Diversity:** At Washington College, diversity is celebrated as a strength. You'll have opportunities to engage with students from different backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around you and your place within it.
- **Courageous Conversations:** We believe in the power of dialogue to spark change and growth. "Charting New Waters" includes sessions where you can ask difficult questions, engage in courageous conversations, and learn to communicate effectively across differences.
- **New Beginnings:** Your journey at Washington College is a new beginning filled with promise and possibility. Orientation marks the start of this transformative experience where you'll lay the foundation for academic success, personal growth, and lifelong friendships.



Charting New Waters: Navigating Your Journey at Washington College

Program Elements

- **Welcome Keynote:** Kick off your journey with an inspiring welcome that sets the tone for your college career and prepares you to engage in your new community with courage and civility.
- **Academic & Community Resource Sessions:** Dive into sessions that will give you all the tools to be successful in and out of the classroom.
- **Inclusive Dialogues:** Participate in facilitated discussions and attend gatherings focused on the College's efforts to celebrate diversity and to create an environment where "We All Belong."
- **Explore! Activities:** Enjoy activities and workshops that explore the Eastern Shore of Maryland and beyond while fostering new connections with your classmates, faculty, and staff.
- **Evening Social Gatherings:** When the day's events are done, gather with fellow classmates for events hosted by upperclassmen and College staff to relax and settle into your new home.

"Charting New Waters" is more than just an orientation—it's your compass for navigating the opportunities and challenges that await you at Washington College. Embrace the currents of change, discover new perspectives, and chart a course that leads to a fulfilling and successful college experience. Welcome aboard!



Monday, August 19th, 2024

8:00am – 12:00pm Check In & Residence Hall Move In, Various Locations

Students will check in at one of three locations based on your Fall Semester housing assignment. Commuter students will have a separate check-in location and time on the 19th. Please read through the information below to find your check-in location and for further instructions.

Fall Athletes: You will move-in on Thursday, August 15th. Be sure to check in with your coaches for specific move-in instructions. You can disregard the instructions below.

International Students: You will move-in on Wednesday, August 14th. Be sure to check in with the Global Education Office for specific move-in instructions. You can disregard the instructions below.

Business Office or Health Services Holds:

A hold may be placed on your student account, which typically means an issue needs to be resolved or you need to provide additional information to either the Business Office or Health Services. Students with holds on their accounts will not be able to move-in to their Residence Hall until those holds are resolved.

When you check-in, you'll be notified if there is a hold on your account. If you have a Business Office hold, staff from the Business Office will be on hand to meet with students and their parents/guardians in the lobby of Caroline House. If you have a Health Services hold, staff from Health Services will be on hand to meet with students and their parents/guardians in the Health Services Office, located between Caroline House and Queen Anne's House. Once your hold is resolved, you can report back to your check-in location to receive your room keys and welcome packet and begin moving in.

Check-In Process for Students Arriving on August 19th:

Based on your residence hall, report to one of the following three check-in locations listed below. Residence Life staff will be available at designated check-in tents to welcome you, check you in, and give you your room key, student ID, and orientation schedule. From there, Residence Life staff will escort you to your room. Peer Mentors, student-athletes, student leaders, community volunteers, and members of faculty and staff will be on-site to assist with unloading your vehicle and helping you move in.



Monday, August 19th, 2024

Residents of Reid Hall, Queen Anne's House or Caroline House:

- Check-in Tent located in front of Caroline House. Report here to receive your welcome packet and room key.
- Parking: To allow others to unload easily, please park temporarily in the lot behind Reid Hall to unload. Then re-locate your vehicle to Parking Lot D (lot in front of the Baseball field/next to the fraternity houses) or to the parking lot behind the Western Shore dorms (behind the baseball field).

Residents of Minta Martin Hall:

- Check-in Tent located at porch of Minta Martin Hall (lower level facing Washington Avenue). Report here to receive your welcome packet and room key.
- Parking: To allow others to unload easily, please park temporarily in the roadway on the south side of Minta (right next to the building) to unload. Then re-locate your vehicle to the parking lot immediately south of Minta Martin.

Residents of Kent House or Other Residence Halls:

- Check-in Tent located in front of Kent House (on lawn behind Hodson Hall commons and Cullen House). Report here to receive your welcome packet and room key.
- Parking: To allow others to unload easily, please park temporarily on the roadway facing Cullen Hall and use the paths to move items over to Kent House. You may not park on Washington Avenue or the Cater Walk to move into Kent House. Once you've finished unloading, please relocate your vehicle to Lot D (in front of the baseball field/next to the fraternity houses) or behind the Western Shore dorms (behind the Baseball field).

Check-in Process for Commuter Students:

If you plan to commute to campus for the Fall semester, check-in between 10:00am and 1:00pm in the lobby area of Hodson Hall Commons (first floor) to receive your welcome packet. Please join us for lunch before the rest of the Orientation activities get underway in the afternoon, including programming specific for commuter students.

9:00am – 4:00pm Bookstore Open, Casey Academic Center, Lower Level

11:00am – 1:00pm Lunch, Hodson Hall Commons

Lunch for incoming students and their families is free. Feel free to take your lunch out on the patio in front of Hodson Hall Commons, or walk over to the Campus Green to have a picnic!



Monday, August 19th, 2024

10:00am – 1:00pm Open House & Meet and Greets, *Various Locations*

A number of special offices will be open for students and their families to visit to learn more about what they offer the campus community. Feel free to stop by any of these locations to meet fellow students, faculty, and staff members who support the wonderful contributions these offices make to our campus:

- Intercultural Affairs Center, *Lower Level, Minta Martin Hall*
- Hillel House (Jewish Student Union), *313 Washington Avenue (next to Minta Martin Hall)*
- Miller Library
- Johnson Fitness Center

10:30am – 11:30am Washington Scholars Welcome Session, *Goldstein Hall, Room 100*

Washington Scholars Program Director, Michelle Blackwell, along with Director of Financial Aid, Jennifer Gallagher, will welcome Washington Scholars and their families to campus in this special session. *Note: this session is for Washington Scholars and their families only.*

1:00pm – 1:45pm Student Athlete Parent's Meeting, *Hotchkiss Recital Hall, Gibson Center for the Arts*

This meeting is for students who play a Winter or Spring sport ONLY. Those students and their parents should plan to attend this important session.

2:00pm – 2:45pm President's Welcome, *Cain Gymnasium*

New students and their families will be welcomed by President Michael Sosulski, Vice President for Student Affairs Sarah Feyerherm, and Mayor of Chestertown David Foster.

2:45pm – 3:00pm Class Photo, *Cain Gymnasium*

Members of the Class of 2028 will remain in the stadium to take their class photo.

3:00pm – 3:30pm Introduction to Peer Mentor Groups, *Martha Washington Square*

Students will be introduced to their Peer Mentor Groups and participate in brief introductions.

3:00pm – 3:30pm Parent's Program: Ready for Takeoff, *Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts*

While students are meeting in their Peer Mentor Groups, parents and family members have their own session. Presented by Dean of Students, Greg Krikorian, and Assistant Dean of Student Engagement and Success, Tricia Biles, Ready for Takeoff will focus on supporting your student as they go through the transitional process of becoming successful students at Washington College.



Monday, August 19th, 2024

3:30pm – 4:00pm Goodbye Time, *Martha Washington Square*

This is a time for parents and families to say goodbye to their students, make promises to stay in touch, and get on the road!

4:00pm – 4:30pm Welcome Keynote: “Love the Questions, Live the Question” with Dr. Pat Nugent, *Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts*

This welcoming address will ask students to reflect upon a form of speech and writing all too neglected in high school education, yet one that is absolutely critical to their academic, professional, personal, and civic growth: namely, the craft of asking good questions. How do we ask generative questions of ourselves and others? Why are questions so critical to our success as individuals and community members? How and why should we nurture inquiry and curiosity as central components of our campus culture? We'll explore these questions and more during this keynote session.

4:30pm – 5:00pm Peer Mentor Meetings, *Martha Washington Square*

5:00pm – 6:00pm Welcome Dinner, *Martha Washington Square & Hodson Hall Commons*

Students will regroup with their Peer Mentor groups for a quick meeting and then head to a “Welcome to WAC” dinner in the Dining Hall.

6:30pm – 7:30pm Residence Hall Meetings – Meet Your Area Coordinator’s and RAs, *Residence Halls*

All new students living on campus must attend this mandatory meeting. Residence Life staff will discuss the responsibilities of community living.

6:30pm – 7:30pm Commuter Students Meeting, *Intercultural Center, Minta Martin Hall (lower level)*

Commuter students will meet with Director of Intercultural Affairs, Nicolle Moaney, to discuss the Orientation schedule, how to access Commuter Hubs across campus, and best practice for success during the semester.

7:30pm – 8:30pm Playfair!, *Campus Green*

Join your Peer Mentors for this time-honored Washington College tradition. It’s the ultimate team building and icebreaker experience for campus unity and school spirit, and fantastic way to make long-lasting friendships!



Monday, August 19th, 2024

8:30pm – 10:00pm “Fire & Ice” Welcome Bonfire, Campus Firepit (near Kirby Stadium)

After Playfair!, join your new floormates and fellow students for a welcome bonfire to finish off your first day at WAC. Enjoy music, S’mores, Rita’s Italian Ice, and be sure to pick up some fun glow-in-the-dark swag!

Tuesday, August 20th, 2024

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast with Peer Mentor Groups, Hodson Hall Commons

9:00am – 9:45am Honor Code & Community Expectations, Decker Theater, Gibson Center for the Arts

Dean of Students Greg Krikorian and Honor Board Chair Heather Fabritze ‘25 will give a short presentation on the Honor Code, explain its importance to Washington College, and give students essential information about what is expected of them while being a member of the WC community.

10:00am – 11:00am Consent and College Policy on Title IX, Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Attendees will be provided with key information related to healthy relationships and sexual violence. This will include a nationally recognized program focused on understanding consent, along with a review of college resources and policy.

11:00am – 12:00pm Community Standards, Post-Consent Talk, and Honor Code Signing Peer Mentor Meetings, Various Locations

Students will regroup with the Peer Mentor groups, where they will discuss the College’s community standards, debrief the Consent presentation, and ask/answer any questions about the Title IX policy, and sign the Washington College Honor Code.

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch with Your Residence Hall Floor, Hodson Hall Commons

Enjoy lunch while getting to know your roommates and other floormates, along with your RAs. Seating for your dorm and floor will be sectioned off in the dining hall. Be sure to find your RA for your specific table.

1:00pm – 1:45pm Health, Wellness, and Safety Session, Hodson Hall Commons

Staff members from Health Services, Counseling Services, and Public Safety will share information about their offices and answer questions about the health, wellness, and safety support systems available to students at Washington College.



Tuesday, August 20th, 2024

2:00pm – 3:15pm, "The Big Opportunity: Taking Ownership of Your Identity," Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Washington College alum and DEI consultant Obella Obbo '14 will deliver a unique presentation on diversity, equity, and inclusion. He will highlight how each student plays a vital role in strengthening and celebrating every single person in our community during their time at WAC.

3:15pm – 4:00pm Post-DEI Talk Peer Mentor Meetings, Various locations

4:00pm – 5:00pm Meet Washington College's Affinity Groups, Hodson Hall Commons Lobby

Get to know Washington College's Affinity Groups. Learn from student Affinity Group leaders how these organizations support student identity and belonging on campus. Gather information on how to get involved and what events and activities you can look forward to during the upcoming school year.

4:00pm – 6:00pm Men's Soccer Scrimmage vs. Eastern University, Roy Kriby Jr., Stadium

Show off your Goose Nation spirit by cheering on the Men's Soccer team as they take on Eastern University for the first scrimmage of the season!

5:00pm – 6:00pm Dinner with Peer Mentor Groups, Hodson Hall Commons

8:00pm – 10:00pm "Tuesday Night Lights" with Campus Recreation and Public Safety, Kibler Field, Roy Kirby Jr. Stadium

Calling all students who enjoy games like kickball, flag football, Spikeball, and more. Head on out to the Stadium to enjoy field games and activities, hosted by Campus Recreation. Officers from Public Safety will be on-site to take part in the fun and they'll also have their very popular snow cone machine on site for a cool treat.

8:00pm – 10:00pm Movie & Game Night hosted by Student Engagement & Intercultural Affairs, Hodson Hall Commons

If you're looking for a more relaxing evening activity, head over to Hodson for a quiet evening with a screening of Disney/Pixar's "Elemental" in the Goose Nest. Snacks, along with board games and table games will be available to play with new friends.



Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast with Peer Mentor Group, Hodson Hall Commons

9:00am – 10:00am Academic Rotation A, Various locations

Through different stops throughout the day, you'll meet many of the resources and people on campus who will add so much to your academic experience. Stop by the Library to see all the resources and hear from the Starr Center for the American Experience about opportunities to get involved and branch out. Learn from our Writing Center, Office of Academic Skills, and Quantitative Skills Center about the tutoring resources that over half of our students use every single year. Learn from our advising staff more about the distribution requirements you will fulfill over the next four years, and all about navigating the administrative side of college. Finally, you will get a chance to meet with our Global Education Office to learn about study abroad, as well as opportunities for funded research and faculty led short-term trips.

10:00am – 11:00am First Year Seminar Meetings, Various Locations

Time for your first class! Students will meet together for the first time as a full group with their First Year Seminar faculty member for an introductory session.

10:05am – 11:05am Transfer Student Meeting, Goldstein Hall, Room 207

Incoming transfer students will meet Assistant Dean of Advising & Academic Advocacy Hilary Bateman to learn more about academic expectations and making the transition to the learning environment here at WAC.

11:10am – 12:00 Academic Rotation B, Various locations

12:00pm – 1:15pm Lunch, Hodson Hall Commons

12:00pm – 1:15pm Special Academic Program Lunches, Goldstein Hall

All new students interested in the following academic programs should plan to have lunch with faculty and staff members from each area. Learn about these programs and how they might impact your educational path while at WAC. Please reference the list below for available special academic programs and their meeting locations for lunch.

- Elementary & Secondary Education, Goldstein 101
- Engineering, Goldstein 207
- Pre-Law, Goldstein 208
- Pre-Health (includes the areas listed below), Goldstein 100
 - Premedical (Premedical, Pre-Dental, Pre-Optometry, Pre-Podiatry)
 - Pre-Nursing
 - Pre-Pharmacy
 - Pre-Allied Health (includes Pre-PA, Pre-PT, Pre-OT, Pre-Athletic Training and many more)
 - Pre-Veterinary



Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

1:30pm – 2:25pm Academic Rotation C, Various locations

2:25pm – 3:30pm Academic Rotation D, Various locations

5:00pm – 5:30pm Explore! Meet-Up, Martha Washington Square

On the eve of Explore! activities getting under way, students will gather in Martha Washington Square to meet their Explore! leaders and fellow group members.

5:30pm – 6:30pm Dinner with your Explore! Groups, Hodson Hall Commons

7:30pm – 8:00pm “Making the Transition” featuring the Peer Mentors, Decker Theatre, Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts

This popular program features Peer Mentors in an amusing but thought-provoking dramatic interpretation of the academic and social differences between high school and college. You won't want to miss this time-honored favorite Orientation event!

8:00pm – 10:00pm Trivia Night, hosted by SGA, Hodson Hall Commons

Gather up a group of new friends and head to Hodson for a trivia night hosted by the Student Government Association. Tons of prizes will be available for students to win, along with ice cream and other snacks. Don't miss out on this fun, competitive event!

Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

Take Thursday morning at your own pace. We encourage you to take the time to explore your new home! Meet additional faculty and staff who will be instrumental in your success, walk your class schedule, catch up on your Vector modules, take a moment to relax, or get some extra sleep before Explore! activities get underway later in the afternoon. The morning is yours to do as you see fit!

8:00am – 10:00am, Breakfast, Hodson Hall Commons

Choose From the Following Morning Activities at Your Own Pace:

- **Center for Career Development, 9:30am – 11:30am**
 - Meet the career center team and learn about how they can support you along your journey at WC. Pick up a free T-shirt and enjoy morning beverages and breakfast goodies. Career coaches will be available to chat and share information that will help you feel confident about making the most of your first semester on campus!



Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

- **Publications House, 10:00am – 12:00pm, at the corner of Brown St & Washington Avenue (just down from Minta Martin Hall)**
 - Learn more about student-run publications on campus like “The Elm”, “The Collegian”, and “The Pegasus” from current student editors!
- **Johnson Lifetime Fitness Center, 6:00am – 12:00pm**
 - Visit the “JFC” to get a work out in, or to more about the campus gym, the weight room, fitness classes, and other wellness opportunities on campus.
- **Mindful Moments with Michele Clapp, 10:00am – 11:00am, Interfaith Room, Intercultural Center, Minta Martin Hall (lower level)**
 - Already feeling a bit stressed out or anxious about transitioning to life at WAC? Take a break and recharge with a mindfulness session that will help you slow down, manage your stress, and help you find solid ground. This is a perfect session to help you get your college journey started on a calm note.
- **Walk Your Schedule**
- **Catch Up on Your Vector modules**
- **Visit the Bookstore, Casey Academic Center (lower level)**
 - Make sure you have all your books before classes get underway on Monday or pick up some fresh WAC swag!
- **Visit the Help Desk, 8:30am-12:00pm, Basement of William Smith Hall**
 - Running into some tech trouble on campus already? Having issues connecting to the wifi or getting your gaming system connected? Or are you interested in learning more about how the Help Desk and the Office of Information Technology can support your needs as a student on campus? Then swing by the Help Desk to meet their staff and fix any tech issues you might be experiencing!

12:00pm-10:00pm Explore! Activities

Meet up with your Explore! group and get underway with the exciting next half of Orientation



Friday, August 23rd, 2024

8:00am - 10:00pm, Explore! Activities Continue

Saturday, August 24th, 2024

8:00am - 12:00am, Explore! Activities Wrap Up

9:00am - 4:00pm Upperclassman Move-in

5:30pm - 7:00pm Dinner, Hodson Hall Commons

8:00pm - 10:00pm Bingo Bonanza, hosted by SEB, Hodson Hall Commons

With Explore! over, you'll be back on campus just in time for one of WAC's favorite student activities...Bingo! Grab your new friends and classmates and head to Hodson for a night full of fun. There will be plenty of prizes to win so don't miss out on this Bingo, as future bingo nights will get more competitive with upperclassmen back on campus!

Sunday, August 25th, 2024

9:00am - 4:00pm Upperclassman Move-in

10:00am - 2:00pm Brunch, Hodson Hall Commons

10:00am - 2:00pm Bookstore Open, Casey Academic Center, Lower Level

12:00pm - 4:00pm Quiet Activities, The Goose Nest, Hodson Hall Commons

Enjoy some quieter activities with new classmates in The Goose Nest. Board games, crafting materials, and gaming tables will be available for use.

12:00pm - 4:00pm Boathouse Open, Hodson Boathouse, 375 S. Cross Street

Head down to the waterfront to enjoy all the boathouse has to offer. Kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards will be available for students to use.

4:00pm - 5:00pm Peer Mentor Meetings, Various locations

5:00pm - 7:30pm Welcome Back Dinner, Hodson Hall Commons

An annual WAC tradition. Hang out with old friends, meet new classmates, and enjoy a special dinner as we close Orientation Week and prepare for a new school year.



Other Important Dates & Information

Monday, August 26th – First Day of Classes & Mandatory Residence Hall Meetings

Tuesday, August 27th – Tech Tips Sessions, 5:30 & 6:30pm, Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Be sure to attend one of the two Tech Tips sessions with staff members from the Office of Information Technology. Important information on what services OIT and the Help Desk team provide will be shared, along with information on accessing the Wi-Fi network, using printing services, tech repair services, and other information will be shared. Students will receive an EXTRA SPECIAL gift for attending this session. This session is mandatory for first year students. Sophomore students are welcome.

Thursday, August 29th, 4:00pm – Fall Convocation, Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Thursday, August 29th – Monday, September 2nd, Welcome Week Activities Sponsored by SEB, SGA, Campus Recreation, and Residence Life

Monday, September 2nd – Labor Day, No Classes

Saturday, September 7th – Annual Club Festival, hosted by the SGA, Hodson Green & Kent Lawn

Friday, September 27th – Sunday, September 29th – Homecoming Weekend (formerly Fall Family Weekend)

October 10th-13th – Fall Break, No Classes

Saturday, October 19th – Shoremal, Martha Washington Square

Don't miss out on THE event of the Fall semester. Get your formal wear ready and enjoy a party to remember, hosted by the Student Events Board!

October 30th – Advising Day, NO Classes

November 27th – November 29th – Thanksgiving

December 6th – Reading Day, No Classes

December 9th-13th – Final Exams, No Classes



Important Operation Hours for Fall '24 Semester

Dining Hall

- Monday-Friday
 - Breakfast 7:30am-10:00am
 - Lunch 11:00am-2:00pm
 - Continental Mid-Meal 2:00pm-4:00pm,
 - Dinner 4:30pm-8:00pm
- Saturday & Sunday
 - Brunch 10:00am-2:00pm
 - Dinner 4:00p-7:00pm

Java George

- Monday-Friday: 8:00am-3:00pm

Bookstore, Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Central Services (To Pick Up Packages & Mail), Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Johnson Fitness Center:

- Monday-Thursday: 6:00am-10:00pm
- Friday: 6:00am-7:00pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am-4:0pm

Miller Library:

- Monday-Thursday: 8:00am-10:00pm
- Friday: 8:00am-6:00pm
- Saturday: 12:00pm-6:00pm
- Sunday: 12:00pm-10:00pm

Important Phone Numbers

Public Safety: 410.778.7810

SafeRide: 410.810.RIDE (7433)

Financial Aid: 410.778.7214

Registrar's Office: 410.778.7299

Buildings & Grounds: 410.778.7210

Chestertown Police Department (non-emergency): 410.778.1800

UMD Shore Medical Center at Chestertown (hospital): 410.778.3300



