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New Student Programs Annual Report

*West Chester University
2023-2024*

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Mission & Values

*The Office of New Student Programs' mission is to welcome, support, and assist new students and members of the Ram Fam by providing programs and resources aimed at **student success**.*

NSP achieves its mission by offering virtual and in-person orientations and welcome week programs designed to:

- **Help** students with the transition to college academic rigor
- **Facilitate** social connections
- **Explore** opportunities for co-curricular involvement

Understanding the importance of family support, NSP works with our campus partners to equip members of the **Ram Fam** with the resources they need to help their new Golden Rams in their academic pursuits and involvement efforts during their time at West Chester University.



Professional Staff



1. Dr. Devan Zgleszewski, Director
2. Ellen DiSanti, Senior Associate Director
3. Jennifer Ruggiero-Patel, Senior Associate Director
4. Maria Turner, Administrative Assistant



Graduate Staff



1. Matthew C. Giannella: Spring 2023, HEPSA*
2. Matheeha Majeeth: Summer 2023, Doctorate Educational Leadership
3. Amy Hancox: Summer 2023, HEPSA*
4. Kiara Guzman-Ramos: Summer 2023, HEPSA*
5. Raquia Belle-Durant: Summer 2023, Rutgers University, NODA Intern
6. Winter Elvin: Summer & Fall 2023,/Spring 2024, Industrial/Organizational Psychology
7. Lindsay Griffiths: Fall 2023,/Spring 2024 HEPSA*



**Higher Education Policy & Student Affairs*

Undergraduate Staff

Undergraduate Coordinators

4

Spanish Language Interpreters

2



4

Returning Orientation Leaders

23

New Orientation Leaders



New Initiatives

- **Academic Advising Sessions at Transfer Orientation**

In summer 2024, New Student Programs added an academic advising session to the transfer orientation schedule. Advising was conducted by the academic department chairs.

- **Welcome Week Transfer Track**

In collaboration with WCU's Transfer Concierge, Scott Yannick, NSP added a track designed to increase transfer student participation in Welcome Week programs. Transfer-specific programs included Get Taco-tive with Transfers, Conversation Cards, and a t-shirt swap where students exchanged swag from their previous school for new WCU gear.

- **Rams Reunite**

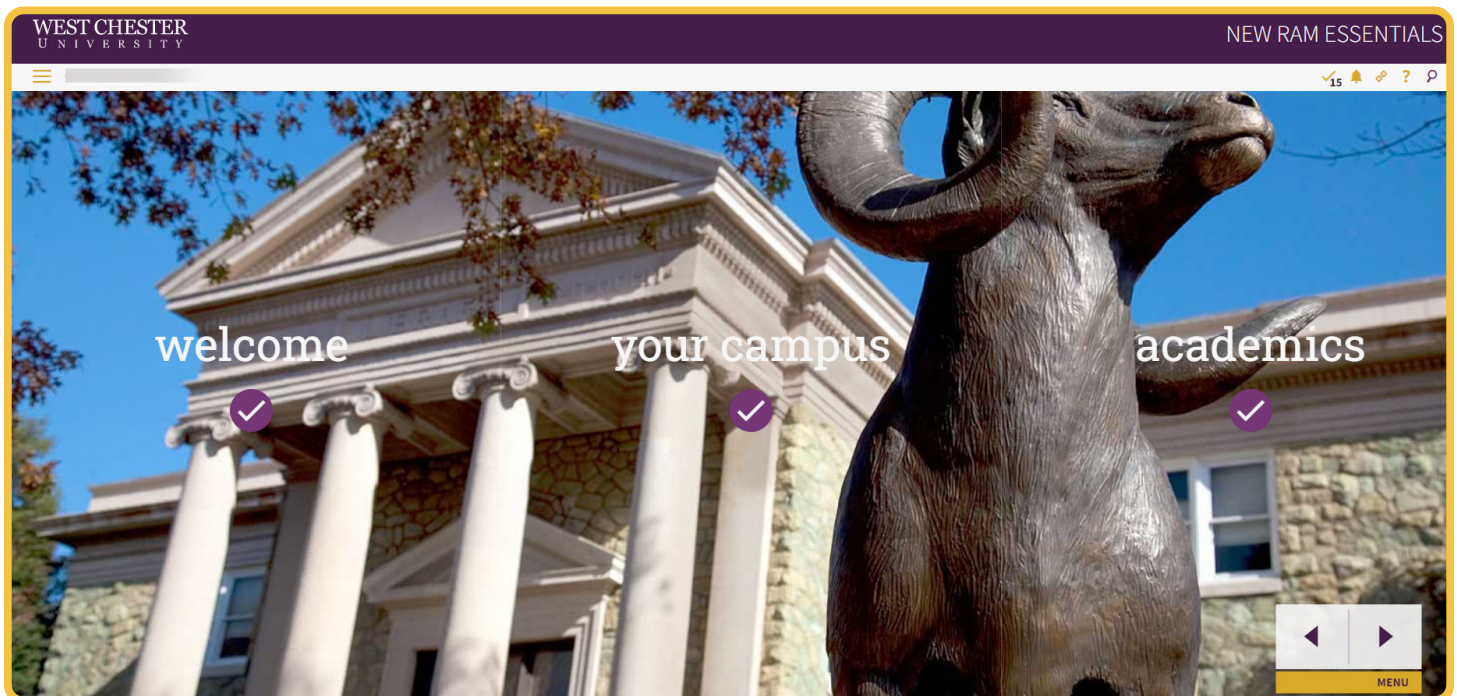
Started in the fall 2024 semester, this initiative aims to reconnect new students with their summer orientation groups. Read more on page 16.



New Ram Essentials

Every new Golden Rams' onboarding includes access to NSP's online pre-orientation, *New Ram Essentials*. New Ram Essentials contains a series of **five modules**--Your Campus, Academics, Student Resources, Ram Life, and Community--designed to introduce the people, offices, and services that make up WCU.

New students are sent a link to NRE and asked to complete it **before** their orientation. This summer, **2,013** new Golden Rams completed New Ram Essentials before attending orientation.



*New Ram Essentials is available **24/7** and can be used as an ongoing resource throughout a new Golden Ram's first year at WCU.*



First-Year Orientation

New Student Programs held **ten** on-campus first-year orientation sessions, organized by academic college, in June and July, with a total of **3,001** students attending.

A virtual orientation and late in-person orientation were held in August for students who were unable to attend in June or July. **53** first-year students attended virtual orientation while **24** attended late orientation. Another **4** attended a transfer orientation. In total, New Student Programs oriented **3,082** new first-year Golden Rams in June, July, and August 2023.

At the end of each orientation, students and guests were asked to complete a post-orientation survey. We received **1,011** responses.

271 (26.8%)

Students

Survey Responses

740 (73.19%)

Guests



32% of new Golden Rams participating in first-year orientation identified as first-generation



First-Year Student Survey Results

271 Responses	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	66.05%	29.15%	3.69%	1.10%	0
Feel more connected to my future classmates	58.67%	53.5%	8.86%	3.32%	0
Feel more prepared to start classes	56.46%	35.79%	7.1%	0.73	0
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	69.37%	26.57%	3.69%	0	0.37%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	71.59%	22.51%	4.06%	0.37%	0



270 Responses	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Not Applicable
Academic Advising	74.0%	24.69%	.99%	7.34%
Campus Tour & Meeting your Peer Group	70.46%	26.56%	1.56%	1.42%
Make a Connection with Career Development	55.84%	35.63%	5.19%	2.06%
Off Campus & Commuter Services	46.67%	18.46%	2.73%	32.15%
Residence Life & Housing Services	63.75%	26.02%	1.99%	8.24%
Student Leadership & Involvement	71.42%	26.71%	.99%	1.42%
Student Success at WCU: Navigate and Technology Resources	56.91%	40.19%	.64%	2.26%%

The top three resources students believe will help with their transition to WCU:

- 19% Academic Advisors
- 15% Orientation Leaders
- 14% Residence Life

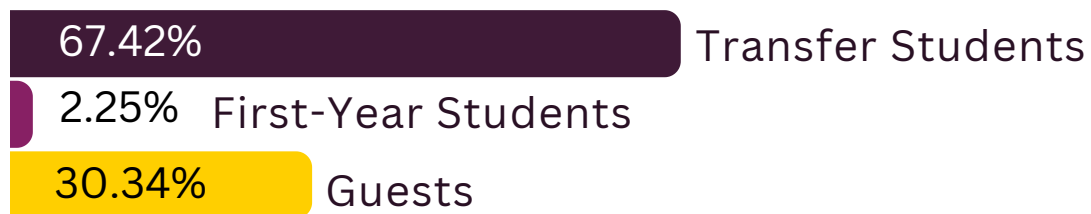


Transfer Orientation

NSP held **three** on-campus transfer orientation sessions between August 15-17. If transfer students could not attend any of these sessions, they were given the option to attend virtual orientation or the late on-campus session held August 18. In total, **500** new Golden Rams attended an on-campus orientation while another **223** attended virtually for a total transfer attendance of **723** students.

At the end of each orientation, students and guests were asked to complete a post-orientation survey. We received **210** responses.

Percentage of Survey Respondents



37% of students participating in transfer orientation identified as first-generation



Transfer Student Survey Results

62 Responses	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	62.90%	25.81%	9.68%	0	1.61%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	45.16%	32.26%	17.74%	1.61%	3.23%
Feel more prepared to start classes	56.45%	35.48%	6.45%	0	1.61%
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	69.35%	24.19%	4.84%	0	1.61%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	74.19%	20.97%	3.23%	1.61%	0



62 Responses	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Not Applicable
Academic Advising	72.58%	22.58%	4.84%	0
Campus Tour	74.19%	24.19%	1.61%	0
Dean of Students Roundtable	51.61%	40.32%	8.06%	0
Morning Welcome and Introduction	40.32%	51.61%	6.45%	1.61%
Off Campus & Commuter Services	46.77%	37.10%	11.29%	4.84%
Residence Life & Housing Services	43.55%	33.87%	11.29%	11.29%
Student Success & Technology Resources	43.55%	51.61%	4.84%	0

The top three resources students believe will help with their transition to WCU:

- 18% Academic Advisors
- 14% Orientation Leaders
- 13% Residence Life



Adult Learner Orientation

On August 18, NSP offered an on-campus Adult Learner orientation specifically for students age 24 or older who are just starting college or returning after an extended absence. **Sixteen** adult learners attended this evening session.



4 - 4:30 PM	Check in & WCU Photo ID Taken
4:30 - 4:35 PM	Welcome & Overview
4:35 - 5:05 PM	Campus Tour
5:05 - 5:10 PM	Student Parent Initiative
5:10 - 5:20 PM	Technology Resources
5:20 - 5:30 PM	Student Success @ WCU
5:30 - 5:50 PM	Academic Advising
5:50 - 6 PM	Career Development
6 - 6:10 PM	Library Services
6:10 - 6:20 PM	Off Campus/Commuter & Parking Services
6:20 - 6:30 PM	Closing Remarks & Ram Card Distribution



Welcome Week

Road Trip to Ram Country August 23-27

At this year's Welcome Week, the campus community came together to offer more than **60 events** aimed at building new Rams' campus pride, teaching them about campus resources, helping them understand WCU's community standards, facilitating social connections, and fostering a sense of belonging.



Featured Events

- A Night Under the Stars
- Class of 2027 Photo
- Find That Class
- Goats & Totes
- On-Campus Job Expo
- Outdoor Movie
- Ram Rally
- Rams After Hours Foam Party
- Rise & Paint
- Welcome to the Borough
- and many MORE!

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Welcome Week

Class of 2027 Photo



*This year's Welcome Week activities culminated in approximately **2,000** new Golden Rams attending the class of 2027 photo on Sunday, August 27. Watch the video below to enjoy the fun!*



Welcome Week

Survey Results

Class Photo

- 80% of students enjoyed the session

Commuter Success Day

- 100% of students enjoyed the session.

Dean of Students Round Table

- 54% of students enjoyed the session

Goats & Totes

- 70% of students enjoyed the session

Deans' Meetings

- 62% of students enjoyed the session

ODEI

- 69% of students enjoyed the session

Outdoor Movie

- 100% of students enjoyed the session

Ram Rally

- 44% of students enjoyed the session

Title IX

- 61% of students enjoyed the session



Rams Reunite

Throughout the fall, undergraduate orientation leaders hosted events around campus as part of our new initiative, *Rams Reunite*. These events served as mini reunions for the OL's summer orientation groups. The **goal of this initiative** is to extend new Rams' onboarding experience and continue helping them acclimate to campus, make connections, and find a sense of community.

Featured Events

- Be Your Own Final Girl: Frightening Films and Affirmations with the CWGE
- Come Meet Your Neighbors
- De-Stress Canvas Painting
- Game Night
- Grab and Go Trick or Treat
- Holiday DIY Decor
- I Spy Bingo
- Leisure at the Library
- Thanksgiving Decompress and Coloring
- Wintry Wonders



Rams Reunite



Fourteen Rams Reunite events were held during the fall semester. More than **360** new Golden Rams participated.



January Orientation

Two orientation options were offered for students entering WCU in spring 2024. In-person orientation was held Friday, January 12, and virtual orientation was held Friday, January 19. A total of **178** new students attended in person and **159** attended virtually, for a total of **337** new Golden Rams oriented in January.

At the end of each orientation session, students and guests were asked to complete our post-orientation survey. We received **105** responses.

78.10% Students

82

21.9% Guests

23



19% of students participating in January orientation identified as first-generation



January Orientation Survey Results

48 Responses	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	68.75%	22.92%	8.33%	0	1.61%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	55.32%	27.66%	17.02%	0	0
Feel more prepared to start classes	59.57%	27.66%	10.64%	2.13%	0
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	68.89%	22.22%	8.89%	0	0



48 Responses	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Not Applicable
Academic Advising	59.57%	34.04%	6.38%	0	0
Campus Tour	62.50%	29.17%	8.33%	0	0
Health, Wellbeing & Community	54.17%	31.25%	14.58%	0	0
Off Campus & Commuter Services	53.19%	31.91%	12.77%	0	2.13%
Ram Card & Campus Bookstore	57.45%	29.79%	12.77%	0	0
Residence Life & Housing Services	47.92%	25%	8.51%	2.08%	10.42%
Student Leadership & Involvement	60.42%	35.42%	4.17%	0	0
Student Ombuds	63.83%	25.53%	8.51%	2.13%	0
Student Success at WCU	63.83%	25.53%	10.64%	0	0
Technology Resources	56.25%	31.25%	12.50%	0	0



The top three resources students believe will help with their transition to WCU:

- 20% Academic Advisors
- 16% Orientation Leaders
- 16% Center for Student Leadership & Involvement



Winter Welcome Week

A smaller-scale version of fall Welcome Week, Winter Welcome Week is designed to **engage** new Golden Rams entering WCU in the spring and **re-engage** returning Rams as they start their second semester at WCU.

Featured Events

- Break the Ice: Learn How to Get Involved at WCU
- Connect, Not Compare Activity + Therapy Dogs
- First-Gen Winter Warm Up
- Friendship Bracelet Making with the Center for Trans & Queer Advocacy
- Library Scavenger Hunt & Pop-Up Tea Bar
- Mindful Painting
- Tacos with Transfers



Summer 2023-January 2024

NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS TEAM



This team oriented 4,158 new Golden Rams!

WCU
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

New Student Programs

