WELCOME GOLDEN RAMS!
NEW STUDENT GRADUATE ORIENTATION

WELCOME!
CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL

@WCUPA_GRAD  WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL  @WCUGRAD
The Graduate School

• Fall Business hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00a-4:30p

• Contact us by calling 610.436.2943 or email GradSchool@wcupa.edu

• Graduate Catalog: https://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/
Important Notes

• Fall semester begins on August 26, 2024.

• Students can enroll part time or full time with a maximum of 6 years to complete degree. Review the Graduate Catalog for additional policy information.

• D2L is the Learning Management tool at WCU – online orientation is available to all students.

• Students are required to use WCU webmail.

• RamPortal is the WCU Student Information System.
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
HOW TO NAVIGATE
WCUPA.EDU
All WCU email goes to your student email

Select: Office 365 - Outlook
The IS&T Help Desk/ResNet is the central point of contact for all technology-related hardware, software, and system support such as Office 365, myWCU and D2L at WCU.

- Phone: 610-436-3350
- Option 1: ResNet Central (Student support)
- helpdesk@wcupa.edu
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Accessible online at the Registrar's webpage:

www.wcupa.edu/AcademicCalendar
WCU Campus Locations:

• West Chester Campus
  • North Campus: 700 S. High Street
  • South Campus: 855 S. New Street

• The Graduate Center
  • 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester, PA

• Exton Location
  • West Whiteland Business Center
    930 E Lincoln Hwy Ste 100, Exton, PA 19341

• WCU in Philadelphia
  • Mellon Independent Center at 8th and Market Streets
WCU IN PHILADELPHIA

Success Center:
Associate Director: Ben Morgan, bmorgan@wcupa.edu or 610-436-3714

- Writing Tutoring
- Library Research Assistance
- Resume and Cover Letter Review

Counseling Services:
Free and confidential
Virtual appointments available with WCU Counseling Center

Visit D2L site:
FAQs
Contact Information
How-To Guides
Useful Forms
Helpful Links

Additional Services:
IT Support
Laptop Loan Program
Food Pantry
GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

• A graduate assistantship is an opportunity to work on campus in a research or service-oriented capacity to gain valuable work experience in higher education or an academic field while earning a stipend and tuition waiver.

• Graduate assistants work 5-20 hours per week depending on the size of the assistantship. **Stipends range from $1,250-$5000 per semester**, and tuition waivers cover 3-12 credits of tuition. Students pay all fees.

• Students **enrolled in graduate degree programs** who are in **good academic standing are eligible**. (Certificate programs are not eligible.)
How to Apply for a G.A. Position

• As a current student, you should contact the graduate coordinator of your degree program to discuss your interest in an assistantship. Academic departments typically hire students from their own programs due to the nature of the work.

• Search for positions on the Twardowski Career Development Center’s website: HandShake. These tend to be for student service and administrative offices on campus. (Example: Writing Center, Veterans Center, Office of Sustainability, etc.)

• Apply for as many opportunities that interest you. Persistence pays!

• There is general information about graduate assistantships on our website: www.wcupa.edu/gradassistantships. If you have any questions, please e-mail gradassistantships@wcupa.edu
Representative body for graduate students to network, support, and express common concerns for the continued progress and betterment of Graduate Studies at West Chester University.

JOIN US!

GSA@WCUPA.EDU
https://tinyurl.com/3saramconnect
@GSA_WCUPA
FINANCIAL AID

- FASFA
- Federal Work Study
- Loans

610-436-2627
www.wcupa.edu/FinAid
FINAID@wcupa.edu
FINANCIAL AID: FEDERAL LOAN PROGRAMS

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Up to $20,500 per academic year
- Current Interest Rate of 6.08%
- Origination Fee of 1.062%

Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan
- Current Interest Rate of 7.08%
- Origination Fee of 4.248%

Source: https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates#rates
PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS

• Visit the WCU Financial Aid Homepage to use the Student Loan Comparison Tool located in the Private Loan section

• The URL is: https://www.wcupa.edu/_services/FIN_AID/loans.aspx

• Apply for fall Private Education Loans and/or Grad PLUS loans beginning in May

• Both Grad PLUS and Private Education loans are “credit” based loans
Please visit the WCU Bursar’s Office homepage to find info about:

- Tuition and Fee costs
- Installment Payment Plans availability
- Due date of your bill
- Direct Deposit
- Employer Reimbursement of Tuition

www.wcupa.edu/Bursar
610-436-2552
25 University Ave, Suite 50
STUDENT SERVICES / CAMPUS STORE

Student Services (SSI):
• Ram Card (Student ID)
  www.RamECard.com
  610-738-0429

Campus Store:
• Textbooks
• WCU Branded Gear
  www.WCUCampusStore.com
  610-436-2242

Located in lower level of Sykes Student Union
1. Login using your WCU credentials
2. Select Upload Your Photo & follow instructions for submissions
3. If you are unable to come to campus to pick up your ID card, please select "online" for "campus attending" prompt. ID cards can now be mailed.
4. Follow instructions to make the $20 online payment. Must be paid before pick up. If ordering it to be mailed, select appropriate option ($25).

Located in Sykes Student Union, Lower Level
On duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

WCU PUBLIC SAFETY: 610-436-3311
PARKING SERVICES

Parking passes are $30 per year
Must order online!
www.wcupa.edu/Parking

609 S. Church St
610-436-3345

Open Monday-Friday 8am to 2pm
PARKING
Transportation & Parking Services

- North/South Campus Shuttles: wcupa.edu/shuttle
- Two SEPTA buses (the 92 and 104)
- SEPTA regional rail & Amtrak
- ChesCo SCCOOT bus from Kennett Square & Oxford
- WCU's Uptown Loop Shuttle bus

Questions about:
Public Transit ticket & pass sales: 610-436-2955 (SSI)
WCU's Shuttle Bus: 610-436-1053 or email shuttle@wcupa.edu
Receive text notifications for:

- On-campus emergencies
- Delayed openings and university closings due to inclement weather

Sign up at wcupa.edu/WCUalert
Holding more than 2.5 million books, journals, dissertations, articles, maps, e-books, albums, films and more!

Find your librarian! Resources for grad students: library.wcupa.edu/Graduate

www.wcupa.edu/Library
610-430-4400
Offering comprehensive career development and job search resources

- Resume building
- Cover letter writing
- Interviewing skills
- Advancing a career
- Finding a full/part-time job

225 Lawrence Center
www.wcupa.edu/CDC
610-436-2501
CDC@wcupa.edu
Please call 610-436-2509 for an appointment.

Telehealth appointments are available.

A mask will be required to be worn before entering the health center and throughout the entire visit.

www.wcupa.edu/HealthServices or 610-436-2509

Commonwealth Hall, Ground Floor

Emergencies: Call 911
WCU COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center will be offering online counseling services to enrolled students. Students in crisis are able to come to the Counseling Center office. They ask to please call before entering so that health and safety measures can be taken. 610-436-2301 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

www.wcupa.edu/CounselingCenter
wcucc@wcupa.edu Lawrence Center, Second level 750 S. New St
Providing student veterans and their families a central location for resources and support.

610-436-2862, veteranscenter@wcupa.edu
www.wcupa.edu/VeteransCenter
Free online training, with a digital library of over 180,000 videos, covering a wide range of technical, business, software, and creative topics. Such as:

MS Office – Google Analytics – SQL – And MORE!

www.wcupa.edu/LinkedInLearning
MAIN CAMPUS DINING OPTIONS

- Dining Hall
- Sykes Student Union
- Food Trucks
- 75+ Restaurants and Cafés in West Chester
  www.downtownwestchester.com
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Services for International Students and Study Abroad opportunities.

Located in Mitchell Hall, 3rd floor
wcupa.edu/International
610-436-3515
STUDENT REC CENTER

- 13,000 square feet of cardio & strength floor area
- 120 pieces of cardio & strength equipment
- Indoor jogging track
- 38-foot rock climbing wall

www.wcupa.edu/CampusRec
The Center provides information, resources, and support for programming to members of the university and the community.

TransAndQueer@wcupa.edu
610-436-3147
Sykes 250
wcupa.edu/TransAndQueer
The Dowdy Multicultural Center promotes the holistic success and development of Students of Color (SOC) at West Chester University. We implement collaborative co-curricular experiences that promote multiracial awareness, creates a sense of belonging, affirms racial and cultural identity, and empowers all students to challenge systems of oppression.

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Cultural Heritage / History Months
- Latinx Heritage Month
- Native American Heritage Month
- Black History Month
- Asian Pacific Islander
- Desi American History Month

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Fall Festival

Kente Graduation Celebration

Multicultural Organization Advisory Board (MOAB)

Dowdy Diversity, Inclusion, and Civility Scholars Program

Brothers of Excellence Conference

Peer Mentoring Program

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Ruby Jones Conference on Race, Social Justice, and Civic Engagement

Dowdy Emergent Leaders

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Instagram: DowdyMC_WCU | Facebook: WCU Dowdy Multicultural Center | Email: Multicultural@wcupa.edu
OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

Lawrence Center, 223
610-436-2564
oea@wcupa.edu
wcupa.edu/universityCollege/oea

Student Resources:
• Academic coaching
• Adaptive technology
• Proctoring center (oeapc@wcupa.edu)
Since 1974, the Center for Women & Gender Equity has been celebrating, honoring, and empowering our campus community through a diverse range of educational programs, resources, and advocacy for all people.
On-campus Graduate Housing

The Village Apartments

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, & living space

- Computer lab
- Fitness center
- Movie theater
- P.O.D. market
- Community Garden

Off-campus housing:

Many apartment complexes in and around West Chester, PA.
The Off-Campus & Commuter Services Office can help guide you.
SUPPORTING OFF CAMPUS AND COMMUTER STUDENTS

- Parking and Transportation
- Daytime programs for Commuters
- Moving off campus education
  - Student Rambassadors
  - Free Student Legal Service

610-436-2209
Sykes 238
wcupa.edu/occs
The Pantry offers non-perishable food, fresh produce from the campus gardens, personal care items, school supplies, and winter and career clothing.

- Open to ALL undergraduate and graduate students.
- Commonwealth Hall, Lower Level
- wcupa.edu/pantry
- 610-436-2378
- Pantry@wcupa.edu
DISCOVER

VIRTUAL TOURS & EVENTS

www.wcupa.edu/gradschoolevents
CONGRATULATIONS!

ALL THE BEST FOR A GREAT SEMESTER!