



Congratulations and Welcome to West Chester University of Pennsylvania!

The Graduate School at West Chester University welcomes you to campus and our community. Please know there are many resources available to you throughout your graduate career. Our staff, deans, and faculty strive to provide a positive graduate experience. Below are helpful resources and services categorized by **Student Services and Resources**, **Health and Wellness** and **Technology Resources**. The following links will guide you to essential information about your life as a new graduate student at West Chester University.

Student Services and Resources:

[Bus Transportation](#)

The University provides bus service from North to South Campus (and return) during the spring and fall semesters. The buses run from 7:15am to 2am on weekdays, and from 10am to 2am on weekends. For more information: [Shuttle Bus Services & Schedules](#)

SEPTA also provides public transportation options. The 104 bus to 69th Street Transportation Center in Philadelphia picks up and drops off right on Church Street at University Avenue on campus. Septa tickets and fares can be purchased at the SSI window on the ground floor of Sykes Student Union. For more information and bus schedules, visit [SEPTA's website](#).

[Bursar](#)

West Chester University is proud of its affordability. For the most up to date tuition breakdown, please view the Office of the Bursar's website. Here you can also find information regarding payment plans, employer reimbursement, refunds, etc.

Campus Store

The bookstore (campus store) is owned and operated by Student Services, Inc. (SSI) to service the requirements of the total University community. You may purchase apparel, gifts, and gift cards, as well as rent or buy all of your semester textbooks online.

Career Services

The Twardowski Career Development Center is a comprehensive centralized career center within the Division of Student Affairs that contributes to the mission of West Chester University and the success of its students and alumni. Meet with a counselor in person or remote to review and receive feedback regarding resumes, cover letters, networking, and interviewing skills. Search for jobs, career fairs, and events.

Center for International Students

The Center for International Programs leads the WCU community of educators in developing and preparing students to become globally aware and engaged members of a diverse society. West Chester University offers numerous [masters and doctoral programs](#) for international students. In addition, WCU also offers an intensive [English Language program \(ELS\)](#) for those students seeking a conditional admission.

Center for Trans and Queer Advocacy

The Center for Trans & Queer Advocacy provides information, resources, and support for programming to members of the university and the community. The folks involved in this unit work together to create a warm and welcoming climate at WCU.

Center for Women & Gender Equity

Providing education, resources, and advocacy, the Center for Women & Gender Equity (CWGE) promotes a campus culture and climate that supports principles of social justice, equity, inclusion, and community. CWGE advocates for a campus community that values the safety, equality, and intellectual advancement of women and historically marginalized groups at West Chester University.

Financial Aid

Typically, graduate students may borrow up to a maximum of \$20,500 of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans per school year. Graduate and professional students enrolled in certain health profession programs may receive additional Direct Unsubsidized Loan amounts. For further information, please speak with a financial aid counselor.

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA), is a student governing body for graduate students that promotes the well-being of graduate students through education, professional and social events at West Chester University and advocates for their needs. GSA has a Lounge located on the 6th floor of the Francis Green Harvey Library.

Housing

The Graduate School & University Student Housing collaborate to assist students in securing on-campus housing in [The Village Apartments](#) at West Chester University. You may also find off-campus housing through the [Off Campus & Commuter Services \(OCCS\)](#) site. OCCS was established to meet the needs of the off campus and commuter students by providing programs and resources to support your experience as a student at WCU.

Learning Assistance & Resource Center

The Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LARC) strives to provide quality academic support services, which help students become independent, active learners who achieve academic success. A great resource for graduate students is the FREE online tutoring through [Smarthinking](#), available to you 24/7.

Library

West Chester University has two libraries on campus, Francis Harvey Green (FHG Library) and the Presser Music Library. FHG Library is 6 floors with over 1 million resources. 86% of WCU library material is online, available to you 24/7. Students may receive research help, contact a librarian via chat, email, call, or text. The Presser Music Library is located in Swope Music Building, 817 S. High Street, West Chester, PA.

LinkedIn Learning

Free unlimited access for all WCU faculty, staff and currently enrolled students to thousands of up-to-date business, creative and technology skills training. Provides high-quality training videos and tutorials dedicated to specific skills, subject areas, and software.

Multicultural Services

The Lawrence A. Dowdy Multicultural Center's mission is to help provide and maintain a supportive environment that promotes the academic achievement and personal development of more than 3,700 African-American, Latino/a, Asian-American, and Native American Indian students at the University.

Office for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The Office of Social Equity (OSE) provides leadership, coordination and information to help West Chester University achieve its commitments to the principles of equity, diversity and affirmative action. OSE consistently monitors a number of policies to promote diversity and inclusion and to eliminate discriminatory behaviors on campus. Through collaborative efforts, we help to foster an inclusive and civil community.

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities

Visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) website or office to learn how to receive classroom accommodations, access forms, guidelines, and other student resources available.

Planetarium and Project ASTRO

The Department of Earth & Space Science operates the Dr. Sandra F. Prichard-Mather Planetarium at West Chester University. The Mather Planetarium is used for WCU astronomy classes, K-12 school groups, and public programs. Project ASTRO is a National Program that creates long-term partnerships between astronomers and teachers, or youth groups and community leaders. Project ASTRO WCU currently serves 6 counties: Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Berks, and Philadelphia. The philosophy behind Project ASTRO is that students learn best when using hands-on, inquiry-based activities in combination with a constructivist approach to teaching.

Public Safety

The mission of the West Chester University Department of Public Safety is to enhance the university experience by maintaining a safe, orderly and inviting environment for our students, employees and guests to study, work and enjoy all of what the university has to offer. Receive WCU Alerts and weather notifications, review campus safety, parking/vehicle regulations, purchase parking permits, etc.

Service Learning & Volunteer Programs

Learn. Serve. Lead. Connect. Grow. Students can search for volunteer opportunities at any time. WCU Resource Pantry is open to ALL students at West Chester University. No appointment necessary, walk-ins are welcome at any time during hours of operation. The Pantry offers non-perishable food, fresh produce from the campus gardens, personal care items, school supplies, and winter and career clothing.

The Frederick Douglas Society

The Frederick Douglass Society (FDS) and West Chester University are committed to inclusive excellence by promoting empowerment through education, social justice through civic engagement, and the advancement of human rights through thoughtful public dialogue. FDS members include faculty, administrators, staff, and students who provide leadership, support, and guidance to the West Chester University community regarding multi-cultural education, empowerment, and equality. We invite partners in our fulfillment of this mission.

The Greg & Sandra Weisenstein Veterans Center

WCU is designated as a Military Friendly School. A Veteran is an individual who served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the National Guard and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable. Any Spouse or Dependent of a Veteran is eligible to participate in and utilize WCU's Veterans Center resources whether or not they are utilizing education benefits under the GI Bill®. Veterans & Active Military Graduate Admissions/Resources

The Writing Center

The writing center provides free writing tutoring, workshops, and resources to the entire university community: undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff. Serving writers from diverse academic disciplines and cultural settings, our goal is to help you - either in person or online - become a better writer, reader, and critical thinker.

WCU Newsroom

Under the Office of Communications, the WCU Newsroom provides news archives and resources such as a featured events calendar, academic calendar, campus map, emergency information, and WCU's social media directory. Stay up to date on campus news and activities.

Health & Wellness:

The CARE Team

The CARE Team is a campus-wide team that provides a caring approach of identification, consultation, and coordination of the University response to situations involving students who engage in concerning, disruptive and/or potentially harmful behavior.

Counseling & Psychological Services

The mission of the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services (The Counseling Center) is to promote optimal health through the provision of quality mental health services for all currently enrolled West Chester University students. They have a Clinical Case Manager to assist with off-campus services. It is also a training site, meaning advanced doctoral students engage in the provision of therapeutic services to students under the supervision of licensed psychologists. The Counseling Center is a welcoming environment that appreciates multiculturalism and diversity.

Health Center

Located on the ground floor of Commonwealth Hall, student Health Services provides a wide-range of clinical care. The staff includes Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Physicians. Make an appointment if you are sick or need care for asthma, aches, sprains, physicals, and more.

[Recreation Center](#)

With a diverse line-up of competitive, fitness, leisure and recreational programs and services, Campus Recreation aspires to be the best part of your Ram day and your first choice for FUN! Swimming Pools- Two swimming pools on campus are available during the week for open recreation: the Hollinger pool on North Campus and the South Campus pool. WCU ID cards and guest passes for visitors are required for admittance.

[Student Assistance](#)

The Assistant Vice President for Identity, Health & Wellness provides assistance and support for students who are away from the campus for a *minimum* of three class days due to illness, personal or family emergencies.

Technology Resources:

[Information Services & Technology](#)

The IS&T [Help Desk](#) is the central point of contact for all technology-related inquiries including Webmail, myWCU, and D2L at West Chester University. The help desk provides first level customer support for students and employees in locations such as administrative offices, classrooms, residence halls, remote sites, and satellite campuses.

[Ram Cloud](#)

The Division of Information Services is pleased to announce the implementation of RamCloud, aka Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), which allows us to securely deliver applications for faculty and students to learn and work from any location using any device (including mobile devices) whether university owned or personal.

[ResNet Central](#)

The mission of ResNet Central is to provide superior network service to the student body of West Chester University. Each semester, ResNet hires students and Graduate Assistants as ResNet Consultants, who operate the help desk and provide resident field support and in-house diagnostic service. They also provide a listing of the [software downloads available for students](#).