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MISSION & VALUES

Our Mission
To welcome, support, and assist new students and members of the Ram Fam by providing programs and resources aimed at student success.

Our Values
Innovation, Pride, Inclusion, Partnership, Accountability

STAFF

Devan Zgleszewski
Director of New Student Programs

Jennifer Ruggiero-Patel
Associate Director of New Student Programs

Ellen DiSanti
Associate Director of New Student Programs

Maria Turner
Staff Assistant
New Student Programs
GRADUATE STAFF

Matthew Giannella
Graduate Assistant
West Chester University
HEPSA

Samantha Yothers
Graduate Intern
West Chester University
HEPSA

Daniel Eppley
Graduate Intern
West Chester University
Communications

ORIENTATION STAFF

3 Leadership Team Members
+ 24 Orientation Leaders
+ 1 Spanish Interpreter
= 28 Dedicated Team Members

9 returning staff, 19 new hires
NEW INITIATIVES

The Office of New Student Programs sought to increase the accommodations offered to new students and their guests through the introduction of the following initiatives:

SPANISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

This pilot program was funded through an Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion grant and made possible through a collaboration with the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Our student interpreter, Talita Solis Montania, facilitated interpreting the orientation experience for five families throughout the orientation program.

SENSORY FRIENDLY SPACE

A sensory-friendly space was offered to students and their guests at all orientation sessions to accommodate individuals with sensory sensitivities.

ADA SHUTTLE SERVICE

An ADA accessible shuttle was provided at all orientation sessions to transport students and guests if needed.

VISUAL SIGNAGE

New orientation lawn signs incorporated larger font sizes and photographs of campus buildings to assist individuals with visual impairments and more easily direct students and guests throughout the orientation day.

ACCESSABILITY ICONS

Welcome Week marketing materials included accessibility icons for each event alerting students to the type of activity taking place.

LOW-SENSORY EVENTS

Multiple low-sensory events were added to the Welcome Week schedule to accommodate new students with sensory sensitivities.
FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATIONS

Ten orientation sessions were held on campus between June 22 and July 22. Students selected their orientation date based on their academic college. A virtual orientation option and an in-person, late orientation were offered in August for those students unable to make a June and July session.

FY Orientation Overview

Academic Advising (Major Specific)
Campus Tour
Lunch with Student's Peer Group and Orientation Leader
Residence Life and Off Campus & Commuter Services
Student Leadership and Involvement
Technology Resources with IS&T and Navigate with the Office of the Registrar
Welcome Week Overview
End of Day Activities*

*The end of day activities included a residence life and housing information area, an off campus and commuter students reception, a first-generation students reception, and stations across campus for photo opportunities.

FY Orientation Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June/July</th>
<th>Virtual*</th>
<th>Late OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2897 students</td>
<td>49 FY students</td>
<td>36 FY students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ten sessions</td>
<td>one session</td>
<td>one session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number is approximate based on available data
When surveyed, students felt more connected to the University after attending orientation.

- Yes: 94.75%
- No: 5.25%

When surveyed, students felt more connected to future classmates after attending orientation.

- Yes: 81.75%
- No: 18.25%

Campus Partner Presentations

- 88% of students found Academic Advising very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 77% of students found the Residence Life and Off Campus & Commuter Services presentation very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 68% of students found the Technology Resources and Navigate presentation very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 82% of students found the Student Leadership and Involvement presentation very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 68% of students found the End of Day Activities very helpful or extremely helpful.
Three in-person orientation sessions were offered for incoming transfer students. These sessions allowed transfer students to learn about the West Chester community and meet representatives from their academic program. Transfer students were also offered a virtual orientation option and an in-person late orientation option if they were unable to make the in-person sessions.

**TR Orientation Overview**

**Campus Tour**

**Lunch with Academic Departments**

**Navigate: Student Success Platform**

**The Ram Plan: Co-Curricular Transcript**

**Ram Remix: Meet your Peers!**

**Residence Life and Off Campus & Commuter Services**

**Safety on Campus**

- Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Department of Public Safety
- Office of Student Conduct

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**Transfer Orientation Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August TR</th>
<th>Virtual*</th>
<th>Late OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>413 students</td>
<td>284 TR students</td>
<td>15 TR students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>three sessions</td>
<td>one session</td>
<td>one session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number is approximate based on available data*
When surveyed, students felt more connected to the University after attending orientation.

- Yes: 89%
- No: 11%

When surveyed, students felt more connected to future classmates after attending orientation.

- Yes: 83%
- No: 17%

When surveyed, students felt more prepared to start classes after attending orientation.

- Yes: 90%
- No: 10%

Campus Partner Presentations

- 76% of students found the Co-curricular Transcript and Navigate presentations very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 76% of students found the Residence Life and Off Campus & Commuter Services presentation very helpful or extremely helpful.
- 86% of students found the Safety on Campus presentation very helpful or extremely helpful.
ADULT LEARNER ORIENTATION, AUGUST 19

An orientation session targeting our adult learner population (students who are over age 24 or returning to college after an extended absence) took place on August 19 from 4:00-6:30 PM.

This orientation session featured presentations from Technology Resources, the Learning Assistance and Resource Center, Navigate, Library Services, Career Development, and Off Campus and Commuter Services.

WCU PHILADELPHIA ORIENTATION, AUGUST 20

New Student Programs staff traveled to Philadelphia to aid in the facilitation of orientation for students attending classes at the WCU Philly campus.

This orientation session took place on Saturday, August 20, from 8:30 - 11:45 AM and featured presentations from Navigate, the Registrar, Student Success, Financial Aid, Technology Resources, and a student panel.

**Adult Learner**
- 15 students
- one session

**WCU Philly**
- 4 students
- one session

*Numbers are approximate based on available data
WELCOME WEEK

Welcome Week 2022 spanned five days with 58 events that yielded more than 7,000 new student touch points.

Most Popular Welcome Week Events

- First Gen Fry-Day
- Goats & Floats
- Golden Ram Football Scrimmage Tailgate
- Golden Welcome & Class Photo
- Lattes in the Library
- Mather Planetarium Show
- Open Rec Night
- Outdoor Movie Night
- Public Safety Info Session
- Sex Signals
- Wellness Welcome Fair

Aug 2022
When surveyed, students felt satisfied with the amount of welcome week offerings after attending welcome week.

When surveyed, students felt more prepared to start the fall semester after attending welcome week.

Survey Results for Required Events

- 82% of students found Meet Your Dean very informative or informative
- 83% of students found the Info Session with WCU Public Safety very informative or informative
- 61% of students found Sex Signals very informative or informative
- 65% of students found the Wellness Fair very informative or informative
- 67% of students found Diversity, Equity and Inclusion very informative or informative
JANUARY ORIENTATION

Students starting in **spring 2023** were offered the option to attend either a **virtual** or **on-campus** orientation program.

**ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION OVERVIEW**

Campus Tour
Lunch with Academic Departments
Navigate: Student Success Platform
Off Campus & Commuter Services
Public Safety
Residence Life & Housing
Technology Resources
The Ram Plan: The Co-Curricular Transcript

**JANUARY ASSESSMENT**

When surveyed, students felt **more connected to the university** after attending January Orientation

- Yes 90%
- No 10%

When surveyed, students felt **more prepared to start classes** after attending January Orientation

- Yes 85%
- No 15%

172 **Students** attended on-campus January Orientation
140 **students** attended virtual January Orientation
4,025 new Golden Rams engaged in orientation programs from June 2022 to January 2023, with 88% attending in-person programs*

*Attendance statistics do not include Welcome Week programming

New Golden Rams by Major - Fall 2022

- Anthropology: 6
- Biochemistry: 30
- Biology: 180
- Biochemical Engineering: 21
- Chemistry: 13
- Communication Sciences & Disorders: 51
- Communication Studies: 61
- Computer Science: 132
- Criminal Justice: 124
- Early Grade Preparation: 221
- Earth-Space Science: 4
- English: 18
- Environmental Health: 11
- Exercise Science: 123
- Exploratory Studies: 541
- Forensics & Toxicology: 40
- Geography: 5
- Geoscience: 2
- Graphic & Interactive Design: 15
- Health & Physical Education: 32
- Health Science: 25
- History: 42
- Languages & Cultures: 7
- Mathematics: 46
- Media & Culture: 38
- Middle Grades Preparation: 26
- Music: 83
- Nursing: 96
- Nutrition: 51
- Pharmaceutical Product Development: 16
- Philosophy: 3
- Physics: 21
- Political Science: 41
- Pre-Business: 646
- Psychology: 243
- Public Health: 21
- Social Work: 26
- Sociology: 5
- Special Education: 86
- Sports Medicine Studies: 65
- Studio Arts: 19
- Theater: 17
- Urban & Environmental Planning: 5
WCU SPIRIT IN ACTION: O-TEAM 2022