



# RAM FAM CALENDAR

2021-2022



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY  
Parent & Family  
RELATIONS

**STUDENT SERVICES, INC.**  
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

**PSECU**<sup>SM</sup>

## Greetings Ram Fam!

As a parent or family member of a West Chester University (WCU) student, you are officially a member of the Ram Fam! We are so excited that you are a part of the WCU family, and we look forward to sharing in your student's collegiate experience over the next few years. The Office of Parent and Family Relations is here to assist you and your student during this important transition in your lives, both celebrating successes and addressing challenges.

The research shows that parent and family engagement improves and enhances the college experience for students, so the Office of Parent and Family Relations is committed to equipping you with the resources you need to support your student's success here at WCU. This calendar is just one of these resources – we hope you will use it to guide and coach your student throughout their first year.

### I want to highlight two important portions of the calendar:

◆ **Ram Chat** – These are conversation starters for your communication with your student. Remember that open-ended questions are most likely to spur conversation!

**Ram Fam Reminders** – Curated tips for coaching your student through the month with reminders about resources and services offered to support student success.

We sincerely hope that this journey will be fulfilling and successful for your family. Please know that we are available to answer your questions, big or small. If we do not have an answer, we will find one for you!

**Rams Up!**



**Lexie McCarthy, Director**

Office of Parent and Family Relations  
AMcCarthy@wcupa.edu  
610-436-2698

## Ram Fam Most-Requested Contacts

Bursar .....	610-436-2552
Counseling Center.....	610-436-2301
Dining Services .....	610-436-2161
Financial Aid.....	610-436-2627
Off-Campus and Commuter Services.....	610-436-2361
Parent and Family Relations.....	610-436-2698
PSECU .....	610-436-1707
Public Safety .....	610-436-3311
Registrar.....	610-436-3541
Residence Life and Housing.....	610-436-3306
Student Assistance .....	610-436-0165
Student Health Services .....	610-436-2509
Student Conduct .....	610-436-3511

# STUDENT MEMBERS ACHIEVE MORE

We're more than an ATM on campus. We're a full-service financial institution committed to helping students navigate money management, while they're in college and even after they graduate.



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## FREE CREDIT SCORE SERVICE\*\*

Monitor your score and stay on track



## SURCHARGE-FREE ATMS

Find six right on campus, plus rebates\* elsewhere for PSECU members



## 24/7 DIGITAL ACCESS

Easy mobile deposits and online transfers

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### SCHOLARSHIPS

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### FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Have questions about your credit score, building credit, managing student loan debt, or budgeting? We can help you make the most of every dollar you earn while you're in school and even after you graduate.

Visit [psecu.com/learn](https://psecu.com/learn)

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\*\*PSECU is not a credit reporting agency. Members must have PSECU checking or a PSECU loan to be eligible for this service. Joint owners are not eligible.



Move-in week can be emotional for our Golden Rams and their Ram Fams, but luckily students quickly jump into Welcome Week programming. Students can see all of the happenings by logging into Ram Connect. You can support them by encouraging them to join in all the fun!

# AUGUST



Now Truist



## Ram Fam Reminders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	Tuition Payment Due	28
29	30	31	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>Which class are you most <b>excited</b> about? Most <b>worried</b> about? (Remind your student about tutoring at the LARC!)</p> <p>What <b>organizations</b> do you hope to join this year?</p> <p>Are there <b>support resources</b> that you anticipate needing this year?</p>			

First Day of the Session

### \* Your Student's Wellness

**Student Health:** Student Health Services is located in Commonwealth Hall and appointments are available Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Students can make appointments at 610-436-2509. Learn more at [wcupa.edu/healthservices](http://wcupa.edu/healthservices).

**Mental Health:** Counseling and psychological Services are FREE to students. The Counseling Center is located in Lawrence Hall and open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to call 610-436-2301 to set up their first meeting. Learn more at [wcupa.edu/counselingcenter](http://wcupa.edu/counselingcenter).

### \* Transition Tips

- Be willing to listen without jumping in to provide feedback and/or advice.
- Empower your student to take initiative to solve their own problems.
- Avoid second guessing your student and/or overstepping boundaries.
- Familiarize yourself with Rammy's Resource Navigator for student support solutions at [wcupa.concerncenter.com](http://wcupa.concerncenter.com).

At WCU, we love family engagement – and Rammy does too! There are numerous opportunities throughout the year for our Ram Fam to engage in-person and virtually with our vibrant campus community. Stay tuned for updates at [wcupa.edu/ramfam](http://wcupa.edu/ramfam).



# SEPTEMBER



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## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* Academic Support

The Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LARC) is in Lawrence Hall and strives to provide quality academic support services which help students become independent, active learners who achieve academic success. Through the LARC, students can receive in-person tutoring, writing support, as well as success workshops and coaching. Find out more at [wcupa.edu/larc](http://wcupa.edu/larc).

### \* Getting Involved

The Fall Involvement Fair is a great introduction to WCU's nearly 300 student organizations. This informal opportunity is a wonderful way for students to explore their interests find their place. If they don't see an organization that fits their interests, they can explore the opportunity to create it!

### \* Family Weekend

We hope you will join us for the best weekend of the year, Family Weekend! We have so much fun planned for the whole family! The full schedule and registration can be found at [wcupa.edu/ramfam](http://wcupa.edu/ramfam).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Ram Chat</b> How do you plan to get <b>involved</b> ? Have you joined any <b>organizations</b> ? Tell me about your classes. Are they what you <b>expected</b> so far? What are you <b>learning</b> ?			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rosh Hashanah				Last Day to Make Changes to Meal Plan	
	Labor Day - University Closed					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Yom Kippur			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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# WE LOVE OUR RAM FAM

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The Golden Rams are back! We are so excited to welcome you to campus for a fun, spirited Homecoming Weekend! For a full list of our in-person and hybrid events, check out [wcupa.edu/homecoming](http://wcupa.edu/homecoming).





# OCTOBER



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					2022 -2023 FAFSA Available	Homecoming
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Homecoming						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Fall Break					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Last Day of Course Withdrawal	
31	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>What are you doing to <b>relieve stress</b>? How are you doing with your <b>budget</b>?</p> <p>Have you made an appointment with <b>your advisor</b>? What did you talk about? What is your <b>favorite part</b> of being at college so far?</p>					

## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* FAFSA 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 FAFSA opens on October 1<sup>st</sup> at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). The sooner you and your student complete the application, the better. You will use last year's tax information.

### \* Staying Safe

October brings several opportunities for students to engage socially. While student safety is our utmost priority here at WCU, it is also important that your family reinforces messages related to health and safety. Ask open-ended questions about their experiences with drugs and alcohol and share that you trust them to make good decisions that keep them out of harm's way.

### \* Homesickness

Reassure your student that feeling overwhelmed and/or experiencing homesickness is normal as students adjust to their academic demands and personal responsibilities. When your student calls, use these moments to listen carefully and empower them to do their own self-advocacy.



Thousands of first-generation students – WC's First – call WCU home. West Chester University considers students "first-generation" if none of their parents/guardians completed a Bachelor's degree. In addition to programming held throughout the year, faculty, staff, and students celebrate first-generation students each fall at our annual First-Generation College Celebration (pictured). Find out more at [wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://wcupa.edu/wcfirst).

# NOVEMBER



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## Ram Fam Reminders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	 First-Generation College Celebration	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Last Day of Session Withdrawal	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes		
				University Closed		
28	29	30	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>Tell me about the <b>friends you've made</b> at college.</p> <p>What are you doing for <b>fun and self-care</b>?</p> <p>What do you hope to do over <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>?</p>			
Thanksgiving Break						
Hanukkah						

### \* Campus Recreation

All enrolled WCU students have access to our awesome Student Recreation Center that provides a healthy, respectful, and safe environment for everybody. Membership includes over 35+ group fitness classes, opportunities to climb our 34-foot climbing wall, and access to cardio, weight training, and sports equipment.

### \* Spring Course Registration

Students must check their myWCU for their course scheduling time. Encourage them to create a tentative schedule using their Degree Progress Report, make an appointment, and meet with their Academic Advisor to discuss their plans prior to their scheduling date.

### \* Thanksgiving Re-Charge

Take the brief Thanksgiving break to celebrate the semester's victories thus far and work together to discuss challenges (and potential solutions!). If midterm grades were disappointing, your student's confidence may be shaken. Encourage them to reflect on what went wrong and what they can improve before finals to finish strong.

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Built in 1892, Recitation Hall (pictured) is the oldest building on West Chester University's campus and houses the School of Education, including Early Grades Preparation, Middle Grades Preparation, and Special Education, and Literacy programs. Learn more at [wcupa.edu/education](http://wcupa.edu/education).



# DECEMBER



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## Ram Fam Reminders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Ram Chat</b> How are you <b>feeling overall</b> after this semester? What is <b>one goal</b> you have for spring? How did the semester turn out compared to <b>your expectations</b> ?			1	2	3	4
			Hanukkah			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Last Day of Session Withdrawl						
Hanukkah						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Last day of the Session		Final Exams				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Kwanzaa						
University Closed						

### \* Winter Break Prep

Winter break is finally here! Have your student use this time to reflect on what they learned. What study skills worked? Did they make any friends? Is there another activity on campus they want to try? Engage in this dialogue with them. They are growing and changing, and that's a good thing! It is important to help them through this exciting time in their life!

### \* Finals Grind

In your good luck texts and communication to your students during finals, remind them to make time for exercise, healthy meals, and good sleep. Encourage your student to participate in the various de-stress activities and traditions that take place around finals week all around campus!

### \* Ram Fam Advisory Council

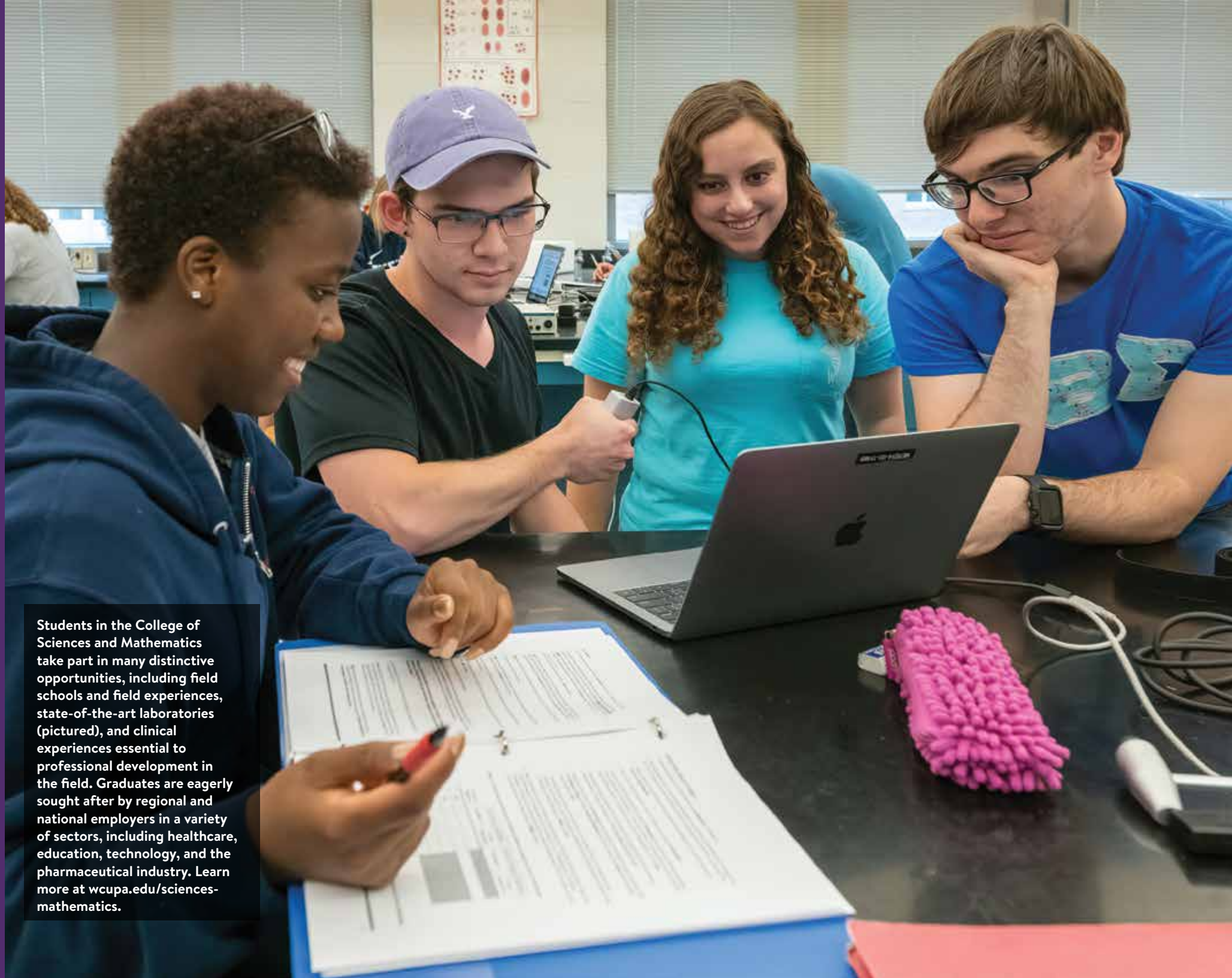
Interested in getting involved with all things WCU? Consider applying to join the Ram Fam Advisory Council and using your voice to advocate for the parent and family experience at WCU. For more information, check out [wcupa.edu/ramfam](http://wcupa.edu/ramfam).

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# HELPING RAMS ACHIEVE MORE

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Students in the College of Sciences and Mathematics take part in many distinctive opportunities, including field schools and field experiences, state-of-the-art laboratories (pictured), and clinical experiences essential to professional development in the field. Graduates are eagerly sought after by regional and national employers in a variety of sectors, including healthcare, education, technology, and the pharmaceutical industry. Learn more at [wcupa.edu/sciences-mathematics](http://wcupa.edu/sciences-mathematics).

# JANUARY



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## Ram Fam Reminders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day University Closed
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Tuition Payment Due	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day University Closed	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 First Day of the Session	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Last Day of Add/Drop	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>How are you <b>reconnecting</b> with your friends on campus?</p> <p>What classes are you <b>most excited</b> for this semester?</p> <p>What student organizations are you considering joining this spring?</p>				

### \* New Year, Fresh Start

Your student learned a lot about how to “do college” last semester, and now they can put these insights to good use starting on the first day of classes. Remind them to take advantage of in-person and online tutoring opportunities and meet with their professors during their Office Hours to get a head start this spring.

### \* Major Changes

Now that your student has completed the fall semester, changing majors may be on their mind. Encourage your student to meet with their advisor to discuss their interests and what they really want to study. Once students decide to change your major, they can request an official Change of Major through their myWCU account.

### \* Financial Planning

Talk to your student about their financial needs for the spring semester and have a conversation about budgeting, expenses, spending habits, and paying for their education. Evaluate the need and/or benefits of a part-time job. Encourage your student to explore scholarship opportunities at [wcupa.edu/scholarships](http://wcupa.edu/scholarships).

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# WELCOME BACK WEST CHESTER RAMS

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The Twardowski Career Development Center (CDC) is a comprehensive and centralized career center offering 1:1 support to help students develop and strengthen job search skills as well as events to promote experiential learning and networking skills. The bi-annual Job and Internship Fair (pictured), features employers who have a relationship with WCU and are motivated to hire students/alumni for their jobs and internships. Learn more at [wcupa.edu/cdc](http://wcupa.edu/cdc).





# FEBRUARY



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## Ram Fam Reminders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Ram Fam Appreciation Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>What are your plans for <b>Spring Break</b>?</p> <p>How are you <b>staying active</b>?</p> <p>Where are you planning to <b>live next year</b>?</p>				

### \* Career Development

The Twardowski Career Development Center assists students with career exploration and professional development. Encourage your student to make an appointment with a Career Counselor to explore majors and careers, search for jobs and internships, prepare for interviewing, write, and revise resumes and cover letters, and so much more.

### \* Identity Development

Identity development is critical to student success. Encourage your student to attend programs offered by the Dowdy Multicultural Center, Center for Trans and Queer Advocacy, and the Center for Women and Gender Equity. These offices provide spaces for students to drop-in, find community, attend educational programs, and make new connections.

### \* College Relationships

Relationships often become a focus in February. Listen as your student shares about their relationships with friends and significant others and remind them to keep themselves safe. Often, the best thing you can do to help your student is offer an understanding, empathetic ear.

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The Alternative Break Program engages students to explore what it means to be active citizens by immersing themselves in meaningful service and cultural exploration as they travel to a new community across the nation during a University break. Past trips include Empowering Youth through Financial Literacy (top left), Addressing Issues of Affordable Housing with Habitat for Humanity (top right), Serving the LGBTQ Community Impacted by HIV/AIDS (bottom left), and Creating Sustainable Food Resources in Urban Communities (bottom right). Learn more at [wcupa.edu/volunteer](http://wcupa.edu/volunteer).

# MARCH



Now Truist



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Spring Break						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Spring Break						Passover
27	28	29	30	31	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>Tell me about your experiences in your major-related classes? Is this still something you see yourself doing after graduation?</p> <p>How are <b>mid-terms</b> going?</p>	
	Last Day of Course Withdrawal					

## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* Rams Serve

WCU students log thousands of hours of community service each year. Many students choose to participate in Alternative Spring Break opportunities, immersion trips where students do service and learn about different populations and regions. The Office of Service Learning and Volunteer Programs can help your student find an opportunity to serve in our community or beyond.

### \* Safe Spring Break

If your student plans to go away for spring break, remind them of your expectations and have a conversation about keeping themselves and others safe. Reinforce calling 911 in an emergency. If they are staying home or on-campus, encourage them to use this time to apply for summer jobs, scholarships, and to get ahead on their schoolwork.

### \* Planning Ahead

Ask your student about their summer plans and encourage them to use on-campus resources to explore opportunities for jobs, internships, travel, or summer coursework to make the most of the time off.

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# HELPING RAMS ACHIEVE MORE

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Banana Day is a special student tradition at WCU and features the doling out of free bananas at every corner of the University and students competing in banana-themed games all over campus to win limited-edition Banana Day t-shirts. The specially-designed t-shirts are coveted and given solely to winners of banana games – like the banana toss (pictured)!

# APRIL



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>Have you explored the <b>Borough of West Chester</b>? What are your favorite spots?</p> <p>How are you preparing for <b>final exams</b>?</p> <p>How are you <b>taking care of yourself</b>?</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Passover	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Ramboree	
Passover						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Last Day of Session Withdrawal	

## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* Get Outside with Campus Recreation

As the weather gets warmer, encourage your student to get outside and de-stress with Campus Recreation. Students can take fitness classes, participate in intramurals, or go on a trip with the Outdoor Adventure Team to blow off steam.

### \* Celebrate Success

Spring is a time for celebration at WCU. Encourage your student to take advantage of opportunities to attend Ramboree, sporting events, and awards ceremonies that celebrate students across campus.

### \* Sexual Misconduct

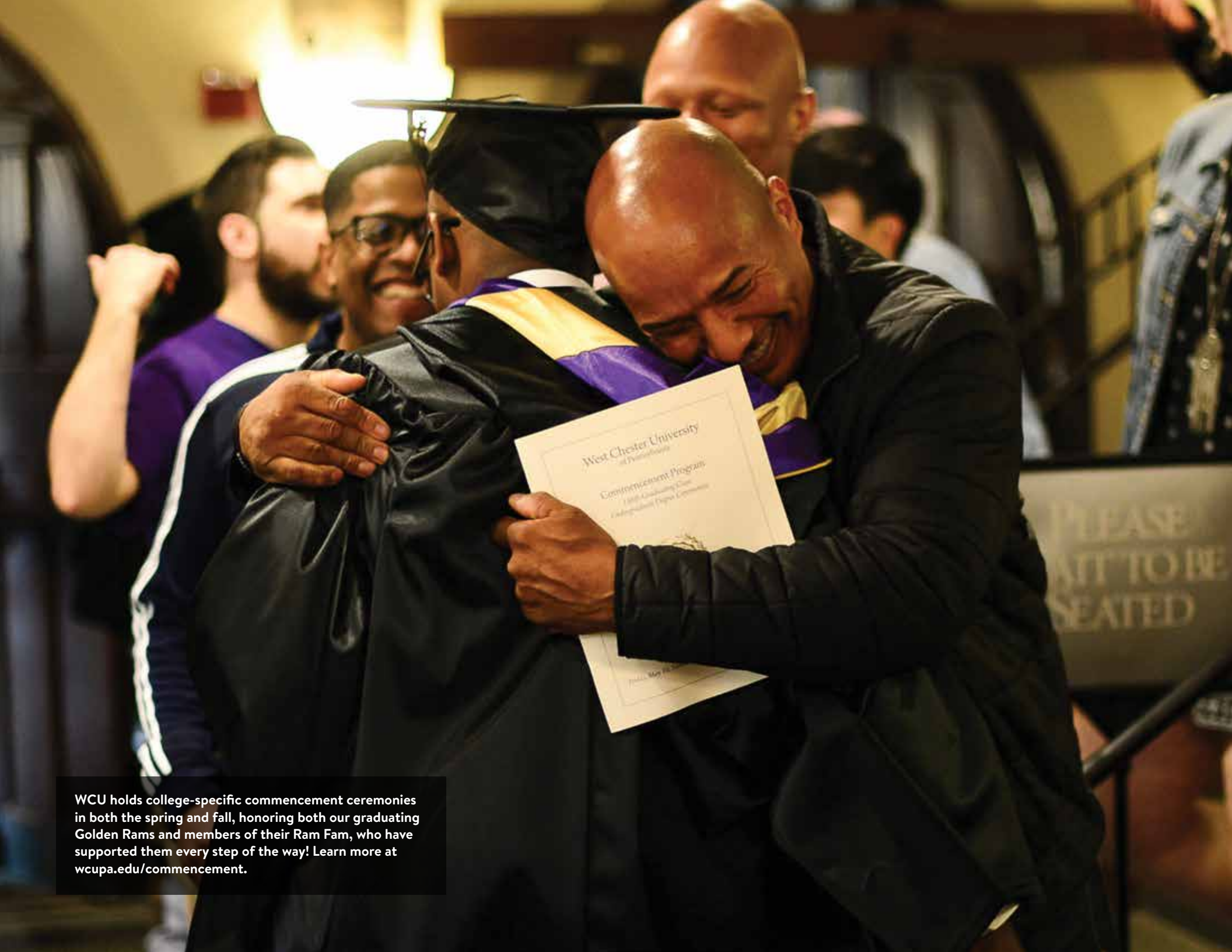
WCU's Sexual Misconduct Policy demonstrates the University's commitment to maintaining a campus environment where safety and well-being are priorities for all. Students can find further information on their rights, available services, and contact information for resources and support at [wcupa.edu/odei](http://wcupa.edu/odei).

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WCU holds college-specific commencement ceremonies in both the spring and fall, honoring both our graduating Golden Rams and members of their Ram Fam, who have supported them every step of the way! Learn more at [wcupa.edu/commencement](http://wcupa.edu/commencement).

# MAY



Now Truist



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Last Day of the Session		Final Exams					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31	<p><b>Ram Chat</b></p> <p>Have you <b>thanked</b> your professors, peer leaders, Resident Assistants, academic advisors and other staff members who helped you this year? Encourage an <b>attitude of gratitude!</b></p> <p>How do feel this semester went? Did anything <b>surprise</b> you? Were your expectations met?</p>				
	<p>Memorial Day University Closed</p>						

## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* Congratulations!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in promoting your student's academic success!

### \* Finals Grind

May is another month of high pressure for students – remind them that finals are about doing the best they can, not worrying about what has or has not happened so far in the semester.

### \* Prepare for Re-Entry

Summer at home with a college student can mean major changes for your family. You may notice changes in your student's appearance or behavior. Keep lines of communication open and freely discuss your expectations. Clarity, consistency, and compromise are key!

Summer is here again, and we are readying ourselves for another orientation season to welcome the newest golden rams! Your student is now a seasoned ram with a year or two of experience under their belt – be sure to celebrate them and all they have accomplished this year!





# JUNE



Now Truist



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Ram Chat</b> In what ways have you <b>grown as an individual</b> this year? What <b>life lessons</b> have you learned at WCU thus far? Are you staying in <b>contact</b> with your college friends this summer?			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Ram Fam Reminders

### \* Looking Ahead

Take a look at next year's academic calendar to prepare for the next year and discuss financial needs for the upcoming year. Evaluate changes that may be needed for money management and work together to establish a budget.

### \* Savoring Summer

Enjoy your time with your student. Listen to their reflections on the past year, celebrating accomplishments, and noting challenges and opportunities for improvement.

### \* Welcoming New Families

Do you have friends joining the Ram Fam this fall? Encourage new families to get connected to WCU's Office of Parent and Family Relations at [wcupa.edu/ramfam](http://wcupa.edu/ramfam). You have learned a lot of over this last year – share your wisdom and positive advice!

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Goals achieved.  
New goals set.  
It's how strong  
futures are built.



At BB&T, we recognize the importance of knowledge and the difference it makes in business and in life. Today, we join you in celebrating the milestones you've reached. Every day, our goal is to help you continue reaching yours.



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