

# NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS ANNUAL REPORT

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY  
2024-2025



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**WCU**  
WEST CHESTER  
UNIVERSITY

New Student Programs



# 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



2



3



4



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



# Graduate Staff

1



2



3



4



5



1. Andrew Rubas, MA in Education, Concentration in Higher Education Leadership, Villanova University
2. Lex Hickman, MA in Education, Student Affairs, Rutgers's University -- New Brunswick
3. Connor Delaney, MS in Higher Education Policy and Student Affairs, WCU
4. Mary Taale, MS in Higher Education Policy and Student Affairs, WCU
5. Winter Elvin, MS in Psychology, Concentration in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, WCU

# Undergraduate Coordinators

1



2



3



4



1. Jewel Karaisz, 4th Year Psychology Student

2. Danielle Margarite, 4th Year Media and Culture Student, Digital Marketing Minor

3. Nate Castimore, 4th Year Communication and Media Student

4. Sarah Zeuke, 4th Year Sociology Student, Sustainability and Ethics Interdisciplinary Minor



# Undergraduate Staff Totals

*Undergraduate  
Coordinators*

**4**

*Spanish  
Language Interpreter*

**1**



**8**

*Returning Orientation  
Leaders*

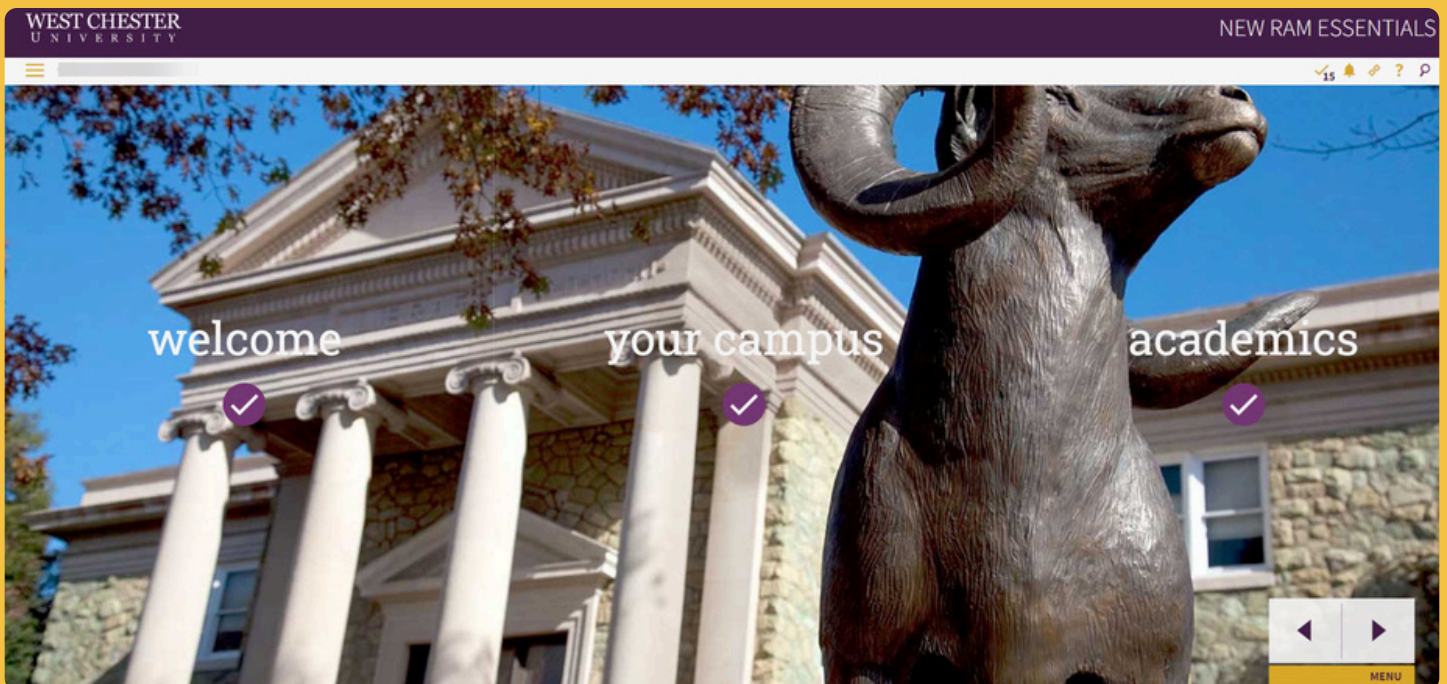
**17**

*New Orientation  
Leaders*

# 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

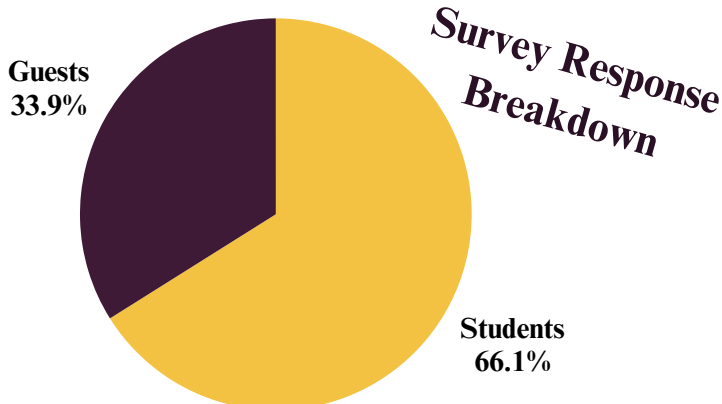
New Student Programs held **ten** on-campus first-year orientation sessions in June and July, organized by academic colleges, with **2,980** students attending.

A virtual orientation and late in-person orientation were held in August for students who were unable to attend in June or July. 178 first-year students attended virtual orientation and 37 attended adult-learner orientation. In total, New Student Programs oriented **3,195** new first-year Golden Rams in June, July, and August 2024.

At the end of each orientation, students and guests were asked to complete a post-orientation survey. We received **734** responses.



*33% of new Golden Rams participating in first-year orientation identified as first-generation*



# Survey Results

483 Responses Total	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	65%	30%	4%	<1%	1%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	59%	28%	11%	1%	1%
Feel more prepared to start classes	60%	30%	9%	1%	0%
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	75%	22%	3%	0%	<1%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	75%	22%	2%	0%	0%

485 Responses Total	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Not Applicable
Academic Advising	75%	22%	1%	1%
Meeting your Peer Group	72%	25%	3%	0%
Student Affairs Overview	64%	34%	1%	0%
Residence Life and Off-Campus and Commuter Services	65%	31%	2%	2%
Student Led Resource Session (Health and Wellness)	65%	32%	3%	<1%
Student Led Resource Session (Student Involvement)	68%	31%	1%	0%
Student Led Resource Session (Academic Support)	67%	31%	1%	0%
Information Services and Technology	60%	35%	2%	2%





# Survey Results

66 Responses Total	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	68%	20%	6%	5%	2%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	61%	21%	14%	5%	0%
Feel more prepared to start classes	64%	24%	11%	2%	0%
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	80%	14%	5%	0%	0%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	85%	12%	3%	0%	0%

69 Responses Total	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Not Applicable
Academic Advising	68%	28%	3%	1%
Meeting your Peer Group	83%	13%	4%	0%
Student Affairs Overview	78%	20%	1%	0%
Residence Life and Off-Campus and Commuter Services	78%	20%	0%	1%
Student Led Resource Session (Health and Wellness)	80%	19%	1%	0%
Student Led Resource Session (Student Involvement)	86%	14%	0%	0%
Student Led Resource Session (Academic Support)	78%	22%	0%	0%
Information Services and Technology	68%	28%	3%	1%

NSP held **three** on-campus transfer orientation session. 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. In total, **659** new Golden Rams attended an on-campus orientation while another **178** attended virtually for our online version of orientation. Additionally, **37** students attended our Adult Learner Orientation.

# Welcome Week 2024

August 21-25

At this year's Welcome Week, the campus community came together to offer more than **50 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

- Rams' Boardwalk Bash
- Class of 2028 Photo
- Find That Class
- Goats & Totes
- On-Campus Job Expo
- Transfer Student Swag Swap
- Ram Rally
- Butterfly Garden
- Big Queer Welcome
- Drag Bingo
- Welcome to the Borough and much more!





# Welcome Week

## *Class of 2028 Photo*

This year's Welcome Week activities culminated in approximately **2,000** new Golden Rams attending the class of 2028 photo on Sunday, August 25.





*Welcome Week*

# Registration and Check Ins



Event	Students Registered	Students Checked-In at the Event
Goats and Totes	767	409
Rams' Boardwalk Bash	670	543
Glitz, Glam, and Drag Bingo	555	534
Ram Rally	488	NA
On-Campus Job Expo	431	279
Butterfly Garden	347	220
Cupcake Decorating	329	219
Welcome to the Borough	301	NA
Find That Class	265	26
Night at the Rec	261	148
Outdoor Movie	249	83
Ram Magic	246	147
Pot a Plant	224	62
Chill with FSL	221	96
Big Queer Welcome	111	81





# Rams Reunite

Throughout the fall, undergraduate orientation leaders hosted events around campus as part of *Rams Reunite*, which was introduced in 2023. This initiative aims to extend new Rams' onboarding experience and continue helping them acclimate to campus, make connections, and find a sense of community.

## Featured Events

- Game Night
- Making Friendships and Bracelets
- Paper Maché Pumpkin Painting & Jeopardy
- Paint and Sip



# January Orientation

## In-Person Survey Results

Two orientation options were offered for students entering WCU in spring 2025. In-person orientation was held Friday, January 10, and virtual orientation was held Friday, January 17. A total of **143** new students attended in person and **100** attended virtually, for a total of **243** new Golden Rams oriented in January.

10 Responses	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	70%	20%	0%	10%	0%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	50%	10%	20%	10%	10%
Feel more prepared to start classes	50%	40%	10%	0%	0%
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

11 Responses	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Neutral	Somewhat Unhelpful	Extremely Unhelpful	Not Applicable
Welcome and Overview	73%	18%	0%	9%	0%	0%
Financial Aid/Bursar's	64%	27%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Academic Overview	64%	18%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Off-Campus and Commuter Services	73%	9%	18%	0%	0%	0%
Residence Life and Housing	64%	18%	18%	0%	0%	0%
Public Safety	82%	9%	0%	9%	0%	0%
Health and Wellbeing	82%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%
What I Wish I Knew	45%	27%	18%	18%	0%	0%

At the end of each orientation session, students and guests were asked to complete our post-orientation survey. We received 38 responses.



# January Virtual Orientation

## Survey Results

6 Responses	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel more connected to the University	17%	50%	33%	0%	0%
Feel more connected to my future classmates	17%	33%	50%	0%	0%
Feel more prepared to start classes	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%
Understand what is expected of me as a member of the WCU campus community	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Understand what support services are available to help me succeed at WCU	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%

6 Responses	Extremely Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Neutral	Somewhat Unhelpful	Extremely Unhelpful	Not Applicable
Welcome and Overview	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Transfer Concierge	50%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Off-Campus and Commuter Services	50%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Residence Life and Housing	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Financial Aid/Bursars	67%	17%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Academic Overview	50%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Wellness Promotion	67%	17%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Student Involvement	50%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Icebreaker	33%	17%	50%	0%	0%	0%



# Winter Welcome Event

A smaller-scale version of fall Welcome Week, Winter Welcome Day 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

- **Pot-a-Plant with the Office of Sustainability**
- **Build-Your-Own-Sick-Kit with the Office of Wellness Promotion**
- **Therapy Dogs with the Counseling Center Volunteers**
- **Cupcake Decorating with the Library**
- **Gourmet Coffee Bar from Aramark**
- **Bracelet Making**





*Summer 2024-January 2025*

# NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS TEAM



**WCU**  
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**New Student Programs**