Happy 4th of July!
From Your Osher Family

Fall Registration Coming Soon

Our fall semester is just around the corner! Be sure to check your mailbox in the coming weeks as the catalogs have been sent through USPS!

The electronic PDF of the catalog is already available online for download and viewing at https://www.wm.edu/offices/auxiliary/isher/.

With a wide variety of subjects ranging from Homer to Walt Whitman, America to Europe, and studying music and film to appreciating rugs, there is a little bit of something for everyone this fall.
The course request period will be 8am on July 26, 2021 through 5pm on July 30, 2021. During that week, you can purchase a fall membership, select the courses, activities and one-time lectures you would like to attend and prioritize them in the order of preference.

Once the lottery is run, you will receive a confirmation of the courses you were registered for by August 6. Please visit our website for additional information.

Reminders:

- Request and prioritize your selections any time within the course request period
- Prioritize your activities (including Town & Gown) and one-time lectures separately from your courses.
- You will still be able to request courses, one-time lectures and activities AFTER the course request period. The registration system will reopen on August 6 at 8am (following the lottery and member confirmation notification processes).
- Please note that the registration system will be shut down between 5pm on July 30 and 8am on August 6.
Scholarships Available for the Fall Semester

Several scholarships, funded by a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, that pay the full cost of a Regular membership in the Osher Institute are available each of our semesters.

Recipients must be 50 or older with an annual combined household adjusted gross income of $50,000 or less. If you need assistance for the fall semester and fit the criteria listed above, please do not hesitate to apply! And if your friends or family have wanted to become members but are concerned about the cost, please encourage them to contact us.

Applications are available by emailing osher@wm.edu or calling the office at 757-221-1506.

Great News for the Fall 2021 Semester
We are currently busy scheduling our fall semester, which will begin in September, and have great news! At long last, will be able to meet again in person.

We will need to follow safety guidelines, but it will be such a joy to see you all in person again!

We will continue to offer some courses via Zoom and Blackboard for those who prefer to attend sessions from the comfort of your own home.

"Masks Welcome"

Masks covering the mouth and nose remain the single most effective mitigation strategy for unvaccinated individuals.

Masks remain an effective way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and a host of other diseases, including colds and flu. We encourage all to be mindful of one another's comfort levels as we emerge from this pandemic.

Mask Update for In-Person Classes

Effective June 22, 2021, William & Mary will no longer require face masks indoors on any of its properties. Masks have been optional outdoors at W&M since May 17. Public health officials advise that vaccinated people can gather safely together for work or study without masks.

William & Mary encourages all unvaccinated students, employees and visitors to wear masks according to guidance provided by the governor of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. William & Mary encourages all students, employees, and visitors to protect their health and the health of others who may not be vaccinated.

W&M continues to welcome masks on campus for anyone who chooses to wear one, regardless of their vaccination status.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in being a host or class assistant for in person classes, or as an online
class assistant for Zoom this fall, please email us at osher@wm.edu or leave us a message at (757) 221-1506.

In addition, we will be launching some new volunteer committee opportunities coming soon. Stay posted for more information regarding:

- Curriculum
- Membership Experience
- Volunteer Coordination
- Marketing & Publicity
- Finance
- Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

Blackboard Is Back

Our online learning communities are formed in many ways - some of them are completely synchronous (same place, same time - like our in-person classes used to be or different place, same time - like our Zoom classes are now). But there is also the asynchronous option (different places, different times), and that's where we will venture this semester through our Blackboard Courses!

These courses will require a mindset shift - the learning and interaction within these courses will take place online completely and members who venture into this new territory will enjoy learning at their own pace, at times convenient for their own schedules. In many ways, the success of online learning communities are directly tied to the participation of those enrolled in the courses.

Members enrolled in Blackboard Courses will engage with different content mediums (think audio, videos, PowerPoint presentations, selected readings, YouTube, etc.) and then have the opportunity to react to what

Ready to Explore? Ready to Grow? Ready for Adventure?

Think about that feeling of ....
- **accomplishment** that comes from using new technology to master a difficult task like learning a new language, writing a computer program, producing an award-winning digital photograph, dissecting a complex philosophical argument, or deciphering an ancient document.
- **confidence** that comes from getting more proficient and more comfortable using your computer, camera, internet connection, or microphone to help enrich your learning in a rapidly changing world.
- **connection** that comes from using online tools to communicate with fellow learners by sharing text, comments, video, images, memes and the like. (Think Facebook but without the political ads or capturing all your personal data.)
- **mastery** that comes from building skills
they learned and engage with other members on discussion boards, chats, memes, and more. Together, members will explore learning interactively in this environment - quite a shift from primarily listening to a lecture on Zoom and typing your questions into the chat box or even attending a class in person (back when we could do that) and having to raise your hand and wait to be called upon to share your question or comment.

So, if you’re looking to venture into some new territory and have some fun exploring and learning, we invite you to register for one of these unique courses this fall!

We promise, you’ll learn more than just the course content!

What was a Spring 2021 pilot program has become a huge hit! Considering a Blackboard Course this Fall!

Osher Institute Policies

Refund Policy

Please note that the Osher Institute at William & Mary fees are membership fees. They are used to cover overall expenses of operating our lifelong learning program in a given semester and are not directly related to the number of courses you may take (i.e., there are no “per course” fees, and therefore, no “per course” refunds).

Inclement Weather Policy

The Osher Institute at W&M will cancel courses, activities, events, and/or training for weather if William & Mary University Events and Activities are canceled. A notice will be on the Osher Institute at W&M office voice mail (757-221-1506).

Please note, you will not be personally contacted.

Important Dates

July 1-5: Independence Day. The office will be closed in honor of the holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, July 6 at 8am

July 26: Registration & Course Request Period Begins at 8am

July 30: Course Request Period Closes at 5pm and registration temporarily closes

August 6: Course Confirmations are sent following the lottery process and registration reopens for post-lottery registration
August 19: New Instructor Orientation

September 2: A/V Training for Class Assistants and Instructors at the School of Education & Class Host Training

September 7: A/V Training for Class Assistants and Instructors at Discovery 1 & Class Host Training

September 9: A/V Training for Class Assistants and Instructors at the Whitman Cup Room & Class Host Training

Is it Time for Williamsburg Landing?
Visit WilliamsburgLanding.org and explore the possibilities!

Give to Osher @ W&M  Visit our website  Give to W&M