

2026 Family Orientation Schedule

Thursday, AUGUST 20 – MOVE-IN DAY

Thursday is move-in day for all new-to-William & Mary students! Students will have pre-scheduled individual move-in appointments between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The activities listed below are primarily optional activities your family can take advantage of throughout the day.

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Residential New Student Check-in & Move-In by Appointment**

Kaplan Parking Lot via Compton Drive (off Monticello Ave)

The campus move-in process is one of the most highly orchestrated events during William & Mary's academic year. All residential new-to-William & Mary students will pre-schedule a move-in time through Residence Life. Every residence hall is assigned a color-coded and/or named route to be followed as exactly as possible. More details can be [found here](#).

Students should enter the Check-In Line via Compton Drive at their designated move-in time. Individuals who arrive early will be diverted from the check-in process and asked to wait their turn.

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Family Orientation Information Station**

Residential Students: Through Move-In Line

Families will pick up information about Family Orientation on the go as part of the drive-through Move-In process. Commuter/Off-Campus Families will receive any important information or swag at Kaplan Arena on Saturday morning.

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Water Stations**

Stop by one of five convenient locations to hydrate! [Station locations are available here](#).

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Auxiliary Services Fair**

Sadler Center, Terrace

Parking & Transportation, W&M Dining, W&M Bookstore, Copy Center, and McCormick-Nagelsen Tennis Center are available. Register your bike on campus, sample dining options, load up on spirit wear, and much more.

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Food Trucks**

Sadler Center, Terrace

Enjoy a convenient on-campus dining option for lunch by choosing from a selection of local (and mobile) food vendors!

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Local Area Merchants Fair**

Sadler Center, Atrium

Held in the Main Atrium of the Sadler Center, this is an opportunity for new students and families to visit with local businesses, non-profit groups, banks, and other service providers.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **IT Help Desk**

Sadler Center, Atrium

Having trouble connecting to wireless on your phone or your gaming console? W&M Information Technology is here to help! Bring your technology questions and speak with one of our helpful support technicians.

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5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Optional *Student Only* Dinner with Orientation Aides or Resident Assistants**

Orientation Aides or Resident Assistants will ask students to attend an optional dinner in the dining hall with their fellow orientation group or hallmates. This student-only dinner is optional, but your student will likely be excited to attend their first dinner with their new community! Families should discuss this with their student before move-in day to determine dinner plans for the evening.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **WMSURE Dinner**

Sadler Center, Chesapeake ABC

Class of 2030 W&M Scholars and their supporters are invited to join the WMSURE faculty and staff for a shared meal. Students and families are welcome to come as you are and are not required to stay the entire time. A brief program will be held at 6:00 PM.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Home and Host W&M St Andrews Joint Degree Programme Students & Families Dinner**

Sadler Center, Tidewater

Home and Host W&M St Andrews Joint Degree Programme Students and their supporters are invited to join JDP administrative and support faculty and staff for dinner. Students and families should come as they are as your schedule allows.

Students and families will separate for the remainder of Orientation programming.

If your student did not attend dinner with their orientation group, by 7:00 p.m. your family should say “See You Later” to allow your student to engage in student-only community building activities. You should not anticipate spending meaningful time with your student beyond this point.

7:00 p.m. and beyond **Rest, Relax, and Explore Williamsburg!**

At this point in the schedule, students must report for mandatory student-only orientation activities. Families, use this time to rest, relax, reflect on the big day you’ve had, and enjoy an evening in Williamsburg!

Friday, AUGUST 21 – FAMILY ORIENTATION

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. **Off-Campus/Commuter Family Information Station**

Kaplan Arena, Concourse

Families who did not drive through the move-in line on Friday are encouraged to connect with our team at this time to receive information about the schedule and any swag you may have missed. *Please note that commuter/off-campus student check-in will take place from 8-9 a.m. in the Sadler Center Atrium.*

9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. **Welcome to the Family! Success at William & Mary**

Kaplan Arena

A thoughtful and interactive program about your student's university experience, W&M expectations, and family support during the college transition.

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9:45 a.m.-10:15 a.m. **From Orientation to Graduation: Supporting Your Student's Academic Journey**

Kaplan Arena

We will highlight what makes our liberal arts education distinctive and describe the course planning and enrollment process.

10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. **A Commitment to Wellness & Flourishing**

Kaplan Arena

W&M focuses on promoting health and wellness for all students. Join us to discuss how we strive to accomplish this mission.

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Celebrating Your William & Mary**

Kaplan Arena

Together with your new community, parents and families will officially be welcomed to the family by President Rowe, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Public Safety and others.

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. **Lunch**

A long lunch break will split morning sessions in Kaplan Arena and the afternoon at the School of Education. Visit the [Family Orientation website](#) to learn more about lunch options in the area. Residential dining facilities will be student-only at this time.

1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **William & Mary Family Connections Fair**

School of Education, Matoaka Woods

Family members may speak with representatives from a variety of campus services at this resource fair.

2:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. **William & Mary Information Sessions**

School of Education, various rooms

Representatives from across campus present on a variety of topics related to your student's success. There are four blocks of concurrent sessions, each lasting 30 minutes. **Rooms have limited space available and close at capacity. Popular sessions are offered more than once.**

Sessions include:

- Partners in Career Development: Strategies for Families
- Understanding W&M Finances
- The Study Abroad Experience
- Building a Safe Community: Campus Safety Resources
- And more!

This concludes Family Orientation. Thank you for joining us! Please travel home safely.