

JUNE 2019  
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

# FAMILY & GUEST ORIENTATION

#ramfam

**WCU**  
WEST CHESTER  
UNIVERSITY



# Welcome

## Welcome to the Ram Fam!

We often hear students equate the word *orientation* with the word *tour*. Actually, WCU's orientation is so much more. It's a program we've intentionally designed using the latest research and professional standards to help prepare new Golden Rams for the next step in their academic journey.

Today your student will attend an academic advising session, "make a connection" at a networking session hosted by our Career Development Center, and learn about living in a residence hall or commuting to campus. Perhaps most importantly, they will spend the day with their orientation leaders and a group of fellow new students in a setting designed to help them visualize what it will be like to experience WCU independently as a student this fall. Their OLs will work hard to help them connect to WCU and each other. And for those who want it, there's still an optional tour at the end of the day!

As the family member or guest of a new student, your day includes information about supporting students through their first year, sessions on residence life or commuter life, meetings with representatives from our academic colleges, and two pick-a-session times where you can choose the topic you'd like to learn more about. You'll also have the opportunity to meet faculty and staff from across campus at our closing reception and extended programs.



The Office of New Student Programs Team

We hope both you and your student find today to be helpful, informative and fun. It's a great day to be a member of the #RamFam!

—The New Student Programs Team



**P.S. After the program, please take a few minutes to complete the family and guest survey using the QR code to the left. We value your feedback and will use it to improve the orientation experience for future Rams and their guests.**

## Today's Terminology

Like most schools, WCU has its own lingo. Here are some terms you may hear today and what they mean. A more extensive list can be found under Other Helpful Links on the Families page of our website, [wcupa.edu/orientation](http://wcupa.edu/orientation).

**Affiliated Housing** – Allegheny, Brandywine and Commonwealth Halls which are owned and managed by University Student Housing, LLC (USH).

**Co-Curricular** – Activities students participate in beyond their normal University coursework or academic curriculum that contribute to their learning outside the classroom. Examples include team, club or intramural sports, student clubs and organizations, student government, community service, Greek Life, etc.

**D2L** – The learning management system (LMS) used at WCU for course materials, assignments, grades, syllabi, etc.

**FERPA** – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 which governs the privacy and confidentiality of students' educational records.

**First Year Experience (FYE)** – A course that all new first-year students are required to complete in their first semester at WCU.

**First Year Student** – New students entering their first year of college. Used instead of the traditional term freshman.

**myWCU** – Where students access bills, view holds on their account, schedule classes, and view final grades, GPA and unofficial transcripts.

**New Student** – Any student starting at WCU for the first time including first-year, transfer, adult-learner and distance education students.

**Ram Card** – Students' official WCU ID.

**RamConnect** – Used for all student organizations and campus events.

**Residence Hall** – Used in place of the traditional terms dorm or dormitory.

**Traditional Housing** – Goshen, Killinger, Schmidt and Tyson Halls which are owned and managed by the University.

**WCU Alert** – WCU's emergency notification system.

**WCU email** – The University's primary means of communicating with students.

## Schedule

8:00 – 8:45	<b>Check-In &amp; Morning Reception</b>	Business & Public Management Center
8:55 – 10:05	<b>Overview of the Day/Supporting Your Student Through Their First Year at WCU</b>	Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall
10:10 – 10:50	<b>Residence Life Session</b>	Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall
	<b>Commuter Life Session</b>	Sykes Student Union 10A
11:00 – 11:50	<b>Lunch (meal tickets sold at check in and at doors)</b>	Lawrence Dining Hall

12:00 – 12:35	<b>College Meetings</b>	
	• The College of Arts & Humanities	Business & Public Management Center 213
	• The College of Business & Public Management	Business & Public Management Center 101
	• The College of Education & Social Work	Business & Public Management Center 112
	• The College of Health Sciences	Business & Public Management Center 116
	• The College of Sciences & Mathematics	Anderson Hall 203
	• The School of Music	Business & Public Management Center 110
	• University College (Exploratory Studies)	Anderson Hall 211

12:45 – 1:25	<b>Pick a Session 1: Health, Safety and Student Life</b>	
	• Campus Recreation	Business & Public Management Center 207
	• Education Abroad Opportunities	Business & Public Management Center 213
	• Explore. Prepare. Experience. Become. Navigating Career Development	Business & Public Management Center 116
	• Ram Card	Business & Public Management Center 110
	• Fraternity & Sorority Life	Business & Public Management Center 212
	• Student Success for Multicultural Students	Business & Public Management Center 112
	• Office of Wellness Promotion	Business & Public Management Center 204
	• Your WCU Financial Roadmap	Business & Public Management Center 101

1:35 – 2:15	<b>Pick a Session 2: Academic Support and First Semester Resources</b>	
	• Campus Dining Services	Business & Public Management Center 207
	• Learning Assistance & Resource Center	Business & Public Management Center 116
	• Parent & Families as Partners in Student Success	Business & Public Management Center 112
	• PSECU – Bright Future Banking	Business & Public Management Center 110
	• The First Year Experience Course	Business & Public Management Center 204
	• Technology Resources for Students	Business & Public Management Center 212
	• University Libraries: Supporting Student Success	Business & Public Management Center 213
	• Your WCU Financial Roadmap	Business & Public Management Center 101

2:25 – 4:00	<b>Closing Reception &amp; Reconnect with Your Student</b>	Sykes Student Union Ballrooms
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» Session Descriptions Can Be Found On Page 3

## Schedule

» Continue to check the New Student Programs website for updates regarding August Orientation, student success opportunities, and Family Weekend October 4–6, 2019!

**WCUPA.EDU/Orientation**

### Extended Programs — 3:10 — 4:00 PM

• Alumni Affairs Legacy Picture	Sykes Ground Floor
• American Sign Language Placement Test	Sykes 210 – 6/14 only
• Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP) Open House	20 Linden St.
• Financial Aid Support	Sykes 10B
• First-Year Writing Program	Sykes 209
• Lawrence A. Dowdy Multicultural Center Open House	Sykes 003
• ROTC Open House and Information Session	809 Roslyn Avenue (behind Sykes Student Union)
• WCU Student Athlete Meeting	Sykes Theatre – 6/13, 6/14, 6/19, 6/20, 6/21 only

### Residence Hall Tours — 3:10 — 4:00 PM

• Affiliated Housing	Commonwealth Hall
• Traditional Housing	Killinger Hall

**These offices are open until 4:00 p.m. today**  
so you can handle University business after the orientation program:

• Campus Store	Sykes Union, Lower Level
• Office of Services for Students with Disabilities	223 Lawrence Center
• Office of the Bursar	25 University Avenue, Ground Floor
• Office of the Registrar	25 University Avenue, Ground Floor
• Residence Life and Housing Services – Traditional Housing Goshen, Killinger, Schmidt & Tyson Halls	202 Lawrence Center
• University Student Housing – Affiliated Housing Allegheny, Brandywine & Commonwealth Halls	Resident Services Office, 130 Commonwealth Hall
• Undergraduate Admissions Questions about changing a major before the start of the fall semester should be directed to Admissions	Messikomer Hall, Rosedale Avenue

## » Optional Walking Tour of Campus with Your Student

3:10 — 4:00 PM

*Leaving every five minutes from outside the Campus Store on the ground floor of Sykes*

You and your student can get to know campus a little better by taking this optional walking tour with one of our knowledgeable orientation leaders. This tour does not include a residence hall. Please see information to the right about residence hall tours.

## Session Descriptions

### 10:10 – 10:50 AM

» **Residence Life Session** During this session you will hear about the policies that govern our residential communities. We will share what to bring and what not to bring to campus, and you'll receive information that will help make your move-in experience spectacular!

» **Commuter Life Session** This session covers the important facts of being a commuter student at WCU—everything from parking and shuttle buses to bike shares and campus jobs. Learn about the resources and programs that will best fit your commuter student and how they can manage their commute as well as their in-class and out-of-class experiences.

### 12:45 – 1:25 PM • Pick a Session 1

» **Campus Recreation** With a diverse line-up of aquatic, competitive, fitness, leisure, nutrition and recreational programs and services, Campus Recreation aspires to be the best part of your Golden Ram's day! Mix in WCU's nationally award winning sport club teams, creative and cutting-edge intramural program and outstanding outdoor adventure program, and you have a recipe for a healthier, happier new Ram.

» **Education Abroad Opportunities** Learn about the opportunities available to WCU students to study, volunteer, intern, and teach internationally during their college careers. A representative from the Center for International Programs will provide an overview of Education Abroad and how these programs work for WCU students.

» **Explore | Prepare | Experience | Become. Navigating Career Development at WCU!**

Career Development is not something students have to put a suit on to do, and the earlier they start the better. Join us and learn about the many resources available in the Career Development Center including exploring major or career options, preparing for jobs and internships, building connections through networking, and more. We are here to support each student, individually, throughout their career development process.

» **Ram Card** The Ram Card is your student's access to EVERYTHING on campus—from food to fun, rec center to residence hall. Come see

why it's the most important thing in your student's wallet! Learn about the Ram Card's benefits, the meal plan and Ram Bucks, a "super debit" account that is super secure and super convenient. Learn about exclusive Ram Bucks discounts and rewards that can help you save money on food and textbooks, manage your college spending and enjoy everything West Chester has to offer!

» **Fraternity and Sorority Life** The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is committed to providing a values-based membership experience to WCU students, emphasizing campus and community engagement, academic success, leadership development, and meaningful interpersonal relationships. During this session we will cover information about the fraternity and sorority experience, health and safety prevention efforts and the co-curricular impact of membership.

» **Student Success for Multicultural Students** Representatives from the Lawrence A. Dowdy Multicultural Center will discuss all the resources available to multicultural students at WCU including the Peer Mentoring Program and other support services.

» **Office of Wellness Promotion** Representatives from the Office of Wellness Promotion are here to provide you with information about the wellness initiatives and services available on campus for new Golden Rams.

» **Your WCU Financial Roadmap** Join Financial Aid and the Bursar's Office to discuss how to secure students' financial aid and navigate the billing process. Financial Aid will review how to secure current funds, obtain additional financing and navigate the roadmap of the financial aid process. The Bursar's office will review the billing schedule, payment methods and how to use financial aid to pay for affiliated housing.

### 1:35 – 2:15 PM • Pick a Session 2

» **Campus Dining Services** The outstanding Dining Services team will provide you with an overview of all the services WCU Dining offers. You will receive information about the different meal plans, how to use them, and where they are accepted. Dining Services is more than just meal plans though! Find out

about job opportunities with Dining Services, our signature gift and birthday cake program, and other great information regarding our world-class WCU dining program.

» **Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LARC)** Tutoring anyone? Learn about the various academic support services available at the LARC including tutoring, academic coaching, academic success workshops and more.

» **Parents and Families as Partners in Student Success** Welcome to the Ram Fam! The Office of Parent and Family Relations will offer insight into the first year at WCU and discuss pathways for partnership to promote student success, foster independence and encourage holistic development.

» **PSECU — Bright Future Banking** Financial Education Center Manager Amanda Altice will discuss the benefits of joining a credit union and highlight financial education opportunities for your students at WCU.

» **The First Year Experience Course** The First Year Experience course provides all students with an engaging and interactive platform from which they can plan their continuing growth and development as students and citizens during their time at WCU. Stop by to meet faculty and directors of this program to learn more about it.

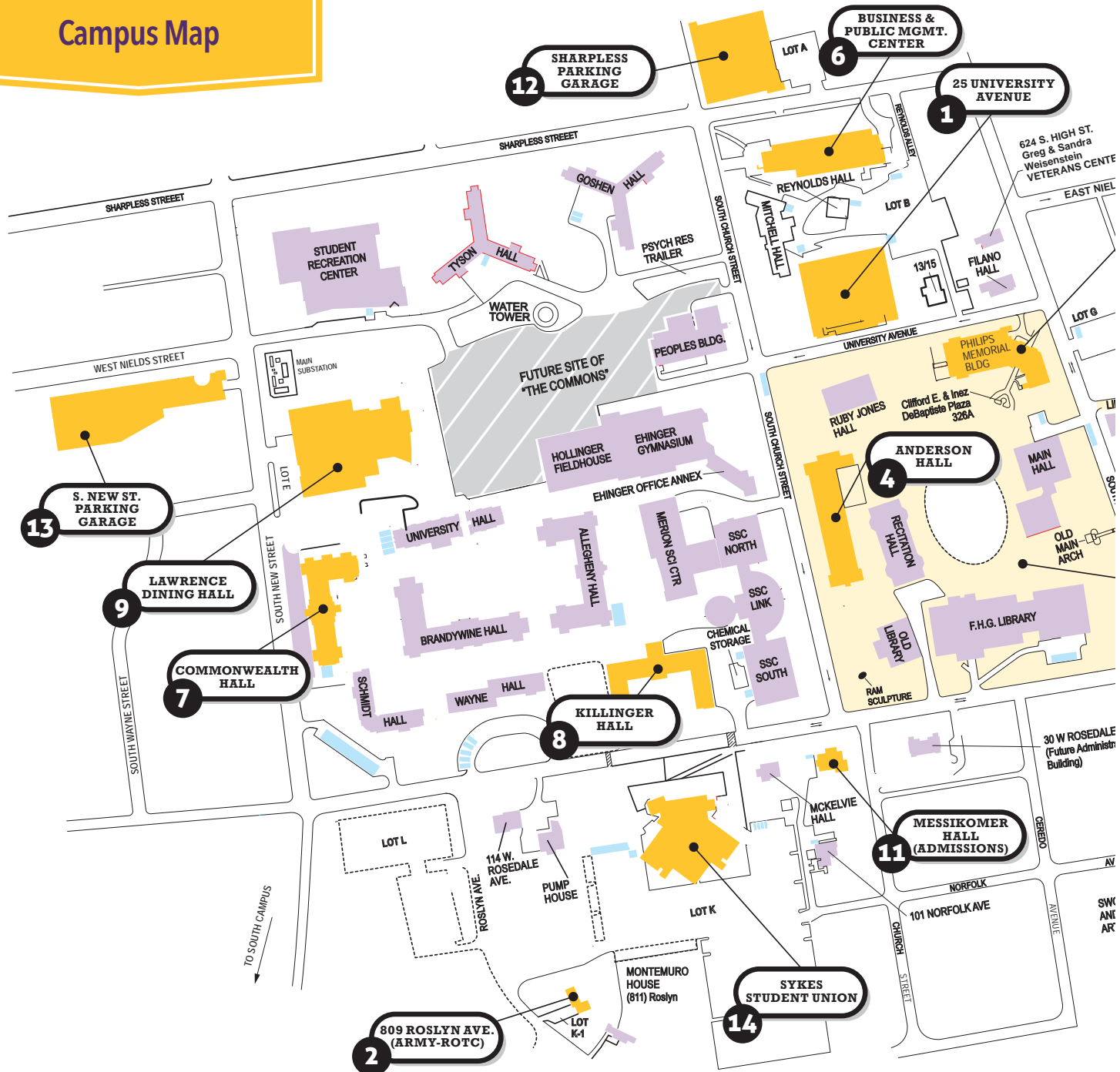
» **Technology Resources for Student Success** Representatives from the Information Services & Technology Division will uncover the vast availability of technical resources at WCU, including software applications, equipment lending and technology support services for students.

» **University Libraries: Supporting Student Success** Librarians from WCU's University Libraries will introduce the spaces and resources the libraries offer while also uncovering how together their services can foster creativity, facilitate intellectual exploration, and educate WCU students.

» **Your WCU Financial Roadmap**  
See Description under Pick a Session 1.



# Campus Map




## Key

- |                                 |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 25 University Avenue          | 6 Business & Public Management Center | 11 Messikomer Hall (Admissions) |
| 2 809 Roslyn Avenue (Army-ROTC) | 7 Commonwealth Hall                   | 12 Sharpless Parking Garage     |
| 3 Academic Quad                 | 8 Killinger Hall                      | 13 S. New Street Parking Garage |
| 4 Anderson Hall                 | 9 Lawrence Dining Hall                | 14 Sykes Student Union          |
| 5 Asplundh Concert Hall         | 10 Linden Street (D-CAP)              | Accessible Parking              |

## 12. Sykes Student Union

A photograph of the Sykes Student Union building. The building is a modern structure with a dark, textured facade and large glass windows. It features several tall, light-colored concrete pillars. In the foreground, there are wide concrete steps leading up to the entrance, flanked by metal railings. To the left, there are green bushes and a flagpole with the American flag. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A yellow decorative shape is on the right side of the image.

## 5. Business & Public Management Center



The image shows the exterior of the Business & Public Management Center. It is a multi-story building constructed primarily of red brick. The building features a prominent central section with a gabled roof and a series of large, multi-paned glass windows that allow natural light into the interior. To the right of the brick section, there is a modern glass extension. The ground floor has a large arched entrance. The building is surrounded by greenery, including several young trees in the foreground and a grassy lawn. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

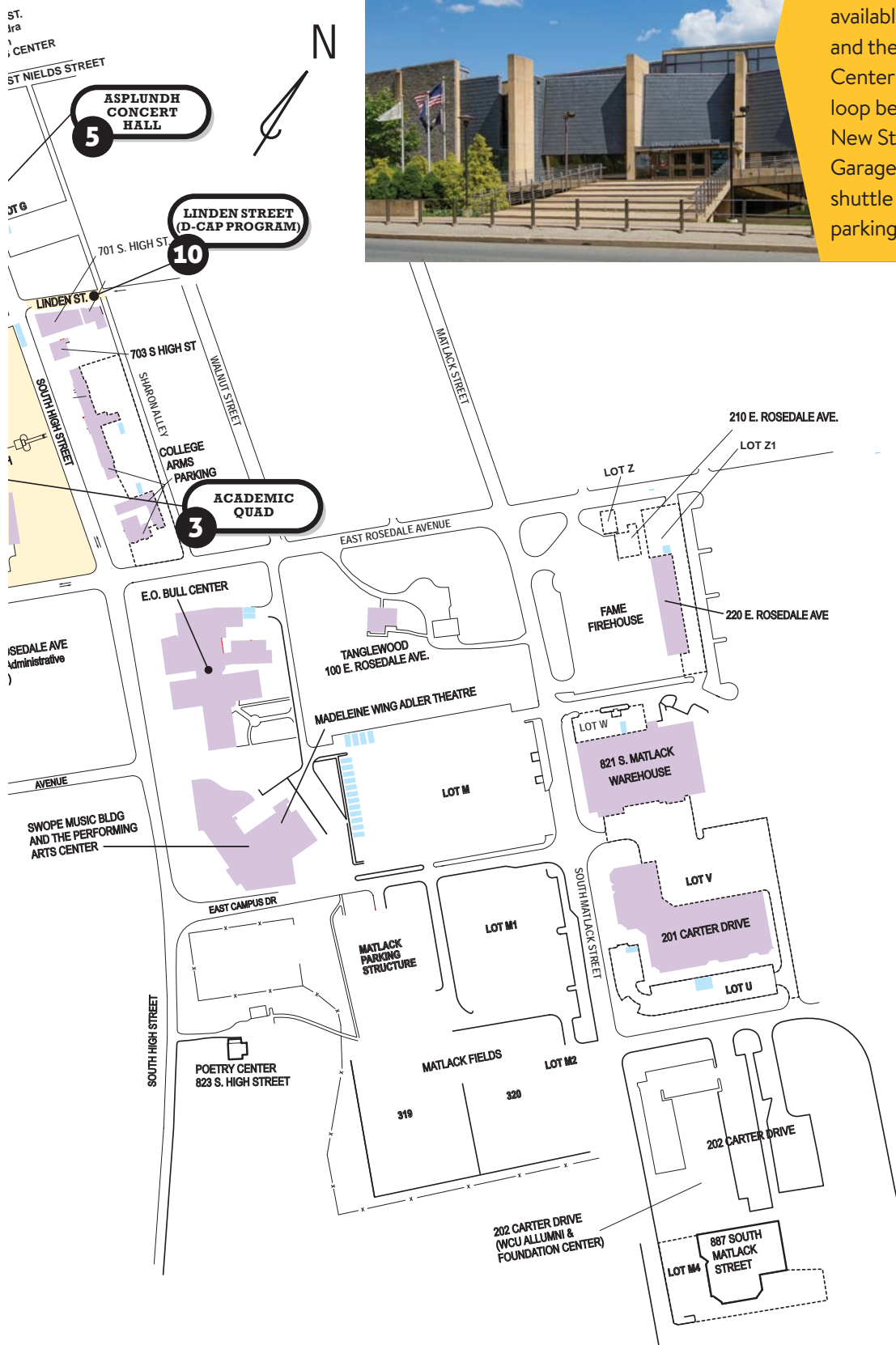
## 10. Sharpless Parking Garage

A photograph of the Sharpless Parking Garage, a multi-story building with a prominent white and brown facade. The building features a central tower section with a white upper portion and brown lower portion, and a parking structure to the right. The sky is clear blue, and there are some green utility boxes and a white car in the foreground.

**11. S. New Street  
Parking Garage**

Family and Guest Orientation 5

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# FERPA

## West Chester University's FERPA Policy

Similar to how HIPAA covers individuals' medical records, FERPA—the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974—is a federal law that covers privacy and access to students' educational records.

All schools receiving federal financial aid must comply with FERPA, and every school has their own policies governing access to student records. At WCU, we're committed to maintaining the privacy and safety of every WCU student, so we have developed policies to empower all admitted students, regardless of their age, to protect themselves from the unwanted disclosure of their education records and to grant access to those records as they see fit.

The following WCU policy governs parental/guardian notification under specific circumstances.

## West Chester University Policy on Parental/Guardian Notification

### Health and Safety

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects against the disclosure of a student's educational record without the written consent of the student. No one outside West Chester University shall have access to, nor will the institution disclose, any information from students' educational records without the students' written consent except in certain circumstances, including in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons.

It is expected that students will contact their parents or guardians concerning serious illnesses or injury. (Examples of health and safety related issues include: life-threatening illnesses, suicide attempts, and serious injuries.) However, when the student is unable to contact a parent, or when life-threatening circumstances arise, a University Student

Affairs senior management professional may notify the parent or guardian. WCU evaluates these situations on a case-by-case basis.

### Alcohol Incidents

FERPA permits disclosure to parents or guardians of any violation regarding the use or possession of drugs or alcohol by students under the age of twenty-one.

Students who are arrested for an alcohol-related violation of Pennsylvania Statute and/or the WCU Code of Conduct involving students under the age of 21, who are determined to be under the influence of alcohol, or who pose a risk to themselves, will be observed by the Department of Public Safety personnel or relinquished to a parent or guardian until such time that they are no longer deemed a safety risk. Notification to the parent or guardian is the responsibility of the arresting officer.

## » Students at West Chester University are afforded the following rights regarding their education records:

- The right to inspect and review their education records within 45 days from the date the University receives the student's request for access.
- The right to request an amendment to their education records if the student believes the record contains inaccurate or misleading information.
- The right to provide consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in their education records.
- The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failures by West Chester University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

**More information about FERPA and West Chester University's FERPA policy can be found on the Office of the Registrar's Website:**

**[wcupa.edu/registrar/privacy.aspx](http://wcupa.edu/registrar/privacy.aspx)**

## » University policies can be found in the University's student handbook, The Ram's Eye View, accessible at

**[WCUPA.EDU/RAMSEYVIEW](http://WCUPA.EDU/RAMSEYVIEW)**



## Campus Resources

WHAT DO YOU NEED?		WHERE CAN YOU FIND IT?
Access to student information, parent portal, registration and scheduling, withdrawal from school	➔	Office of the Registrar 25 University Avenue wcupa.edu/registrar 610-436-3541
Affiliated housing: Allegheny, Brandywine and Commonwealth Halls	➔	University Student Housing Leasing Center 130 Commonwealth Hall ushcommunities.org 610-430-4988
Billing, fees, payment plans, refunds	➔	Office of the Bursar 25 University Avenue wcupa.edu/bursar 610-436-2552
Campus food service	➔	Dining Services Lawrence Center westchester.campusdish.com 610-436-2730
Class absences lasting longer than three days	➔	Student Assistance Commonwealth Hall wcupa.edu/studentassistance 610-436-0165
Counseling services	➔	Counseling and Psychological Services 241 Lawrence Center wcupa.edu/counselingcenter 610-436-2301
Disability services	➔	Office of Services for Students with Disabilities 223 Lawrence Center wcupa.edu/ossd 610-436-2564
Emergency contact with students, Parking enforcement	➔	Public Safety 22 Peoples Building wcupa.edu/publicsafety 610-436-3311
Financial aid applications, process and packages	➔	Financial Aid 25 University Avenue wcupa.edu/financialaid 610-436-2627
Health services	➔	Student Health Services Commonwealth Hall wcupa.edu/healthservices 610-436-2509
Services for off campus and commuter students	➔	Off Campus and Commuter Services 250 Sykes Student Union wcupa.edu/och 610-436-2984
Student standards, student code of conduct	➔	Office of Student Conduct 200 Ruby Jones Hall wcupa.edu/conduct 610-436-3511
Textbooks, supplies	➔	Campus Store Sykes Student Union Ground Floor wcucampusstore.com 610-436-2242
Traditional housing: Goshen, Killinger, Schmidt and Tyson Halls	➔	Residence Life and Housing Services 202 Lawrence Center wcupa.edu/housing 610-436-3307
Tutoring services	➔	Learning Assistance and Resource Center 224 Lawrence Center wcupa.edu/larc 610-436-2535
Veterans' affairs	➔	Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veterans Center 624 S. High Street wcupa.edu/veteranscenter 610-436-2862

» These offices will have  
representatives at today's  
afternoon reception

Academic Advising/  
Student Success Coordinator

Campus Store

Community Policing Unit

Counseling Services

Entrepreneurial Leadership

Leadership Minor

MicroFridge

Off Campus & Commuter Services

Office of Admissions

Office of Candidate Services,  
College of Education & Social Work

Office of the Registrar and  
Math Placement Exam

Office of Sustainability

Parent & Family Relations

Parking Services

Pre-Major Academic Advising/  
Exploratory Studies

Residence Life & Housing

ResNet & Academic Computing

ROTC

School of Music &  
School of Visual and Performing Arts

Service Learning & Volunteer Programs

Student Health Services

Student Leadership & Involvement

Sykes Student Union,  
Student Activities and Rams After Hours

The Center for Trans & Queer Advocacy

Greg and Sandra Weisenstein  
Veterans Center

Violence Prevention and  
Center for Women & Gender Equity

WCU Foundation and Alumni Affairs

West Chester's First

Writing Placement Exam



*Plan your next visit!*

# FAMILY

## 20 WEEKEND 19

*October 4-6 2019*



## LUNCH TIME BANKING.

### MANAGE YOUR MONEY LIKE A BOSS.

Check your balances. Pay back your friend from your phone. Deposit a check. Whether you're on campus or off, use our digital banking services to keep your money on track. Save on fees, too. After all, it's your money. Why should you pay to use it? We even return ATM surcharge fees\* you may get from another financial institution.

[PSECU.COM/STUDENTS](https://PSECU.COM/STUDENTS)

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INSURED BY NCUA. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER.

\*Up to \$20/month in ATM surcharge rebates with Direct Deposit and up to \$8/month without.  
Students: You have the right to choose your banking relationship, and can continue using your current bank accounts.