Welcome and Overview of the Day
We are glad that you are here with us! Members of the Mercer community will welcome you and outline today’s schedule.

11:00 AM to 11:10 AM
Welcome and Overview of the Day
We are glad that you are here with us! Members of the Mercer community will welcome you and outline today’s schedule.

11:10 AM to 11:20 AM
Bear Talk
Members of our Orientation Leadership Team and Head Staff will be showing you some fun insider tips on how to Be The Bear!

11:20 AM to 11:40 AM
Student Health and Safety Conversation
Join representatives from the Division of Student Affairs, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Health Center (SHC), Title IX, Residence Life, and Mercer Police to discuss the support systems in place that prioritize student health and safety.

11:40 AM to 12:00 PM
Student Question & Answer Panel
Join members of our Peer Advisor Team as we talk through their Mercer University experience, their biggest tips and tricks, as well as taking some time to answer your questions!

12:00 PM to 12:20 PM
Meeting with Deans
Students and families meet with a representative from their college or school to discuss academic requirements and learn more about the career of a Mercer student.

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Workshops
- **Academic Resource Center (ARC) Presentation**
  The ARC helps Mercer University students attain academic success and degree completion by promoting independent, active, and lifelong learning, scholarly achievement, and personal development. Learn more about their services that are available to you.
- **Pre-Health Program Presentation**
  If you are interested in pursuing any of Mercer’s pre-health programs, learn more about your track’s requirements in your first year.
- **Auxiliary Services Presentation**
  Bear Cards, Dining Services, Mail and Document Services, and so much more! Learn about how Auxiliary Services is here to support you.
- **Virtual Resource Fair**
  This session is an opportunity for you to get connected with resources from across campus. Community members are eager to welcome you to Mercer.

12:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Academic Advising Appointments Begin
The morning of your Orientation Date you will receive an advising appointment to meet with an academic advisor during this time. As your advising time nears, you will enter their Zoom waiting room. You’ll have the opportunity to review your Fall 2020 course schedule and adjust accordingly. Note: Schedules can be adjusted in July once
YOUR ADVISING APPOINTMENT

REVIEWING YOUR SCHEDULE
While at Summer Orientation, you meet one-on-one with an academic advisor from your academic college or school. We encourage you to navigate this advising appointment independently as an opportunity to take ownership of your academic experience. Mercer typically receives official AP scores in July and adds these scores to students’ records upon receipt. Adjustments to students’ class schedules are made based on course credit awarded for acceptable scores. You will have the opportunity to review your fall course schedule again with your advisor at Bear Beginnings in August.

PLACEMENT EXAMS
Pre-Registration Required!

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
If you studied a particular language for two or more years and wish to exempt your College or School’s foreign language requirement or desire to continue studying this language, take the foreign language placement exam at Summer Orientation or Bear Beginnings. The placement exam takes approximately thirty minutes and consists of multiple choice, reading, grammar, and vocabulary questions. Note: The School of Engineering, Tift College of Education, and the College of Health Professions do not have a foreign language requirement. If you desire to start a new foreign language in college, you do not need to complete the placement exam.

MATH
If your Math Index is 979 or below and your anticipated major or track requires calculus or chemistry, take the thirty minute math placement exam at Summer Orientation or Bear Beginnings to determine your level of math readiness.

Exams can only be taken once.
This office provides Accessibility, Consultation, Collaboration, Education, Support, and Services (ACCESS) and accommodations to ensure access to programs and services for students and visitors with disabilities as required under Rehabilitation Act Section 504 and the ADAAA.

If you had a 504 Plan or IEP in high school or currently have a severe and/or chronic medical, sensory, or psychological disorder that requires accommodations in the classroom, with testing, and/or for campus housing, you must contact ACCESS to submit your request for accommodations. Contact ACCESS if you have a mobility impairment and are concerned about access to classrooms or housing. Disability Verification Forms, the Process Overview, Student Responsibilities, and Mercer’s ADAAA/504 policies and procedures can be found on the ACCESS website.

All new students have the opportunity to continue a Mercer tradition of participating in the Summer Reading and Essay Contest. Keep an eye on your email as we send more details in the near future on how to access our selected readings from the Mercer Reader.
**MERCER POLICE**  

police.mercer.edu  
mercerpolice@m.ercer.edu  
(p) 478.301.HELP (4357)

Mercer Police officers are certified by the state of Georgia and act as the protective arm of Mercer University. Please program their telephone number into your phone in case you need to reach them quickly. Officers are always on duty to ensure Mercer is a safe place for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and their property. Mercer Police is also responsible for parking and traffic enforcement. Remember to get your free parking decal when you begin class this fall.

**HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE**  
residencelife.mercer.edu/macon  
residencelife@mercer.edu  
Located in the Connell Student Center, third floor  
(p) 478.301.2687

Housing and Residence Life supports students while they live in the residence halls, promoting the development of close relationships with diverse individuals while enhancing student leadership skills and personal responsibility. Residence halls are staffed by Resident Assistants (RAs) who live on each floor.

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)**  
studentaffairs.mercer.edu/counseling  
Located behind MEP Residence Hall  
(p) 478.301.2862

CAPS is dedicated to supporting the emotional, personal, social and developmental needs of Mercer students. Services are designed to help address existing personal challenges and prevent future issues by providing confidential individual and relational counseling throughout a student’s career at Mercer. Additionally, CAPS offers consultation to students, faculty, staff and families, crisis management, outreach programs including AWARE and SHAPE and other educational programs. CAPS staff are here to help students be successful at Mercer. Students can call CAPS to schedule an appointment.

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**STUDENT HEALTH CENTER**  
shc.mercer.edu/macon  
shcmacon@mercer.edu  
Located at in the Field House, in front of Five Star Stadium  
(p) 478.301.2696 | (f) 478.301.2116

The Student Health Center (SHC) provides health services for all Mercer students, regardless of insurance coverage. The SHC is considered the primary healthcare provider for students who have the school insurance. Students with this insurance should contact Student Health if appointments or referrals are needed, prior to seeking other medical attention unless after hours or in cases of emergency.

**Hours of Operation:**  
Fall and Spring Semesters: 8 AM till 5 PM, Monday-Friday  
Closed from 12 PM to 1 PM

SHC provides various healthcare services including acute illness and injuries, allergy injections, immunizations, women’s health, and health education. Some students may be referred out — depending on the illness/injury — at the discretion of the SHC staff. All visits to the SHC are confidential. No information is released without the consent of the student.

SHC does not provide medical excuses for missed classes, exams, or assignments. In the event that a student needs to miss class, the SHC recommends that the student notify professors directly, prior to the absence.

**TITLE IX**  
TitleIX.mercer.edu  
TitleIX@mercer.edu  
(p) 478.301.2788

To ensure Mercer is making every effort to fully address the issues of sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence, our Title IX Coordinator partners with other resources to promote a healthier and safer campus environment for everyone.

First-year students are required to complete the MANDATORY *EverFi* online course as a way to approach the interconnected issues of substance abuse, sexual violence, and unhealthy relationships through a variety of realistic scenarios and guided self-reflection. The online course must be completed before the Fall Semester begins in preparation for the fall semester and joining the Mercer community.
IMPORTANT DATES

FALL 2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
as published by the Registrar’s Office
registrar.mercer.edu/macon/calendars

- OPENING DAY: Saturday, August 15
- BEAR BEGINNINGS: August 15-17
- FIRST DAY OF CLASS: Tuesday, August 18
- LAST DAY FOR DROP/ADD: Friday, August 23
- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: Monday, September 7
- MIDTERM: Wednesday, October 7
- FALL BREAK: October 1-2
- THANKSGIVING BREAK: November 25-27
- LAST DAY OF FALL CLASSES: Friday, December 4
- FINAL EXAMS: December 7-12

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE
studentplan.corehealthbenefits.com/mercer
CORE Management Resources
(p) 888.741.2673 (CORE)

Mercer University’s Student Health Insurance Program (MUSHiP) is a comprehensive student health coverage plan available each semester of student enrollment.

For students under 24 years of age, the cost of coverage is $996/semester.

Student Health Insurance Program Highlights Include:
- Primary Care Provider: Mercer Medicine (on-campus)
- Low deductibles
- Inpatient/outpatient/office visits include co-pays
- Prescription drug card provided: applicable co-pays apply

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

STUDENT RECORDS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION (FERPA FORM)
Located in Langdale Hall
registrar.mercer.edu | registrar@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.2680 | (f) 478.301.2455

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was enacted to give students access to their education records and to protect their privacy. Unless a student is documented as legally dependent, the University is prohibited by FERPA from releasing student account information to a parent or guardian or other unauthorized third party without the student’s consent. Students who wish to grant access to an authorized individual should complete and submit the Student Records Release Authorization to the Registrar’s Office before the University can discuss any academic and/or financial information with a parent or guardian.

In order to complete the FERPA form students will log into MyMercer, and go under the Self Help Center. From there, they can click on FERPA form which will take them to the launching page for completion and submission.

IMMUNIZATION FORM
to the Student Health Center (SHC)
shc.mercer.edu/macon
shcmacon@mercer.edu
Located in the Medical School Building, first floor
(p) 478.301.2696 | (f) 478.301.2116

The Immunization Form is required for all students. It must be completed and signed by the student and returned to the SHC along with an official copy of the student’s immunization (vaccine) record. All documents should be turned in before the semester classes begin. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of the documents for their personal records.

The form must be returned to the SHC. This may be done in via e-mail, mail, or fax (all are listed on the form). To obtain a copy of the immunization form, go to shc.mercer.edu for Macon campus and click on the “Immunization” link.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER
bursar.mercer.edu/studentinsurance

All students are required to have health insurance coverage and are billed for the cost of CORE health insurance coverage based on age-banding. If you already have coverage under another policy and do not want to pay for the University-approved health coverage, you must complete the health insurance waiver process. The waiver process for the fall semester becomes available in early July. Once your waiver has been submitted and approved, your charge is removed.
Bursar’s Office
bursar.mercer.edu
bursar@mercer.edu
Located in Ryals Hall
(p) 478.301.1111

Tuition
The Office of the Bursar handles online payment plans, Bear Card transfers, and tuition bills for all Mercer students. Your bill, authorized payer information, and direct deposit options can be located in your MyMercer portal under the link “Manage My Account.”

Bills will become available approximately 30 days before the start of the semester. Bill notifications will be e-mailed to your Mercer e-mail address at that time. Your account balance is due by the first day of class.

Payment Plans
paymentplans@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.2662

Mercer University offers you the option to spread out payment of your direct charges over multiple months. Plan benefits include easy online enrollment, flexible payment options, and no interest charges.

Two Available Payment Methods:
• Electronic check or check in-hand (no fee)
• Credit/debit card (additional fee assessed)

Applicable Fees:
• $40-$50 enrollment fee per semester, based on plan
• $30 returned payment fee if payment is returned

If the down payment or enrollment fee is returned for any reason, the payment plan agreement is terminated.

Steps To Enroll:
• Login to MyMercer portal
• “Manage My Account”
• “Set Up a Payment Plan” and follow the steps on the screen

Authorized Payer
If you would like your parents/sponsors to have access to your bill and/or make payments on your account, please enroll them as authorized payers. To do so, login to your MyMercer portal and choose “Manage My Account.” Select “Add an Authorized Payer” from the home screen and follow the steps to complete the enrollment. Parents/sponsors must confirm their account and complete the registration process before they earn access to view your account and make payments.

Payment Plan Enrollment
Payment plans are available through MyMercer beginning mid-July for the fall semester. You should enroll in a payment plan prior to the first day of class.

Financial Notes
Meal Memberships are available to all students. Each Meal Membership comes with a predetermined balance of Dining Dollars between $50 and $400. These funds are loaded onto your Bear Card. The minimum Meal Membership required is determined according to completed hours as stated in both the Housing and Meal Membership contract. Students with First-Year (0-29 hours), Sophomore (30-59 hours), and Junior (60-89 hours) academic status are required to purchase a meal plan REGARDLESS OF CAMPUS HOUSING — including the Lofts and apartments. Students under 30 credit hours are auto-assigned the Unlimited PLUS meal membership. As long as the student is officially registered for class, the contract is binding for the entire academic year, unless a change in class level occurs or the student is officially released from their housing contract. Should either occur, the student must submit a ‘Request to Change Meal Membership’ form to Auxiliary Services for approval.

Your Bear Bucks account – a prepaid, stored-value account that’s part of your Bear Card – is the convenient, cashless way to pay for your purchases on campus and at a variety of off campus locations. The area’s most popular local businesses accept Bear Card, and you can use it to pay for school supplies, restaurants, delivery, and more. Check out the website for a complete list of merchants who accept the Bear Card. To use it, simply deposit money into your Bear Bucks account and the balance will decrease with each purchase you make.

Bear Cards can be linked to your FREE Wells Fargo Student Checking account. Students can enjoy several banking conveniences both on and off campus.

All students have a Mercer University post office box to receive mail from places both on and off campus. Students are notified of packages ready for pick up from the University Center via e-mail. Mail Services also offers USPS services (including stamps), UPS shipping, and FedEx shipping.

Mail can be sent to you at the following address:

Toby Bear
MU Box #1833
1501 Mercer University Dr.
Macon, GA 31207

Student’s First & Last Name
Student’s MU Box #

Document Services can provide black and white copying, color copying, wide format/oversized printing, banner printing, laminating, binding, folding, scanning, and faxing.

OSE is dedicated to assisting students with part-time employment opportunities. Browse the online job board and register for JobMail to receive an e-mail each time an employer submits a job post. Apply to positions following the instructions and keep a log of positions for which you’ve applied and who you should contact for more information. To complete the new hire process, students will need to provide proof of identity and authorization to work (as outlined on the Federal I-9 form) to OSE.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) HELP DESK
it.mercer.edu
helpdesk@mercer.edu
Located in Tarver Library, second floor
(p) 478.301.7000

Information Technology (IT) supports, develops, and maintains the IT environment. Mercer IT can assist you with wired/wireless network access, computer recommendations, problem evaluation, and e-mail access.

MERCER E-MAIL ACCOUNT
mercerlive.mercer.edu
It is important that you check your Mercer e-mail account on a frequent and regular basis since time-sensitive and confidential information will be sent to this e-mail address while you are enrolled as a student. Visit the IT website to learn how to install your Mercer e-mail on a smartphone or device. NOTE: Your MyMercer, MercerLive e-mail, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer passwords are all the same, so if one changes, they all change.

MYMERCER
my.mercer.edu
MyMercer is a website that allows students to manage their schedules, view grades, manage financial aid, pay tuition, apply for campus housing, and much more.

CANVAS
canvas.mercer.edu
Canvas is an online learning management system that supports supplementary learning tools in an online environment. You can download course materials (e.g., course syllabi), view course announcements, review course calendars, participate in online discussions, just to highlight a few of the functions. Please note: not all faculty use all of the system’s functions.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
residencelife.mercer.edu/macon
residencelife@mercer.edu
Located in the Connell Student Center, third floor
(p) 478.301.2687

Packing for college is an exciting time! Here are some commonly-forgotten items you won’t want to forget: cleaning supplies, first aid kit, laundry supplies, shower shoes, surge protector, ethernet cable, towels, twin XL sheets, and decorations to make your room feel more like home.

Make sure to leave the following at home, as they are not allowed in your residence hall: alcohol, candles, electric heaters, extension cords, halogen lights, hot plates/grills, pets (except fish), toaster ovens, weapons, wireless routers and printers, and more.

For our full packing list with all permitted and prohibited items, as well as to check out all of our community standards, make sure to visit https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon/resources/

Curious about what your room may look like, or specific dimensions for your room? Check out our virtual tours at https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon/halls/
You are invited to submit an essay for the First-Year Student Summer Writing Award where a first-year student’s essay will be selected for its outstanding writing and reflection on the summer reading, selections from the Mercer Reader. The winner will receive a Barnes & Noble Bookstore gift card. Essays are due on July, 31, 2020. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @MercerAAS for updates about the Summer Essay Contest and much more!

**BEAR BEGINNINGS:** **SATURDAY, AUG. 15 - MONDAY, AUG. 17**

Following the Opening Day festivities and Welcome Ceremony on Saturday afternoon, commuter students attend a Commuter Program which will include dinner. Residential students can wrap up any loose ends, eat dinner, and say goodbyes to families and guests. The Bear Beginnings program begins with the Check-In on Saturday evening. **Be sure to attend Check-In and Kick-Off to pick up your FREE Class of 2023 shirt for the class photo!**

Bear Beginnings, your MANDATORY three-day fall orientation program, is designed to help first-year students transition both academically and socially to life at Mercer. During Bear Beginnings, you will finalize your fall schedule, learn about various campus resources, gain an understanding of Mercer’s academic expectations, and attend social events. **Students also attend Bear Fair, a student involvement fair that features many of our campus organizations, on Monday!**

You will experience Bear Beginnings alongside your Peer Advisor (PA), orientation group (O-Group) of fellow first-year students, and academic advisor. Once Bear Beginnings is complete, you will remain connected with your PA, O-Group, and academic advisor through University 101 (UNV 101). UNV 101 is a 16-week, 1-credit hour course that discusses important topics, such as Mercer’s history, study skills, critical thinking, ethics, health, safety, and careers.

As you are aware, there are uncertainties for all of us in the days and weeks ahead in light of the global impact of COVID-19. Please know that we are working diligently to shape what your next steps will look like as you join us here in Macon. While we are planning for Opening Day and Bear Beginnings to take place from Saturday, August 15 to Monday, August 17, we are also preparing for the possibility that those dates may change.

**OPENING DAY:** **SATURDAY, AUGUST 15**

We hope that Opening Day is an exciting time for you and your family! You will receive an August newsletter via e-mail, complete with your Opening Day Parking Pass and directions to your residence hall or Commuter Program.

Residential Students: Label ALL boxes and bags with your name and room number! **Due to traffic flow and the assistance of move-in volunteers, you are asked to move to campus during your assigned time frame:**
## Summer Checklist

### 1. Complete Online
- **Student Records Release Authorization (FERPA Form)**
  - registrar@mercer.edu
  - Log into MyMercer > Self Help Center > Click on FERPA Form > Submit
- **Immunization Form**
  - to the Student Health Center
  - shcmacon@mercer.edu
- **Bear Card**
  - Be on the lookout for an email with details about how to enroll for your mobile Bear Card credentials
- **MU Box Number**
  - from Mail Services
  - maconmail@mercer.edu

### 2. Submit Final HS & ANY College, AP, or IB Transcripts
- **Office of Admissions**
  - 1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, GA 31207
  - All students must have final transcripts on file with Admissions. The Registrar’s Office further reviews final transcripts for any college, AP, and/or IB coursework.

### 3. Purchase Books
- **Mercer Bookstore**
  - shopmercerbears.com
  - Located in Mercer Village
  - (p) 478.301.2945
  - Utilize the Barnes & Noble at Mercer University Bookstore to explore your textbook options.

### 4. Plan for Your Bill
- **Payment Options**
  - bursar.mercer.edu | bursar@mercer.edu
  - (p) 478.301.1111
  - Bills will be posted electronically to your MyMercer account approximately 30 days before the start of the semester. Check your Mercer e-mail for notifications. Your account balance is due by the first day of class. Find Payment Plan information online.

### 5. Use Your Mercer Technology
- **Mercer E-mail**
  - mercerlive.mercer.edu
  - Mercer offices will communicate with you using this e-mail.
- **MyMercer Account**
  - my.mercer.edu
  - Sign up for “Authorized Payer,” check your bill, and more.

### 6. Learn About Title IX
- **EVERFI Online Course**
  - TitleIX.mercer.edu
  - TitleIX@mercer.edu
  - (p) 478.301.2788
  - Check your Mercer e-mail this July for log-in information for your MANDATORY EverFI course. This course takes fifty minutes to complete and must be submitted by before your arrival for the Fall Semester.

### 7. Make a Housing Plan
- **Housing and Residence Life**
  - residenclife@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.2687
  - Packing for college is an exciting time! Here are some commonly-forgotten items you won’t want to forget: cleaning supplies, first aid kit, laundry supplies, shower shoes, surge protector, ethernet cable, towels, twin XL sheets, and decorations to make your room feel more like home!
  - Planning on commuting? We’ll see you at our Commuter Program for Opening Day on August 15th!

### 8. Discuss Health Insurance
- **Student Health Insurance & Waiver**
  - bursar.mercer.edu/studentinsurance
  - If you already have coverage under another policy and do not want to pay for the University approved health coverage, complete the health insurance waiver process (the waiver for the fall semester opens early-July).

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**The First-Year Bear Facts**

Provided by the Office of Academic and Advising Services

aas.mercer.edu | academicservices@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.2078