

BEAR BEGINNINGS

2024 OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES

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OPENING DAY 1 - Friday August 16, 2024

Today's Highlights:

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Lunch

Lunch is available (for purchase for guests and at no charge for students with a valid ID) at the Fresh Food Company, located in the Connell Student Center.

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Fall '24 Preparation: College Street Plaza

Settle in, Take family photos, get an Opening day frame, enjoy a cool treat, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices, shop for off-campus items, and pick up your parking decal at Mercer Police!

4:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Peer Advisor GroupMe Check-in

Students be sure to download the GroupMe App. Your Peer Advisor will be hosting a Virtual Q&A session in your Official O-Group GroupMe!



6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

POP-a-Palooza

Cruz Plaza



Enjoy your favorite "pops" (popcorn, popsicles, soda pop) as you prepare for the Annual Macon Pops concert in Hawkins Arena!

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

What The Funk?! with Macon Pops

Hawkins Arena



Concert tickets are free for students with a Mercer ID and First-Year families can scan the QR code for tickets at a specialty discounted rate!

Open Campus Offices :

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Most campus offices will be fully operational during normal business hours on Friday. Here are some that you may be interested in visiting when you arrive to campus:

- **Office of Academic and Advising Services**
- **Auxiliary Services**
- **Academic Resource Center**
- **Access and Accommodation**
- **Registrar**
- **Bursar**
- **Information Technology (I.T.)**
- **University Police (24 hours)**
- **Bookstore**
- **Office of Undergraduate Admissions**
- **Housing and Residence Life**

What THE Funk?!
WITH MACON POPS
HAWKINS ARENA
FRIDAY, AUG 16

MERCER STUDENTS & FACULTY GET IN FREE!
(Show Mercer ID for FREE Gen Admission ticket!)
Mercer **FAMILY** discount! Use code **MERCERPOPS** for 15% off tickets!

bit.ly/MaconPopsFunk

MACONPOPS *no outside food/drink*

www.MaconPops.com
info@maconpops.com

For your Opening Day meals, you are welcome to dine wherever you would like. However, if you decide to stay on campus, the Connell Student Center's Fresh Food Company will open during its regular meal hours (breakfast: 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.; lunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; dinner: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.).

Please note: During Bear Beginnings (Sunday and Monday), all meals should be enjoyed with your O-Group and Peer Advisor.

OPENING DAY 2 - Saturday August 17, 2024

Moving in on Friday?
Join us on the CSC Commons @1pm for more freebies
and fun!

Open Campus Offices

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Select campus offices will be fully operational today. Here are some that you may be interested in visiting when you arrive to campus:

- Office of Academic and Advising Services
- Auxiliary Services
- Academic Resource Center
- Access and Accommodation
- Registrar
- Bursar
- Information Technology (I.T.)
- University Police (24 hours)
- Bookstore
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Housing and Residence Life



Families please join us for our Official Bear Beginnings Kick-off! Here, students will hear from members of Mercer's Administration, see members of the Mercer community, and receive more information about what is to come during Bear Beginnings!

Today's Highlights

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Lunch

Lunch is available (for purchase for guests and at no charge for students with a valid ID) at the Fresh Food Company, located in the Connell Student Center.

1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Fall '24 Preparation: College Street Plaza

Settle in, take family photos, get an Opening day frame, enjoy a cool treat, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices, shop for off-campus items, and pick up your parking decal at Mercer Police!

3:30 PM to 4:00 PM



Peer Advisor GroupMe Check-in

Students Be sure to download the GroupMe App. Your Peer Advisor will be hosting a Virtual Q&A session in your Official O-Group GroupMe!

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM

Bear Beginnings: First-Year Student & Family Kick-Off

Hawkins Arena



5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

Family/Guest Departure

Cruz Plaza

Thank you for joining us! Enjoy refreshments and have a safe journey home - we look forward to seeing you back on campus in this Fall!

6:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Commuter Student Check-in

Willet Auditorium

Commuters Students! Join us as we highlight the need-to-know information concerning commuter life at Mercer!

Check-in will begin at 6:00 PM in the Willet Auditorium Lobby!

8:30 PM

Residence Life Floor Meetings

BEAR BEGINNINGS

AUGUST 18-19, 2024

The Bear Beginnings program is designed to help new students transition both academically and socially to life at Mercer. During Bear Beginnings, students finalize their fall course schedule, learn of various campus resources, gain an understanding of Mercer's academic expectations, and attend social events. First-year students experience Bear Beginnings alongside their Peer Advisor (PA), orientation group (O-Group), and academic advisor. Once Bear Beginnings is complete, they remain connected with their PA, O-Group, and academic advisor through the University 101 (UNV 101) classroom experience during the first semester.

Sunday, August 18, 2024

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Campus Worship (optional)
Newton Chapel

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM

"Cruz-Spot" O-Group Meet-Up & Check-in
Cruz Plaza

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Class of 2028 Photo
Cruz Plaza

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Lunch Rotations &
Health & Safety Panel
Toney Auditorium

1:00 PM to 1:30 PM

Meet your Advisor: UNV 101 Overview
Bear Beginnings Classroom

1:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Academic Advising Appointments

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Opening Picnic
Fraternity & Sorority Programs
Cruz Plaza

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

O-Group Session:
Macon & Mercer Technology

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Dinner Rotations
Class Schedule Walkthrough

8:00 - 10:00 PM

Cruz Campfire Party
Cruz Plaza

Monday, August 19, 2024

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Transfer Student Breakfast & Check-In
Penfield Large Room

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Honor Code & Student Code of Conduct Review
Title IX Conversation
Toney Auditorium / Willet Auditorium

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Lunch Rotations
&
Code of Conduct & Honor Code Pledge Signing



1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Convocation Line-Up
& Procession
Historic Quad to Hawkins Arena

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Convocation
Hawkins Arena

3:00 PM to 3:15 PM

O-Group Closing Session
Hawkins Arena

3:15 PM to 5:15 PM

Bear Fair
University Center

3:15 PM to 6:00 PM

Professional Portraits
Center for Career and Professional Development
University Center Mural

FALL 2024 ACADEMIC CAELNDAR

August 20 to December 14

First Day of classes	August 20
Drop/Add Period	August 20-23
Labor Day Holiday	September 2
Graduation Application for Spring/Summer 2025 Due	October 1
Fall Break	October 3-4
Midterm	October 9
Last Day to Withdraw	October 25
Early Registration for Spring/Summer 2025 Begins	Late Oct / Early Nov TBD
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 27-29
Last Day of Classes	December 6
Reading Day	December 11
Final Exams	December 9-10, 12-14
Grades Due for Graduating Students	24 hours after Final Exam
All Grades Due	December 17 at Noon



After you have completed this year's summer reading, take some time to reflect on the following questions as we approach Bear Beginnings. These selections might be discussed throughout the weekend, as well as in your UNV 101 class this semester.

For more information (and access to the readings) on this assignment, check out your MyMercer portal under "External Links -> Summer Reading Assignment".

Question 1

"Sam Oni, Mercer '67,"

Interview by Eme Crawford and Andrew Silver

How did Oni continue to channel his pride for the University, despite the ongoing, overwhelming barriers he faced?

Question 2

"Maureen Walker, Mercer '71," Psychologist and Senior Scholar at Wellesley Center for Women,
Interview by Andrew Silver

Why might there be "intense emotionality" when the majority is faced with the reality of disintegration?

Question 3

"Outside the Shadows: My Story" (2016) by Raymond Partoland

How can you use your voice to effectively support others and create change?

The Mercer Reader



Selections from

The Mercer Reader:
Essential Texts & Voices

Mercer Technology

How do I connect to the Internet?

For wireless access, select the MU-Secure connection from the list of available networks. From there enter your Mercer University ID and password. Your password is the same password used to log in. yo your MyMercer account.

How do I connect my game console and other multimedia devices (e.g., Roku, Apple TV, Chromecast) to the Internet?

For instructions on how to connect game consoles and other multimedia devices to the Internet, visit the IT website at <http://it.mercer.edu> and select Game Consoles link located under the Internet/Network heading.

How do I login to MyMercer?

Visit the MyMercer Student Portal at <https://my.mercer.edu>. Your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID number, and your initial password will be sent to the secondary email listed in your student record.

NOTE: Your MyMercer, Mercer email, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer logins are all the same, so if one changes, they all change.

What is my Mercer email address?

You can find your Mercer email address by logging into <http://office.com>. Select My Profile from the menu on the left hand side of your MyMercer homepage. Your email address is listed in your personal information.

How do I access my email account?

Visit the Microsoft Office 365 login page at <https://office.com>. Log in using the same password used to access your MyMercer account. By default, your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID Number followed by @live.mercer.edu.

How do I change my password?

Your MyMercer, Microsoft Office 365, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer passwords can all be changed via phone or through Microsoft Office 365. Visit <http://it.mercer.edu> and select Password Self-Service link located under the Security heading for instructions

How do I login to Canvas?

Visit Canvas at <http://canvas.mercer.edu>. Click the Mercer User Login button, and then log in using the same username and password used to access your MyMercer and Mercer accounts. By default, your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID Number, and your initial password will be sent to the secondary email listed in your student record.

How to contact Mercer IT:

- Visit them online at <http://it.mercer.edu>
- Like and follow them on Twitter and Facebook for information on outages, updates, and other IT tips/tricks: @ITMercer
- IT Help Desk: helpdesk@mercer.edu | ithelp.mercer.edu | (478) 301-7000

BEAR BEGINNINGS



Contact Us

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Website: aas.mercer.edu

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Email: academicservices@mercer.edu

Instagram: [merceraas](https://www.instagram.com/merceraas)

Facebook: [Mercer University Academic and Advising Services](https://www.facebook.com/MercerUniversityAcademicandAdvisingServices)